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(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Friday, September 07, 2007/Bhadra 16, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha was a member of the First to Fourth Lok Sabhas from 1952 to 1970, representing Patna East and Barh Parliamentary Constituencies of Bihar.

An able administrator, Shrimati Sinha served as Union Deputy Minister of Finance from 1958 to 1964.

She was a member of the Public Accounts Committee from 1952 to 1957 and also during 1967.

A firebrand student leader, Shrimati Sinha was a member of Bihar's Women Federation during 1950 and Working Committee of the Provincial Health Education Conference. She also served as the President, Patna District Board Employees' Association.

A widely travelled person, Shrimati Sinha was a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations during 1957. She was the leader of the Indian delegation to the Colombo Plan Conference at Tokyo in 1960, at Kuala Lumpur in 1961 and at Bangkok at 1963.

An excellent orator, Shrimati Sinha enlivened the debates of the House with her wit and sparkling recitation of Urdu poetry and took keen interest in vocal music and literary pursuits.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha passed away on 14th August, 2007 at New Delhi at the age of 81, after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolence to the bereaved family.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had requested you to suspend the Question Hour. But the Government is adamant. I have been demanding for last many days that J.P.C. should be constituted...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): They are afraid to face the debate. ...(Interruptions) They are afraid to face the debate because they will be exposed. ...(Interruptions) That is why, they are disturbing the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today is Friday. There are many important issues, many important subjects for discussion. On Monday there will be a discussion on this matter.

...(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Subhash Maharia and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the Floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: They are afraid to face the debate. They are afraid to discuss important issues. That is why, they are making this disruption.' ...(Interruptions) I want to tell you that the people of India will teach them a lesson. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You take lessons from Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya. He is an expert. I am sorry it seems that the House will not be allowed to run. I can only express my great sorrow. I want to appeal to all sections of the House that we should discuss the issues in a proper manner. Whatever issues you wish to raise, I am allowing them. But please allow the House to function

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Promotion of Nano-Technology

*341. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any Action Plan for development and promotion of nano-technology in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to facilitate study, teaching and use of nano-technology in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The Government has been quite active in promoting development and applications of nanotechnology in the country. The applications of nanotechnology developed in the country so far include (a) drug delivery utilizing nanoparticles for ocular applications; (b) viable method of producing nano titanium dioxide from indigenously available ilmenite ore; (c) water filters using nano silver coated candles for household applications; (d) nanomaterials for reducing pollution from automobiles under public private partnership model; (e) diagnostic kit based on nano bio sensors for tuberculosis and ophthalmology; and (f) carbon nanotube based flow sensors. Some collaborative projects between educational and research institutions and industry have been started on high performance rubber nanocomposites for tyre engineering and innovative textiles. The Nano Mission,

launched in May 2007, with an allocation of Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years, plans to put further emphasis on development and commercialization of Nano Technology, not only through public private partnerships but also by encouraging and enabling the private sector to invest in, and leverage, this sunrise technology.

With the help of the research projects and post-doctoral fellowships already funded, a core community of about 150 researchers and research students has been nurtured in this field. A programme for M. Tech. courses in Nano Technology has also been started. About 20 centres of excellence have also been established in important areas such as biosensors, printable electronics, drug delivery, smart textiles, etc. The Government has already spent approximately Rs. 350 crore over the past 5 years to promote R and D in nanotechnology. These scientists, facilities and centres will catalyze further accelerated growth of nanotechnology in the country.

[English]

Village Electrification

*342. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for providing electricity in the villages during each of the last three years, State-wise through Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(b) whether the Government has achieved the above target;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total amount spent during each of the last three years and till date for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No state-wise targets are allocated under the Programme and projects are sanctioned on the basis of proposals submitted by the states.

(b) and (c) The targets of the Ministry and achievements for the last three years are given in the

enclosed Statement I and II respectively. The reasons for shortfall in achievements include delay in submission of proposals by the state governments after identification of remote villages, time taken in survey of large number of villages located in remote areas and delay in matching fund allocation by the state governments. The Ministry maintains constant follow up with the state implementing agencies to reduce the delays.

(d) The state-wise details of funds released during the last 3 years and till date are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I**Targets under the Remote Village Electrification Programme for the Last 3 Years**

(No. of villages)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
3000	2000	1000

Statement-II**State-wise Details of Achievements under the Remote Village Electrification Programme During the Last Three Years**

State	2004-05*		2005-06*		2006-07*	
	Sanctioned	Completed	Sanctioned	Completed	Sanctioned	Completed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh						
Arunachal Pradesh		50	117	40	11	50
Assam		3	33		429	
Bihar						
Chhattisgarh		53			43	
Delhi						
Goa						
Gujarat		2	36			
Haryana					149	45
Himachal Pradesh		1	20			
Jammu and Kashmir						27
Jharkhand		24	224	29	108	234
Karnataka			20			
Kerala						
Madhya Pradesh			50		100	30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra			161		94	110
Manipur		106	40	3	14	25
Meghalaya		24		1	70	
Mizoram				7		13
Nagaland					3	
Orissa					197	
Punjab						
Rajasthan			230		73	129
Sikkim						13
Tamil Nadu						
Tripura		16				205
Uttaranchal	1	12		164	119	1
Uttar Pradesh						
West Bengal	7	90	5	49		135
Total	8	381	936	293	1410	1017

*Completion of projects may relate to sanctions issued in earlier years.

Statement-III

Remote Village Electrification Programme (State-wise Fund Released during the last 3 years)

(Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto 31-7-07)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	66.08	293.00	156.28	4.11
3.	Assam	23.00	32.00	346.58	1862.57

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.00	275.5	363	290.50
6.	Delhi	—	—	—	—
7.	Goa	—	0.5	—	—
8.	Gujarat	—	45.00	—	—
9.	Haryana	—	—	123.99	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	15.00	160.00	64.88	—
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	2.5	—	—
12.	Jharkhand	—	1197.00	312	1011.23
13.	Karnataka	—	49.00	—	—
14.	Kerala	—	—	1.61	—
15.	Madhya Pradesh	—	28.00	177.21	402.24
16.	Maharashtra	—	285.00	810.86	940.00
17.	Manipur	79.01	381.00	585.59	87.87
18.	Meghalaya	175.85	—	135.72	102.59
19.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
20.	Nagaland	—	—	17.34	—
21.	Orissa	42.89	5.5	496.27	276.00
22.	Rajasthan	176.22	247.00	51.00	575.46
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—
25.	Tripura	1062.40	—	352.07	—
26.	Uttaranchal	50.52	147.00	346.63	88.38
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.57	—	—	—
28.	West Bengal	72.05	953.00	1366.26	—

Participation of Private Sector in PMGSY

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to involve private sector in executing and monitoring of rural development projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the concessions/facilities offered to them; and

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government in their selection?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There is no new proposal in this regard. However, contractors from the private sector are already involved in execution of projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at the State level. Private sector is not involved in monitoring of these projects.

(b) No special concessions/facilities are offered to the contractors engaged for execution of PMGSY projects. However, excise duty and additional excise duty exemption is available in respect of specified goods and machinery used for execution of those Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects which are funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB).

(c) Contractors from the private sector are selected for execution of PMGSY projects on the basis of transparent and open competitive bidding.

[Translation]

Beautification of Yamuna River

*344. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any project to clean and beautify the Yamuna River;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of the said project and the ratio of cost sharing between the Union Government and the State Government for the same?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has drawn up Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II (YAP-II) and projects under YAP-II in Delhi are being implemented by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) under Japanese Board of International Cooperation funding. The cost sharing between Union Government and the State Government for YAP-II projects is in the ratio of 85:15.

The concept of interceptor sewer has been evolved by Delhi Jal Board to clean and arrest pollution in Yamuna River. This has the following broad features:—

- (a) Laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains of Irrigation and Flood Control Department (i.e. Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara) to divert the sewage to the nearest Sewage Treatment Plant for cleaning.
- (b) Augmentation of the existing capacity of Sewage treatment plants at the mouth of Delhi Gate drain and Dr. Sen Nursing Home Drain from 2.2 MGD to 17.2 and 12.20 MGD respectively.
- (c) Intercepting 13 small drains into Bela Road and Ring Road Trunk Sewer after rehabilitation.
- (d) Construction of additional Sewerage Treatment Plants after utilization of full capacity of existing plants.

This concept will take care of the 18 drains emptying into the 22 km. of the most polluted stretch of river Yamuna. After commissioning of the project, only treated effluent will flow into drains and finally Yamuna River. The tentative cost of the entire project is around Rs. 2000 crore and will take about 4 years to complete. The work is being awarded to M/s. Engineering India Limited for entire project management. As on date, there is no proposal of sharing of the cost with Union Government. However, the concept has already been presented to the Planning Commission.

To beautify the area along Western Yamuna Bank, Delhi Development Authority has designed Yamuna Bio-diversity Park and Golden Jubilee Park which are under development. The estimated cost of Yamuna Bio diversity Park is Rs. 1869.37 lac and development of Yamuna river front is Rs. 1959 lac.

A High Powered Committee for Yamuna River Development Chaired by Lt. Governor, National Capital Territory of Delhi has also been constituted.

Taxes Outstanding

*345. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tax payers during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of outstanding amount of various taxes during the last three years, sector-wise;

(c) the reason for not realising the outstanding amount;

(d) whether the Government has announced any rebate and incentives to encourage timely deposit of taxes: and

(e) if so, the details of?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total number of tax payers, units paying central excise and assesseees paying service tax for the last three years are as under:—

Financial Year	Direct taxes Number of Tax payers (in lakhs)	Indirect taxes No. of units/assesseees paying	
		Central Excise	Service Tax
2004-05	308.08	94998	403856
2005-06	315.37	92097	420636
2006-07	319.26	92035	434431

(No data on number of taxpayers paying custom duty is available as custom duty is collected Bill of entry-wise).

(b) The outstanding demand for last three years for Direct Taxes as well as Indirect taxes is as given below:—

Financial	(Rs. in crore)	
	Direct taxes	Indirect taxes
2004-05	79,390	15659.09
2005-06	92,082	21593.43
2006-07	1,16,453	26024.78

(Sector-wise details are not maintained separately).

(c) The reasons for non realization of the outstanding demand include stay orders by Supreme Court/ High Courts/CESTAT/ITAT etc.; inadequacy of asset; assesseees not traceable; companies under liquidation; cases pending before BIFR, Settlement Commission etc.; cases relating to Public Sector Units pending with COD; proceedings initiated by Debt Recovery Tribunal etc.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Government has not announced any rebate and incentive to encourage timely deposit of taxes.

[English]

Liberalised Remittance Scheme

*346. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the provisions of the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now allowed Indian residents to open foreign currency bank accounts in banks located outside the country without any approval;

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

(c) the salient features of the scheme;

(d) the amount that can be transferred by a resident in one financial year;

(e) whether such amount deposited outside country can be utilized for mutual fund and venture fund; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As a step towards further simplification and liberalization of the foreign exchange facilities available to the residents, the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) of USD 25,000 per calendar year for resident individuals was introduced on February 4, 2004. Subsequently, the limit of USD 25,000 per calendar year was enhanced to USD 50,000 per financial year in December 2006. Further, in May 2007, the limit of USD 50,000 was enhanced to USD 100,000 per financial year.

All resident individuals are eligible to avail of this facility under the Scheme. However, the facility is not available to corporates, partnership firms, HUF, Trusts etc. The facility is available for making remittances for any permitted current or capital account transactions or combination of both, without prior approval of the Reserve Bank. As per the Scheme, resident individuals are free to acquire and hold immovable property or

shares or any other asset outside India. Individuals are also allowed to open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts with a bank outside India for making remittances under the Scheme without prior approval of the Reserve Bank. This facility is in addition to the facility already available for private travel, business travel, studies, medical treatment etc. However, the separate facilities earlier available to resident individuals for remittances towards gift, donations and investment in overseas companies have been subsumed under the enhanced limit of USD 100,000.

The remittance for transactions which are otherwise not permissible under FEMA and those in the nature of remittance for margins or margin calls to overseas exchanges/overseas counterparty are not permitted under the scheme.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A resident individual can invest in units of Mutual Funds, Venture Funds, unrated debt securities, promissory notes, etc. under this Scheme.

[Translation]

Inspection Regarding Power Theft

*347. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private power companies are empowered to inspect the electricity theft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of arbitrary inspection cases in which the officials of the private power companies are involved;

(d) the number of cases of power theft due to such arbitrary inspections during the last three years, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Electricity is a concurrent subject.

The Electricity Act, 2003 does not distinguish between a private and a public sector company. Section 135 of the Act deals with theft of electricity. Section 135(2) of the Act provides that any officer of the licensee or supplier as the case may be, authorized in this behalf by the State Government may inspect any place or premises in which he has reason to believe that electricity has been or is being used unauthorizably.

Provisions of the Act have incorporated safeguards to be observed while carrying out inspections. Section 135 of the Act provides that the occupant of the place of search or any person on his behalf shall remain present during the search and a list of all things seized in the course of such search shall be prepared and delivered to such occupant or person who shall sign the list; further no inspection, search and seizure of any domestic places or domestic premises shall be carried out between sunset and sunrise except in the presence of an adult male member occupying such premises. The provisions of section 135 further provide that provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, relating to search and seizure shall apply, as far as may be, to searches and seizure under the Electricity Act.

(c) to (e) Distribution of electricity comes within the purview of the State Governments and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC). The distribution licensees are regulated by the respective SERCs under the provisions of the electricity Act, 2003. As such the Central Government does not maintain information about inspections.

However, the Act provides for penalty and punishment for contravening provisions of the Act including the safeguards of section 135 of the Act mentioned above. It also provides for setting up of special courts for speedy disposal of theft related cases.

Section 142 of the Act provides that in case any complaint is filed before the Appropriate Commission by any person or if that Commission is satisfied that any person has contravened any provisions of this Act or rules or regulations made thereunder, the Appropriate Commission may after giving such person an opportunity

of being heard in the matter direct that, without prejudice to any other penalty to which he may be liable under this Act, such person shall pay, by way of penalty, which shall not exceed one lakh rupees for each contravention and in case of a continuing failure with an additional penalty which may extend to six thousand rupees for every day during which the failure continues after contravention of the first such direction.

Section 146 of the Act further provides that whoever, fails to comply with any order or direction given under the Act, or contravenes or attempts or abets the contravention of any of the provisions of this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine, which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both in respect of each offence and in the case of a continuing failure, with an additional fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for every day during which the failure continues after conviction of the first such offence.

[English]

Non-Agricultural Land

*348. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ministry is considering a proposal to establish a commission to map non-agricultural land that could be used for industrial and other economic purposes;

(b) if so, the time by which such a proposal is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Union Government is proposing to suggest the State Governments that non-agricultural land be used for setting up SEZ's in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

As intimated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce), the administrative Ministry for development of Special Economic Zone (SEZs), land being a State subject, it is the primary responsibility of the State Government to ensure that the land use proposed by the developer (be it a State Industrial Development Corporation or a private company) is earmarked for industrial use. The Board of Approval for SEZ only considers those proposals which have been duly recommended by the State Governments who had earlier been advised that in case of land acquisition for Special Economic Zones, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product Special Economic Zones, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ.

[Translation]

Shortage of Coal for Power Generation

*349. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of thermal power plants

are not getting the requisite quantity of coal as per their requirement;

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

(c) the average demand and the quantum of coal supplied to thermal power plants during the last three years and till date;

(d) the quantum of coal imported during the period to meet requisite demand of these plants in the country; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to ensure smooth supply of coal to them during the Eleventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) During the year 2007-08 (April-August 2007), coal receipt at the power stations was of the order of 85% of the linkage required for consumption and building the stock upto normative level.

Lower production of coal consequent to heavy rains during this period was the main reason for less supply of coal to thermal power stations.

(c) The total coal linkage from domestic sources and planned import of coal, receipt and consumption at the thermal power stations of power utilities during the last three years and current year (April to August, 2007) is given below:—

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

Year	Coal Linkage and imports planned	Coal Receipt	% Receipt	Coal Consumed
2004-05	304.24	280.60	92.2	277.74
2005-06	317.41	292.63	92.2	281.34
2006-07	338.56	303.30	89.6	302.54
2007-08* (April-August 07)	153.11	129.51	85.0	129.97

*Includes provisional data for the month of August, 2007.

(d) The quantum of coal imported by the utility power stations in the country during the above period is given below:—

Year	Quantity (Million Tonne)
2004-05	4.527
2005-06	10.443
2006-07	9.664
2007-08 (upto 31-8-2007)	4.279 (Provisional; including coal received at ports)

(e) The following steps are being taken by the Government to ensure smooth supply of coal to thermal power stations:—

- Monitoring of coal supply position to thermal power stations by Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power on daily basis.
- Regular periodic monitoring of production, transportation and stock of coal at all the major thermal power stations by an Inter-Ministerial Group headed by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal to Address the constraints.
- Import of coal to meet the shortfall in supply of coal from domestic sources.

[English]

**Integrated Housing and Slum
Development Programme**

*350. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of

HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently issued guidelines under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cities/towns, covered under the programme as on June 30, 2007, State-wise;

(d) the physical targets set and achievements made thereunder for development of slum clusters during each of the last three years; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the programme during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has issued Guidelines under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The IHSDP has been launched with the objective to strive for holistic slum development, with a healthy and enabling environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers. IHSDP is under implementation since December, 2005.

(c) 234 cities/towns spread across 16 States have been covered under IHSDP. State-wise details of number of cities/towns covered under IHSDP are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) The projects under IHSDP are demand driven and hence no physical targets have been set. State-wise relevant details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Cities/ Towns covered	Number of Projects approved
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	26

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	5	5
3.	Bihar	8	8
4.	Chhattisgarh	12	14
5.	Gujarat	11	11
6.	Haryana	9	15
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	10
8.	Karnataka	12	12
9.	Kerala	22	22
10.	Madhya Pradesh	21	27
11.	Maharashtra	19	19
12.	Nagaland	1	1
13.	Rajasthan	20	20
14.	Tamil Nadu	28	28
15.	Uttar Pradesh	8	8
16.	West Bengal	22	23
Total		234	249

Statement-II

Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) as on 30-06-2007

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08					
		No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved	ACA Released	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved	ACA Released	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved	ACA Released
1	2												
	1. Andhra Pradesh	0	301.92	210.57	83.33	1	55.36	37.75	21.95				
	2. Assam	0	12.24	10.79	5.09	2	5.01	4.28	0.3				
	3. Bihar	0	48.81	36.55	8.96	1	12.02	8.74	9.31				
	4. Chhattisgarh	0	176.50	122.00	31.26				29.74				
	5. Gujarat	0	72.07	51.54	18	3	37.12	23.49	7.77				
	6. Haryana	0	238.84	182.96	49.61				41.87				
	7. Jammu and Kashmir	0				10	42.40	32.23					
	8. Karnataka	0	68.46	41.90	14.93	7	56.10	39.74	6.02				
	9. Kerala	0	65.25	50.10	21.46	7	41.95	31.07	3.59				
	10. Madhya Pradesh	0	197.16	138.00	45.77	4	13.02	10.24	23.23				

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11. Maharashtra						0	15	152.67	120.71	55.8	4	46.97	33.55	4.56
12. Nagaland						0	1	87.74	44.14	9.63				12.44
13. Rajasthan			3	9.03	7.22	0	17	140.06	110.08	39.26				19.39
14. Tamil Nadu						0	22	146.05	112.56	43.37	6	53.73	42.24	12.91
15. Uttar Pradesh						0	8	29.01	22.11	11.05				
16. West Bengal						0	16	201.20	150.57	55.08	7	59.65	43.75	20.2
Total			3	9.03	7.22	0.00	194	1937.99	1404.57	492.61	52	423.35	307.08	213.88

[Translation]

**High Rate of Interest by Non-Government
Financial Institutions on Term Deposit**

*351. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some non-Governmental Financial Institutions are offering 10-15 per cent rate of interest on their term deposit schemes in various metropolitan cities particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Government agency has approved the rate of interest proposed by these institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the exploitation of the small investors from such Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) There is no classification as Non-Government Financial Institutions as per the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Keeping in view the prevailing interest rates in the entire financial system, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, with effect from April 24, 2007, revised the maximum interest rate payable on public deposits by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) (other than Residuary Non-Banking Financial Companies) from 11% per annum to 12.5% per annum. The new rate of interest is applicable to fresh public deposits as well as to renewals of matured public deposits.

RBI has reported that they have not come across any advertisement by NBFCs offering interest rates above 12.5% on term deposit schemes.

(f) In order to afford greater protection to depositors of NBFCs, RBI has made it mandatory for NBFCs to comply with Non-Banking Financial Companies and Miscellaneous Non-Banking Companies Advertisement Rules, 1977 and provide other disclosures for soliciting

public deposits. NBFCs have been advised to create floating charge on their liquid assets in favour of depositors and put in place a Fair Practices Code with the approval of their Board of Directors. Guidelines on corporate governance have also been issued by RBI to all NBFCs with deposit size of Rs. 20 crore and above to increase the confidence of investors.

RBI has been taking action against NBFCs which have either not complied with provisions of the RBI Act or are financially weak. Such action includes prohibiting the companies from carrying on activities of a Non-Banking Financial Company and from accepting deposits and alienating assets. RBI has, so far, filed 84 winding up petitions, 70 criminal proceedings and 27 Police complaints against NBFCs.

[English]

Minimum Wages under NREGS

*352. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any mechanism to ensure that no unskilled worker under NREGS gets wages less than that prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to fix wage rate for NREGS; and

(d) if so, the time by which such notification is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Act has clear provisions to ensure that no unskilled worker under NREGS gets wages less than that prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act. Section 6(2) of the NREGA provides that the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers, shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area under NREGA. Para 8 of Schedule I of NREGA provides that the schedule of rates of wages for unskilled

labourers shall be so fixed that a person working for seven hours would normally earn a wage equal to the wage rate. The actual wage earned by a worker will depend on the output of the worker. The wages that are paid are to be recorded on the muster rolls and job cards of the workers and these documents are to be made available in the public domain for verification. The Ministry has been regularly monitoring and reviewing the wages and Schedule of Rates applicable to NREGA as fixed by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Section 6(1) of the NREG Act provides that the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of the Act. Section 6(2) further provides that until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to fix a wage rate under NREGA for any of the States. Minimum wages notified for agricultural labourers under Minimum Wages Act by the State Governments are applicable to NREGA.

[Translation]

Refusal of Agricultural Loans to Farmers

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

(a) whether cases of refusal of agricultural loans to farmers by banks have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard during 2006-07 and till date;

(c) whether the banks are using the services of private agencies for recovery of agricultural loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In accordance with the Farm Credit Package announced by Government on

18-06-2004 the flow of credit to agriculture, which was Rs. 86,981 crore in the year 2003-04, has consistently increased to Rs. 2,03,296 crore (figure provisional) in the year 2006-07. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/ NABARD has no specific information regarding unfair refusal of loan to farmers by banks. However, the banks have robust internal grievance redressal mechanism to address all customer complaints including those relating to refusal of loans. Various instructions have been issued to banks from time to time in this regard.

(c) and (d) The RBI has advised banks to initiate recovery measures only in accordance with law as per the usual banking procedure. However, with the objective of ensuring greater financial inclusion and increasing the outreach of the banking sector, the RBI issued guidelines permitting banks to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations/Self Help Groups (NGOs/SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitator and Business Correspondent Models.

Under the "Business Facilitator" model, banks may use intermediaries for providing facilitation services such as follow-up for recovery and "Correspondents" appointed under the "Business Correspondent" model can undertake—recovery of principal/collection of interest.

RBI has advised the banks to constitute Grievance Redressal Machinery within the banks for redressing complaints about services rendered by Business Correspondents and Facilitators. If a complainant does not get satisfactory response from the bank within 60 days from the date of his lodging the complaint, the complainant has the option to approach the Office of the Banking Ombudsman concerned for redressal of the grievances.

[English]

Indian Expedition to Arctic

*354. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first Indian expedition to Arctic has been launched;

(b) if so, the composition of the expedition team and its objectives;

(c) whether the team is likely to work in cooperation with other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a permanent station for research in Arctic;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the results achieved by the expedition are likely to be known?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The first Indian Arctic expedition was launched on 3rd August, 2007 to Spitsbergen Island in Svalbard Archipelago of Norway. The five member research team was drawn from National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa; Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad; Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune; and Lucknow University. The major areas of research in the Arctic pertain to climate change and paleoclimate; glaciology and geology; marine biology and microbiology. The scientific work has been initiated in collaboration with Norwegian Polar Research Institute, Norway.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Earth Sciences has prepared an Arctic research programme for the XI Plan period. A permanent research set up will be

established by the Indian Scientists at the international research facility in Ny-Alesund in the Svalbard Archipelago of Norway. Most of the planned scientific studies in Arctic are long term. However, some of the interim results are expected in near future during the Plan period.

Unfair Trade Practices by Car Manufacturers

*355. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that unfair trade practices are being adopted by the car manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has issued any notices to such car companies on their sales advertisement;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission received two complaints against car manufacturers during the last three years, alleging unfair trade practices. The details of these complaints are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Enquiry No.	Title	Present Status
1	2	3	4
1.	UTPE 103/2006	Hyundai Motors India Limited Vs. Maruti Udyog Limited	The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission issued notice to Maruti Udyog Limited on a complaint filed by Hyundai Motor

1	2	3	4
			India Limited under section 36 A(1)(x) of the MRTP Act, 1969. It was alleged that the advertisements issued by Maruti Udyog Limited comparing the cars manufactured by Hyundai, Tata Motors and others to their advantage and disparaging the products of others is an unfair trade practice. Commission in its order held that no prima-facie case had been made out. The complaint application stand disposed of.
2.	UTPE 133/2007	Bake Bell Agro Limited, New Delhi Vs. Skoda Auto India Pvt. Limited, Aurangabad	The matter is listed on 25-09-2007 for judicial order.

2. The MRTP Commission, a quasi-judicial body, considers and disposes of unfair trade practices cases after completion of proceedings and Government has no decision/action to take in such cases.

**Participation of NGOs and
VOs in NREGS**

*356. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of findings of social audit of projects done in different States under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the action taken thereon;

(b) whether the Government proposes to invite Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Voluntary Organisations (VOs) to participate in the projects for the effective implementation of the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Section 17(2) of the NREGA provides that the Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the Scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat. Accordingly, the Ministry had issued instructions to all States to complete

social audit within three months. As per the reports received, the following issues have been highlighted:—

- (i) Participation of women in large numbers.
- (ii) Increasing awareness among wage earners of wage rates and need for timely payment of wages.
- (iii) Need for strengthening capacity to meet demand for employment through additional staffing at Gram Panchayat level.
- (iv) Need to improve maintenance of muster rolls and job cards.
- (v) Worksite facilities need to be made available.

States have been advised by the Ministry to take necessary action.

(b) and (c) Applications had been called for from Civil Society Organisations/professional Institutions for undertaking the task of capacity building of local rural communities to access their entitlements and assert their rights under NREGA. The tasks to be undertaken include:—

- (i) Social mobilization and awareness generation

through door to door contact campaigns, village conventions, personal contact programmes.

- (ii) Training of NREGA workforce, members of village vigilance and monitoring committee, members of Gram Panchayat and Gram Rozgar sewak on NREGA procedures and their roles.
- (iii) Enabling local community to apply under NREGA for various entitlements covered under its legal Guarantee.
- (iv) Enabling NREGA workforce to verify the benefits due to them, *inter alia*, their muster rolls, job cards entries.

About 2500 applications have been received. CAPART, an Autonomous Body under the Ministry, has been entrusted the task of scrutiny and training to the Civil Society Organisation to enable them to undertake the activities listed above.

Memorials for Martyrs of 1857

*357. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) plans memorials in Delhi for martyrs of 1857 as reported in Hindustan times dates August 16, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has also selected other places in various parts of the country for setting up memorials for martyrs of 1857; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Delhi Development Authority has short-listed three sites of historical significance namely Coronation Park, Quadsia Bagh and Kashmere Gate for setting up the memorials for martyrs of 1857 in Delhi.

Ministry of Culture has informed that it has been decided to establish a memorial for martyrs in Delhi.

[Translation]

Interest Rates on Housing Loans

*358. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide housing loans to poor people at affordable rates of interest;

(b) if so, the rates of interest charged by various financial institutions/banks for purchasing houses during the last three years;

(c) whether the said rates have declined over the years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the basis for increase in the rate of interest in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) To provide easy access to housing loans for the poor at affordable rates of interest, the Government has taken the following measures:—

(i) Under the differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme housing loans upto Rs. 20,000/- are granted by the banks at a 4 per cent rate of interest to the poorest of the poor, as per laid down eligibility criteria.

(ii) The Indian Banks' Association has recently issued a draft model scheme to the Public Sector Banks for extending top up loans to beneficiaries of the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) for completing the construction of their houses and is awaiting a response for the member banks.

(iii) As per extant guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the interest rates on loans upto Rs. 2 lakh should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR).

The BPLR of five major banks as on July, 2006 and July, 2007 are as under:—

July, 2006	July, 2007
10.75-11.25 per cent	12.75-13.25 per cent

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The BPLR has increased. While the rate of interest under DRI is fixed at 4 per cent, the top up loans for IAY beneficiaries would be provided by banks at 9 per cent rate of interest.

(e) The BPLR is determined by banks with the approval of their respective Boards. These rates are determined on the basis of the following factors:—

- (i) Actual cost of funds;
- (ii) Operating expenses; and
- (iii) Minimum margin to cover regulatory requirements of provisioning/capital change and profit margin.

Foreign Banks in the Country

*359. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to permit foreign banks to carryout their business in the country without any conditions/restriction by the year 2009;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any action plan in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has made any study of the likely impact of Foreign Banks on Indian Banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) On 28th February, 2005, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Road Map for presence of foreign banks in India. The Road Map is divided into two phases—Phase I from March 2005 to March 2009 and Phase II from April 2009 onwards.

According to RBI's roadmap, phase II may include according full national treatment to wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign banks; dilution of stake in such wholly owned subsidiaries; and permission to foreign banks to merge or acquire any private sector bank in India. However, each one of these matters will be carefully considered and specific steps will be announced only in accordance with the policy in force at that time.

(d) and (e) Though Government has not conducted any specific study in this regard, the increased and regulated presence of foreign banks is expected to enhance the efficiency and stability of the banking sector in India by bringing in more capital and advanced technology in the sector. This will also increase the competitiveness of Indian banks besides improving quality of service rendered by the banks to their customers.

Curtailment of Foodgrains under SGRY

*360. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of foodgrains (wheat) allocated to States under the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) was curtailed in the year 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether remuneration of the labourers is outstanding for payment due to this curtailment;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments have asked for funds in lieu of curtailed quota of foodgrains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Due to limited availability of foodgrains under SGRY in 2005-06, the State Governments/UT Administrations were

advised to distribute foodgrains at the rate of 3 kg. per manday as against stipulated 5 kg. per manday from 1-11-2005 to 31-3-2006. As per para 2.2 of SGRY guidelines, in the event of non-availability/inadequate availability of foodgrains, wages in kind may be less than 5 kg. of foodgrains per manday and the remaining portion may be given in cash. As per para 3.4 of the guidelines, payments are required to be made on a fixed day in a week, preferably, a day before the local market day. Instructions have also been issued for timely payment of wages under SGRY. If foodgrains are not available, wages should be paid in cash.

(d) and (e) Requests have been received from few State Governments for providing funds in lieu of reduced foodgrains during 2005-06. Government of Rajasthan vide D.O. letter dated 24th March, 2006 requested for release of Rs. 17.40 crore in lieu of reduced foodgrains. Requests have also been received from District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) of other States for release of cash for reduced foodgrains during 2005-06. Pithoragarh DRDA of Uttaranchal has requested vide letter dated 23-11-2005 to provide additional allocation of Rs. 57.06 lakh for reduced foodgrains. The eligible districts were provided additional cash allocation of Rs. 31696.83 lakh over and above their normal entitlement in the year 2005-06. The eligibility criteria was that the districts have lifted their second instalment under SGRY during that year.

[English]

Information and Communication for Judiciary

3377. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government distributed Laptops to judges across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the entire process will be completed;

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the computerization of judiciary;

(e) the extent to which the introduction of computer will help in disposing/speeding up the work of Judges and for maintaining secrecy;

(f) whether any formal training is to be imparted to the Judges to foster familiarity with the technology; and

(g) if so, the duration of the training course?

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

(b) and (c) Distribution of 12,155 laptops to Judges and Judicial Officers at a cost of Rs. 34.33 crore has already been completed.

(d) The scheme of computerization based on the National Policy and Action Plan is estimated to cost Rs. 854 crore over a period of five years.

(e) The scheme has been taken up for implementation to facilitate judicial work and judicial processes with adequate security protocols and to benefit all stakeholders.

(f) and (g) Training of Judges, Judicial Officers and court staff is envisaged as a component in the scheme. The training programme would be for a period of 2 to 3 months.

[Translation]

Barbed Wires and Boundary Wall Fencing in Government Colonies

3378. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of 10 per cent and 20 per cent contribution from the allottees for construction of barbed wires and bamboo that is boundary wall fencing in Government colonies;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received requests from some allottees under the above scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the boundary fencing is likely to be made in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a provision of 10 per cent and 20 per cent contribution from the allottees for construction of barbed wire fencing with iron gate around the quarter and Bamboo that is respectively, in Government colonies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) These additions/alterations are being carried out in phased manner subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Inspection of Pharma Companies

3379. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ordered inspection of Pharma Companies for their involvement in share price manipulations;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against them?

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

Loan from JBIC

3380. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sangali Kupwad Municipal Corporation has sent any proposal for Rs. 686/- crores loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has provided the necessary guarantee; and

(c) if so, the present status of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) A

proposal namely "Infrastructure developmet programme for Sangli, Miraj and Kupwad Municipal Corporation" with an estimated cost of Rs. 606.98 Crores has been received for seeking ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

(b) Union Government is not required to provide any guarantee for seeking JBIC loan for this proposed State Sector project.

(c) The proposal has been kept in the Rolling Plan list of proposals seeking ODA loan for FY 2007-10.

Greater Autonomy to ICAI

3381. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to give greater autonomy to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ban on fee sharing by practicing CAs with other professionals has been removed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Delay in AUWSP Schemes

3382. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) lagging behind their target, State-wise; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

External Commercial Borrowing

3383. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating policy review to raise the present External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) ceiling through the automatic route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has written to Reserve bank of India (RBI) for relaxing ECB restrictions in some cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and final decision taken in this regard?

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

(c) and (d) During the last one year, taking into account the peculiar facts and circumstances of the

case, the Government wrote to the Reserve Bank of India for relaxation in ECB norms for Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

Auction of Precious Stones

3384. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seized/confiscated gold, diamonds and other precious stones have been auctioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has laid down some guidelines/procedure in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of such goods awaiting disposal; and

(f) the action taken/being taken for transparent disposal of such gold and precious stones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of disposal of seized/confiscated gold, diamonds and other precious stones for the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Description of Goods	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gold	10.95	41.14	25.16
Diamonds and Precious Stones	11.19	9.12	13.69

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The gold is disposed off in terms of guidelines issued by the Ministry vide F.No.711/164/93-Cus(AS) dt. 08-08-2005. As per instruction the sale of such gold are routed through State Bank of India at the major cities for sale in the open market. Similarly diamonds and precious stones are disposed off by way

of public auction at Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai in terms of guidelines issued by the Ministry Vide F.No. 711/12/2004-Cus(AS) dt. 03-10-2005.

(e) The details of such goods awaiting disposal are as under:—

	(Rs. in Crores)
Description of Goods	Upto 30-6-07
Gold	15.66
Diamonds and Precious Stone	29.72

(f) All such goods are being disposed off in terms of above transparent disposal guidelines issued by the Ministry.

Upkeep of Government Quarters

3385. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ Nos. 474 and 5153 dated

24-11-2006 and 11-5-2007 regarding upkeep of Government quarters and State:

(a) whether the information has since been collected and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the information will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The information in respect of Unstarred Question No. 5153 has been collected and the details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Statement

(a) The number of quarters that were lying vacant from December, 2006 to March, 2007 but were not upgraded alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of quarters that were allotted without upgradation;

(c) whether such quarters are not upgraded after taking possession;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against CPWD officials for not upgrading the quarters during their vacations?

(a) Out of the 3726 quarters, lying vacant from December 2006 to March 2007, 2289 quarters could not be upgraded for the various reasons which as (i) shortage of budget at relevant time; (ii) a number of quarters were declared unsafe and were to be demolished; (iii) due to poor location and bad surroundings, it was not worth spending Government money in upgrading some of these quarters; (iv) a number of quarters required major repairs before upgradation; (v) in some quarters no upgradation was required as these were of recent construction;

(b) 766 quarters were allotted without upgradation.

(c) to (e) As per the present policy, only vacant quarters are modifications/upgraded free of cost. However, on the request of allottees certain modifications/improvements are carried out in the occupied quarters by CPWD on cost sharing basis. This disparity is proposed to be rectified.

[Translation]

**Less Percentage of Loan by
Indian Banks**

3386. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian banks provide a meagre amount as loan to their customers in comparison to other banks of the world;

(b) if so, the percentage of the deposit amount given as loan to their customers during the last three years;

(c) whether any guideline has been issued by the Government to increase the percentage of deposit amount given as loan to customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Data on loans and advances by commercial banks in other countries is not maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, banks in India endeavour to maximize advancing of loans to various customers within the socio-economic para-meters. extant banking policy, field level realities etc. During the last three years the Credit Deposits Ratio (CDR) of Public Sector Banks (PSB) (including RRBs) is as follows:—

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Year ended as on March 31 of	All India average all sector		
	Deposit	Credit	CDR %
2005	1358760	848463	62.44
2006	1574664	1111474	70.58
2007	1918478	1425655	74.31

CDR is periodically reviewed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for corrective action, where necessary.

The RBI have advised all the PSBs to achieve CDR of 60% in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches, separately on all India basis and to ensure that wide disparity in the ratio between different states/ regions is avoided in order to minimize the regional and sectoral imbalances in credit deployment.

Pursuant to the recommendations in the Thorat Committee Report, the RBI had issued a Circular dated 9-11-2005 to the banks for implementing the revised parameters for monitoring the CD ratio of banks at different levels. RBI had also advised the banks for setting up a Special Sub-Committee (SSC) of District

Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) in districts having CDR of less than 40%, for monitoring and drawing up Monitorable Action Plan (MAPs) for improving CDR.

[English]

**NTPC Executives Leaving the
Corporation**

3387. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether executives have left NTPC during 2006-07 to join private power sector companies;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total number of 165 executives have resigned from NTPC in the year 2006-07. The attrition percentage for the year 2006-07 is 1.55% which is not high. The reasons cited by these executives for resigning from NTPC are career enhancement, more pay and perks, academic pursuits etc.

(c) The Government has declared NTPC as a Navaratna Public Sector Undertakings with a vision of making it a global power company having autonomy in decision making. Accordingly, NTPC has been pursuing Human Resource Development (HRD) initiatives with the following objectives:—

- To enhance organizational performance by institutionalizing an objective and open performance management system.
- To align individual and organizational needs and develop business leaders by implementing a career development system.
- To enhance commitment of employees by recognizing and rewarding high performance.
- To build and sustain a learning organization of competent world-class professionals.
- To institutionalize core values and create a culture of team-building, empowerment, equity, innovation and openness which would motivate employees and enable achievement of strategic objectives.

[Translation]

Panless Demat Accounts

3388. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some de-mat accounts have been

frozen in the absence of Permanent Account Number (PAN), this year;

(b) if so, the total amount involved in these accounts;

(c) whether some accounts have been released; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The value of holdings in frozen accounts with the Depositories as on August 31, 2007 was Rs. 95,769 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 18.86 lakh demat accounts have been released by the depositories since January 1, 2007 after submission of PAN details by the account holders.

Arms and Cartridges with the Customs Department

3389. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of arms and cartridges lying in the stocks of Customs department at Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) whether Government proposes to dispose them off; and

(c) if so, the details of the mode of disposal specified and that made by Customs Department earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of arms and cartridges lying in the stocks of Customs department at Delhi and Mumbai are as follows:—

Place	Arms	Cartridges
Mumbai	782	45252
Delhi	997	211399

(b) and (c) The confiscated fire arms are disposed off in terms of guidelines issued by the Ministry vide F.No. 711/30/2002-Cus(AS) dated 15-07-2002. As per these guidelines, the prohibited bore weapons are confiscated and appropriated only for the departmental use or to persons specifically allotted by the Ministry. The non-prohibited fire arms can be loaned to the departmental officers for use during their service period. These are also sold to sitting Members of Parliament on first come first serve basis, subject to the condition that they should not own/possess any weapon.

[English]

Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission

3390. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the

Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat State Bio-technology Mission (GSBTM) has forwarded 17 projects/proposals for financial assistance to Union Government; and

(b) if so, the present status of these projects/proposals?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The status of these proposals are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Projects received from GSBTM during last 3 years

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Status	Reason
1	2	3	4
1.	Center of Excellence in Nanobiotechnology submitted by Kenin Nutritional Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.	Not considered by Deptt.	Received after the last date for receipt of the proposals.
2.	Centre of Excellence in Environmental Biotechnology submitted by S.P. University, Vallabh Vidyanagar	Rejected on Merit	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee.
3.	National Institute of Marine Biotechnology submitted by M/s. Cadilla Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Not considered by Deptt.	Received after the last date for receipt of the proposals.
4.	Center of Excellence in Marine Biotechnology submitted by CSMCRI, Bhavnagar	Rejected on Merit	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee.
5.	Establishment of Marine Biotech incubator in Marine Biotech Park in Gujarat	Under consideration	—
6.	Multi-institutional Teachers Training Program in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics submitted by GSBTM	Rejected	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee.

1	2	3	4
7.	IPR issues in Biotechnology submitted by National Law University, Gandhinagar	Rejected	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee.
8.	Diploma in Clinical trials submitted by L.M. College of Pharmacy,	Rejected	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee.
9.	Vacation Training Programme on Bio-resources for School children	Approved Rs. 5.07 lakhs (4 weeks)	The programme was successfully completed in 2005.
10.	Vacation Training Programme on Bio-resources for School children	Approved Rs. 5.86 lakhs (4 weeks)	The programme was successfully completed in 2006.
11.	Diploma in Clinical Trials submitted by B.J. Medical College	Rejected	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee.
12.	HILA Registry facility and Cord blood bank facility	Under consideration	—
13.	Biodiversity, Bioprospecting, Biofueling and Bioremediation-towards an understanding of coral and microbial symbiosis	Rejected	Not found suitable under Indo-Australian bilateral collaboration by External Peer Review Committee.
14.	The Virtual Institute of Bioinformatics submitted by GSBTM	Rejected	Because Deptt. supports mainly Universities and colleges to promote Biology teaching through Bioinformatics.
15.	Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNPO) association study with type II Diabetes in Native Indian population of Gujarat submitted by FRIGE, Ahmedabad	Rejected	Not found suitable for DBT funding by External Peer Review Committee.
16.	Study of genetics Disorder and their diagnosis in population of weastern regions submitted by Gujarat University, Ahmedabad	Under consideration	—
17.	Preparation and standardization of FISH probes for various Genetic disorders and Extension of Services in Gujarat submitted by Foundation for Research in Genetics and Endocrinology, Ahmedabad	Under consideration	—

E-Governance in Companies

3391. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to adopt e-governance system for ensuring transparency and efficiency for the companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has implemented an e-Governance Project called 'MCA-21' with a view to improve the speed and certainty in delivery of MCA services in a transparent manner. This improvement is ensured primarily through the mechanism of secure electronic filing (e-filing) and easy online payment for all the services provided by the Registrar of Companies. It is, therefore, a significant step towards an end-to-end paperless delivery of the Government services with widespread use of Digital Signature to carry out e-filing in a secure manner in conformity with the Information Technology Act, 2000. Starting with the launch of the first pilot on February 18, 2006 from Coimbatore and the major launch of the second pilot from Delhi by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on March 18, 2006, the programme was rolled out at all the ROC locations in a phased manner by September 4, 2006. Electronic filing, using Digital Signatures, was made compulsory from September 16, 2006 with the amendment in the Companies Act, 1956. The facility for online payment through Credit Card and Internet Banking has also been provided on the portal through a secure payment gateway, to ensure prompt recognition of payment and delivery of services.

A total of 25.32 lakh documents have been filed online since the launch of this project and a significant improvement has been achieved in reduction of time in delivery of service. The stakeholders can now file their documents on-line at any time and from anywhere in a 24 x 7 x 365 time frame from the comfort of their offices or homes without physically visiting the ROC offices.

[Translation]

Royalty on Power Generation

3392. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Himachal Pradesh Government is demanding royalty on power generated by Beas-Sutlaj Link Bhakra Power Project under Bhakra Beas Management Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the free of cost supply of 12% powers of the total powers generated by the aforesaid plants and 7.19% powers from hydro power plants under the jurisdiction of BBMB to Himachal Pradesh with retrospective effect has also been demanded by them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Himachal Pradesh has been demanding 12% free power out of the power generated by Bhakra-Beas Projects.

(b) to (d) As per information available, the Government of Himachal Pradesh has been demanding 12% free power from Bhakra-Beas Projects located in their territory viz. Bhakra Nangal Projects (1478.73 MW), Dehar Power House (990 MW) and Pong Power House (396 MW) in lieu of utilization of resources of Himachal Pradesh on the analogy for sharing power from Centre Sector Projects. Allocation of 12% free power is applicable in case of Central Sector Hydro Electric Projects where the sanction for investment decision was issued after 12-02-1985 and projects were commissioned after 7-09-1990. BBMB Projects are not Central Sector Projects but are jointly owned State Sector Projects commissioned prior to 7-09-1990. Also sharing of power from Bhakra Beas Projects has already been agreed amongst the partner states long back. BBMB have also informed that the Government of Himachal Pradesh has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India for:—

(i) a share of 12% of the net power generated in

Bhakra-Beas Project free of cost from the date of commissioning of these projects.

- (ii) claiming a share of 7.19% of the power generated in Bhakra-Beas projects from the appointed date i.e. 1-11-1966.
- (iii) to pass a decree for Rs. 2199.77 crore as compensation for failure to supply the above said shares.

The matter is presently sub-judice.

[English]

Water Ingress into Coastal Villages of Tamil Nadu

3393. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that water ingress into the coastal villages of Tamil Nadu is taking place very frequently;

(b) if so, whether early warning system to Tsunami and storm surges has been set up;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether National Cyclone Risk Mitigation project is being implemented in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There have been some reports of sea water ingress taking place after the Tsunami event of 2004 in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) The Government is setting up a National Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian Ocean and the system is scheduled to be operational by the end of September 2007. An interim warning centre is already working at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on a 24 x 7 basis.

(d) and (e) The National Cyclone Risk Mitigation

Project (NCRMP) has been drawn up with a view to address cyclone hazard risks in 13 Cyclone prone coastal States/UTs, including Tamil Nadu. The cyclone warning system is already functional and cyclone warnings are being provided by India Meteorological Department for all the coastal regions of the country.

Supply of Gas to Dabhol

3394. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been buying large quantity of non-APM gas at a price higher than \$4.33 discovered by Reliance Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government or promoters of Dabhol Power Plant have made efforts for securing RIL gas for Dabhol; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) During 2006-07, NTPC Ltd. purchased 4625.27 Million Standard Cubic Meter (MMSCM) of gas. Out of this, 3428.70 MMSCM of natural gas was purchased under Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price and 49.61 MMSCM natural gas was purchased at non-APM price from Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPC). Remaining 1146.96 MMSCM is the Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) procured on spot purchase/fall back Basis. RLNG prices at Power Plant Boundary were in the range of US \$ 10.39/Million British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) to US \$ 13.14/MMBTU whereas the non-APM Natural Gas was procured at US \$ 5.12/MMBTU.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the request of Chairman, Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. (RGPPPL), this Ministry has requested the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to examine the issue of taking the Government's share of profit gas from the KG D6 block in kind. The Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) to examine

and consider the issues of gas pricing and commercial utilization of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Misutilization of Loans Granted by IFCI

3395. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies granted loans by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) during the last one year;

(b) the number of companies reported alleged misutilisation of loans availed from IFCI and the related amount of funds;

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has evolved any system of monitoring and for judicious utilization of funds by these companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per information received from IFCI, IFCI has not sanctioned any fresh loans to companies during the last one year.

(c) to (e) IFCI is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956. The Government of India has no shareholding in IFCI Ltd. The affairs of IFCI Ltd. are managed by its Board of Directors and it is for them to take necessary steps to protect the interests of IFCI Ltd.

Clearance to Urban Infrastructure Projects

3396. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether clearance of budgeted provision under 10 per cent North East Pool Fund towards development of Urban Infrastructure in the North East Region as proposed by the Ministry of Urban Development is pending in the Ministry of Finance since May 2007;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Expenditure has concurred to the proposal of Ministry of Urban Development.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Opening of Liaison Office by Foreign Companies

3397. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foreign company is permitted to open a liaison office in India under automatic route with permission from RBI;

(b) if so, the norms laid down therefor;

(c) whether such liaison office is allowed to carry out commercial transactions such as sale, purchase, trading activities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Foreign companies are permitted to open Liaison Offices in India in terms of Notification No. FEMA 22/2000-RB dated 3rd May, 2000 viz. Foreign Exchange Management (Establishment in India of Branch or Office or other Place of Business) Regulations, 2000 in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (6) of FEMA, 1999 (42 of 1999) after obtaining permission from RBI for carrying out permitted activities listed in Schedule II of the Notification.

(b) Applicants are required to submit their application in the prescribed proforma to the RBI alongwith a copy of their certificate of incorporation attested by a Notary Public or Indian Embassy in country of incorporation and latest audited Balance Sheet of the company.

Based on financial statements submitted alongwith

the application a company with profitable track record of 3 years is considered for permission.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pension Scheme for Aged Poor

3398. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new pension scheme for the aged people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new scheme is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Ministry of Rural Development deals with National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) under which pension @ Rs. 200 per month is provided to old age persons of the age of 65 years and higher, who are destitutes. There is no proposal in this Ministry to introduce a new pension scheme for the aged people living below poverty line. However as per the Hon'ble Prime Minister's speech on Independence Day on 15-8-2007 action has been taken to expand the coverage of the aged under NOAPS to all those who are 65 years or higher and who are living below the poverty line.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Modernization of CSIR Laboratories

3399. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has in the recent past modernized 29 laboratories/institutes under Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and

(b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred in each of such laboratories/institutes?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has taken steps to renovate and refurbish its constituent laboratories/institutes in the recent past. The expenditure so incurred during 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Laboratory-wise Expenditure Statement for the year 2006-07

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Lab Name	Infrastructure Renovation and Refurbishing
1	2	3
1.	CCMB, Hyderabad	104.13
2.	CDRI, Lucknow	23.74
3.	CECRI, Karaikudi	22.47
4.	CEERI, Pilani	1.15
5.	CFRI, Dhanbad	10.55
6.	CGCRI, Kolkata	157.20
7.	CIMAP, Lucknow	2.20
8.	CMERI, Durgapur	4.47
9.	CRRI, New Delhi	66.52
10.	CSIO, Chandigarh	113.35
11.	CSMCRI, Bhavnagar	9.37
12.	IGIB, Delhi	29.59

1	2	3
13.	IHBT, Palampur	1.40
14.	IICB, Kolkata	70.26
15.	IICT, Hyderabad	32.59
16.	ITRC, Lucknow	88.32
17.	CSIR-C-Chennai	67.85
18.	NAL, Bangalore	7.26
19.	NBRI, Lucknow	71.38
20.	NCL, Pune	46.71
21.	NEERI, Nagpur	25.45
22.	NGRI, Hyderabad	104.97
23.	NIO, Goa	34.75
24.	NML, Jamshedpur	76.23
25.	IMMT-Bhubneswar	136.81
26.	IIIM-Jammu	60.85
27.	NEIST-Jorhat	122.18
28.	NIIST-Tvm.	47.43
29.	SERC, Chennai	23.38
Total		1562.55

Cash Flow in CSIR Laboratories

3400. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the laboratories/institutes of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) generate external cash flow by undertaking projects;

(b) if so, the details of projects undertaken and completed by each laboratory/institute of CSIR during each of the last two years;

(c) whether a large number of laboratories have failed to achieve the main objective of generating additional revenue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve objectives of such laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Declaration of Assets in Course of Election

3401. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of Parliament and State Assemblies/Councils are declaring their assets in the course of election;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set norms for constitutional authorities too; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration to make any change in the existing position in respect of mandatory declaration of assets with regard to Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Small Hydro Power Projects

3402. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any small hydro power projects during 2005-06 to be run by the Army Corporate Houses and village panchayats;

(b) if so, the details and main objectives thereof;

(c) whether some of these projects have been closed down;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government is formulating any scheme for installation of such projects under the public-private partnership; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) A component under the reconstruction plan for Jammu and Kashmir announced by the Prime Minister in November 2004 provides for setting up 1000 micro-hydro projects throughout the state for increased electricity access. The implementation of these projects, which started in 2005-06, is being done through the Army who have reported that 967 projects have been completed so far of which 893 have been handed over to the village community/state administration. At some project sites, teething problems have been reported, which are being looked into.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy supports the deployment of small hydro projects, i.e., upto 25 MW station capacity for which it provides central financial assistance.

[English]

Maintenance Allowance to Muslim Women

3403. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed an order to provide maintenance allowance

to Muslim women from their husbands under section 125;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 05-06-2007 in the matter of [Appeal (crl.) No. 795 of 2001 Iqbal Bano Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and anrs.] has held as follows:—

- (1) A Muslim husband is liable to make reasonable and fair provision for the future of the divorced wife which obviously includes her maintenance as well. Such a reasonable and fair provision extending beyond the iddat period must be made by the husband within the iddat period in terms of Section 3(i) of Muslim Woman (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.
- (2) Liability of the Muslim husband to his divorced wife arising under Section 3(i)(a) of the Act to pay maintenance is not confined to the iddat period.
- (3) A divorced Muslim woman who is not remarried and who is not able to maintain herself after the iddat period can proceed as provided under Section 4 of the Act against her relative who are liable to maintain her in proportion to the properties which they inherit on her death according to Muslim law for such divorced woman including her children and parents. If any of her relative being unable to pay maintenance, the Magistrate may direct the State Waqf Board established under the Act to pay maintenance.
- (4) The provisions of the Act do not offend Article 14, 15 and 21 of the Indian Constitution.
- (c) Government does not propose to take any

steps in this regard since the Hon'ble Supreme Court has not given any directions to the Central Government in the matter.

[Translation]

Liaward Loan Sealed Policy

3404. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory Development Authority has done away with the Liaward Loan Sealed Policy of ICICI Bank which was being sold to credit card holders of various foreign banks forcibly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total income earned by ICICI Bank through this policy till May, 2006;

(d) whether ICICI Bank will refund this amount;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any action against all such foreign banks which have sold this policy forcibly;

(f) if so, the names of such foreign banks; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it is not aware of any insurance product by the name "Liaward Loan Sealed Policy".

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

Shortage of Drinking Water

3405. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that people have to buy drinking water in some metro cities of the country due to acute shortage of drinking water;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received some proposals from the States for Central assistance; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

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

[English]

Constitutional Reforms

3406. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement the recommendation of M.N. Venkatachalaiah Committee on Constitutional Reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government intends to amend the constitution to ensure that all international treaties and agreements come into effect only after they are ratified by the Parliament; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Action on the recommendations lies with the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations. Copies of the report have already been forwarded to the Ministries/Departments.

(d) The Government do not propose any amendment to the Constitution. The Union Government with the approval of the Cabinet conclude all treaties and agreements with foreign counteis. Legislature's approval is required for any implementing legislation, wherever necessary.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**New Pension Scheme for
Para-Military Forces**

3407. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Para-Military Forces are proposed to be excluded from the New Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a group of Ministers to ponder over the demands and complaints of para-military forces;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The proposal for exemption of Central Para-Military Forces (CPMF) personnel from purview of New Pension System was placed before Union Cabinet, the Cabinet decided that the matter be considered by Group of Ministers. 1st meeting of Group of Ministers has been held on 31-08-2007.

[English]

Government Share of Gas from RIL

3408. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Ministry has asked the Petroleum Ministry to exercise its option of taking Government share of gas from Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) as reported in the 'Business Line' dated August 1, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Based on the request of Chairman

and Managing Director, NTPC Ltd. and Chairman, Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. (RGPPL), this Ministry has requested the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to examine the issue of taking the Government's share of profit gas from the KG D6 block in kind.

(c) The Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) to examine and consider the issues of gas pricing and commercial utilization of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Delay in Appointment in CSIR

3409. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Director General of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been lying vacant during the last six months;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) the number of full time post of Directors in various CSIR laboratories are lying vacant;

(d) the reasons for not filling up the vacancies;

(e) whether the research work is hampered as a result thereof;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The post of Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) is presently assigned to the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, as an additional charge. The search-cum-selection process for the full time Director-General, is under way.

(c) and (d) There are 8 posts of Directors lying vacant. However, these posts have been assigned to either the senior most Scientist of the concerned laboratory or Director of a sister laboratory, as an additional charge. The Government had directed the CSIR to revise the Recruitment Rules for Directors. The revised Recruitment Rules is under approval by the Government.

(e) and (f) The research work has not been hampered as structured administrative arrangements are in position in all CSIR laboratories.

(g) Recruitment Rules are being finalized. Process of recruitment will be initiated on the approval of Recruitment Rules by the Government.

Ship Breaking Industry

3410. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government levies customs duty on ships breaking industry;

(b) if so, the amount collected on this account during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether requests for reduction/exemption in customs duty on ship breaking industry has been received during the recent time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is a customs duty of 5% on ships for breaking. In addition, it also attracts countervailing duty of 16% and education cess of 3%.

(b) Financial yearwise customs duty collected on ships for breaking is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Amount of customs duty realized (Provisional)
2004-05	269
2005-06	178
2006-07	298

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government has received requests for reduction/exemption in customs duty on ship breaking industry. The requests were examined but not accepted on the ground that ship breaking scrap produces mostly re-rollable material, which also attracts 5% import duty. Besides, any reduction would also have involved substantial revenue loss.

[Translation]

Credit Cards

3411. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of credit cards issued by the Public Sector Banks during the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) whether the Government has information regarding percentage of credit cards being used by the card holders; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of credit cards issued by public sector banks, bank-wise, as at the end of March 2005, 2006 and 2007, is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The existing Management Information System of Reserve Bank of India does not generate the desired information.

Statement*Credit Card Details of Public Sector Banks for the last 3 years*

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of Credit Cards as at the end of		
		March 2005	March 2006	March 2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Bank	151272	168614	161193
3.	Bank of Baroda	156840	139980	147925
4.	Bank of India	88543	106594	133834
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	50134	43454	70105
6.	Canara Bank	107092	101940	87251
7.	Central Bank of India	37270	40493	39739
8.	Corporation Bank	3490	3153	2664
9.	Dena Bank	10049	10233	10406
10.	IDBI	0	0	0
11.	Indian Bank	0	1831	13101
12.	Indian Overseas Bank	11581	11199	15008
13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0	0	0
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	0	0	0
15.	Punjab National Bank	0	0	0
16.	Syndicate Bank	46354	40375	41698
17.	UCO Bank	0	0	0
18.	Union Bank of India	33714	18929	21904
19.	United Bank of India	0	0	0
20.	Vijaya Bank	67866	134132	138542
21.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	11391	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	0	0	0
23.	State Bank of India	1643127	2427152	3356561
24.	State Bank of Indore	0	0	0
25.	State Bank of Mysore	0	0	0
26.	State Bank of Patiala	0	0	0
27.	State Bank of Saurashtra	0	0	0
28.	State Bank of Travancore	0	0	0
Total		2418723	3248079	4239931

Source: Credit card details from Off-site returns.

[English]

Kisan Credit Cards

3412. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target or issuing Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any record about the number of farmers whose request for Kisan Credit Cards has been rejected; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government of India has not fixed any specific targets for issuance of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs). The number of KCCs, which was approximately 4,14,00,000 in the year 2003-04 has shown a continuous increase over the past few years and has gone upto 6,75,44,938 (figure provisional) in June 2007.

(c) and (d) Data reporting system does not

generate the information in the manner asked for. However, banks have robust internal grievance redressal mechanism to address all customer complaints including those relating to KCCs. Various instructions have been issued to banks from time to time in this regard. Any customer who has a genuine grievance, which may include refusal of issue of KCCs, is attended to by the concerned bank.

[Translation]

Bench of Gujarat High Court at Surat and Rajkot

3413. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested to set up a bench of High Court at Surat and Rajkot in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The then Chief Minister of

Gujarat had in September, 2000 conveyed that the State Government felt that Circuit Benches of the Gujarat High Court be established at Surat and Rajkot. The matter was examined in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court who informed that it would not be in the interest of the Institution to have a Circuit Bench either at Surat or at Rajkot. The Chief Minister of Gujarat was informed accordingly in May, 2001. Thereafter, no proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat, in consultation with the Chief Justice for the establishment of Benches of the Gujarat High Court either at Surat or at Rajkot.

Construction of Bridges

3414. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the State Governments for construction of bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during last year and till date;

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

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) According to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Guidelines separate Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are required to be submitted by State Governments only for bridges exceeding 25 meters. In such cases, pro-rata costs beyond 25 meters and the agency charges, if any, will be borne by the State Government. During the last one year and till date, 218 bridges (including ADB funded Projects) exceeding 25 meters were cleared for which Central share is Rs. 181.586 crore and State share is Rs. 204.448 crore. State-wise details of the projects cleared have been furnished in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the State	Phase	No. of Bridges	Clearance Date	State Share	Central Share
Uttaranchal	Phase-V	6	18-10-2006	2.29	4.7
Assam	Phase VI	105	7-3-2007	108.278	91.156
Assam	ADB Batch II	83	7-3-2007	80.67	75.41
Tripura	Phase-IV	19	24-5-2007	5.2	7.13
Tirpura	Phase-V	3	1-3-2007	1.13	1.44
Bihar (IRCON)		2	10-7-2007	6.88	1.75
Total		218		204.448	181.586

Loans from NABARD

3415. SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various States, particularly Maharashtra seeking loans/financial assistance for various develop-

mental projects from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the NABARD has imposed any conditions regarding the utilization of loan amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The detail of proposals received from various State Governments seeking financial assistance for various

developmental projects from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during the year 2007-08, under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-XIII, State-wise and Project-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) NABARD has advised the State Governments to take up the projects for implementation as per the approved phasing period and seek reimbursement of expenditure incurred by them and submit Project Completion Reports on completion of the projects. The State Governments are implementing the projects sanctioned by NABARD as per the phasing and terms and conditions of sanction conveyed to them.

Statement

RIDF XIII (2007-08) - List of Projects State-wise Project-wise-All India Position

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	State	No. Projects	Name of Project	Sector	RIDF Loan Amount	State Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	129	125 Roads and 04 Bridges Projects	Rural Connectivity	174.84	174.84
2.	Chhattisgarh	3	03 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	8.96	8.96
3.	Gujarat	232	232 Rural Road Projects	Rural Connectivity	88.41	278.64
		1	01 Major Irrigation Project	Irrigation	190.23	
4.	Haryana	34	30 Minor and 03 Medium and 01 Major Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	110.10	110.10
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3	03 Rural Road Projects	Rural Connectivity	4.95	
		15	15 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	8.61	
		37	37 Rural Drinking Water Projects	Social Sector	17.44	
		25	20 Rural Roads and 05 Bridge Projects	Rural Connectivity	27.69	
6.	Jharkhand	64	64 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	8.12	66.81
		63	63 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	13.20	13.20
7.	Karnataka	324	324 Rural Road Projects	Rural Connectivity	164.57	
		3	03 Residential School Projects	Social Sector	6.38	
		344	344 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	67.85	

53	53	Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	13.81	
7384	7384	Construction of Check Dam Projects	Irrigation	151.66	404.27
8.	10	Soil and Water Conservation Projects	Agri Related	6.79	
	9	Infrastructure for Rural Educational Institutions—Higher Secondary School Projects	Social Sector	2.60	
	1	01 infrastructure Project for IT in Rural Areas	Agri Related	50.00	59.39
9.	27	Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	284.85	
	8	08 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	150.16	
	50	50 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	23.47	
	9000	9000 Check Dams (Minor Irrigation)	Irrigation	180.00	638.48
10.	52	Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	75.49	
	1	01 Major Irrigation Project (Bargi Diversion)	Irrigation	512.16	
	1	01 Major Irrigation Project (Indira Sagar)	Irrigation	44.80	632.45
11.	7	Soil and Water Conservation Projects	Agri Related	7.19	7.19
12.	1	01 Groundwater Recharge	Irrigation	9.14	9.14
13.	23	06 Minor Irrigation and 17 Water Harvesting Projects	Irrigation Agri Related	32.83	
	3	03 Rural Drinking Water Projects	Social Sector	340.37	
	7	07 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	36.83	
	1	01 Lhasi Medium Irrigation Project	Irrigation	68.52	
	745	745 Rural Road Projects	Rural Connectivity	226.37	704.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Sikkim	65	23 Minor Irrigation and 42 Flood Protection	Irrigation Agri Related	1.45	
		2	01 Rural Road and 01 Flood Protection Projects	Rural Connectivity	3.95	
		3	03 Rural Drinking Water Projects	Social Sector	10.35	
		1	01 Rural Road Project	Rural Connectivity	2.25	18.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	23	23 Flood Protection Projects	Agri Related	197.17	
		487	487 Rural Drinking Water Projects	Social Sector	18.81	
		1491	1491 Rural Road Projects	Rural Connectivity	328.05	544.03
16.	Uttar Pradesh	16	16 Forestry Projects	Agri Related	14.84	
		35	35 Vet. Hospitals	Agri Related	4.96	
		595	595 Minor Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	13.06	
		1	01 Medium Irrigation Projects	Irrigation	4.81	37.67
17.	West Bengal	3	03 Rural Roads	Rural Connectivity	15.54	
		333	333 Rural Roads	Rural Connectivity	36.61	52.51
	Grand Total	21715			3760.24	3760.24

Sale of Equity in ICICI

3416. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a subsidiary unit of ICICI Bank has sought permission from the Government to sell its equity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount of equity for which permission was sought; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ICICI Bank Limited (ICICI Bank) has sought permission to set up a subsidiary to act as a holding company with 24% foreign investment, and to transfer its investments in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company (ICICI Life), ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited (ICICI General), ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited (ICICI AMC) and ICICI Prudential Trust Limited (ICICI Trust) to this holding company.

(c) Government has granted approval vide letter No. FC II 166(2007)/129(2007) dated 22nd August, 2007.

Frauds by Companies

3417. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding alleged frauds and irregularities committed while taking loans by the companies from Financial institutions and banks during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases in which enquiry has since been initiated;

(d) the number of cases in which enquiry has so far been completed;

(e) the number of companies found guilty in the said enquiries;

(f) the details of the action taken/being taken by the Government against these companies; and

(g) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) RBI has informed that a few complaints regarding fraudulent activities and irregularities in loans sanctioned by banks were received. The same were taken up with the respective banks to ascertain whether they had been reported as fraud. In case fraud reports are received, banks are advised to file complaint with the Police/CBI, as applicable, examine staff accountability aspect, initiate steps to recover the amount of loss and strengthen the systems and procedures to avoid recurrence of such frauds. As per extant guidelines issued by the RBI to the banks, they are required to report individually all the fraud cases involving amounts of Rs. 1 lakh and above to RBI and below Rs. 1 lakh in consolidated form to RBI.

Certain irregularities had been observed in the account of Vishal Exports Overseas Ltd. which was in consortium arrangement with 14 banks. RBI conducted a scrutiny of the account and detected serious irregularities. RBI has ordered a Special Audit of the account under the provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949. RBI has also received three more references of alleged frauds/irregularities in the loan taken by the companies from Financial institutions during the last two years. The Companies involved are (i) Arihant Industries Ltd., (ii) Balaji Hotels and Enterprises and (iii) LML Ltd. RBI conducted a scrutiny of all the cases and it has been completed in two cases while the matter relating to Balaji Hotels and Enterprises is sub-judice.

(e) RBI has reported that none of the above mentioned three companies has been found guilty of fraud.

(f) and (g) Action is being taken by the concerned bank/financial institution as per the extant guidelines.

[English]

Gold Deposit Scheme

3418. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks have been advised to give more publicity to Gold Deposit Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have been asked to direct temple trusts to deposit their gold with Banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps

3419. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have estimated that the country could save upto 10,000 MW annually by replacing the common incandescent lamps with the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs); and

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been set to phase out the incandescent bulbs from common use?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Estimates of savings if incandescent bulbs are replaced, vary from 6,500 MW to 10,000 MW.

(b) No time-frame has been set at present to phase out the incandescent bulbs.

Recommendations of Parthasarthy Committee on Watershed Programme

3420. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of the recommendations of Parthasarthy Committee on watershed programmes;

(b) whether guidelines for watershed programmes have been formulated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The recommendations of Parthasarthy Committee are under examination of the Government. After having wide ranging consultations, a comprehensive set of guidelines titled "Common Guidelines for Watershed Management 2007" has been drafted. It has been proposed to integrate and consolidate the schemes of Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), and Desert Development Programme (DDP) within the Ministry of Rural Development for integrated planning and sustainable outcomes during the 11th Five Year Plan.

Model Township in Rural Areas

3421. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to setup model township in rural areas throughout the country having all the modern facilities; and

(b) if so, the details of the places earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bio-technology Parks

3422. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bio-technology parks functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has received requests from various State Government for strengthening of such parks in the country;

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

(d) the number of proposals for setting up of such parks lying pending with the Department's Expert Committee alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which such pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Biotechnology Parks set up in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Pune (Maharashtra) and Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) are functional. A Biotechnology Park is being set up at Vadodara (Gujarat). Projects for setting up Biotechnology Incubation Centers have been supported in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka.

(b) to (e) A proposal has just been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for strengthening the TICEL Bio Park. Another proposal has just been received from the Government of Gujarat for establishment of a Marine Biotech Incubator. These would be processed and considered by the Expert Committee constituted for the purpose. A decision on these is expected to be taken by early 2008.

[Translation]

Registration of Companies

3423. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of companies are functioning without getting themselves registered with the Registrar of Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is compulsory for any company to get itself registered within a fixed time frame;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Section 11 of the Companies Act, 1956 provides that no company, association or partnership consisting of more than 10 persons, ~~more than 20~~ persons in case of other than those which are doing the business of banking) shall be formed for the purpose of carrying on the business unless it is registered as a company under Companies Act, 1956 or is formed in pursuance of some other Indian Law. However, no specific time frame for registration under Companies Act, 1956 has been provided.

(e) Necessary legal action is initiated under section 11(4) and (5) of the Companies Act, 1956 as and when contravention of section 11(1) and (2) of the Companies Act comes to notice.

[English]

Energy Through Bio-mass

3424. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to pay special attention on Biomass Energy Systems during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the Government has framed any policy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has given special

package to those States which have implemented Biomass Energy System;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the employment generated through Biomass Energy System in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Of the proposed target of 14000 MW for grid connected power generation from renewable during the 11th Plan, 2100 MW capacity addition is proposed from bio power comprising 500 MW biomass power, 1200 MW baggasse cogeneration and 400 MWe energy/power from industrial and municipal wastes. In addition, 1000 MWe of distributed renewable generation for power and heat has been proposed, which includes biomass resources.

(b) to (e) Apart from preferential tariff in most potential states, central financial assistance (CFA) for setting up bio energy/power projects is available, except for municipal solid wastes to energy that has been kept in abeyance because of court orders, and during the 11th Plan; a somewhat higher level of CFA has been proposed for special category states.

(f) An estimated employment, both direct and indirect, of about 17 million man days/annum is likely to be garnered in various states during the 11th Plan period as a result of deploying biomass energy/power projects.

[Translation]

Houses under IAY

3425. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allot houses to the victims of fire in villages under Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) In order to provide immediate relief to fire victims, the District Collectors/District Magistrates/Deputy Commissioners at district level, are authorized to utilize an amount upto 10% of the district's annual allocation under IAY or Rs. 50.00 lakh, whichever is higher, from the IAY funds or from their own resources, for construction of houses damaged by fire, which can be got reimbursed subsequently from this Ministry by submitting requisite documents.

Foreign Capital Investment in Indian Banks

3426. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India has allowed foreign institutional investors to make investment in public and private sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of foreign capital investment upto June, 2007, in Indian banks, bank-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received the proposals to increase the maximum ceiling of investment; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In terms of the Government of India press note dated 5th March, 2004, the aggregate foreign investment in private sector banks from all sources [Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), Non-resident Indians (NRIs)] cannot exceed 74% of the bank's paid up capital. Section 3 (2D) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings)

Act, 1970/80 prohibits individuals and other corporate residents outside India to hold or acquire shares of any nationalised bank, in aggregate exceeding 20% of the paid up capital of the concerned bank. RBI guidelines, however, restrict individual FII holding in any bank to 10% of the paid up capital of that bank.

(c) Bank-wise details of FIIs holding in public and private sector banks as on 30th June, 2007 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Representations have been received from public sector banks to increase foreign investment limit from the current 20%. However, at present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the said limit.

Statement

FIIs Holding in Public Sector Banks and Foreign Holding in Private Sector Banks as on 30-06-2007

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	% of foreign holding
1	2	3
Public Sector Banks		
1.	Allahabad Bank	19.33
2.	Andhra Bank	19.22
3.	Bank of Baroda	20.87
4.	Bank of India	16.1
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	7.96
6.	Canara Bank	17.6
7.	Corporation Bank	9.61
8.	Dena bank	15.52
9.	IDBI	1.32
10.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	18.98

1	2	3
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	18.97
12.	Punjab National Bank	20.14
13.	State Bank of India	19.8
14.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	2.67
15.	State Bank of Mysore	0.00
16.	State Bank of Travancore	2.74
17.	Syndicate Bank	13.30
18.	UCO Bank	2.16
19.	Union Bank of India	19.87
20.	Vijaya Bank	17.71

Private Sector Banks

1.	Centurion Bank of Punjab Ltd.	68.96
2.	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	66.59
3.	Federal Bank Ltd.	62.22
4.	HDFC Bank Ltd.	48.06
5.	Indusind Bank Ltd.	53.08
6.	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	66.66
7.	Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.	34.70
8.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	33.50
9.	Karur Vysya Bank	21.63
10.	UTI Bank Ltd.	40.89
11.	Yes Bank	57.67

Note: Since RBI is monitoring the FII position of those Private sector banks where the FII holding is above 15% the details of only those Private sector banks having FII holding more than 15% is displayed in the table above.

[English]

Bench of UP High Court

3427. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal for establishing a Meerut-Bareilly bench of High Court of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is a likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) Setting up of the Benches of the High Court is considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government prepared in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Accrual Accounting System

3428. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the features and advantages of the accrual system of accounting;

(b) whether the Government has taken any decision to adopt and implement the accrual or double entry system of accounting in place of prevailing cash accounting system in India;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Government of India currently follows cash basis of accounting, under which all payments are reflected in the accounts only when they actually occur, and not when they become due.

Compared to the cash based system, the accrual accounting recognizes financial flows at the time the economic value is created, transformed or extinguished, whether or not cash is exchanged at the time. It is different from cash based system in that it records flow of resources. Expenses are recorded when resources (labour, goods and services, and capital) are consumed and income when it is earned i.e. when the goods are sold or the services rendered. The associated cash flows generally follow the event after sometime and may or may not take place during the same accounting period. Thus, in addition to cash flows, unpaid consumptions (payable) and unrealized incomes (receivables) are also recorded. Resources acquired but not fully consumed during an accounting period are treated as assets (inventory and fixed assets). Payments made for acquisition of inventory are included in the operating cost for the period in which it is consumed. Payment made for acquisition of physical assets, that future service potential, are amortised over the entire useful life of the asset by charging depreciation.

(b) The Government has accepted in principle the recommendation of the XII Finance Commission that "Central Government should gradually move towards accrual basis of accounting".

The Office of Controller General of Accounts Ministry of Finance has undertaken Pilot Project in Ministries of Urban Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to examine the feasibility of transition to accrual system of accounting.

(c) The Pilot Project in the Ministry of Urban Development is being implemented in 4 (four) divisions of the CPWD, while the Project in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is being implemented in one hospital.

(d) Does not apply.

Assistance for Translation of Central Acts in Malayalam

3429. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for more financial assistance for using modern technologies including computerization for translation of Central Acts into Malayalam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Government of Kerala has submitted the proposal seeking financial assistance for computerization initially on 21-5-2002 and by subsequent reminders, the last one being on 03-08-2006.

(c) This Department has no such scheme to provide financial assistance for computerization to State Governments. Government of Kerala was informed accordingly.

Fast Track Courts

3430. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ:
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:
SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL:

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

(a) the number of Fast Track Court functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases pending in these court at present alongwith the reasons, State-wise;

(c) the details of the difficulties being faced by the State-Governments for setting up the Fast Track Courts for quickly achieving the targeted disposal of the pending cases;

(d) the details of the funds provided by the Union Government to each states during each of the last three

years and during the current financial year for setting up Fast Track Courts alongwith the details of the actual use of said funds;

(e) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the utilization of funds and functioning of these Fast Track Court;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for speedy disposal of cases by such courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Government extended the scheme for providing central assistance to the States in respect of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for a period of five years beyond 31-3-2005 in respect of 1562 FTCs reported operational by the States on that date. Against that number, the FTCs reported operational by the States till March, 2007 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The requisite information has been called from the States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) A Statement-II showing the details of funds released to the States during the last three years, the utilization reported by the States and funds released to the States in the current financial year is enclosed.

(e) and (f) The Central Government monitors the utilization of funds provided to the States for operation of the FTCs. Further disbursement of funds is dependent on furnishing of Utilization Certificates indicating satisfactory utilization of funds released for the purpose in the previous years. States are also required to report the number of cases disposed by the FTCs from time to time.

(g) The time taken for disposal of cases in the FTCs is a matter within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, to facilitate disposal of cases in the courts, the Central Government provides financial assistance and has also taken steps to modernize these courts through computerization.

Statement-I

Number of Fast Track Courts reported operational by the States till March, 2007

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ UTs	No. of FTCs functional as on 31-3-07
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	108
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3.	Assam	20
4.	Bihar	150
5.	Chhattisgarh	27
6.	Goa	5
7.	Gujarat	149
8.	Haryana	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
11.	Jharkhand	54
12.	Karnataka	71

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	38
14.	Madhya Pradesh	66
15.	Maharashtra	167
16.	Manipur	2
17.	Meghalaya	3
18.	Mizoram	3
19.	Nagaland	2
20.	Orissa	41
21.	Punjab	8
22.	Rajasthan	83
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	49
25.	Tripura	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	242
27.	Uttaranchal	45
28.	West Bengal	119
Total		1474

Statement-II

Statement showing amount released to states towards FTC during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of the State	(Rs. in lakhs)								
		Amount sanctioned during 2004-05	Amount utilised in 2004-05	Amount sanctioned during 2005-06	Amount reported utilised in 2005-06	Amount sanctioned during 2006-07	Amount reported utilised in 2006-07	Amount sanctioned during 2007-08		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	NA	550.50	519.99	412.80				
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	NA	19.20	19.20	14.40	21.83			
3.	Assam	Nil	NA	128.00	128.00	96.00				
4.	Bihar	Nil	NA	960.30	871.43	720.00				
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	NA	198.40	178.71	129.60				
6.	Goa	Nil	NA	32.00	69.20	24.00				
7.	Gujarat	1287.27	NA	1062.80	1062.80	1355.90				
8.	Haryana	Nil	NA	102.40	89.26	33.60	33.60	16.80		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	NA	57.60	57.60	43.57				
10.	Jharkhand	Nil	NA	569.80	226.57	226.00				
11.	Karnataka	Nil	NA	595.40	595.40	610.80				
12.	Kerala	344.69	NA	198.40	198.40	148.80				
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	NA	422.50	243.52	215.40	418.81			
14.	Maharashtra	483.68	NA	1197.20	1170.08	1101.60	1650.00	782.40		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Manipur	Nil	NA	12.80	9.60	9.60		
16.	Meghalaya	Nil	NA	19.20	8.55	14.40		
17.	Mizoram	Nil	NA	19.20	19.20	17.68	17.68	7.20
18.	Nagaland	Nil	NA	12.80	0	18.18		9.60
19.	Orissa	Nil	NA	262.40	210.24	196.80	196.80	98.40
20.	Punjab	Nil	NA	115.20	84.79	48.00		
21.	Rajasthan	240.27	NA	531.40	531.40	753.64		
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	NA	313.70	313.70	235.20		
23.	Tripura	Nil	NA	19.20	3.80	3.80	6.56	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	NA	288.00	1229.90	3075.68	1886.79	495.52
25.	Uttarakhand	Nil	NA	1549.80	310.30	216.00		
26.	West Bengal	Nil	NA	761.80	761.80	571.20	571.20	285.00
Total		2356.34		10000.00	8913.44	10292.66	4803.27	1694.92

Irregularities in Exchange Boards

3431. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various irregularities have come to the notice of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the functioning of various Exchange Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SEBI has urged the Government for a more functional and financial autonomy;

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

(e) the extent to which more powers to SEBI would curb such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Some instances of irregularities in functioning of the board of a few stock exchanges have come to the notice of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) at various points of time. The irregularities include non-compliance with SEBI circulars, directives and guidelines. non-compliance with trading and settlement requirements, inadequate risk management systems, and financial and administrative mismanagement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Don't arise in view of answer to (c) above.

**Election Cases Pending under
R.P. Act**

3432. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases relating to conducting of

elections under Representation of the Peoples Act, are pending in the Supreme Court of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the period of such pendency;

(c) whether there is time limit of six months for the disposal of election cases in the High Courts but there is no such time limit in the Supreme Court of India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make suitable amendments in the Representation of the Peoples Act, to settle election cases within a reasonable time frame in the Supreme Court to better serve the actual purpose of the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement showing detail of Court cases on the basis of the information provided by the Election Commission is enclosed.

(c) Disputes regarding elections are dealt with under Part VI of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Chapters III and IVA deal with trial of election petitions and appeals, respectively. As per section 86(7) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, every election petition shall be tried as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date on which the election petition is presented to the High Court for trial. On any question (whether of law or of fact) from every order made by a High Court in an election petition, an appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court under section 116A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. There is no such time limit in the Supreme Court for the disposal of election cases.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration with the Government for making any change in the existing position in this regard.

Statement*Details of Civil Appeals/SLPs pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in Election Petitions*

Sl. No.	Case No. [Yes since filed]	Particular
1.	SCCA No. 8339/1995	Narain Singh Vs. Sunderpal Patwa
2.	Civil Appeal No. 6593/2000	R.P. Sharma Vs. M.M.K. Subba and ors.
3.	Civil Appeal No. 3306/2001	Garu Ram Vs. Chunilal and ors.
4.	Civil Appeal No. RC 874/2002	Basvaraj D. Honna Vs. Prakash Khandre and ors.
5.	Civil Appeal No. 6329-30/2005	N. Rajagopalan Vs. R. Dhanushkodi Adithan and ors.
6.	SLP (C) No. 18891/2006	Shivraj Singh Chouhan V. Raj Kumar Patel
7.	Civil Appeal No. 15128/2006	Narayana Swamy Vs. Dr. Mohan and ors.
8.	Civil Appeal No. 5033/2006	P.M. Ismail Vs. P.C. Thomas and ors.
9.	Civil Appeal No. 641/2006	Banwari Lal Vs. Vilas Muttemar and ors.
10.	Civil Appeal No. 856/2006	M. Arumugam Vs. R. Dhanushkodi Adithan and ors.

*[Translation]***Nirmal Gram Puraskar**

3433. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Sarpanchs and Gramsevaks of grampanchayats in Maharashtra have been awarded with Nirmal Gram Puruskar recently;

(b) if so, whether the amount of prize has not been distributed to them so far; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government proposes to distribute the amount of prize to the Sarpanchs and Gramsevaks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Nirmal Gram Puraskar is awarded to

a Gram Panchayat (GP) and not to the Sarpanch or Gram Sevak and consists of a citation, a memento and cash award based on the population of the GP. The Puraskar was initiated in 2003 and first awarded in 2005. 13 GPs of Maharashtra received the Puraskar in 2005 and 381 GPs in 2006. Recently in 2007, 1974 GPs of Maharashtra have received the award and Rs. 1278.40 lakh has been released for distribution to these GPs.

Banking Facility in Rural Areas

3434. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have been directed to formulate an action plan in order to make available better banking facility in rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its Annual Policy Statement for the year 2006-07, has advised all

public sector banks in all States/Union Territories (UTs) to identify at least one district in their State/UT for achieving 100 per cent financial inclusion by providing a "No Frills" account and General purpose Credit Card (GCC) on the lines of the initiative taken in Pondicherry (National Pilot Project for 100 per cent Financial Inclusion). The SLBC convenor banks have identified 104 district (as on 30-06-2007) for 100% financial inclusion of which 24 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kamataka, Kerala, Punjab and UT of Pondicherry have achieved 100% financial inclusion and banks have opened 67,32,335 "No Frills Accounts" and have issued 48,676 General Purpose Credit Card in these districts. Palakkad district in Kerala State was the first district to achieve 100% financial inclusion.

Besides, RBI has also issued guidelines advising all scheduled commercial banks to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), Post Offices and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitator and Correspondent models to bring in the banking fold the poorest of the poor and to extend banking facility in rural areas.

Financial Crimes

3435. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of financial crimes committed in the capital market during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the provision made by the Government to check financial crime in capital market; and

(c) the number of people found guilty and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) SEBI has initiated criminal prosecutions during the last three years as under:—

Year	No. of cases	No. of persons/entities
2004-05	84	410
2005-06	27	81
2006-07	21	149

A total of 2709 civil enforcement actions and 1047 cases of criminal prosecutions initiated by SEBI for violation of securities laws are pending at various stages.

During last three years, CBI has registered twelve cases relating to share transactions and financial crimes in capital market.

(b) The prosecutions for violations of securities laws attract imprisonment upto 10 years and fine upto Rs. 25 crore. The civil enforcement actions for violations of securities laws include debarring violating persons from dealing in securities or from accessing capital market, suspension and cancellation of certificate of registration in the case of registered intermediaries and Imposition of monetary penalties upto Rs. 25 crore or three times of the gain, whichever is higher.

(c) 60 criminal cases filed by SEBI against 293 persons have resulted in convictions. It has also passed 2998 civil enforcement orders against persons/entities who have been found guilty of violating securities laws.

[English]

Allocation of Funds for the North-East

3436. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation of the Ministry and the amount allocated to North Eastern States for the last three years;

(b) whether the unspent money allocated to North Eastern States under rural development programmes is being deposited in the Non Lapsable NE Pool; and

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The budgetary allocation of Ministry of Rural Development

pertaining to North-Eastern State and the unspent amount transferred to Non-Lapsable Central Pool Resources (NLCPR) is given below:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Total Allocation of the Ministry	Allocation to North East	Amount Transferred to NLCPR
2004-2005	18216.40	1841.64	39.85
2005-2006	27490.00	2700.35	0.00
2006-2007	30993.62	2916.56	0.50

Credit Facilities for Women

3437. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any specific credit facilities for women through banks;

(b) if so, whether banks are providing stipulated percentage of advances to women; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued a Circular in 2001 to the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to earmark 5% of their Net Bank Credit (NBC) to women entrepreneurs. Banks formulate their own schemes as approved by their respective Board of Directors for lending to women.

The performance of banks in achieving the stipulated target is periodically reviewed by the RBI and suitable instructions are issued from time to time to those banks found lagging behind the stipulated target.

As on 31-03-2007, 21 PSBs have achieved the stipulated target of lending 5% of their NBC to women. The Amount of loan disbursed to women by the banks as on 31-03-2007 stood at Rs. 6596424.77 lakh.

[Translation]

Late Opening and Early Closing of Nationalised Banks in Uttar Pradesh

3438. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding late opening and early closing of some nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Public Utilities at Metro Station

3439. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to remove the difficulties faced by the passengers in the absence of toilets/lavatories at the Metro Stations;

(b) whether DMRC has prepared any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that toilets are available in all Metro stations, except the following 13 Metro Stations:—

Shastri Park, Pul Bangash, Pratap Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Kanhaiya Nagar, Kashmere Gate (M), Rajiv Chowk, Patel Chowk, Pragati Maldan, Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Civil Lines, Chawri Bazar and Mandi House.

Out of the above 13 Metro Stations, construction of toilets is being taken up by DMRC on BoT Basis in 9 Metro Stations, i.e. Shastri Park, Pul Bangash, Pratap Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Kanhaiya Nagar, Kashmere Gate (M), Rajiv Chowk, Patel Chowk and Pragati Maldan. However, as an immediate solution to the problem, station staff of these 13 Metro Stations have been instructed by DMRC to allow the staff toilets to be used by the public and to put up necessary signages for their convenience.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in the Interest on Credit Cards

3440. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that interest rates are being increased by some banks arbitrarily for their credit card holders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has information regarding the total number of credit card holders in the country and the total transaction made through these credit cards during the last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In terms of Master Circular on credit card operations issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 2nd July, 2007, Banks have been advised that credit card dues

are in the nature of non-priority sector personal loans and as such banks are free to determine the rate of interest on credit card dues without reference to their Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR). However, the banks have been advised that the annualized percentage rate (APR), the method of calculation of APR, late payment charges including the method of calculation, the manner in which the outstanding unpaid amount is to be included for calculation of interest, etc. on credit card dues should be indicated by card issuing banks in the 'Welcome Kit' and monthly statement. Banks have also been advised to be transparent in fixing their interest rate/service charge on credit card dues and include the above in the Most Important Terms and Conditions (MITCs). Further, credit card scenario is being constantly monitored and instructions to banks on their credit card operations are issued by the RBI, on an ongoing basis.

(c) and (d) As at the end of March 2006 and 2007, a total of 164,82,615 and 225,07,167 credit cards existed in the country respectively, issued by all the scheduled commercial banks operating in India, and a sum of Rs. 14,316 crore and Rs. 20,994 crore was outstanding on account of these credit cards as at the end of March, 2006 and 2007 respectively. A total of 18,91,87,342 transactions were made through these credit cards during the period 1st July, 2006 to 30th June, 2007.

[English]

Survey by SBI

3441. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has made any survey to open Bank branches in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to open the branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Based on survey conducted by the State Bank of India (SBI) for opening of new branches in Maharashtra under Annual Branch Expansion Plan for 2006-07, three new

branches have already been opened in different places of Maharashtra out of 10 centres identified. This apart, approvals for upgradation of 22 Extension Counters located in Maharashtra into full fledged branches have also been obtained.

Under the Branch Authorisation Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued in September 2005, banks have been given freedom to submit their Branch Expansion Plan to RBI for approval on annual basis. Banks are encouraged to open branches, in rural and under-banked areas, keeping in view factors such as the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by the banks to common persons, actual credit flow of the Priority Sector, need for promoting financial inclusion, introduction of appropriate new products and enhanced use of technology for delivery of banking services.

**Group Housing Societies Registered
with DDA**

3442. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Co-operative Group Housing Societies registered with DDA till date in Delhi;

(b) the number of societies which have been completed and allotment of flats has been made to their members by the societies;

(c) whether DDA is involved in allotment of these flats;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay made by DDA in issuing certificates in this regard; and

(e) action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that Co-operative Group Housing Societies are not registered with it.

(b) 772 (approximate).

(c) to (e) The flats are allotted to members of the Co-operative Group Housing Societies through draw of lots held in the presence of representatives of the DDA as well as of Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Further action for issue of certificates of possession etc. is to be taken by the Management of the concerned Group Housing Societies.

Sixth Pay Commission

3443. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sixth Pay Commission has outsourced many its works;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this outsourcing is causing delay in the finalization of Commission's Report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. the Sixth Pay Commission has not out sourced any of its work.

(b) Does not arise.

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

Government Quarters in NDMC Areas

3444. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for fencing gates, wire-gauge shutter in Government quarters in NDMC areas of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the present policy of the Government, wire gauge shutter for doors/windows and barbed wire fencing with iron gate around the Government quarters are being carried out on request of the allottees on cost sharing basis.

These additions/alterations are being carried out in phased manner subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

Task Force for Cooperative Banks

3445. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether task force constituted under the Chairmanship of Jagdish Kapoor have made recommendations for cooperative banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has agreed for implementation the recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Government appointed a Task Force in April, 1999, under the chairmanship of Jagdish Kapoor, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to study the functioning of the cooperative credit system and suggest measures for its strengthening. The committee submitted its report in July, 2000. The recommendations of the committee, inter-alia, included autonomy to Cooperative Institutions, reducing Government control over cooperatives, State Governments to adopt Model Cooperative Societies Act, effective supervision of lower tiers of Cooperative Credit Systems.

The recommendations of the committee were examined by the Government in consultation with all Stake Holders and necessary provisions based on the recommendations were made while preparing Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2003. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha, however, it lapsed consequent to the dissolution of 13th Lok Sabha.

Further, to strengthen the rural cooperative credit institutions, the Government of India constituted a task force in 2004 under the chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan. Based on the recommendations, Government approved a revival package for short term cooperative credit structure. The States willing to implement the package are required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Government and NABARD for carrying out certain legal and institutional reforms.

As on date 12 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have executed MoU with NABARD and Central Government for implementation of the Package. States of Goa, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and U.T. of Dadra and Nagar Haveli have given consent to implement the package.

The revival package includes a financial outlay estimated at Rs. 13,596 crores to be shared by Central Government, State Governments and the Cooperative Credit Structure in the ratio of 68:28:4 respectively for the country as a whole. Central Government has already released Rs. 1425 crore for implementation of the package to NABARD.

[English]

Pending Projects with HUDCO

3446. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects pending with Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for financial assistance, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost of each of these projects;

(c) the details of towns/townships to be developed through these projects; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Details of Housing and Urban Infrastructure Projects Pending with Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), State-wise are given in the Statement enclosed.

The proposals for financial assistance are examined by HUDCO with reference to prevailing guidelines, security and exposure norms and are appraised legally, technically and financially before for sanction.

Statement

Scheme in Active Pipeline at HUDCO—as on 31-08-07

(Rs. in Crs.)

Sl. No.	State	Agency	Scheme Name	Loan Amt.
1	2	3	4	5
Assam				
1.		Srinath Builder and Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Multi Stroyed Commercial Complex at Guwahati.	10.41
2.		Meghamallar Estates and Services Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Apartment Build at Jatia.	1.00
3.		Tinsukhia Development Authority	Land Acquisition and Land Development Scheme.	9.68
Bihar				
1.		M/s. Ramnandi Hotel and Resorts Ltd., Gaya	Const. of Hotel "Budhha Aranya" a 5 Star Delux Hotel at Gaya.	100.00
2.		Millia Edu. Trust. Pumea	Const. of Millia Convent English School at Rambagh, Pumea.	4.00
3.		East and West Educational Society	Construction of School Building and Hostel of East and West High School at Bela, Patna.	0.20
4.		Lakhan Homes and Resorts (P) Ltd.	Construction of Lakhan Sona Apartment Near: RPS More, Bailey Road, Patna Jagdeo Path, Bailey Road, Patna.	0.75
5.		Aquatech Engineers (P) Ltd.	Construction of Narayan Plaza Apartment at BM Das Road, Patna.	1.40
6.		Millii Trust, Madhubani	Construction of Hostel Building for Indian Public School, Madhubani.	2.50

7.	Chhattisgarh	P. and M Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Sugar complex and co-generation Power Plant.	50.00
1.		RKM Powergen Pvt. Ltd.	350 MW Coal based Thermal Power plant at Birra, Jajgir, Champa Distt. Chhattisgarh.	500.00
2.		M.C. Abhanpur	IHSDP Scheme at Abhanpur.	0.45
3.		M.C. Kondagaon	UIDSSMT Scheme at Kondagaon.	0.45
4.		M.C. Kumhari	IDSMT Scheme at Kumhari.	0.65
5.		M.C. Jagdalpur	IHSDP Scheme at Jagdalpur.	1.69
	Gujarat			
1.		M/s. Sthapatya Buildcom	Development of Industrial Park "Pushp Industrial Park" at Asarwa, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.	56.00
2.		Dhanalaxmi Infra Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Commercial Complex "Iscon Mall" at Surat.	100.00
3.		M/s. Shashwal Homes Pvt. Ltd.	Development of Residential township at Chempur, Ahmedabad.	100.00
4.		M/s. Ghelani Builders	Const. of Residential Flats "Jolly Residency" at Surat	52.50
5.		M/s. Rajvee Resorts and Hotels Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of 4 Star Hotel at Gandhidam, Kutch, Distt., Gujarat.	25.00
6.		M/s. Samartya Infrastructure	Resi. Flats "Samartya Residency" at Ahmedabad.	5.90
7.		Mega City Cine Mall Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Entertainment complex with shopping mall at Ahmedabad.	7.30
8.		M/s. Sweet Homes	Const. of Residential flats and Bungalows at Surat.	11.50
9.		M/s. J.P. Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Commercial Complex-ISCON Mega Mall at Gotri Village, Baroda, Distt. Gujarat.	73.75

1	2	3	4	5
10.	M/s. Adani Township and Real Estate Co. (ATRECO).	Dev. of Township Project—"Shantigram" at Ahmedabad.		100.00
Hyderabad				
1.	APUFIDCO	Water Supply Improvement Scheme (WSIS) in the towns of Karimnagar, Jaityal, Korutla, Ramagundum and Hindupur.		157.05
2.	APGENCO	500 MW Coal based thermal power plant at Kothagundum, Andhra Pradesh.		450.00
3.	Ksheerabad Constructions Pvt. Ltd.	Construction of Office Building at Road No. 10 Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.		1.52
4.	Gharonda Builders and Developers	Construction of Gharonda Mall at Padmarao Nagar, Secunderabad.		2.75
5.	M/s. Spring Land Resorts Ltd.	Upgradation of Infrastructure Scheme.		2.40
6.	M/s. Ambika Agarbatties and Aroma Ind. Ltd.	Construction of Commercial Complex under BoT basis.		7.80
7.	M/s. Kens Enterprises	Construction of Serviced Apartments at Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad.		4.00
Haryana				
1.	M/s. Mapsko Builders Pvt. Ltd.	Dev. of Land and Const. of Commercial Mall, Mapsko Garden Estates at Sonapat.		100.00
2.	M/s. APEX Buildtech	Tennis loan for housing project—Apex Green—at Sonapat.		25.00
3.	M/s. AJS Builders Pvt. Ltd.	Residential scheme "AJS Township" at Gannaur Sonapat.		50.00
	Aerens Builders Pvt. Ltd.	Dev. of Integrated Housing and Comm. Complex at Jagachari, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana.		45.00

Jammu and Kashmir

1. JKHB Land Acquisition Scheme at Pulwana. 17.00

Jharkhand

1. Swawlambi Education Trust, Patna Const. of Swawlambi Institute of Dental Science and Research at Hazaribag. 16.00

2. Municipal Corporation, Ranchi Construction of Slaughter House at Ranchi. 17.53

3. Anumeha Construction and Developers Pvt. Ltd. Construction of Vinandini Enclave-Ph-II. 2.50

4. Construction of Vidya Memorial Institute of Technology at Ranchi. 2.50

5. RKS Builders Pvt. Ltd. Construction of Radha Block-Heaven River View Enclave—Jamshedpur. 2.25

6. Marksman Research and Development (P) Ltd. Hazaribag Construction of Marksman Hospital at Hazaribag. 2.50

7. Lord Buddha Educational and Social Dev. Sansthan, Patna Renovation of Hospital Building of HEC Hospital, Ranchi. 25.00

Karnataka

1. Astitva Promoters and Developers Pvt. Ltd. Land Acquisition, Development and Const. of Residential apartment scheme. 40.00

2. M/s. SLN Infratech Pvt. Ltd. Land Acquisition and Dev. For a layout formation at various villages of Tavarakere Hobli Bangalore South Taluk. 109.00

3. Royal Grand Hotel Pvt. Ltd. Const. of Royal Grand Hotel on 51 Bommasandra Village, Attribela Hobli, Bangalore, South Taluk. 20.00

4. Geel Realty Pvt. Ltd. Const. of Hotel Orchid on 54/B and 55/A Sy. No. 64 and 66 (Part) Electronic City, Doddathogur, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. 62.40

1	2	3	4	5
5.	AVVA Developer	Construction of Residential Apt. Avva Gold at Vv Puram, Bangalore.		2.75
6.	Mythreyi Developers	Mythreyi-Aikya Residential Apartment.		5.00
7.	Infinite Builders and Developers	Construction of "Silver Manor" Residential Apartment in Bangalore.		5.70
8.	Spectrum Realtors	Construction of Spectrum Ambara Resi Apt At Bangalore.		8.50
9.	Terra-Firma Biotechnologies Ltd.	Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste and Vermicomposting.		10.00
10.	Canopy Dwelling Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Residential Apartment—Canopy Monarch at Thnaisandra, Bangalore.		20.00
Maharashtra				
1.	M/s. Haware Const. Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Commercial Complex "Centurion Plaza" at Nerul, Navi Mumbai.		29.00
2.	M/s. Kofte Patil Developers	Const. of IT Park "TERASPACE" at Karadi, Pune.		83.96
3.	CDS Tek Park Ltd.	IT Park at MIDC, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane, Maharashtra.		100.00
4.	M/s. Kristnali Resorts Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of "Vishnu Priya Villa", a beach resort at Ganapati Pune, Distt.—Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.		24.00
5.	Kukreja Const. Company Ltd.	Kukreja Residential at Chembur Heights.		30.00
6.	M/s. Entertainment World Developers Nanded Pvt. Ltd.	Deve. of Shopping Mall at Nanded.		29.00
7.	Shree Ganesh Constructions	Construction of Residential Complex at Pimple Nilakh, Pune.		12.40
8.	M/s. Mantri Chandak Const. Ltd.	Financial Assistance for Residential Projects in Pune.		33.53
9.	Sunny Fields Hotel Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Hotel "K Star 2" at Belapur.		25.00

10.	Sonu Realtor Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of "Chembur Heights II" at Chembur.	25.00
11.	Shree Sainath Enterprise	Financial Assistance for construction of Lodha Paradise Ph-II, Thane, Maharashtra.	100.00
Madhya Pradesh			
1.	M/s. Entertainment World Jabalpur Ltd., Indore	Const. of Multiplex/Mall Project at Jabalpur.	68.50
2.	MP Poorv Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Co. Ltd.	Financial Assistance for ADB funded Project, Jabalpur	184.44
3.	Five Star Developers Pvt. Ltd. Indore	Const. of Shopping Mall/Multiplex at Indore.	98.00
4.	M/s. Horizon Complex Pvt. Ltd. Indore (Kalani Group)	Const. of Multiplex/Mall Project at Ujjain.	28.00
5.	M/s. Khurana Constn. Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Nagda Dhar and Dhar Gujani Section on BOT.	9.00
6.	D.B. Malls Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Bhaskar Mall at Sanjay Nagar, Bhopal.	25.00
7.	Sh. Bhuvneshwar Ent. Pvt. Ltd., Indore	Commercial complex at Indore.	2.00
8.	M/s. E2 and Dk Const., Bhopal	Const. of Residential Colonies at Bawadia Kala, Bhopal.	5.50
9.	M/s. Elixir Infrastructure	Housing Schemes Elixir Green Near Karod Square, Pass Rd., Bhopal.	6.00
10.	Prabhatam Group	Const. of Hsg and Commercial Complex at Bhopal.	85.00
11.	Ram Nath Hsg. Pvt. Ltd.	Integratred Township Development at Gwalior.	17.40
New Delhi			
1.	Parsvnath Developers Pvt. Ltd.	For Development and Const. of a Commercial Complex at Rohini, Delhi.	100.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Omkara Dev. Ltd. and Jai Siyaram (P) Ltd.	Land Acquisition and Const. of Commercial Complex' Shri Mangalam Paradise" at Sector-3, Rohini, New Delhi.		50.00
3.	Assotech Contracts (I) Ltd.	Purchase of Land and Const. of Celeste group housing scheme at Sector-44, Noida.		65.00
4.	A.S. Technobuild Pvt. Ltd.	Commercial Complex "Iceberg 9 Square Mall", Sector-9 Dwarka, New Delhi.		24.00
Orissa				
1.	M/s. Makers India (P) Ltd.	Kalinga Nagar Housing Project at Managobindapur, Distt.-Jaipur.		6.97
2.	Viswa Seva Sangha Trust	Term Loan for Industrial Training Centre at Nuapada, Dist.-Deogarh.		0.44
Punjab				
1.	M/s. Silicon Const. Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Mall/Multiplex and Hotel at Derabassi.		250.00
2.	Aeren Gold Souk International	Intergrated Commercial complex at Amritsar "The Souk".		100.00
3.	Kriti Buildcon Pvt. Ltd.	Residential Project at Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana.		60.00
Rajasthan				
1.	Kamayani Agencies Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of City Mall at Kota		24.00
2.	M/s. ARG Developers Pvt. Ltd.	ARG Rochees Park (Commercial Complex)		15.00
3.	Piyush Coloniser Ltd.	Intergrated Township at Bhiwadi.		100.00
Tamil Nadu				
1.	M/s. Vaidi Housing Development Corp. Pvt. Ltd.	Housing Scheme "Vaidi Hosur Hills" at Hosur Town.		60.00

2	Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Charitable and Edu. Trust	Construction of Boy's Hostel Building for engineering college student at Perambalur.	20.00
3.	Virgo Realtors Pvt. Ltd.	Deve. of Residential Flats at Koyilambakkam, MMRD Road, Chennai.	20.00
4.	M/s. Jain Housing	Residential Project at Pammal, Kancheepuram Dist.	100.00
Uttar Pradesh			
1.	Gangetic Developers Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Mall/Multiplex/Hotel at Agra.	100.00
2.	UPRVUNL	Proposal for funding of Renovation and Modernisation at Harduaganj and Parichha Thermal Power Station.	139.16
3.	Samiah International Builders Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of "Garden City" Apartment at Hapur Bypass, Uttar Pradesh.	21.00
4.	M/s. Nirala Deve. Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Group Housing Project 'Eden Park-II' at Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.	23.00
5.	M/s. KAD Hsg. Pvt. Ltd.	Const. of Hotel-Cum-Multiplex at Kaushambi, Ghaziabad.	90.00
6.	Ratan Housing Dev. Ltd.	Const. of Shopping Mall at Kanpur.	6.15
7.	Crossing Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Development of Township-Crossing Republik at Ghaziabad.	250.00
Uttaranchal			
1.	M/s. Lotus Infra. Project (P) Ltd.	Development and Const. of Mall cum multiplex * Hotel at Haridwar.	22.00
2.	Assotech Supertech (JV)	Implementation of Group Housing Prj. "The Metropolis City" at Plot No. A-II/E, Pantnagar, Dist.-Udham Singh Nagar (Uttaranchal).	100.00
3.	M/s. Ram Charan Das and Construction	Const. of Coom and Resi. Complex at Transport Nagar, Dehradun.	1.32

1	2	3	4	5
4.	West Bengal	M/s. LMS Associates, Dehradun	Const. of Royal Doon Apartments at Sewla Khurd, Dehradun.	1.60
1.		M/s. Merin Group	Const. of Stadium Based Commercial Complex "Acropolis" at Rejdanga, Kolkata.	81.50
2.		SIDCL	Setting Up of Convention and Sports Centre incl. Highend Residential and Comm. Complex, Haldia, West Bengal.	98.00
3.		M/s. Satabadi Merchants Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. Betwa Towers Pvt.	Const. of residential complex and commercial project at 279A N.S.C. Bose Road, Kolkata.	2.00
4.		Shrachi Developers	Const. of Residential Complex "New Shrachi Garden" at 251/1, Nagendranath Road, Kolkata.	10.00
5.		Orbit Towers Pvt. Ltd.	Dev. of Commercial-cum-Residential Complex (Incl. Land Acquisition) at 50 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata.	11.35
Grand Total				5393.50

**Tax Restructuring for Solar/Hydrogen
Based Energy Sources**

3447. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposal for tax concession/restructuring to promote solar/hydrogen based energy sources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As far as direct taxes are concerned, a pre-budget memorandum from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Planning and Coordination Division) was received wherein there was a proposal for income-tax rebate on domestic installations of solar water heaters. The proposal was that investment upto Rs. 15,000 (approximate cost of domestic solar hot water system of 2 sq. mtr. collector area) may be allowed as a saving under the existing limit of Rs. 1 lakh available for tax payers. The proposal was considered during the last budgetary exercise and was not found to be acceptable.

As far as indirect taxes are concerned, no new proposal has been received. The following benefits have already been allowed:—

- (i) Excise duty is exempted on non-conventional energy devices/systems like flat plate solar collector, black continuously plated solar selective coating sheets and fins and tubes, concentrating and pipe type solar collector, solar cooker, solar water heater and system, solar air heating system, solar low pressure steam system, solar stills and desalination system, solar pump based on solar thermal and solar photovoltaic conversion, solar power generating system, solar photovoltaic module and panel for water pumping and other applications, solar crop drier and system, solar lantern and solar photovoltaic cell;
- (ii) CVD is exempted on vacuum tubes solar collectors, concentrating solar collectors, plastic collectors or stirling engines, for manufacture of solar energy equipment; and

- (iii) CVD is exempted on linear actuators for tracking systems, fresnel lenses or sun sensors, for manufacture of concentrating solar collectors.

[Translation]

Institute for Renewable Energy

3448. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a research institute for Bio-gas, Bio-diesel and Solar energy in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked/sanctioned therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Communication and Capacity Development
Unit In States/UTs**

3449. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Communication and Capacity Development Unit (CCDU) for implementation of TSC project has been set up in all the States/Union Territories;

(b) if not, the number of proposals lying with the Union Government in this regard State-wise; and

(c) the funds released/proposed to be released to each of the States/Union Territories therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. Only 25 States/Union Territories have set up the Communication and Capacity Development Unit (CCDU) so far. The CCDU is a State level body supported by Government of India, with the objectives to develop State specific information,

education and communication strategy for reform initiatives in Water and Sanitation; and, to provide capacity development of functionaries at all levels.

(b) A proposal from Government of Tripura has been received but no releases have been made, as the proposal did not include any work plan of the CCDU. Also, proposals have been received from West Bengal, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat for a second CCDU in the State.

(c) The funds released to each State/Union Territory so far is given in the enclosed Statement. Funds are released annually for approved activities and as proposed by the respective States.

Statement

Funds released for CCDU in each State

(Rupees in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds Released
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	409.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.05
3.	Assam	204.00
4.	Bihar	91.45
5.	Goa	34.88
6.	Gujarat	185.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	92.04
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	96.36
9.	Karnataka	227.86
10.	Kerala	83.24
11.	Madhya Pradesh	169.81
12.	Maharashtra	84.25

1	2	3
13.	Manipur	29.59
14.	Meghalaya	57.08
15.	Mizoram	43.47
16.	Nagaland	49.10
17.	Orissa	135.01
18.	Punjab	0
19.	Rajasthan	197.90
20.	Sikkim	13.89
21.	Tamil Nadu	155.19
22.	West Bengal	18.63
23.	Uttarakhand	0
24.	Chhattisgarh	51.73
25.	Jharkhand	101.46

[Translation]

Rehabilitation to Jhuggi-Jhopri

3450. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has decided to allot cheap flats in place of plots under the Jhuggi Jhopri Rehabilitation Scheme as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated August 10, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the complete details of flats allotted/proposed to be allotted under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it has, in its meeting held on 9-8-2007, decided

that barring those cases where directions have been received from the Courts, plots should not be allotted in future for rehabilitation of eligible slum dwellers. Instead, they should be provided 'low cost housing' flats. In view of this, DDA is to undertake construction of 'low cost housing' projects/flats.

World Bank Loan to PGCIL

3451. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has received loan from the World Bank for various projects during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan in dollars granted to the said Corporation; and

(c) the details of projects started/proposed to be

started for which the said loan had been granted and the latest status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) had signed a Loan Agreement—Power Grid System Development Project (PSDP-III) (Loan No. 4813-IN) for an amount of US\$ 400 million (about Rs. 1,650 crore) with the World Bank on May 2, 2006, which became effective in December, 2006.

The above loan from the World Bank is for implementation of various Regional transmission projects of the PGCIL.

Earlier, the PGCIL had obtained a loan of US\$ 450 million (about Rs. 1,850 Crore)—Power Grid System Development Project (PSDP-II, Loan No. 4603-IN) from the World Bank in June, 2001 which was closed in June, 2006.

(c) The details and status of each Project under the above loan is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the System	Status
1	2	3
(I)	Transmission project associated with Barh project	Investment approval accorded by Government of India on December 12, 2005. Award for all packages except one, have been placed. The project is under execution and is expected to be completed by September, 2009.
(i)	Balia-Bhiwadi 2500 MW HVDV Bipole converter station at Balla and Bhiwadi.	
(ii)	Seoni-Bina 765kV S/C charged at 400kV level	
(II)	Transmission system associated with Sipat-II supplementary projects	Investment approval accorded by Government of India on June 24, 2005. Awards for all packages under the project have been placed. The project is under execution and is expected to be completed by June, 2008.
(i)	Seoni-Wardha-Akola-Aurangabad Transmission system	

1	2	3
(III) Spill Over from PSDP-II Loan		All projects under the loan have been commissioned except Telecom project of the PGCIL (works under original scope have been completed and balance work under additional scope is expected to be completed by November, 2007)
(IV) North-West Transmission Corridor strengthening scheme (765 kV Agra-Gwalior 2nd Ckt. and 400 kV Zerda-Kankroli Transmission system)		Investment approval accorded by POWERGRID on January 23, 2006. Awards for all the packages under the project have been placed and execution is under progress and the project is expected to be completed by January, 2008.
(V) Western Region System Strengthening Scheme-II		Investment approval accorded by Government of India on July 24, 2006. All the packages covered under PSDP-III loan have been awarded.
(VI) Eastern Region System Strengthening Scheme-I		Investment approval accorded by Government of India on October 04, 2006. All the packages covered under PSDP-III loan have been awarded. For balance packages proposed for funding under subsequent tranche of US\$ 600 million, procurement process is under progress. The project is expected to be completed by October, 2009.
(VII) East-West Transmission corridor strengthening Scheme (400 kV Ranchi-Rourkela-Raigarh-Raipur line)		Investment approval accorded by Government of India on June 23, 2006. All the packages covered under PSDP-III loan have been awarded.

*[English]***Corpus Fund of RRBs**

3452. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish a corpus fund for the use of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to facilitate lending at low cost in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

Development (NABARD) extends short-term refinance to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for financing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) at the concessional refinance rate of 4.5% per annum. Further, the scheme of providing 2% interest subvention to RRBs on their own involvement of funds in disbursement of crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per borrower at 7% rate of interest per annum has been extended for the year 2007-08. Since, NABARD is refinancing RRBs at concessional rate and Government is providing interest subvention for lending at lower rate in rural areas, there is no proposal at present to establish a separate corpus fund for the purpose.

Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers

3453. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in rehabilitation of slum dwellers in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the rehabilitation of slum dwellers; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Slum and JJ Department (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) and Delhi Development Authority have reported that there has been delay in relocating the eligible slum dwellers due to non-availability of plots/land.

(c) and (d) Slum and JJ Department (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) has been approaching Government of NCT of Delhi for acquiring land for this purpose.

In view of constraint of availability of sufficient plots, DDA in its meeting held on 9-8-2007 has decided that barring those cases where directions have been received from the Courts, plots should not be allotted in future for rehabilitation of eligible slum dwellers and instead they should be provided 'low cost housing' flats in multi-storied buildings.

[Translation]

Licences to Opium Growers

3454. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cancelled the licences of some opium growers in Barabanki districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any irregularity has come to the notice of the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether opium growers have protested or given representation against such cancellation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes for providing licences again to such opium growers; and

(g) if so, the time by which the licences are likely to be provided to them?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) During the crop year 2006-07, 5 appeals were received from the poppy cultivators of Barabanki District against cancellation of licences. In addition to these statutory appeals under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules, 1985, 31 general representations were received from farmers, relating to Barabanki District. Each representation was examined by the District Opium Officer, and disposed of as per provisions of General Conditions for Licensing.

(f) Licences will be issued to cultivators who are eligible as per the General Conditions for Licensing.

(g) Eligible cultivators will be issued licences before the sowing season is completed.

[English]

Wealth Tax

3455. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of wealth tax collected during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(b) the details of tax paid by top hundred richest persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The amount of Wealth Tax collected during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 is mentioned as under:—

Financial Year	Amount of Wealth Tax collected (In Rs. Crores)
2005-06	244.78
2006-07	240.79

(b) *The information relating to assessee-wise details of tax paid is not available centrally.*

Development of NCR

3456. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken some concrete steps to develop the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to develop NCR on the line of Delhi in respect of transportation, electricity and civic amenities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the annual budget sanctioned by the Government for the NCR during each of the last three years;

(f) whether above fund is sufficient for the development of NCR;

(g) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to increase the budget of NCR; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The NCR Planning Board Act, 1985 (Act 2 of 1985) was enacted by the Parliament with the concurrence of the Legislatures of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Act, 1985 provides for constitution of a Planning Board for the preparation of a Plan for the development of the National Capital Region and for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of such plan for evolving harmonized policies for the control of landuses and development of infrastructure in the National Capital Region so as to avoid any haphazard development of the region and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Section 7 of the National Capital Region Planning Board provides for following two core functions:—

— Preparation of Regional Plan, Functional Plans

and to arrange and coordinate preparation of Sub-Regional Plans and Project Plans.

— To arrange for and oversee the financing of selected development projects in the National Capital Region through Central and State Plan funds and other sources of revenue.

In pursuance of the aforementioned functions, the Board prepared the Regional Plan-2001 which was notified in January, 1989. The Board had also prepared the Functional Plan on critical aspects i.e. Functional Plans for Transport, the Functional Plan on Power, the Functional Plan on Telecommunications and the Functional Plan on Industry. Two of the participating States namely, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan had also prepared their Sub-Regional Plans. For major cities of the participating States and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Master Plan as well as various project plans for development of infrastructure have been prepared.

NCR Planning Board has prepared the Regional Plan 2021 which was approved by the Board and notified on 17-9-2005. In the Regional Plan-2021 for NCR excluding NCT-Delhi policies for development of the Central National Capital Region (CNCR) and for rest of the NCR have been formulated.

(e) The details of annual budget sanctioned by the Government of India in respect of NCR Planning Board for the last three years are as under:—

Year	Budgetary Grant released to NCRPB
2004-05	Rs. 61.70 crore
2005-06	Rs. 70.00 crore
2006-07	Rs. 75.00 crore

(f) to (h) Infrastructure development in NCR is being undertaken by the agencies of the central and state governments through Central and State Plan funds as well as other sources of revenue including innovative methods like PPP. The financial assistance given by the NCR Planning Board is only supplementing the budgetary and other resources available to the

participating state governments and their parastatals for infrastructure development.

The NCRPB is providing financial assistance for the infrastructure development projects mainly out of the annual plan grants received from the Central Government and annual contribution received from the GNCT of Delhi. The Board augments its financial resources by recycling repayments of loans and interest income through a fund viz. "NCRPB Fund" set up as per the provisions of the NCRPB Act, 1985. The Board has also raised funds from the capital market in the past to meet the financing requirement. In this connection, Board had raised bonds amounting to Rs. 899 crore from the capital market during the Ninth Plan.

The projects seeking loan assistance are submitted by the participating state governments and their implementing agencies and cover wide spectrum of Basic Infrastructure Development, Sewerage, Drainage and Solid Waste Management, Water Supply, Transport, Electricity Transmission and Distribution, Hospitals etc. As on 31st March, 2007, the Board has financed 171 projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 11340 Crore, out of which an amount of Rs. 3902 Crore has been sanctioned as loan. The Board has released loans amounting to Rs. 2628 Crore till 31st March, 2007. The total loans released by the Board during last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Loan released
2004-05	275.72
2005-06	364.95
2006-07	416.46

[Translation]

Legislation for Marriage and Inheritance Right of Buddhists

3457. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes a separate legislation for marriage and inheritance right for the Buddhists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Revival Package to Cooperative Societies

3458. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has denied financial revival package to cooperative societies which have recoveries less than 30%;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken for revival of such societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Financial Revival Package of Government covers all the societies. According to the revival package the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS) with recovery level of 50% and above receive full capitalization immediately while PACS with recovery between 30% to 50% will receive the financial assistance in three annual back-ended installments at the beginning of the next succeeding year subject to their achieving incremental increase in recovery rate by at least ten percentage points. Further, if a PACS with recovery of less than 30% as on 30 June 2004 improves its recovery to 50% by 30 June 2007 it would also be considered as eligible under the Package. For other PACS, the capitalization will take place in the next higher tier i.e. at the District Central Cooperative Bank (DCCB) level.

According to the Package, the State Governments are under obligation to determine the future set up of PACS with recovery levels of less than 30% on the basis of viability. The package emphasizes that the Cooperative Credit Societies cannot be financially viable institutions on a sustainable basis unless recovery levels improve beyond the level of 50% and achieve recovery rates of at least 85% over the next five years.

Exemption on Health Insurance

3459. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has raised the tax exemption limit on health insurance premium; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Finance Act, 2007 has raised the deduction limit, under Section 80D of the Income-tax Act, 1961, on medical insurance premium from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 in case of senior citizens and from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 in all other cases.

[Transition]

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

3460. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Table: Inflation in select essential commodities mentioned in the ASSOCHAM report (%)

Commodities	Jan.-07	Feb.-07	Mar.-07	April-07	May-07	June-07	July-07	As on 18 August, 2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
30-Essential commodities	5.1	4.2	3.4	3.3	1.7	0.1	2.1	2.9
Wheat	14.1	11.1	7.2	9.9	8.9	7.6	10.5	7.6
Pulses	24.6	21.4	15.3	7.8	3.2	1.6	2.3	1.5
Vegetables	5.5	17.5	25.1	24.8	25.3	3.9	20.2	25.3
Fruits	12.8	11.6	9.5	6.5	3.4	8.7	3.7	-1.5
Milk	8.6	7.9	7.6	8.6	7.1	3.9	7.1	9.8
Eggs, Meat and Fish	2.0	6.1	9.3	9.6	10.6	7.4	8.7	7.0

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities have risen by 25 per cent while the increase in national income is only 15 per cent during the last one year as per the report of ASSOCHAM; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Sir, According to the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), price rise of over 25 per cent was recorded for certain essential commodities between Jan-May 2006 and Jan.-May 2007 while national and per capita Income grew by 15 per cent in 2006-07.

Year-on-year monthly inflation of 8 commodities mentioned in the ASSOCHAM paper, measured in terms of wholesale Price Index, has moderated except vegetables and edible oils, as indicated in the table below:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cond. and Spices	34.9	32.1	23.3	19.3	10.8	7.5	10.2	7.2
Edible Oils	14.1	14.5	13.8	15.0	14.1	14.2	15.7	12.3

Net National Product at factor cost (at current prices), grew by 15.8 per cent during 2006-07 (revised estimates).

**Increase In Retirement Age of
Scientists**

3461. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase retirement age of scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Security Guards In Banks

3462. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the branches of banks have employed ex-servicemen as security guards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes, general and backward categories of security persons employed in various branches of banks in the country?

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

[English]

Reduction In Rate of Dividend

3463. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the rate of dividend in State-run banks as reported in the 'Times of India' dated April 06, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time frame of each nationalized banks for reducing the rate of dividend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Banks are required to declare a minimum dividend of 20% of equity or 20% of post-tax profit, whichever is higher, subject to availability of disposable profits. In view of Basel II prescriptions, the banks are required to shore up their capital funds to meet the minimum regulatory requirement and to achieve their growth targets. In the meeting of Finance Minister with CEOs of public sector banks held on 19-04-2007, it was decided that the banks, desirous of declaring dividend lesser than the Government guidelines, may seek Government clearance before doing so.

**Plots Allotted to Religious
Organisations**

3464. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether plots have been allotted to several religious organizations during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and names of such organizations; and

(d) whether the criteria has been followed while allotting the land to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) While L and DO has not made any such allotment in the last three years, DDA has made four allotments. he details are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Society	Area	Location Allotment	Date of
1.	Gurudwara Guru Singh Sabha	405 Sqm.	Mayur Vihar	13-9-04
2.	Raj Yoga Ed. and Research	400 Sqm.	Dilshad Garden	14-2-06
3.	Delhi Mathoma Church	661 Sqm.	Dwarka	16-6-06
4.	Mathdist Church	402 Sqm.	Rohini	13-7-06

(d) Yes, Sir.

Tax Return Preparers

3465. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the eligibility criteria specified for a Tax Return Preparers (TRPs);

(b) the number of tax assessee benefited by TRP scheme;

(c) whether any commission/fee/incentive is given to a TRP;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Public Interest Litigation was filed by a Chartered Accountant a few months ago who contended that the TRP scheme has encroached on the jurisdiction of the Chartered Accountants; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The minimum eligibility for undergoing training as Tax Return Preparers is a graduation degree in Commerce, Law, Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, or Business Management/Administration. Individuals, aged not more than 35 years, were trained as Tax Return Preparers, only after selection through a nation-wide enrolment

examination. Passing of end-of-training course examination with 60% marks was mandatory to be certified as Tax Return Preparers.

(b) The Tax Return Preparer Scheme has commenced in the year 2007-08. Whether a tax-assessee has utilised the services of a TRP can be known when his return of income is processed.

(c) and (d) The Tax Return Preparers will be paid 3% of the tax collected for the first year's income-tax return of a new tax payer, 2% for the second year and 1% for the third year, on the returns prepared by Tax Return Preparers. Payment to the TRPs will be made only after processing of returns by the Income-tax Department. The total payment in respect of a single return of income is subject to maximum payment of Rs. 1,000/- and a minimum payment of Rs. 250/- per return. For preparing and furnishing returns of existing tax payers, TRPs can collect Rs. 250 from the taxpayer per income-tax return for each assessment year.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court are under progress and the matter is subjudice.

One Time Payment of Ground/ Lease Rent

3466. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has got any liberalized scheme for one time payment of ground/lease rent on residential plots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that there is no liberalized scheme for one time payment of ground/lease rent on residential plots.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Ramanujam Fellowship for Scientists and Engineers

3467. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether the Ramanujam Fellowship was launched in August, 2005 by the Government to attract brilliant scientists and engineers, especially Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof with the incentives offered therein;

(c) the number of scientists and engineers applied for the same since August, 2005;

(d) whether the Government has achieved the objective of launching the Ramanujam Fellowship;

(e) if not, whether the Government is considering some other measures to attract scientists and engineers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has instituted 'Ramanujam Fellowships' which is meant for brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world

to take up scientific research positions in India, especially those scientists who want to return to India from abroad. All areas of science (in the broadest terms) are covered by this fellowship. The duration of the fellowship is for five years. The fellowships are scientist-specific and very selective. The Ramanujam Fellows can work in any of the scientific institutions and universities in the country and they are eligible for receiving regular research grants through the extramural funding schemes of various S and T agencies of the Government of India.

The eligibility for this Fellowship is as follows: (i) the fellowship is open to brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world who are below the age of 60 years; (ii) the applicant should possess a higher degree or equivalent, such as Ph.D. in Science/Engineering, Masters in Engineering or Technology/MD in Medicine, etc. and have adequate professional experience; (iii) these Fellowships are very selective and only those who have a proven/outstanding track-record as evident from their research publications and recognitions are eligible; (iv) the candidate has to opt for either this fellowship or his present position/fellowship, if any.

The incentives offered as part of Ramanujam Fellowships are as follows: (i) a fellowship amount for the Ramanujam Fellow which is Rs. 50,000 per month for the first 3 years of the fellowship and Rs. 60,000 per month during the last two years; (ii) a research grant of Rs. 5.00 lakh per annum for meeting a variety of academic expenses including one foreign travel per year for attending scientific conferences abroad.

(c) 53 scientists have applied for Ramanujam Fellowships so far.

(d) to (f) From the growing number and nature of applications being received, it is clear that the Government will be successful in achieving the objective of launching this Fellowship. The Government has also launched some other schemes to either motivate scientists of Indian origin living abroad to come back to India or to leverage their scientific expertise for the growth of scientific R and D in the country. For example, the Collaborative Projects with Scientists and Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad Programme (CP-STIO Programme) of DST enables scientists and technologists

of Indian origin living abroad to visit India for a brief period and carry out research activities jointly with Indian scientists. The K.S. Krishnan Research Associateship of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) provides career opportunities in the Units of DAE for scientists from India or abroad. The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), through its Talent Search Scheme for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), appoints qualified and suitable NRIs as Scientists in various grades in DRDO depending on their experience. The Department of Biotechnology has also instituted the Ramalingaswamy Fellowship for scientists of Indian origin settled in any part of the world who would like to come back and carry out their research in India.

**Ex-Gratia Payment to the
Employees of NTPC**

3468. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) made payment of ex-gratia in the form of special incentive to its employees whose salary has exceeded the limit prescribed under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965;

(b) if so, the details of payments made by NTPC during 2006-07;

(c) whether NTPC has obtained permission for making such payments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to check such violation in future?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) NTPC Limited has not made any payment of Bonus/Ex-Gratia to uncovered employees under Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. However, Special Incentive is being paid to these employees.

(b) An amount of Rs. 1369.67 lakhs has been accounted as expenditure during the year 2006-07 towards Special Incentive.

(c) to (e) Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) vide its Office Memorandum No. 2(49)/98-DPE(WC) dated 25th June, 1999 stipulates that Central Public Sector Enterprises may make performance-related payments subject to a ceiling of 5 per cent of distributable profits of the enterprise. NTPC Limited has, accordingly, made the performance related payment with the approval of its Board.

Display of Portrait in Banks

3469. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued instructions to banks/FIs to display the portrait of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the banks and Financial Institutions have not implemented the above instructions; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Necessary instructions were issued in this regard to all Public Sector Banks/FIs vide this Ministry's letter No. 5/7/2006-SCT(B) dated 08-09-2006.

(c) and (d) It is reported by Public Sector Banks/FIs that the said instructions are being implemented by them.

**Printing/Minting of Currency for
Foreign Countries**

3470. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any order for printing of currency and minting of coins from any foreign country;

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

(c) the details of profit earned by security press from such foreign assignments during last two financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) During 2006-07, the India Government Mint (IGM), Noida undertook minting of 450 million pieces of 1 Baht coin of Government of Thailand for the Royal Canada Mint. The coin blanks were supplied by the Royal Canada Mint which was also responsible for quality control, logistics and shifting of coins etc.

(c) During the period when the Baht coin order was executed, the Mint did not have adequate order from the Reserve Bank of India and therefore the Mint utilised the idle capacity and manpower. There was no additional expenditure on metal, machinery or manpower except payment of Rs. 60.63 lakhs on overtime, incentive etc. and Rs. 11.23 lakhs on-consumables. The Mint got Rs. 189.20 lakhs (@ 1 US \$ per 1000 pieces) for the job thus earning Rs. 117.34 lakhs by utilization of idle capacity and manpower.

Technology Upgradation in Energy Sector

3471. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new green technology with a view to reduce green house gas emissions and upgrade energy sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fund proposed to be incurred thereon during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(d) the manner in which the energy sector is likely to be benefited from new technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been implementing a broad

based programme covering research, development, demonstration and utilization of various renewable energy sources like bio-energy, solar energy, wind energy, small hydro and other emerging renewable sources of energy for more than two decades. The renewable sources of energy are 'green' as they are either carbon neutral or carbon free. Technologies for utilization of some of the renewable energy sources like bio energy, solar energy, wind energy and small hydro have nearly matured and are in early phases of commercialization. Further, the use of ethanol, a form of bio-fuel, for blending with petrol on a limited scale has already been introduced in the country. However, technologies for utilization of other emerging renewable sources of energy like bio-diesel, hydrogen, geothermal energy and tidal energy are presently under different stages of research, development and demonstration in the country.

An amount of Rs. 1500 crores as budgetary support has been proposed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for research and development on various renewable sources of energy during the Eleventh Plan period.

The increasing use of new and renewable sources of energy would reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, reduce emissions of greenhouses gases and ultimately provide energy security to the country.

[Translation]

Recovery of IT Dues from Foreign Companies

3472. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Income Tax has issued any notices to the foreign companies for recovering additional income tax on the basis of the returns filed and the information collected from other sources;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be recovered through it; and

(c) whether such notices have been issued to the Indian companies and individual taxpayers also; and

(d) if so, the amount likely to be recovered from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Notices are issued to resident and non-resident assesses on the basis of returns filed and information collected from other sources. The assessments are thereafter completed as per the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the applicable Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. In cases where additional demand is raised, the same is recovered in accordance with law.

[English]

**Reward to Informers of
Income Tax Evasion**

3473. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount disbursed as reward to informers of Income Tax Evasion during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of payment outstanding to informers lying with the department;

(c) the steps taken to dispose them off; and

(d) the further measures taken by the Government to intensify the efforts of getting information through such system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of amount disbursed as reward to informers by the Income Tax Department during the last three years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Amount (in lakhs)
(i)	2004-05	205.17
(ii)	2005-06	164.43
(iii)	2006-07	230.72

(b) Payment of Reward is considered "outstanding" only when Competent Authority has determined the amount of reward and it is yet to be disbursed. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 1.28 lakhs only is outstanding in a single case.

(c) Since the informer is not presently traceable in the given address, necessary efforts are being made to disburse the outstanding amount.

(d) The existing guidelines of Central Board of Direct Taxes for payment of reward to informers are considered adequate.

[Translation]

**Opening of Branches of Nationalised
Banks in Rural Areas**

3474. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently issued guidelines to the nationalised banks to open their branches in the rural areas adopting banking system suitable for villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the difference between the existing system and the new system so being adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government assigns top priority to opening of bank branches in rural centres and unbanked areas, for financial inclusion of the poor and the Weaker Sections to bring them within the network of financial services offered by the Banking Sector.

The RBI's broad approach to financial inclusion aims at 'connecting people' with the banking system and not just credit dispensation; giving people access to payments system; portray financial inclusion as a viable

business model and opportunity, etc. The changed measures inter-alia, include:—

- (i) No-Frills Accounts and General Purpose Credit Cards;
- (ii) Pilot project for 100 per cent Financial Inclusion;
- (iii) Credit Counseling;
- (iv) Use of intermediaries like NGOs/SHGs as agents; to increase the out-reach of the banking sector; and
- (v) Opening more branches in Minority Concentration Districts etc.

Under the Branch Authorisation Policy of RBI issued in September 2005, banks have been given freedom to submit their Branch Expansion Plans to RBI for approval on annual basis.

The Branch Authorisation Policy of 2005 replaces the earlier system of granting authorisation to the banks for opening individual branches from time to time. According to the new system, the RBI gives aggregate approvals to the banks for opening branches on an annual basis.

Shortage of Power Generation Equipment

3475. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some power projects in the country are adversely affected due to shortage of power generation equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to ensure supply of adequate equipment in order

to achieve the target fixed for power generation in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Delay in supply of critical equipment has emerged as one of the reasons for slippages in executing the power projects in the recent past. The proposed capacity addition of 16,335 MW for the current year includes a number of thermal projects aggregating approximately 4,275 MW which were originally scheduled to be commissioned in the previous year 2006-07, but have not yet been commissioned. The details of those projects, as also those thermal projects scheduled to be commissioned during the current year 2007-08 but which are slipping past their originally scheduled date due to delay in supply of critical equipments, are given in the enclosed Statement of this, as per present information, one unit of the Raigarh Thermal Power Project originally scheduled to be commissioned in the current year is now scheduled to be commissioned in the next year 2008-09.

(c) and (d) To avoid the slippages of the Eleventh Plan targets, inter alia, quarterly progress review of the capacity addition programme is being carried out with the Central Electricity Authority and the Central Public Sector Undertakings. Expansion of BHEL's capacity as well as development of manufacturing capacity by generating CPSUs, or private players alone, or through joint ventures are possible options to augment the manufacturing capacity in line with the generation capacities being planned for the Eleventh Plan and beyond. In addition, import of equipment is also permissible.

The working of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), which is the major manufacturer of plant and equipment in the public sector, is being regularly reviewed by the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises; furthermore, BHEL is augmenting its capacity to 10,000 MW by December, 2007 and further to 15,000 MW by December, 2009.

Statement*Details of projects delayed due to shortage of generating equipments*

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule		Expected Delay in months
		As per contract	Now expected	
1	2	3	4	5
Central Sector				
NTPC				
1.	Kahalgaon STPS-II (Ph-I and II)			
	Unit-6 500	05/2007	09/2007	4
	Unit-7 500	03/2007	11/2007	8
DVC				
2.	Mejia TPS Extn.			
	Unit-6 250	01/2007	09/2007	8
3.	Chandrapura TPS Extn.			
	Unit-7 250	11/2006	12/2007	13
	Unit-8 250	01/2007	03/2008	14
State Sector				
4.	GHTP St-II (Lehra Mohabbat)			
	Unit-3 250	10/2006	08/2007	10
	Unit-4 250	01/2007	11/2007	10
5.	Dholpur CCPP (Ph. I)			
	GT-2 110	07/2006	06/2007	11
	ST 110	12/2006	10/2007	10
6.	Korba East TPS St. V			
	Unit-2 250	03/2007	09/2007	6

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Kutch Lignite Extn.			
	Unit-4 75	07/2006	11/2007	16
8.	Rayalaseema TPS II			
	Unit-4 210	12/2006	09/2007	9
9.	Bellary TPP			
	Unit-1 500	12/2006	09/2007	9
10.	Santaldih TPS Extn.			
	Unit-5 250	01/2007	09/2007	8
11.	Sagardighi TPP			
	Unit-1 300	01/2007	09/2007	8
	Unit-2 300	04/2007	11/2007	7
12.	Bakreswar TPS II			
	Unit-4 210	03/2007	10/2007	7
	Unit-5 210	06/2007	02/2008	8
13.	Amarkantak TPS Extn.			
	Unit-5 210	02/2007	10/2007	8
14.	Durgapur TPS Extn.			
	Unit-7 300	01/2007	09/2007	8
	Private Sector			
15.	O.P. Jindal (Raigarh) TPP			
	Unit-2 250	06/2007	03/2008	9
	Unit-3 250	07/2007	12/2007	5
	Unit-4 250	12/2007	04/2008	4

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

3476. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's foreign exchange reserves have

reached an all time high of 222 billion of dollars; and

(b) if so, the extent to which it is being used for foreign trade servicing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The

foreign exchange reserves [including gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) in IMF] stood at US\$ 229 billion as on August 24, 2007.

(b) The reserves are not used for foreign trade servicing.

[Translation]

Nathpa Jhakhri Power Plant

3477. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nathpa Jhakhri Hydrel Power Plant has been halted due to silt deposit in the power house;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the loss suffered by the Government therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the silt as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per information available, the Nathpa Jhakhri Power Plant during the current year 2007-08 has been halted for 7.87 days on account of high silt in the river Satluj and for 1.44 days on account of periodic reservoir flushing. Whenever the silt concentration in the river water exceeds the permissible limit of 4000 Parts Per Million (PPM), the plant has to be shut down to avoid erosion to underwater parts of the turbine. A provision has, therefore, been made in the generation target in the Memorandum of Understanding for closure of plant upto 16 days in a year to accommodate the loss in generation due to excessive silt in river waters and also for reservoir flushing operations. Reservoir flushing is a technical requirement for sediment management. Had the plant been operational during these 9.31 days also, 330.15 Million Units of additional energy amounting to Rs. 77.67 crores could have been generated during this period.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) to deal with the heavy silt content in river Satluj:—

- (i) A comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan with a proposed outlay of Rs. 29.57 crores is being implemented by the State Forest Department. The period of implementation is 10 years w.e.f. 2002-03.
- (ii) SJVN has carried out an extensive exercise and prepared a Detailed Report on bank protection and landslides protection works for an estimated cost of Rs. 94 crores to reduce the silt contents in the river. The report has been submitted to State Forest Department and Central Electricity Authority for their perusal and approval in November, 2006.
- (iii) For preparation of base line data/record of vulnerable area of Satluj Catchment, SJVN has awarded a work on 'Preparation of Comprehensive CAT Plan of Satluj basin (within Indian territory)' so that a detailed GIS and Remote Sensing map based vulnerable erosion prone areas, land slide prone areas, Nallahs, geological sensitive area etc. be identified for appropriate treatment as suggested. The Work is scheduled to be completed in October, 2007.
- (iv) Nalla has contributing high quartz laden silt in the river water upstream of the dam axis have been identified for treatment and are being treated.
- (v) The underwater turbine parts of the plant have been coated with Tungsten Carbide Coating by High Velocity Oxygen Fuel (HVOF) to improve abrasion resistance to silt.
- (vi) SJVN is carrying out regular flushing or reservoir at Nathpa Dam to reduce the silt load.
- (vii) Dam height has been increased for increased pondage and settling of silt.

[English]

Allocation of Power

3478. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI KAILASH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of power to some States particularly to Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh from unallocated quota of central sector power plants located in southern region and eastern region has been reduced recently;

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

(c) whether any State Government has sent proposals for the allocation of additional power supply to meet the shortage in their States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doesn't arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) and (d) As most of the States/UTs have been facing power shortages, requests for additional allocation out of unallocated power are received from many of them from time to time. The unallocated power of Central Generating Stations being limited, additional allocation is provided to the extent possible with reduction in allocation of other States/UTs keeping in view the nature of request (emergent, seasonal) and their relative power supply position.

[Translation]

Cases of Excise Duty Evasion

3479. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of excise duty evasion detected during each of the last three years alongwith the amounts involved thereon;

(b) the names of the companies found involved in big excise duty evasions alongwith the details of the action taken against them; and

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Union Government to minimize excise duty evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of cases of excise duty evasion detected during the last three financial years alongwith amount involved therein are as follows:—

Year	No. of cases	Amount involved (Rs. in Crore)
2004-05	5073	3428.16
2005-06	4116	2900.38
2006-07	3291	2964.07

(b) the detail of companies found involved in excise duty evasion of more than Rs. 50 crore are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) All field formations have been alerted to remain vigilant and take appropriate measures to enhance anti-evasion efforts.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Party	Date of detection	Amount involved (Rs. in crore)	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	M/s. Godfrey Philips, Mumbai	January, 2006	67.55	The show cause notices issued are pending adjudication.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	M/s. Sahajanand Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Vadodara	29-09-04	65.17	The Tribunal (CESTAT) set aside the Order-in-Original and the proposal for filing appeal in Hon'ble Supreme Court is under consideration.
3.	M/s. ONGC, Surat	19-09-05	117.24	The case is pending before Committee on Disputes.
4.	M/s. Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur	31-03-05	235.48	The appeal is pending before CESTAT.
5.	M/s. Hindustan Copper Ltd., Jamshedpur	26-07-05	53.40	The case pending before Committee on Disputes.
6.	M/s. Casting India Inc. Jamshedpur	07-05-06	115.09	The appeal is pending before High Court.
7.	JSW Steels Ltd., Tornagallu, Mysore	21-05-06	121.99	The appeal is pending before CESTAT.
8.	M/s. BPCL, Panewadi, Manmad	08-03-07	119.11	Show Cause Notice issued is pending adjudication.
9.	Reliance Industries Ltd., Ahmedabad	07-04-06	54.92	Show Cause Notice issued is pending adjudication.
10.	M/s. IGPL, Mumbai	19-09-05	57.65	Show Cause Notice issued is pending adjudication.
11.	M/s. Loknath Prasad Gupta, Kokata	31-05-05	65.57	Show Cause Notice issued is pending adjudication.
12.	M/s. Gillette India Ltd., Baddi	16-12-05	52.09	Show Cause Notice issued is pending adjudication.
13.	M/s. BPCL, Shakurbasti, Delhi	31-03-05	78.11	The case is pending with Committee on Dispute.
14.	M/s. IOC Shakurbasti, Delhi	06-12-06	62.65	Show Cause Notice issued is pending adjudication.
15.	M/s. Escorts Ltd., Faridabad	12-07-06	60.18	Show Cause Notice issued is pending adjudication.

[English]

Power Tariff in Delhi

3480. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Authority has permitted the Private Power Distribution Companies including BSES to raise the power tariffs in Delhi to about double the already high tariff rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to bring uniformity and reduce the high tariff rates in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Determination of power tariffs to be charged by the distribution licensees is the statutory function of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). In doing so SERCs are guided by the provisions contained in the Electricity Act 2003 which, inter alia, include the factors that would encourage competition, efficiency, economical use of resources, safeguarding of consumers interests and at the same time ensure recovery of cost of electricity in a reasonable manner, reduction of cross subsidies, the National Electricity Policy and the Tariff Policy. The SERCs are required to determine tariff in a transparent way after hearing various stakeholders.

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has informed that it has not permitted the Distribution Companies including BSES to raise power tariff in Delhi as the distribution companies are required to file their tariff petitions under Multi Year Tariff Regulations before DERC.

Development of Wasteland

3481. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the State Governments for development of wastelands under Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP);

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Department of Land Resources is implementing Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) under Hariyali guidelines. New proposals are sanctioned every year as per the guidelines. Prioritized lists of districts are invited from the States for this purpose. New proposals under IWDP are sanctioned from the prioritized lists depending upon the extent of wastelands, capacity to implement wasteland projects, performance of the States in implementation of the IWDP projects and availability of budget after meeting the committed liabilities of ongoing projects. The prioritized proposals which are not sanctioned, lapse. However, States may include these projects in the priority list of next financial year. Therefore, there is no pendency of left over projects in IWDP.

The funds under Hariyali Guidelines are released for each project in five instalments of 15%, 30%, 30%, 15% and 10%. First instalment is released unconditionally alongwith the sanction of new proposals and subsequent instalments are released when the unutilized balance is not more than 50% of the previous instalment released.

During 2007-08 the prioritized list from the States has not been invited so far. The State-wise details of projects sanctioned under IWDP since 1995-96 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Projects Sanctioned under IWDP Programme during the Period 1995-96 to 2007-08 (as on 3-09-2007)

(Area in hectares)

Sl. No.	State	8th Plan					9th Plan					2001-2002			
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2000-2001	2001-2002					
		No. of Project	Area	No. of Project	Area	No. of Project	Area	No. of Project	Area	No. of Project	Area	No. of Project	Area		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	7830	2	16365	5	61162	6	75077	4	49500	7	87193	10	58785
2.	Bihar	1	1000											1	8000
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	11100							4	45570	6	42436		
4.	Goa														
5.	Gujarat			1	812	1	12000	6	70307	6	61500	7	80830	6	37720
6.	Haryana	1	5473			2	17211					1	6444	3	21740
7.	Himachal Pradesh			2	24988	2	24988	2	24918	5	50015	8	97826	7	47110
8.	Jammu and Kashmir			1	12500	2	14380							4	30567
9.	Jharkhand							1	6273	2	12369	1	6037		
10.	Karnataka			4	48987	5	62017	5	61000					8	55230

11. Kerala	1	10080																	2	19471
12. Maharashtra			1	9540	3	33128	5	57975	7	84214	4	27275								
13. Madhya Pradesh	1	532	5	35539	2	22555	11	92934	9	100546	10	60732								
14. Orissa	2	2832	6	62514	6	35941	1	7104	6	46535	9	58555								
15. Punjab	1	550									3	14181								
16. Rajasthan	1	650	1	686	2	14056	1	9850	8	64683	9	98255	7	42362						
17. Tamil Nadu	1	480	1	480	1	5090	1	9058	8	52807	9	81459	4	23343						
18. Uttar Pradesh	8	78659	7	80719	7	84452	9	101105	3	25025	7	40546								
19. Uttaranchal			1	12119					4	46413	6	32751								
20. West Bengal											1	5460								

Total	7	36133	17	100916	38	396425	41	441683	63	604896	78	832150	97	612830
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NORTH-EASTERN

1. Anunachal Pradesh					1	1500														1	8300
2. Assam			1	6130			3	28149	11	106756	10	58221									
3. Manipur			3	18068	3	35900	1	12500			1	8000									
4. Meghalaya							2	11011	5	23714											
5. Mizoram									7	75208	5	37910									
6. Nagaland	1	2500	1	12000	1	12000	2	25000	2	24500	5	61650	5	41030							

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7. Sikkim					1	5500	2	17669	1	11900	2	20260	1	10500	2	12177
8. Tripura															4	19423
Total	1	2500	2	17500	7	53867	7	74300	10	96420	29	277828	28	185061		
Grand Total	8	38633	19	118416	45	450292	48	515983	73	701316	107	1109978	125	797891		

(Area in hectares)

Sl. No.	State	10Th Plan							Total Project is	Total Area			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	No. of Project	Area					
1	2	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	12000	10	60000	10	60000	24	139500	20	121000	102	748412
2.	Bihar			9	45000	8	45000	22	110000	23	112000	65	321000
3.	Chhattisgarh			8	40000	9	43576	21	99575	21	102076	70	384333
4.	Goa			2	10000			2	2920			4	12920
5.	Gujarat			11	57500	9	45000	21	105000	16	80000	84	550669
6.	Haryana			4	19882	4	15000	7	26000	4	16500	26	128250
7.	Himachal Pradesh			8	43000	2	15000	21	93592	8	39083	63	435532
8.	Jammu and Kashmir			1	5000	4	19000	16	91711	9	45000	37	218158
9.	Jharkhand			6	33000	4	20000	6	30000	5	28234	25	135913
10.	Karnataka	1	6448	9	45000	10	50000	22	113780	22	116714	86	559176
11.	Kerala			3	15000			18	75346	5	29091	29	148988
12.	Maharashtra			9	45000	10	50000	14	70000	31	156211	84	533343
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	7972	16	87000	14	60000	29	145060	26	151526	124	764396

	1	2	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
14. Orissa			7	38000	9	45000	22	112639	21	108200	89	517320		
15. Punjab			4	15400	8	31482	1	4245	17	65858				
16. Rajasthan			9	45000	9	45000	22	109252	90	536780				
17. Tamil Nadu			11	55000	10	51025	27	134234	10	50730	82	463226		
18. Uttar Pradesh			13	65000	13	65000	25	125000	38	193277	130	858783		
19. Uttaranchal		4	22063	3	16000	6	34400	17	89211	10	51569	51	304526	
20. West Bengal			2	10000	4	13820	11	30053	11	58712	29	118045		
Total	8	48483	141	734382	140	692221	354	1732089	303	1573420	1287	7905628		

NORTH-EASTERN

1. Arunachal Pradesh	8	54171	10	32000	11	72500	35	70000	79	191000	145	429471
2. Assam	15	90432	14	84000	35	175000	23	138000	37	221920	149	908608
3. Manipur	6	44500	5	30000	7	40000	8	49000	9	58000	43	295968
4. Meghalaya			7	28000	7	14000	45	56500	46	88000	112	221225
5. Mizoram	5	40685	5	40000	5	40000	17	136000	8	64000	52	433803
6. Nagaland	7	57250	5	40000	5	40000	5	40500	3	24000	42	380430
7. Sikkim			3	18000	4	16455	5	14342	4	21700	25	148503
8. Tripura			7	27529	5	25400	5	27971	6	27971	22	100323
Total	41	287038	49	272000	81	425484	143	529742	192	696591	590	2918331
Grand Total	49	335521	190	1006382	221	1117705	497	2261831	495	2270011	1877	10723959

Rural Credit Deposit Ratio

3482. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural credit deposit ratio has been declined continuously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decline in the rural credit deposit

ratio has a direct bearing on the decline of public sector capital formation in rural sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to boost the rural credit deposit ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) in respect of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) has been increasing in rural sector over the past three years as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

Year ended as on 31st March of	All India Average		
	Deposits	Credits	CD Ratio %
2005	202062	102089	50.52
2006	215050	122357	56.90
2007	246197	149562	60.75

(c) and (d) Generally decline in Credit Deposit Ratio adversely effects capital formation. However, in view of increased CD Ratio, as stated above, the questions do not arise.

**Augumentation of Credit Flow
under SGSY**

3483. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount of loans disbursed against the target fixed during the last two years and till date under Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), State-wise;

(b) whether the flow of credit from banks for SGSY is very slow in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Central level coordination committee has discussed the credit related issues; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken by the Government to expedite the flow of credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) A Statement showing the details of the amount of loan disbursed against the target under SGSY, state-wise for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (as per the information available as on 31-08-2007), is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The credit flow from banks under SGSY showed an increasing trend during the last two years. The bank credit has increased from Rs. 1928.70 crore in 2005-06 to 2339.31 crore in 2006-07, registering an increase of 21.29%. Similarly, credit disbursed as a percentage to target has increased from 76.67% in 2005-06 to 81.53% in 2006-07.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Central Level Coordination Committee (CLCC) of SGSY was held on

07th February 2007 under the chairmanship of Secretary (RD) at New Delhi, wherein, inter-alia, credit related issues were discussed. All State Governments and commercial banks were advised to enhance the flow of credit to the beneficiaries under SGSY. Similarly, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks were

advised by RBI and NABARD to designate an officer in the Corporate office as well as at the State level for intensive coordination and monitoring of SGSY. The action taken has resulted in good increase in the mobilization of credit against a target during the financial year 2006-07.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Credit target 2005-06	Credit disbursed 2005-06	Credit target 2006-07	Credit disbursed 2006-07	Credit target 2007-08	Credit disbursed 2007-08 (As on 31-08-2007)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18178.69	15054.18	14905.21	47173.34	19756.42	5776.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	664.60	134.80	797.49	173.42	1096.56	18.74
3.	Assam	17268.44	6000.59	20722.10	8852.49	28492.90	1569.13
4.	Bihar	30280.23	21936.31	35461.96	19892.06	46998.97	935.91
5.	Chhattisgarh	6722.14	4963.55	7872.46	7149.58	10437.24	1055.39
6.	Goa	140.80	95.11	120.01	103.33	165.00	38.81
7.	Gujarat	5589.21	5351.65	8000.00	4863.48	7436.68	799.15
8.	Haryana	4330.57	3544.97	3300.82	3829.72	4375.14	788.26
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2244.90	2324.57	1390.10	1625.66	1842.53	233.87
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3113.25	2048.58	1720.44	2166.71	2280.40	54.75
11.	Jharkhand	11412.77	7632.05	13365.79	6881.34	17720.82	1599.73
12.	Karnataka	11766.35	7882.98	11255.54	8515.86	14918.90	838.89
13.	Kerala	5279.51	3479.49	5050.31	3929.92	6694.06	205.96
14.	Madhya Pradesh	16812.83	15301.99	20000.00	18278.98	22367.53	2376.06
15.	Maharashtra	18998.42	11744.66	22249.46	12929.69	722.09	1426.15
16.	Manipur	1157.63	105.50	1389.19	176.90	1910.14	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Meghalaya	1296.99	135.88	1556.41	165.39	2140.06	28.52
18.	Mizoram	300.11	77.23	360.16	67.85	495.22	6.45
19.	Nagaland	889.74	171.67	1067.62	73.90	1467.98	0.00
20.	Orissa	14557.32	10697.45	17048.50	14006.77	22597.28	724.99
21.	Punjab	1598.04	1315.06	1604.16	2485.71	2126.27	234.79
22.	Rajasthan	8514.22	10302.80	8546.71	12560.49	11328.42	1779.66
23.	Sikkim	332.28	179.35	398.75	165.15	548.28	68.59
24.	Tamil Nadu	13777.67	14625.13	13179.47	8911.07	17469.02	3967.02
25.	Tripura	2438.56	1498.12	2508.26	1555.34	3448.86	150.30
26.	Uttar Pradesh	40000.00	40658.38	51052.47	41975.47	67682.39	9331.59
27.	Uttaranchal	3436.29	3197.10	2682.95	2005.84	3562.33	319.15
28.	West Bengal	10000.00	2252.39	18946.01	3161.11	25112.38	766.77
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	90.08	11.44	45.00	13.25	41.25	0.00
30.	Daman and Diu	90.00	0.00	45.00	0.00	41.25	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	90.00	0.00	45.00	0.00	41.25	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	90.34	3.90	45.00	8.90	41.25	4.77
33.	Pondicherry	103.48	142.93	180.00	232.07	247.50	57.07
Total		251565.47	192869.79	286912.31	233930.78	345586.38	35154.92

NR—Not Reported.

**Setting up of National Institute of Bio-
technology and Nano-technology**

3484. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to issue a notification regarding the national policy on bio-technology;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to set up a cluster of premier technology institutes including National Institute of Bio-technology and National Institute for Nano-technology; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal

to issue a notification regarding the national policy on bio-technology. However, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has formulated a National Biotechnology Development Strategy. This strategy was based on 2 years long nation wide consultation, international consultation and review and comments from medical, agricultural, veterinary and environment experts, scientists, industry, regulators and all other ministries and departments. Various actions and programmes of this strategy have been suitably integrated while formulating the 11th Five Year Plan proposals which envisages major expansion in human resource development, industrial promotion and development, sectoral R and D for technology development, streamlining of regulatory system and establishment of new institutes in cutting edge areas of biotechnology.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to set up premier technology institutions state-wise and National Institute of Biotechnology. However, during 11 plan (2007-2012) the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology has proposed to set up a National Institute for Nano-technology. Similarly, the Department of Biotechnology has proposed for setting up of institutions/centres during the 11th Fiver Year Plan in the following area: Translational Research in Health Science and Technology; Agri-food biotechnology; Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine; Animal Biotechnology; Marine Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine.

[Translation]

Sharp Decline in Sensex

3485. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCNADRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the companies against which investigation is made/being made for their alleged involvement in sharp decline in Sensex of the share market by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as on date;

(b) whether any company has been found to be

guilty of collapse of the share market during the last three years, till date; and

(c) if so, the details of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Securities and Exchange Board of India has informed that no company has been found be guilty of collapse of the share market during the last three years.

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

[English]

Discussion with Management and Representatives of LIC

3486. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation Management held a discussion with the representatives of LICA0I recently;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived in the meeting;

(c) whether time frame has been fixed for implementing such decision;

(d) whether LIC has conveyed about this decision to the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that informal discussions were held on 17-07-2007 with the representatives of the Life Insurance Corporation Agents' Organisation of India (LICA0I). The discussions held, inter-alia, covered issues like group insurance scheme, enhancement of gratuity amount, Welfare Fund, Provident Fund and Pension. LIC has further reported that no decisions were arrived at, as it was an Informal information sharing meeting.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Customer Complaints with
Banking Ombudsman**3487. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has appointed an Ombudsman to redress the complaints of bank customers;

(b) if so, the number of cases laying alongwith the number of cases that have been disposed of so far;

(c) the number of cases in which the decision has gone against the banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the year 2006-07, the Banking Ombudsman offices dealt with 44,766 complaints, out of which 37,661 complaints were disposed of 7,105 complaints were pending as on June 30, 2007.

(c) and (d) The Banking Ombudsman can dispose of complaints by mutual settlement or by passing an award against the bank. Reserve Bank of India has reported that in 2006-07, the Banking Ombudsmen have passed awards in 84 cases only. In cases where awards are passed against the banks, banks either accept the awards of the Ombudsman or appeal to the appellate authority, if they are aggrieved by an award.

*[English]***High Court Bench at Vijayawada**

3488. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a High Court Bench at Vijayawada keeping in view the demands of the people of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Setting up of the Benches of the High Court is considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government prepared in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

*[Translation]***Power Tariff during Peak and
Non-peak Hour**3489. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes different rates of electricity for peak hours and non-peak hours supply to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of States where such proposal is under consideration;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted before considering this proposal to assess the quantum of power that will be saved by implementing this proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) The tariffs for retail sale to be charged by the distribution licencees are required to be determined by the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commissions under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. Section 62(3) of the Act provides that the Commissions, while determining the tariffs under the Act, may differentiate, inter-alia, according to the time at which the supply is required.

As per the available information, at the State level, fifteen State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) (in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal

Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Jharkhand, Kerala and Maharashtra) have introduced Time of Day (ToD) Tariff, especially for high tension consumers.

Pending Cases

3490. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases lying pending for more than ten to fifteen years in Supreme Court and various High Courts as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the corrective measures taken/being taken by

the Government for speedy disposal of these pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Registry of the Supreme Court has been requested to provide the required information which will be laid on the Table of the House. A Statement indicating the civil and criminal cases pending for more than ten years in the High Courts, as is monitored centrally, is enclosed.

(b) With a view to facilitate disposal of cases including pending cases in the superior courts, Government reviews the Judge Strength (in High Courts) triennially and ensures prompt filling up of vacancies so that justice administration does not suffer from inadequate number of Judges. Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.

Statement

Statement showing Age-wise pending cases in High Courts

Sl. No.	High Courts	Pending for more than ten years	As on
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabd	328736	31-12-06
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5018	31-3-07
3.	Bombay	23122	31-3-07
4.	Calcutta	90315	31-12-06
5.	Delhi	7778	31-3-07
6.	Gujarat	15121	31-12-05
7.	Gauhati	1	31-12-06
8.	Himachal Pradesh	18	30-6-07
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	210	31-3-07
10.	Karnataka	166	31-3-07

1	2	3	4
11.	Kerala	1696	31-12-06
12.	Madras	7752	31-3-07
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7374	30-6-07
14.	Orissa	22009	30-6-07
15.	Patna	17250	31-12-06
16.	Punjab and Haryana	68114	30-6-07
17.	Rajasthan	21750	31-3-07
18.	Sikkim	0	30-6-07
19.	Uttaranchal	4477	31-12-06
20.	Jharkhand		Not received
21.	Chhattisgarh	5642	31-7-07

As reported by the High Courts.

[English]

Notaries in Kerala

3491. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for enhancing the number of Notaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quota of the Notaries to be appointed by the State Government of Kerala was enhanced from 375 to 563 vide Notification No. GSR 296(E) dated 19th May, 2006 as per the earlier requests of the State Government. However, after this enhancement of the quota the State Government of Kerala has further requested for enhancement of the quota for the appointment of Notaries by the State Government of Kerala to 1000 vide its letter 17-06-2006.

The Minister for Law, Kerala State has also submitted memoranda in this regard to Central Government on 27-11-2006 and 07-06-2007.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

RBI Loan to Union Government

3492. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the burden of loan of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has further increased on the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government of India borrows from RBI through Ways

and Means Advances (WMA) to meet temporary cash flow mismatches. The limits for WMA are fixed by RBI in consultation with the Government. WMA limits for the current financial year 2007-08 have been fixed at Rs. 20,000 crore for the first half of the year (April-September) and Rs. 6,000 crore for the second half of the year (October-March). Borrowings in excess of the WMA limits are termed as Overdraft (OD). Interest paid on WMA/OD during 2005-06 and 2006-07 was Rs. 0.21 crore and Rs. 26.24 crore respectively. Budget Estimates for 2007-08 on this account is Rs. 150.00 crore.

Video Conferencing in the Courts

3493. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes the recording of evidence of witnesses in the courts by video conferencing;

(b) whether the Government also proposes to record such evidence within the quickest time frame, particularly in criminal cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof and progress achieved in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) In the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2006 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd August, 2006, it is proposed to replace the existing proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 164 with another proviso, providing for recording of any confession or statement made under that sub-section by audio-video electronic means in the presence of the advocate of the person accused of an offence.

Opening of Accounts under Zero Balancing Scheme

3494. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding not opening of accounts under zero balancing scheme by some Banks;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) A total number of 67,32,335 "No Frills" accounts have been opened by commercial banks under special scheme of Zero Balance accounts as on 31-03-2007. The Reserve Bank of India is receiving complaints pertaining to operations in deposit accounts. However, the information whether complaints were received on opening of zero balance scheme (no frills accounts) is not specifically maintained. Besides, all the banks have a robust internal grievance redressal mechanism to address all customer complaints including those relating to refusal in opening of accounts under zero balance scheme. Various instructions have been issued to banks from time to time in this regard. Any customer who has a genuine grievance, which may include refusal in opening of accounts under zero balance scheme, is attended to by the concerned bank.

Increasing in NPA

3495. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank have registered maximum increase; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of State Bank of India have decreased from 3.88% as on 31st March, 2006 to 2.92% as on 31st March, 2007. Gross NPAs of Punjab National Bank have also declined from 4.10% to 3.45% over this period.

[English]

Development of Tourist Centres In Delhi

3496. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has formulated any policy for the development of tourist centres in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

[Translation]

Rifts in Bundelkhand Region

3497. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that long rifts have developed in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and some areas in Uttarakhand;

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

(c) whether any team of scientists has been constituted to study this phenomenon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ground fissures have developed in some of the areas in Bundelkhand particularly in Hamirpur District of Uttar Pradesh and also in Badrinath area of Uttarakhand state. In Hamirpur district of Bundelkhand area, the fissures are reported to have developed in Maudha Tehsil where it is around 800m in length and 60cm wide. In Uttarakhand State, cracks have been reported from Neelkanth Parvat in Badrinath area.

(c) and (d) A 3-Member team of scientists from

GSI (Northern Region) Office, Lucknow have been constituted to study the reported cracks in Bundelkhand area of Uttar Pradesh and the team has already left on 05-09-2007 to study the affected area.

Inter-State Power Disputes

3498. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute between States over setting up of hydro power projects and sharing of power therefrom in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government constituted/proposed to constitute any commission or any empowered authority to resolve the disputes in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information available, 33 Hydro Electric Schemes with aggregate installed capacity of 7181 MW are held up due to non-resolution of inter-State water disputes including the disputes relating to sharing of cost and benefits from these projects. The details of these schemes and nature of disputes is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) As per existing arrangements the inter-state water disputes are resolved through:—

- (i) Standing Committee on Inter-state issues of National Water Resources Council; and
- (ii) Adjudication by Water Dispute Tribunal.

The National Water Resources Council (NWRC) has constituted a Standing Committee on inter-state issues in April, 1990 with members drawn from NWRC to consider issues referred by the States to the Union Ministry of Water Resources and to recommend measures to be taken to resolve the issues. When the Central Government is satisfied that the dispute cannot

be settled through negotiations, the same is referred to a Tribunal under the provisions of Inter-State River

Water Disputes Act. So far six Tribunals under the above Act have been set up as below:—

Sl. No.	River (States)	Date of Constitution	Date of Award
1.	Krishna (Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka)	April, 1969	May, 1976
2.	Godavari (Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa)	April, 1969	July, 1980
3.	Narmada (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra)	October, 1969	December, 1979
4.	Ravi and Beas (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan)	April, 1986	Interim Report given in January, 1987
5.	Cauvery (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Pondicherry)	June, 1990	Report given in February, 2007. The party states have filed SLP against the aforesaid decision of CWDT dated 5-2-2007 before Hon'ble Supreme Court and the matter is now subjudice.
6.	Krishna (Second Tribunal)	April, 2004	—

Statement

State-wise details of Hydro-Electric Projects involving inter state disputes

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/ Installed Capacity in MW	Nature of dispute
1	2	3

Himachal Pradesh

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Renuka Dam (2x20)
Himachal Pradesh
Delhi and Himachal Pradesh | Clearance by technical advisory committee of Ministry of Water Resources has been deferred till the finalisation of the cost sharing and power component is mutually decided between government of Delhi and Government of Himachal Pradesh. |
|--|--|

1

2

3

Punjab

2. Satluj Yamuna Link
(2x18+2x7=50 MW)—
Punjab In state sector)
(Punjab vs. Haryana and Rajasthan)

The Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan have raised objections on their share of power as it envisages utilizing water belonging to all three states viz. Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Uttarakhand

3. Kishau Dam MPP (2x 150 MW)
Uttarakhand
(Uttarakhand vs. Uttar Pradesh,
Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan)
4. Lakhwar Vyasi (3x100+2x60 MW)
Uttarakhand
Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh,
Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi

No agreement has been reached among basin states on sharing of the cost of the project. Further, Uttarakhand/Uttar Pradesh/Himachal Pradesh have not yet agreed on the sharing of the benefits either.

The Project cost is to be apportioned to irrigation and drinking water components besides power generation and the issue is still unresolved amongst the stakeholders States.

Uttar Pradesh

5. Panchnad MPP (6x15=90 MW)—
Uttar Pradesh (In state sector)
(Uttar Pradesh vs. Madhya Pradesh,
Rajasthan)

The project involves submergence in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. An inter-state agreement between Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is not forthcoming on submergence and rehabilitation etc.

Chhattisgarh

6. Matnar (3x20=60 MW)—
Chhattisgarh (In state sector)
(Chhattisgarh vs. Orissa,
Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh)

Chhattisgarh (erstwhile Madhya Pradesh) and Orissa entered into an inter-State agreement for sharing of Indravati river water on 11th July, 1979. Consent of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is not forthcoming.

Goa

7. Duhgsagar (2x15=30 MW)—Goa
(In state sector)
(Goa vs. Karnataka)

The Project involves submergence in Karnataka. The consent of Karnataka is not forthcoming.

Maharashtra

8. Bhivpuri (1x90 MW)—
Maharashtra (In Private sector)
(Maharash vs. Karnataka,
Andhra Pradesh)

The project involves resolution of interstate aspects between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka regarding Westward Diversion of Krishna Waters.

1

2

3

Madhya Pradesh

9. Ken (2x15+2x10=50 MW)—
Madhya Pradesh (In State sector)
(Madhya Pradesh Vs. Uttar Pradesh)

The yield at the project site and sharing of water upstream and downstream of the project has been agreed between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Both the states have also agreed for preparation of DPR for the Ken Multipurpose Project and National Water Development Agency proposal for transfer of surplus water of Ken to Betwa upstream of Rajghat Dam.

10. Orcha MPP (2x30+2x15)
Madhya Pradesh
(Madhya Pradesh Vs. Uttar Pradesh)

Inter-state aspects mainly relate to submergence under the reservoir as well as sharing of waters below Orcha. The project involves resolution of interstate aspects between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh

11. Inchampalli MPP (13x75=MW)
Andhra Pradesh
(Andhra Pradesh vs. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra)

Issue involves sharing of power benefits and irrigation utilization. A high level committee was set up by MoWR in June, 2000 to resolve the issue. The committee set up a task force to resolve issues regarding sharing of power benefits and irrigation utilization. The high level committee could not resolve the interstate issues.

12. Polavaram (12x80 MW)
Andhra Pradesh
(Andhra Pradesh vs. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa)

Issue involves sharing of power benefits and irrigation utilization. A high level committee was set up by MoWR in June, 2000 to resolve the issue. The committee in turn set up a task force to resolve issues regarding sharing of power benefits and irrigation utilization. The high level committee could not resolve the interstate issues.

Karnataka

13. Kabini (1x20 MW) KTK
(Karnataka vs. Kerala, Tamil Nadu)

The concurrence for submergence and agreement for upstream utilization of water of the basin States is not forthcoming.

14. Mahadayi (2x10+2x150)
Karnataka
(Karnataka vs. Goa)

An agreement has to be reached between Karnataka and Goa on diversion of water from Mahadayi river to Malprabha river (Krishna Basin) and impounding of waters by Karnataka for power generation.

15. Katla and Palna Div. (Aug Scheme)
Karnataka
(Karnataka vs. Goa)

Diversion of water of Katla and Palna stream proposed into Kalinadi basin for augmentation of power in Kalinadi valley. An agreement has to be reached between Karnataka and Goa.

16. Brindavan (2x6 MW) Karna.
Karnataka vs. Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu raised objection for consumptive use of water by Karnataka

17. Shivasamundram (2x135 MW)
KTK

The project was located in Cauvery basin and the question of sharing of waters was being looked after by Cauvery Water Dispute

1	2	3
	(Karnataka vs. Tamil Nadu, Kerala)	Tribunal (CWDT). The CWDT has submitted its report in February, 2007 for implementation by the State Governments. The party states have filed SLP against the aforesaid decision of the CWDT before Hon'ble Supreme Court and the matter is now subjudice.
18.	Mekadatu (2 x 180 MW) KTK (Karnataka vs. Tamil Nadu, Kerala)	—do—
Kerala		
19.	Pambar (2x15 MW) Kerala (Kerala vs. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka)	The location of power house is in Kerala on Kerala and Tamil Nadu borders. An agreement is yet to be reached between Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Some project area has been declared as a part of Chinnar Wild Life Sanctuary.
20.	Kuttiyadi Aug. (Additional Extn.) (2x50 MW) Kerala (Kerala vs. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka)	The additional water for scheme is proposed to be diverted from the Karnathodu reservoir from the adjacent basin. Dispute with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka is yet to be resolved. However, it has been informed that the project has been taken up for construction by State Government.
21.	Mananthawadi (MPP) (4x60 MW) KER (Kerala vs. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka)	The scheme involves westward diversion of waters for irrigation and power generation to which Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have objections.
22.	Kerala Bhawani (3x50 MW)— Kerala (Kerala vs. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka)	The scheme involves trans-basin diversion of water into west flowing Bharatpuzha river basin for irrigation and power generation. An agreement has to be reached between Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
23.	Pandiar Punnapuzha Tailrace (2x35 MW) Kerala (Kerala vs. Tamil Nadu)	Tamil Nadu proposed eastward diversion of water for power generation and irrigation. Kerala is not agreeing to this as this would affect tail race project.
Tamil Nadu		
24.	Nellithorai (1x50 MW)— Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu vs. Kerala)	Affected due to westward diversion of water in the upper reaches of Bhawani river. Objections raised by Government of Kerala.
25.	Pandiar Punnapuzha (2x50 MW) Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu vs. Kerala)	Tamil Nadu proposed eastward diversion of water for power generation and irrigation. Kerala is not agreeing to this as this would affect tail race project.
26.	Shanmughanadi (1x30 MW) Tamil Nadu	Located in Cauvery basin. CWDT was looking into the water disputes of the basin states. CWDT has submitted its report in

1	2	3
	(Tamil Nadu vs. Kerala, Karnataka)	February, 2007 for implementation by the State Governments. The party states have filed SLP against the aforesaid decision of the CWDT before Hon'ble Supreme Court and the matter is now subjudice.
27.	Bhawani Kattalai (3x2x15 MW) Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu vs. Karnataka)	The project envisage utilization of the discharges from Mettur Dam. Dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka yet to be resolved. However, it has been informed that the project has been taken up for construction by State Government.
28.	Cauvery Power Project (Hogenekal and Rasimanal) (5x50+6x100 MW) Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu vs. Karnataka, Kerala)	Involves submergence in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Located in Cauvery basin. CWDT was looking into the water disputes of the basin states. CWDT has submitted its report in February, 2007 for implementation by the State Governments. The party states have filed SLP against the aforesaid decision of the CWDT before Hon'ble Supreme Court and the matter is now subjudice.
29.	Cholatipuzha (1x60 MW) Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu vs. Kerala)	Dam and power tunnel in Tamil Nadu, Surge shaft and power house in Kerala. Cost and benefit to be shared equally. The agreement between Tamil Nadu and Kerala is not forthcoming.
Orissa		
30.	Sindol (5x20+5x20+6x20) Orissa (Orissa vs. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra)	Location on Mahanadi river. The consent of the upstream states is required. Project is dependent on discharges from Hirakud reservoir. No agreement has been reached between stakeholder States.
31.	Hirakund 'B' (4x52 MW+4x50 MW) Orissa (Orissa vs. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra)	Location on Mahanadi river. The consent of the upstream states is required. The availability of water and hence firm power would be reduced drastically due to upstream irrigation development. No agreement has been reached between stakeholder States.
Jharkhand		
32.	Sankh St-II (2x90+2x3 MW) Jharkhand (Jharkhand vs. Madhya Pradesh, Orissa)	Consent of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa required for setting of the project. Formal agreement between Government of Madhya Pradesh and Government of Jharkhand (earlier Bihar) yet to be signed.
Assam		
33.	Karbi Langpi (Upper borpani) 2x30—Assam (Assam vs. Meghalaya)	Dam is located in Meghalaya and involve submergence in Meghalaya. Power House located in Assam. Meghalaya's concurrence is needed for water utilization which is not forthcoming.
Total: (33 schemes)		7181 MW

[English]

**Setting up of Agricultural Bank at
Taluka Level**

3499. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up one agricultural bank in each taluka for the benefit of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The flow of credit to agriculture, which was Rs. 86,981 crore during the year 2003-04 has consistently increased over last few years to Rs. 2,03,296 crore (provisional figures) during the year 2006-07. Besides, as of now there are already 96 Regional Rural Banks (14519 branches), 31 State Cooperative Banks (910 branches), 366 District Central Cooperative Banks (12613 branches), 1,06,384 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies, 20 State Cooperative Agriculture Development Banks (865 branches) and 696 Primary Cooperative Agriculture Development Banks (1287 branches). These are working in the rural sector and are committed towards the financial needs of farmers. Hence, as of now there is no proposal to set up one agricultural bank in each Taluka by the Government.

**Setting up Institute to Study
Global Warming**

3500. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an institute to study the impact of global warming/climatic changes etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the discussions

of a Brainstorming meeting held on June 1, 2007 organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), involving experts working on climate change and representatives from all the concerned Ministries. Non-governmental organizations, and academic and scientific institutions, a coordinated research programme on climate change shall be launched to study all associated science aspects of climate change viz. Carbon and Nitrogen cycles; Asian Brown Cloud (ABC).

As a part of climate change programme, there is a proposal for the establishment of a dedicated Centre to undertake research on Science aspects of Climate Change at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

**Under Statement of Non-Performing
Assets**

3501. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that UCO Bank has been reporting understatement of its Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) During the Annual Financial Inspections (AFIs) of UCO Bank conducted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with reference to its position as on March 31, 2005 and March 31, 2006, the divergence in asset classification was noticed in respect of some loan accounts, which constituted about 4.78% and 3.61% respectively of gross non-performing assets of the bank.

(c) to (e) The details of AFI reports are discussed with the Management of the bank for rectifying the deficiencies noticed in the functioning of the bank.

**Three Tier Credit Flow for
Micro Credit**

3503. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is in favour of a three tier credit flow to the rural areas with focus on micro credit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has not suggested any particular type of credit structure. Hence, no specialized structure has been created for the flow of micro-credit.

The existing credit structure in rural areas consists of Commercial Banks with their rural branches, Regional Rural Banks located at District Head Quarters with their presence in rural areas and Cooperative banks comprising of State Cooperative Banks, District Central Cooperative Banks and Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) at State, District and Village level respectively.

Similarly, State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) and Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) are mostly operating in a federal structure with their respective offices at State, District and Sub-divisional level. However, some of the SCARDBs are functioning as unitary structure operating through their branches at the State, District/Sub-divisional level.

[Translation]

**Compensation for Phasing
out of CST**

3503. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether matter regarding compensation to the States for phasing out Central Sales Tax has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A consensus had been arrived at between the Centre and the States that the CST should be phased out in 4 steps, i.e. reducing the CST rate from 4% to 3% w.e.f. 01-04-2007, from 3% to 2% w.e.f. 01-04-2008, from 2% to 1% w.e.f. 01-04-2009 and eventually abolishing the tax on 31-03-2010. A package of compensation to the States for revenue loss on account of phasing out of the CST has also been agreed upon between the States and the Central Government.

(b) As per the agreed package, the States shall be compensated through a combination of non-monetary and monetary measures. During 2007-08, such measures to be taken to compensate the States for CST reduction from 4% to 3% include abolition of Form-D, levy of VAT on Tobacco @ 12.5% by States and transfer of total proceeds of tax on identified services to the States. In case these measures prove inadequate to fully cover the loss, budgetary support shall be given. In order to give effect to the above decisions the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2007 has been enacted, whereby the CST Act, 1956 and the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 have been amended, inter alia, resulting in the reduction of rate of CST on inter-State sale to registered dealers (against Form-C) from 4% to 3% w.e.f. 01-04-2007, the withdrawal of the facility of inter-State purchases by Government Departments at concessional CST rate against Form-D and the enabling of the States to levy VAT on Tobacco. Further, a provision of Rs. 2,500 crores has been made in the Department of Revenue Budget for 2007-08 for releasing CST Compensation to the States.

(c) In views of what is stated in (a) and (b) above, this question does not arise.

[English]

**Infrastructure Work In Small
Villages under NFFWP**

3504. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether infrastructure works under National

Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) are not being taken up in small villages due to non-availability of fifty job seekers to start new work;

(b) if so, the details thereof with number of Tribal and Scheduled Caste villages not covered in the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) NFFWP was launched in November 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country with a view to generate supplementary wage employment and for providing food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The programme has subsumed in NREGA with effect from 2-2-06. NFFWP guidelines did not provide for availability of fifty job seekers to start new work.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Charges for Late Constructions

3505. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA charges fee for late construction on residential plots; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with the present rate thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that it charges fee for late construction on residential plots at the following rates:—

Year of construction	Rate (Rs. per sq. meter)
1	2
1.	Nil

1	2
2.	Nil
3.	Nil
4.	10
5.	20
6.	100
7.	110
8.	120
9.	130
10.	140
11.	160
12.	170
13.	180
14.	190
15.	200
16.	250
17.	260
18.	270
19.	280
20.	290
21.	380
22.	390
23.	400
24.	410
25.	420

Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project

3506. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought approval of the Union Government of Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project for exclusive upgradation of roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether approval has been granted;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Detail is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(a) to (c) *The following Mumbai Urban Infrastructure projects were received from Government of Maharashtra for sanction under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)*

Sl. No.	Sector	Project Name	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Eastern Freeway from Prince of Wales Museum to APLR-MUIP	51966.00
2.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Elevated road on Sahar Road-MUIP	23107.00
3.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyovers on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road-MUIP	30100.00
4.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyover on Western Express Highway at Kherwadi-MUIP	3122.00
5.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyover on Western Express Highway at Domestic Airport-MUIP	3692.00
6.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyover on Western Express Highway at Dindoshi-GMLR-MUIP	1283.00
7.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyover on Western Express Highway at Times of India-MUIP	2133.00
8.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyover on Western Express Highway at Thakur Complex-MUIP	2791.00
9.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyover on Eastern Express Highway at Sion duplication-MUIP	5041.00
10.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyover on Eastern Express Highway at Suman Nagar-MUIP	1955.00
11.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Flyover on Eastern Express Highway at Navghar junction-MUIP	1075.00
12.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	LBS Marg (Sion-Mulund)-MUIP	9419.00
13.	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	S.V. Road (Bandra-Dahisar)-MUIP	9483.00

2. Of the above, only first two projects have been approved as per the following details

Project Title	Sector	Approved Cost	ACA admissible	Date of approval by CSMC	First instalment released	Date of release of funds
Eastern Freeway from Prince of Wales Museum to APLR-MUIP	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	33638.80	11773.58	25-10-2006	2943.40	20-12-2006
Elevated road on Sahar road-MUIP	Roads/ Flyovers/ RoB	15513.34	5429.669	25-10-2006	1357.42	20-12-2006

3. (d) and (e) Remaining projects were not considered as they were ongoing.

[Translation]

**Domestic as well as Foreign
Capital Investment**

3507. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic capital investment has been more than the foreign capital investment during the year 2006-07 in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of the domestic and foreign capital investment separately during the aforesaid year;

(d) the details of the projects in which the aforesaid capital investment has been made; and

(e) the details of sectors witnessing an increase in domestic as well as foreign capital investment during the said year over the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) is the nodal agency for compiling National Accounts Aggregates for

India. As per the data released by the CSO, the Gross Domestic Capital Formation (at current prices) in the Indian economy during 2005-06 was Rs. 12,04,474 crore.

The Foreign Direct Investment inflow in the form of equity during the year 2005-06 was Rs. 24,613 crore. The FDI equity inflow in the year 2006-07 is Rs. 70,630 crore.

(d) and (e) The Gross Domestic Capital Formation in the year 2005-06 is highest in the manufacturing sector (Rs. 4,84,615 crore). Other major sectors are transport, storage and communication (Rs. 1,01,574 crore), financing, insurance, real estate and business services (Rs. 1,25,423 crore) and agriculture, forestry and fisheries (Rs. 83,952 crore). All these figures are at current prices.

Some of the sectors in which Gross Domestic Capital Formation in the year 2005-06 has witnessed growth over 2004-05, are as follows:—

- (i) Agriculture, forestry and fishing;
- (ii) Mining and quarrying;
- (iii) Manufacturing;
- (iv) Financing, insurance, real estate and business services; and
- (v) Community, social and personal services.

The major sectors attracting FDI inflow for the year 2006-07 are service sector (Rs. 21,433.88 crore), electrical equipments (Rs. 12,324.56 crore), telecom (Rs. 23,541.01 crore) and transportation (Rs. 2112.20 crore).

Electrical Equipments, transportation, hotel and tourism power and oil refinery, food processing industries are some of the sectors in which FDI inflow has witnessed a growth in the year 2006-07 over 2005-06.

[English]

Rural Electrification

3508. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI MOHAN JENA:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of un-electrified villages in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed and achieved in terms of village electrification during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has not achieved the desired result;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which all villages in the country are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As on 31-08-2007, there are 1,00,398 un-electrified villages in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Tenth Plan proposed to cover all 62,000

villages that could be electrified through grid extension. Against this target, the achievement has been electrification of 47,816 villages i.e. 77.12%. The targets fixed and achieved in terms of village electrification during the Tenth Five Year Plan, year-wise, under various schemes are as under:—

Year	Target	Achievement
2002-03	—	2,626
2003-04	24,011	2,781
2004-05	23,861	3,884
2005-06	10,000	9,819
2006-07	40,00	28,706

Source—Central Electricity Authority and REC.

(c) and (d) Electrification is a concurrent subject. Section 6 of the Electricity Act, 2003 stipulates that the concerned State Government and the Central Government shall jointly endeavour to provide access to electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets through rural electricity infrastructure and electrification of households. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) as a Nodal agency of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana has been facilitating speedier implementation of the scheme by coordinating with all the stakeholders involved in the implementation. REC has provided the necessary framework for adoption in the project implementation/execution.

(e) All the un-electrified villages are envisaged to be electrified by 2009 under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, except remote villages under the programme of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Statement

Status of villages electrification as per revised definition of Village Electrification

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total inhabited villages as per 2001 Census	Villages electrified as on 31-3-2006	No. of villages electrified during 2006-07 under RGGVY and other schemes		Balance villages left for electrification as on 31-08-07	Villages electrified during 2007-08 up till 31-08-07	Balance villages for electrification as on 31-08-07
				Numbers	%age			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26613	26565	99.8	0	48	0	48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3863	2195 *	56.8	0	1668	0	1668
3.	Assam	25124	19660 *	78.3	81	5383	0	5383
4.	Bihar	39015	20610 \$	52.8	8415	9990	1386	8604
5.	Delhi	158	158	100.0		0	0	0
6.	Jharkhand	29354	8923 *	30.4	196	20235	31	20204
7.	Goa	347	347	100.0		0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	18066	17908 *	99.1	0	158	0	158
9.	Haryana	6764	6764	100.0		0	0	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	17495	16915 *	96.7	254	326	0	326
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6417	6304	98.2		113	0	113
12.	Karnataka	27481	27125	98.7	0	356	0	356
13.	Kerala	1364	1364	100.0		0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	52117	50213	96.3		1904	15	1889

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Chhattisgarh	19744	16456 *	83.3	18	3270	29	3241
16.	Maharashtra	41095	35541	86.5		5554	0	5554
17.	Manipur	2315	1930	83.4	12	373	0	373
18.	Meghalaya	5782	3428	59.3	0	2354	0	2354
19.	Mizoram	707	570	80.6	0	137	0	137
20.	Nagaland	1278	822 *	64.3	1	455	0	455
21.	Orissa	47529	26235	55.2		21294	0	21294
22.	Punjab	12278	12278	100.0		0	0	0
23.	Rajasthan	39753	25845 *	65.0	765	13143	332	12811
24.	Sikkim	450	425	94.4		25	0	25
25.	Tamil Nadu	15400	15400 *	100.0		0	0	0
26.	Tripura	858	491	57.2		367	0	367
27.	Uttar Pradesh	97942	66879 *	68.3	16620	14443	1961	12482
28.	Uttaranchal	15761	14737 *	93.5	798	226	83	143
29.	West Bengal	37945	32861	86.6	2108	2976	738	2238
Sub Total (States)		593015	458949 *	77.4	29268	104798	4575	100223
Union Territories								
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	501	321	64.1	5	175	0	175

2 Chandigarh	23	23	100.0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	70	70	100.0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Daman and Diu	23	23	100.0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Lakshadweep	8	8	100.0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Pondicherry	92	92	100.0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total (UTs)	717	537	74.9	5	175	0	0	175
Grand Total	593732	459486 *	77.4	29273	104973	4575	0	100398

* The figures have been revised based on the information furnished by the states.
 \$ Bihar Government has not given number of unelectrified villages as per revised definition.
 Source: Central Electricity Authority and REC.

Net Small Savings

3509. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the net small savings during the last three financial years; and

(b) the steps taken to boost up small savings and result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The net small savings collections have been Rs. 96,788 crore during 2004-05, Rs. 85,086 crore during 2005-06 and Rs. 55,604 crore during 2006-07 (Provisional).

(b) The small savings schemes, carrying different terms and rate of interest administered by the Government of India, are designed to provide safe and attractive investment option to all individuals who invest in these savings schemes. Central and State Governments take various measures from time to time to promote and popularize small savings schemes through print and electronics media as well as holding seminars and meetings, providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing deposits under these schemes. A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance has also been launched to facilitate interface with the public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and on-line registration and settlement of investor's grievances. The website address is nsiindia.gov.in.

Self Help Groups

3510. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Self Help Groups operating with Bank Linkage Programmes on micro-financing in each State and Union Territories at present;

(b) the amount of credit extended and interest rate charged from small farmers and poors in rural areas during 2006-07;

(c) whether the Government proposes to further

strengthen the functioning of SHGs and encourage NGOs and public-private banks to develop and operate Bank Linkage Programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A total of 29,25,698 Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been Credit Linked under the Bank Linkage Programme till June, 2007 involving a bank loan of Rs. 18,051.74 crore.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deregulated the rate of interest on advances about Rs. 2 lakh in respect of commercial banks. However, for loans upto Rs. 2.00 lakh, RBI has stipulated that the rate of interest charged by the commercial banks should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR). Banks are, therefore, free to determine the rate of interest they charge from groups or members of groups. The rates of interest charged by different banks on their loans to SHGs vary from 9.5% to 11.5% per annum.

(c) and (d) The policies of the Government regarding SHGs are directed towards providing financial services to the poor and thus achieve maximum financial inclusion. To provide a formal statutory framework for the promotion, development and regulation of the micro finance sector, the Government has introduced a bill in Lok Sabha on 20-03-2007 entitled "The Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007".

[Translation]

Commercial Centres for Artisans

3511. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken to promote rural artisans, craftsmen and weavers;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up commercial centres to promote them, particularly those belonging to SC/ST community; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which is a holistic self employment programme for organisation or rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons into Self Help Groups (SHGs), to carry out their training and capacity-building, planning of activity clusters, provision of credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing support for establishing micro enterprises, with a cluster based approach. Rural population living below poverty line who are artisans, craftsmen and weavers can also obtain assistance under this scheme.

[English]

Provision of Crèches under NREGS

3512. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to establish crèches within the reach of working women under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments are following the said provision;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) In accordance with para 28 of Schedule II of NREG Act, 2005, in case the number of children below the age of six years accompanying the women working at any site are five or more, provisions

shall be made to depute one of such women worker to look after such children. Instructions have been issued to all States to provide for this facility and States are taking action accordingly. The administrative expenditure of NREGA, out of which the worksite expenditure is met has been enhanced from 2% to 4% to enable States to provide for these facilities.

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

3513. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received from various States under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) during 2006-07 and 2007-08, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals cleared and pending for clearance from the Union Government; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and released under the programmes during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) has been subsumed in Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) w.e.f. 3rd December, 2005. Proposal have not been received under AUWSP during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

For the ongoing projects (sanctioned upto 2004-05) under AUWSP Scheme, amounts released during 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto August, 2007) are Rs. 47.63 crore and Rs. 10.93 crore respectively.

Untrammelled Growth of Urban Areas and Agenda Plan for Urban Local Bodies

3514. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to regulate untrammelled growth of urban areas and has suggested comprehensive plan to be implemented by the urban local bodies;

(b) if so, the details of other important issues that the ULBs have been advised in the agenda; and

(c) the reaction of State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has circulated Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines which help in orderly, regulated and planned development of the cities.

[Translation]

Fault in NTPC Power Plants

3515. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fault occurred in the power plants of NTPC during the last three years and till date, year-wise/unit-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The breakdown of power plant units is measured in terms of forced outages. The details of forced outages in NTPC power plants, for the last three years till date, year-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The action plan to minimize the forced outage of NTPC power plants is as under:—

I. Catering to Plant ageing:

— For the old fleet of 500 MW KWU* machines,

detailed action plan for spares procurement and purchase order from respective stations for moving and guide blades has been placed.

— Generic problem in High Pressure (HP) turbine module (500 MW) of KWU* design has been identified and attributed to inability to evacuate steam after tripping. This requires modification. Design modification to prevent HP turbine blade failure for old fleet of 500 MW KWU* turbines in 6 sets has been completed during the planned outages of the year 2006-07 and remaining 4 units will be covered in the year 2007-08.

— For 200/210 MW LMZ** machines, repair/replacement of diaphragms, blades and nozzle block completed in 6 units. Remaining will be completed in FY 2007-08.

II. Catering to achieve 90% + availability on sustained basis in the long run:

Proposal for procuring modular and interchangeable spares or all equipments viz. Turbine Generator (TG), Generator, Transformer, Boiler etc. having long procurement lead time and repair time for various units of NTPC has been initiated. Target for placemet of order is FY 2007-08.

III. Reduction of Tube Leakage:

Action plan for reducing boiler tube leakage is under implementation.

* KWU: Kraft Works Union.

** LMZ: Lenin Gradsky Metal Zasky Zavod.

Statement

Stations Coal Stations	Forced Outages/Breakdowns (%)			
	April 2007 to July 2007 (%)	2006-07 (%)	2005-06 (%)	2004-05 (%)
1	2	3	4	5
Singrauli	8.50	3.79	3.54	1.98

1	2	3	4	5
Rihand	0.96	3.96	10.20	1.51
Unchahar	2.34	1.04	1.28	1.47
Tanda	1.09	2.40	3.10	1.43
Dadri Coal	0.23	0.29	0.51	0.62
Badarpur	6.74	3.28	1.70	2.53
Korba	4.47	1.06	7.35	1.31
Vindhyachal	1.51	1.38	2.97	1.12
Ramagundam	1.96	3.98	1.33	1.61
Simhadri	1.01	1.30	1.75	1.50
Farakka	3.65	3.69	2.52	5.98
Kahalgaon	0.84	1.31	1.82	0.99
Talcher Kaniha	5.22	2.22	2.94	3.35
Talcher thermal	3.07	3.11	2.96	3.17
Gas/Liquid Fuel Stations				
Anta	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.83
Auraiya	0.08	0.07	0.73	8.27
Dadri	0.05	0.07	1.17	0.29
Faridabad	0.75	0.16	1.48	0.23
Kawas	0.00	0.04	0.17	0.20
Jhanor Gandhar	0.00	0.07	0.04	0.40
Kayamkulam	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.24

[English]

Wealth Manager in LIC

3516. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has decided to appoint Wealth Manager on the basis of

permission granted by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA);

(b) whether it is obligatory on the part of the Government to amend the existing Agent Regulation Act before taking this decision;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Entry of Banks In Insurance Market

3517. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any plan for the nationalized banks to enter the insurance market in joint ventures in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has also permitted the private banks in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) To facilitate quick and efficient decision-making and to provide sufficient managerial autonomy to the Boards of public sector banks to be able to compete internationally. Government announced an Autonomy Package on 22-02-2005 for these banks. As per this package, the Bank Boards are competent to decide on issues relating to new lines of business as part of overall business strategy, setup subsidiaries/joint ventures, etc. Further, Government has notified 'insurance' as a permissible activity under Section 6 (1) (o) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, enabling all banks, including private sector banks, to undertake insurance business in accordance with Reserve Bank of India guidelines.

[Translation]

Investor Protection Fund

3518. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended law to establish Investor Protection Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. This is a part of the proposal to amend the securities laws comprehensively. However, SEBI has set up an Investor Protection and Education Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 10 crore. The Fund will be utilized for investor education and related activities.

New Guidelines for Granting Loan

3519. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued new guidelines to the banks for granting loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new definition, term and condition has been incorporated in the guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) periodically issued guidelines to scheduled commercial banks on various aspects of lending viz. Lending to Agriculture, SME Sector, Education and Housing Loans, Priority Sector Advances etc. These circulars are available on RBI's website <http://rbi.org.in>.

In respect of Priority Sector Lending as per the Master Circular of RBI dated July 2, 2007 on Priority Sector Lending, some major changes in definition, terms and conditions are as under:—

- Pursuan: to the PM's new 15-Point Programmes for the Welfare of Minority Communities minority communities have been added under the heading "Weaker Sections".
- Fresh deposits placed by banks' on or after April 30, 2007 with NABARD/SIDBI on account of non-achievement of priority sector lending targets/sub-targets would not be eligible for

classification as indirect finance to agriculture/ Small Enterprises Sector, as the case may be. However, the deposits placed with NABARD/SIDBI by banks on the above account and outstanding as on April 30, 2007 would be eligible for classification as indirect finance to agriculture/Small Enterprises sector, as the case may be, till the date of maturity of such deposits or March 31, 2010, whichever is earlier.

- The targets and sub-targets under priority sector lending would be linked to Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) (Net Bank Credit plus investments made by banks in non-SLR bonds held in HTM category) or Credit Equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (OBE), whichever is higher, as on March 31 of the previous year.
- The definition of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises, both in the manufacturing and services sector has been aligned with the provisions of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.

[English]

Faulty ATMs

3520. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that due to faulty ATMs of several Public Sector Banks users are unable to withdraw their deposit money from ATMs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Some complaints have been received by the Government regarding faulty ATMs of public sector banks, non disbursement of cash by the ATMs, etc. Such complaints are brought to the notice of the

concerned banks for corrective action. Failure of the ATM sometimes occurs due to failure of telephone/ leased lines, extended power failure or malfunctioning of the ATMs. Banks attend to such problems on an urgent basis.

[Translation]

Indigenous Equipments for Renewable Energy

3521. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps for manufacturing of indigenous equipments for the production of renewable energy and to make equipments available at cheaper rates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount being spent each year on procuring the foreign equipments as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The research and development and demonstration support provided by the Government has resulted in establishing indigenous manufacturing base for the production of various renewable energy systems/equipments in the country. Most of the commonly used renewable energy systems/equipments are being manufactured indigenously. The Indian companies are also exporting some of the renewable energy systems/equipments. The Government is providing several financial and fiscal incentives to encourage domestic production and make renewable energy systems/equipments available at cheaper rates. These incentives include (i) capital subsidy on some of the systems (ii) soft loan to manufacturers and users (iii) concessional or nil duty on imports of some of the equipment, raw materials and components (iv) excise duty exemption on several renewable energy systems/equipments; and (v) 80% accelerated depreciation in first year etc.

- (c) The import of various renewable energy

equipments is permitted under Open General Licence (OGL); therefore, no data on import of all renewable energy equipments are maintained by the Ministry.

[English]

Construction of Houses under IAY

3522. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sanction more Houses under Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) for the State affected with natural calamities and also enhance allocation of funds under the scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) As per Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) Scheme, funds are allotted to the State/Union Territories in accordance with a pre-determined criteria assigning due weightage to the housing shortage and poverty ratio. However, as per guidelines, an amount upto 10% of the district's annual allocation or Rs. 50.00 lakh per district, whichever is higher, can be released to a district out of 5% IAY funds meant for Natural Calamities, on receipt of proposals in this regard from the concerned State Government.

Unit Linked Insurance Products

3523. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints that some Insurance agents are misguiding the people for selling Unit Linked Insurance Products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) proposes to take any corrective steps in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it has received complaints about mis-selling of Unit linked products by agents of some insurance companies. IRDA has also received complaints against agents of both public and private insurance companies for circulating unapproved sales literature projecting high returns on investments made in Unit-linked products.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. IRDA has informed that it has initiated action against those responsible for circulating such sales material. Some of the insurers have also confirmed termination of the agents responsible for circulating the unapproved literature. Life Insurance Corporation of India has also advertised in the newspapers that returns under the Unit linked products are not guaranteed. IRDA in a press release on 1st March, 2007 has also cautioned the public not to be carried away by such unapproved sales literature and take informed decisions on the basis of proper disclosures made by the representatives of insurers.

Garnering Funds Through Carbon Credits

3524. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Urban Development has asked the Municipal Corporations across the country to take advantage of carbon credits to garner funds for starving civic agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Municipal Corporations/ State Governments thereon?

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

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

Investment Through Participatory Notes

3525. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a relatively select number of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) issued 73% Participatory Notes (P-Notes);

(b) if so, the details of such FIIs;

(c) whether Participatory Notes are largely restricted to sectors like Finance, Technology and

Telecom;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the names of companies which are having more than 10% Participatory Note investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that as per reports being filed with it, there are 28 FIIs issuing Participatory Notes (PNs) as of end July 2007. The top five PN issuing FIIs together account for about 59.59% of the notional value of the outstanding PNs, as of July 2007. The details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the FII	US \$ Million	Rs. Crore
1.	Morgan Stanley and Co. International	13,716	55,401
2.	Merrill Lynch Espana	11,928	47,928
3.	Citigroup Global Markets Limited	11,148	45,018
4.	Goldman, Sachs and Co.	8,568	34,771
5.	CLSA Merchant Bankers Limited (CLSAM)	6,049	24,388

Note: The above figures are inclusive of investments in all asset classes i.e. equity and equity indices, debt and derivative.

(c) and (d) As per the extant regulatory structure, FIIs, which are registered with SEBI and are issuing PNs are required to submit to SEBI a monthly report in a prescribed format. This format does not facilitate tracking outstanding PNs on the basis of their sectors.

(e) A PN in the Indian context, in essence, is a derivative instrument issued in foreign jurisdictions by an FII or one of its associates entities. The instruments generally have Indian securities or indices as the underlying, the underlying Indian security instrument being equity, debt, derivative or an index.

The investors in PNs merely derive the economic benefits of investing in the security, without actually owning the underlying Indian securities, the underlying security being held in the name of the FII that issued

the PN. While the value of the PN is directly/indirectly related to the value of the Indian underlying security, there may not be one to one co-relation between the PN and the underlying security. Thus it is not possible to co-relate investments in PNs with the shareholding pattern of companies.

Setting up of Appellate Tribunal

3526. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up appellate tribunal for power sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Central Government has

established the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Tribunal came into operation from 21-07-2005.

Information Regarding Debenture to Investors

3527. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made it mandatory for companies to provide all information regarding debentures to investors and general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether failure to maintain such transparency as mandated by the Government will attract penalty;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to strictly enforce the mandate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had made it mandatory in September, 2003 for a listed company making issue of debt securities on private placement basis to make full initial and continuing disclosure in the manner prescribed in the Companies Act, 1956, the SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000 and the Listing Agreement with the Exchanges. It has mandated in August, 2007 that the companies issuing debentures and the respective debenture trustees/stock exchanges shall disseminate all information regarding the debentures to the investors and the general public. Under the Companies Act, the balance sheet of every company is required to indicate details in respect of money raised by way of issue of debentures, including the terms of redemption or conversion, if any.

(c) to (e) Failure to comply with these are punishable under the SEBI Act, 1992, Securities Contract (Regulations) Act, 1957 and the Companies Act, 1956.

Mark on Two Rupee Coins

3528. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued a new two rupee coin in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether plus or cross mark is depicted on the said coin;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the message which the Government want to convey by depicting this mark;

(e) whether the said mark is related to any historical fact or feature of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) to (f) The sign is symbolic of "addition" and is positive in nature. It is similar to the arithmetical sign "plus". This is a symbol of "Unity in Diversity" as it denotes "Inclusiveness".

World Bank Assistance for Jeevika Project

3529. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with the World Bank for a rural livelihood project in Bihar named 'JEEVIKA';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plans have been formulated to utilise such assistance for 'JEEVIKA' projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to introduce such scheme in other States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. "Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project" has been signed with the World Bank on 9th August, 2007 for an IDA credit amounting to Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 41.4 million or about US\$ 63 million. The objective of the project is to enhance social and economic empowerment of the rural poor in Bihar. The credit amount will be utilized for social, economic and infrastructure activities including group based income generating activities, small infrastructure investments, including access to public services and improving skills and organization.

(e) and (f) The projects on rural livelihoods already under implementation with World Bank assistance are in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Similar projects for the States of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh (Phase-II) have been sent to the World Bank for consideration.

Loan for Renewable Energy

3530. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Renewable Energy Development Agency sanction loans to States for setting up of non-conventional energy projects in the country;

(b) if so, the criteria thereof;

(c) the total loans released to each State during each of the last three years;

(d) whether any State has default to repay the loan during the period; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) does not provide loans to state government departments. Loans are, however, sanctioned and disbursed to eligible project promoters/developers for setting up non-conventional energy projects. The criteria for sanctioning loans includes technical feasibility and economic viability of the project, creditworthiness of the borrower and eligibility conditions as laid down in the financing guidelines of IREDA.

(c) State-wise details of loans disbursed by IREDA to promoters/developers during the last three years, i.e., 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) Loans sanctioned by IREDA to some borrowers have become non performing assets (NPAs). State-wise details of NPAs as on 31-3-2007 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) IREDA has taken a series of steps against defaulters for recovery of loans that include sending recall notices, filing cases before the Debt Recovery Tribunals and the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and taking action under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Loan Disbursed by IREDA during the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Year		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.00	37.49	6.04

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	35.72	13.44
3.	Gujarat	3.16	0.00	3.99
4.	Haryana	0.00	0.40	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	20.49	27.30	45.86
6.	Karnataka	118.14	115.87	65.74
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3.11	0.65	0.87
8.	Maharashtra	12.35	26.04	162.44
9.	Nagaland	0.54	0.04	0.07
10.	Orissa	14.95	28.37	31.75
11.	Punjab	33.68	4.13	0.51
12.	Rajasthan	34.55	2.34	62.08
13.	Tamil Nadu	18.95	20.19	17.14
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.44	0.40
15.	Uttarakhand	1.08	0.00	0.00
16.	West Bengal	2.84	3.53	0.54
17.	Delhi	0.14	0.00	0.00
Total		289.98	302.51	410.87

Statement-II

*State-wise details of Non Performing Assets (NPAs)
as on 31-3-2007*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	NPA(*)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	160.140

1	2	3
2.	Assam	0.001
3.	Bihar	0.027
4.	Gujarat	0.014
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.001
6.	Karnataka	36.589
7.	Kerala	8.900
8.	Madhya Pradesh	3.857

1	2	3
9.	Maharashtra	77.681
10.	Tamil Nadu	73.172
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.002
12.	West Bengal	9.102
13.	Delhi	0.001
Total		369.487

(*) As per the current definition a loan and interest thereon are termed NPAs when default period exceeds 90 days.

Excise Duty Evasion

3531. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI) has recently unearthed large scale evasion of excise duty as reported in the Times of India dated July 30, 2007;

(b) if so, quantum of loss the government has to incur on account of this evasion; and

(c) the action taken against such companies and the amount recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI) has recently unearthed excise duty evasion by M/s. Parmarth Iron Private Limited, Bijnore (Uttar Pradesh) in the month of July, 2007.

(b) The amount of duty evaded in the case is estimated to be Rs. 67 crore.

(c) One of the Directors of the Company was arrested on 12th July 2007, and he is still in judicial custody. Investigations in the case are in progress, on

completion of which, further action as per the Central Excise law will be taken. No amount has been recovered so far.

Report of Transparency International

3532. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that Transparency International's Global Corruption Report 2007 has cast aspersion on Indian Judicial system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide speedy corruption-free judicial remedy?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Transparency International's Global Corruption Report. 2007 has come to the notice of the Government which inter-alia states that 77 per cent of the general public has stated the Indian judicial system to be corrupt. The Government, however, does not agree with the said perception.

(d) The Government has already introduced Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 in the Lok Sabha on 19-12-2006. The Bill seeks to devise a suitable legislative framework for empowering a judicial forum to deal with complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

As far as the District and Subordinate Courts are concerned, the respective High Courts are empowered to take cognizance of complaints against the members of the lower judiciary.

[Translation]

**Water Supply and Sewage
Disposal Schemes**

3533. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to relax rules to make loans available for water supply and Sewage Disposal Schemes through various financial institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Funds for Bio-technology Research

3534. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a scheme for funding bio-technology research by small and medium organizations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India has launched the Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) scheme for funding bio-technology research by small and medium organizations.

(b) The SBIRI aims to strengthen existing private industrial units in biotech sector whose product development is based on in-house innovative R and D, encourage small businesses to increase their R and D capabilities and capacity, create opportunities for starting new technology-based or knowledge-based businesses. It helps in fostering R and D, and increase private sector commercialization derived from Government funded R

and D by promoting public private partnerships. The SBIRI scheme operates in two phases viz. Phase I and Phase II. The funding in Phase I is provided for highly innovative, early stage, pre-proof-of-concept research. Preference is given to proposals that address important national needs. In Phase II, the funding is provided for late stage development and commercialization of innovative research leads. The guidelines and other information on the scheme are available on the web-site of the Department of Biotechnology (www.dbtindia.org).

**Proposal to Sell Government
Accommodation to Allottee**

3535. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to sell the Government accommodation of New Delhi/Delhi to the occupying allottees on his/her retirement if he/she is interested to buy that unit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government to sell Government accommodation of New Delhi/Delhi to the occupying allottees on their retirement.

(b) Not applicable in view of above.

[Translation]

Increase in Population for AUWSP

3536. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the twenty thousand population limit to fifty thousand population for the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch Accelerated Sewage Disposal Programme on the above line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) has been subsumed in Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns w.e.f. 3rd December, 2005. Under the UIDSSMT, urban water supply, sewerage and solid waste management projects can be taken up by the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies, as per guidelines of the scheme for accessing Additional Central Assistance. There is no population limit for UIDSSMT Scheme. All urban cities/towns identified in the Census 2001 are either eligible to access funds under UIDSSMT or Urban Infrastructure and Governance component of JNNURM meant for 63 cities.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Urban Infrastructure and Governance component and UIDSSMT provide for sewerage/sewage disposal projects. Hence, there is no separate proposal for Accelerated Sewage Disposal Programme.

Financial Assistance by NABARD

5337. CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during each of the last three years;

(b) details of amount of investment made, sector-wise;

(c) whether inspite of increase in Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) every year, there is a continuous decrease in the disbursement of loans by NABARD in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The details of financial assistance in terms of number of projects sanctioned and loan sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh by NABARD during each of the last three years, sector-wise is as under:—

(Rs in Crore)

Purpose	RIDF-X (2004-05)		RIDF-XI (2005-06)		RIDF-XII (2006-07)	
	No.	Sanctioned	No.	Sanctioned	No.	Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Minor Irrigation	1450	115.07			6100	367.81
Medium Irrigation	1	9.67	1	4.62		
Major Irrigation	0	0	4	73.24	4	173.15
Rural Bridges	42	71.94	131	276.34		
Watershed	0	0	49	90.53	79	148.27
Flood Protection	73	134.65	32	60.33	3	24.98
Rural Roads	1057	171.70	763	250.70	459	132.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ru. Mkt Yard/Godown	0	0			23	8.61
Cada	0	0				
Drainage	83	13.31	20	16.12		
Riverine Fisheries					44	2.44
Forest Mgmt.	0	0	3	4.95	1	4.09
A. Husbandry	0	0	57	6.63		
Total	2706	516.34	1060	783.46	6713	861.58

(c) and (d) The disbursement of loan under RIDF are made to the State Governments on reimbursement basis. The amount of disbursement under RIDF to Uttar Pradesh during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were Rs. 381.53 crore, Rs. 447.58 crore and Rs. 300.67 crore respectively. Although, an increasing trend in disbursement was seen during 2005-06, there was a decrease in disbursement during the year 2006-07 due to slow pace of implementation of projects sanctioned under RIDF by the implementing departments of the State Government.

[English]

Small PDA in Banks

3538. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a small Personal Digital Assistance (PDA) like device will substitute for bank branches functioning in the villages in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the trial of the device has been made in some bank branches in rural areas;

(d) if so, the result thereof; and

(e) the time by which such device is likely to be introduced in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines advising all scheduled commercial banks to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), Post Offices and other Civil Societies Organisations (CSOs) as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the appointment of Business Facilitator and Correspondent models to bring in the banking fold the poorest of the poor and to extend the banking facility in rural areas.

In the Annual Policy for the year 2007-08, RBI has urged the banks to scale up information technology (IT) initiatives for financial inclusion speedily while ensuring that solutions are highly secure, amenable to audit and follow widely accepted open standards to ensure eventual inter-operability among the different systems.

As of now, a number of financial inclusion IT enabled models are under pilot by several banks in several states. In one of such models, the business correspondent carries hand-held devices, which are essentially smart card readers. The information captured is transmitted to a central server where the accounts are maintained. These devices are used for making payments to rural customers and receiving cash from them at their doorsteps.

**Rural Branches of Private
Sector Bank**

3539. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided licences to private sector Banks to open their branches in rural areas in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The number of rural branches of private sector banks in various States/Union Territories, as on 30th June, 2007, is as under:—

Andhra Pradesh (60), Chandigarh (2), Goa (7), Gujarat (9), Haryana (5), Himachal Pradesh (2), Jammu and Kashmir (198), Jharkhand (1), Karnataka (123), Kerala (106), Maharashtra (81), Orissa (1), Pondicherry (1), Punjab (7), Rajasthan (98), Sikkim (1), Tamil Nadu (256), Uttar Pradesh (4), Uttarakhand (18) and West Bengal (3).

[Translation]

Survey of Urban Areas

3540. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has completed the survey of urban areas in the country having population of more than one lakh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has provided funds to the States for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched a scheme namely National Urban Information System (NUIS) in March, 2006 with an objective to establish a comprehensive information system in the urban local bodies for planning, management and de-centralised governance in the context of provisions of scientific planning and implementation of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act (CAA). The specific objectives of the Scheme are as under:—

(i) Develop attribute as well as spatial data base for various levels of urban planning and decision support to meet requirements of urban planning and management by

- Enabling preparation of Master/Zonal plans.
- Creating a database at Local Body level for monitoring and management of at least relevant functions enlisted in the 12th schedule of 74th CAA.
- Use modern data sources such as Satellite and Aerial platforms to generate a comprehensive 3-tier GIS database in the scale of 1:10,000 for Master Plan and 1:2,000 for detailed town planning Schemes and 1:1,000 for Utilities planning.

(ii) Develop Utility mapping on a pilot basis using Ground Profiling/Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology.

(iii) Integrate conventional data sources with modern data sources to develop GIS databases.

(iv) Develop standards for USIS as well as NUDBI with regard to database, methodology, equipment software, data exchange format etc.

(v) Develop automated integration/application techniques in GIS to provide inputs to Master/Zonal Planning and utilities management—to be utilised by the urban planners/administrators/decision makers.

(vi) To create a town level repository of urban database through National Urban Databank and

Indicators (NUDB and I) Unit which would also assist development of urban indicators for National Urban Observatory (NUO).

(vii) Build capacity among town planning professionals in the use of modern automated methods.

(viii) Decentralize data generation, storage and manipulation at various levels of planning.

In the first instance, 137 towns and cities are to be covered under NUIS Schemes. Details of such towns are given in the enclosed Statement.

As per scheme guidelines, the expenditure on the

scheme is to be borne by the Centre and the State in the ratio of 75:25.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Urban Development has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Survey of India (SOI) for data generation under the scheme on 13th March, 2006. First installment of Rs. 16.24 crore has been released to SOI as Central share. The State Government will provide their share directly to SOI. Besides, as on 5-9-07, a sum of Rs. 2.58 crore has also been released by the Ministry of Urban Development to various States for procurement of hardware and software under the scheme.

Statement

List of Towns proposed under NUIS Scheme

Sl. No.	Town	State	Population 2001	Status	Class
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Port Blair	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	99984	Town	II
2.	Adilabad	Andhra Pradesh	129403	Town	I
3.	Dharmavaram	Andhra Pradesh	103357	Town	I
4.	Madanapalle	Andhra Pradesh	107449	Town	I
5.	Nalgonda	Andhra Pradesh	111380	Town	I
6.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	117320	Town	I
7.	Tadepaligudem	Andhra Pradesh	102622	Town	I
8.	Along	Arunachal Pradesh	17033	Town	IV
9.	Daporijo	Arunachal Pradesh	15756	Town	IV
10.	Dibrugarh	Assam	137861	UA	I
11.	Nagaon	Assam	123265	UA	I
12.	Silchar	Assam	184105	UA	I
13.	Tezpur	Assam	105377	Town	I

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Tinsukia	Assam	108123	UA	I
15.	Arrah	Bihar	203380	Town	I
16.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	350133	UA	I
17.	Darbhanga	Bihar	267348	Town	I
18.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	305525	Town	I
19.	Patna	Bihar	1697976	UA	Metro
20.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	808515	UA	I
21.	Bhilai Nagar	Chhattisgarh	927864	Town	I
22.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	335293	Town	I
23.	Durg	Chhattisgarh	232517	Town	I
24.	Korba	Chhattisgarh	315690	Town	I
25.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	700113	UA	I
26.	Silvassa	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21893	Town	III
27.	Daman	Daman and Diu	35770	Town	III
28.	Delhi U.A.	Delhi	12877470	UA	Metro
29.	Cuncoim	Goa	15860	Town	IV
30.	Curcholem Cacora	Goa	21460	Town	III
31.	Mapusa	Goa	40407	Town	III
32.	Margao	Goa	94383	UA	II
33.	Mormugao	Goa	104758	UA	I
34.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	517708	UA	I
35.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	556956	UA	I
36.	Nadiad	Gujarat	196793	UA	I
37.	Rajkot	Gujarat	1003015	UA	Metro
38.	Surat	Gujarat	2811614	UA	Metro
39.	Vadodara	Gujarat	1491045	UA	Metro

1	2	3	4	5	6
40.	Faridabad	Haryana	1055938	Town	Metro
41.	Hisar	Haryana	263186	UA	I
42.	Kamal	Haryana	221236	UA	I
43.	Panipat	Haryana	354148	UA	I
44.	Rohtak	Haryana	294577	UA	I
45.	Dharamsala	Himachal Pradesh	19124	Town	IV
46.	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	26873	Town	III
47.	Nahan	Himachal Pradesh	26053	Town	III
48.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	144975	UA	I
49.	Solan	Himachal Pradesh	34206	Town	III
50.	Anantnag	Jammu and Kashmir	97896	Town	II
51.	Baramula	Jammu and Kashmir	71896	Town	II
52.	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	612163	UA	I
53.	Sopore	Jammu and Kashmir	59624	Town	II
54.	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	988210	Town	I
55.	Bokaro Steel City	Jharkhand	497780	UA	I
56.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	1065327	UA	Metro
57.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	1104713	UA	Metro
58.	Mango	Jharkhand	166125	Town	I
59.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	863495	UA	I
60.	Bellary	Karnataka	316766	Town	I
61.	Bidar	Karnataka	174257	Town	I
62.	Bijapur	Karnataka	253891	Town	I
63.	Davanagere-Harihara	Karnataka	364523	UA	I
64.	Kolar	Karnataka	113907	M	I
65.	Raichur	Karnataka	207421	Town	I

1	2	3	4	5	6
66.	Alappuzha	Kerala	282675	UA	I
67.	Kollam	Kerala	380091	UA	I
68.	Kozhikode	Kerala	880247	UA	I
69.	Palakkad	Kerala	197369	UA	I
70.	Thrissur	Kerala	330122	UA	I
71.	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	10119	Town	IV
72.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	231672	Town	I
73.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	865548	UA	I
74.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	1098000	UA	Metro
75.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	308922	UA	I
76.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	229307	UA	I
77.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	431162	UA	I
78.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	892483	UA	I
79.	Bhiwandi	Maharashtra	621427	UA	I
80.	Nashik	Maharashtra	1152326	UA	Metro
81.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	1012472	Town	Metro
82.	Pune	Maharashtra	3760636	UA	Metro
83.	Thane	Maharashtra	1262551	Town	Metro
84.	Imphal	Manipur	250234	UA	I
85.	Kakching	Manipur	28724	Town	III
86.	Jowai	Meghalaya	25057	MB	III
87.	Tura	Meghalaya	58978	M	II
88.	Champhai	Mizoram	26465	Town	III
89.	Lunglei	Mizoram	47137	Town	III
90.	Dimapur	Nagaland	98096	Town	II
91.	Mokokchung	Nagaland	31214	Town	III

1	2	3	4	5	6
92.	Baleshwar	Orissa	156430	UA	I
93.	Baripada	Orissa	100651	UA	I
94.	Brahmapur	Orissa	307792	Town	I
95.	Cuttack	Orissa	587182	UA	I
96.	Raurkela	Orissa	484874	UA	I
97.	Sambalpur	Orissa	226469	UA	I
98.	Kraikal	Pondicherry	74438	M	li
99.	Amritsar	Punjab	1003917	Town	Metro
100.	Bhatinda	Punjab	217256	Town	I
101.	Jalandhar	Punjab	714077	Town	I
102.	Ludhiana	Punjab	1398467	Town	Metro
103.	Pathankot	Punjab	168485	UA	I
104.	Patiala	Punjab	323884	UA	I
105.	Bandikui	Rajasthan	16295	M	IV
106.	Bijainagar-Gulabpura	Rajasthan	24362	M	III
107.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan	43108	M	III
108.	Karauli	Rajasthan	66239	M	II
109.	Makrana	Rajasthan	91853	UA	II
110.	Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan	101997	UA	I
111.	Rangpo	Sikkim	3709	Town	VI
112.	Singtam	Sikkim	5432	Town	V
113.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	1461139	UA	Metro
114.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	1203095	UA	Metro
115.	Salem	Tamil Nadu	751438	UA	I
116.	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	866354	UA	I
117.	Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	433352	UA	I

1	2	3	4	5	6
118.	Tiruppur	Tamil Nadu	550826	UA	I
119.	Dharmanagar	Tripura	30790	Town	III
120.	Radhakishorepur (Udaipur)	Tripura	21758	NP	III
121.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	1042229	UA	Metro
122.	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	968256	UA	I
123.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	2715555	UA	Metro
124.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	2245509	UA	Metro
125.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	1161716	UA	Metro
126.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	1203961	UA	Metro
127.	Bageshwar	Uttaranchal	7803	Town	V
128.	Kotdwar	Uttaranchal	24947	Town	III
129.	Mussourie	Uttaranchal	29329	UA	III
130.	Pithoragarh	Uttaranchal	44964	Town	III
131.	Roorkee	Uttaranchal	115278	UA	I
132.	Bhatpara	West Bengal	442385	UA	I
133.	Durgapur	West Bengal	493405	Town	I
134.	Kamarhati	West Bengal	314507	Town	I
135.	Kulti	West Bengal	289903	Town	I
136.	Panihati	West Bengal	348438	Town	I
137.	Rajpur Sonarpur	West Bengal	336707	Town	I

**Undervaluation of Plots/
Flats in DDA**

3541. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of undervaluation of plots/flats in DDA have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) reported that there has been no undervaluation of plots/flats. DDA has also reported that the disposal cost of flats is fixed as per costing policy approved by the Authority from time to time. The revised price of plots put to auction is

also fixed as per pricing policy approved by the Authority from time to time.

(b) and (c) In view to reply to (a) above, does not arise.

[English]

Colonies under Outsourcing Zone

3542. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some colonies in New Delhi has put in the out-sourcing Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the items of works carried out in these colonies through outsourcing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) There is no outsourcing Zone in CPWD.

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

ASSOCHAM's Study on Bank Deposit and Small Savings

3543. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has made a study regarding bank deposits and Government's small saving schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

[Translation]

Single Banking System

3544. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any commission or committee for adopting single banking system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government has not constituted any such commission or committee for adopting single banking system. However, to improve the health of the banking sector in India, in general, and that a Public Sector Banks (PSBs), in particular, and also to bring it at par with international standards, the Reserve Bank of India has prescribed measures for strengthening of risk based prudential supervision, introduction of capital adequacy standards on the lines of the Basel Committee norms, etc. coupled with wide ranging steps undertaken by the Government. After initiation of reforms in early 1990s, financial performance of the banking sector has improved significantly. Balance sheet and profitability indicators viz. Return on assets, Net Interest Margin, Non-Performing Assets (NPA) Ratios, Provisioning and Classification norms for NPAs, Capital Adequacy Ratio etc. suggest that the Indian banking sector now compares well with global benchmarks.

[English]

Commonwealth Projects

3545. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has suffered financial losses due to delay in appointment of a consultant for Commonwealth Games project in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the aforesaid appointment of consultant;

(d) the details regarding tenders invited and withdrawn in respect of each of the aforesaid projects, particularly for Rohini project;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to hold inquiry in the matter to fix responsibility and initiate action against the guilty officer; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) DDA has reported that there was no procedural delay in appointment of the consultant for Commonwealth Games project.

(d) It has been reported that in Rohini Zone, DDA had not suffered any financial loss due to withdrawal of bidders from any contest in connection with the appointment of consultant and awarding of tenders to the single last bidder at the reserved price.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Education Loan

3546. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the repayment percentage of the overseas education loans disbursed by the Nationalised banks during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

National Slum Development Project

3547. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

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

(a) the funds allocated and released to Gujarat, Daman and Diu under National Slum Development Programme during the years 2003-2004 to 2006-2007, year-wise and also in the current financial year; and

(b) the number of persons benefited under the scheme therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The National Slum Development Programme has been discontinued and subsumed into the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) after launching of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) w.e.f. 03-12-2005. The position with regard to the year 2004-04 and 2004-05 is as under:—

(Rupees in lakh)

State	Fund Allocated		Fund Released		No. of beneficiaries Reported
	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	
Gujarat	1908	4088	1860.89	2253.91	2125519
Daman and Diu	100	100	100	0.00	Not reported

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Wages to Labourers in DMRC

3548. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister

of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the companies engaged in Metro Rail Construction work are not paying proper remuneration to the labourers causing them to quit the job; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

**Priority Sector Lending for
Sugar Industry**

3549. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry including the Sugar Co-operative of Maharashtra has been pressing proposal to make the sugar industry eligible for priority sector lending by commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government has been receiving various suggestions from the sugar industry. One of the suggestions was that the sugar industry, being agriculture based, may be classified under priority sector. Under the existing policy, loans to food and agro-based processing units with investments in plant and machinery upto Rs. 10 crore, undertaken by those other than individuals, SHGs and cooperatives in rural areas are treated as indirect finance to agriculture within priority sector. The matter was examined in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It is felt that the sugar industry, being of a large size, requires loans of substantially higher amounts. Thus, bank credit to other segments of the priority sector, particularly the small borrowers may be affected, if loans to sugar industry are included under priority sector lending.

[Translation]

**Foreign Investment for
Housing Development**

3550. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to give its approval to hundred per cent foreign investment in the development of housing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign investment has been invited for housing development in all big and small cities of the country;

(d) if so, the name of the cities in which this investment is likely to be made;

(e) whether other basic infrastructure is also to be developed by housing companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (f) As per extant policy Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% under the automatic route is allowed for construction development projects, including housing commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure township, subject to conditions laid down in Press Note No. 2 (2005 Series) as enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

Government of India

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion

SIA (FC Division)

Press Note No. 2 (2005 Series)

Sub: Foreign Direct investment (FDI) in townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction development projects.

With a view to catalysing investment in townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction development projects as an instrument to generate economic activity, create new employment opportunities and add to the available housing stock and built-up infrastructure, the Government has decided to allow FDI upto 100% under the automatic route in townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction development projects (which would include, but not be restricted to, housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure), subject to the following guidelines:—

(a) Minimum area to be developed under each project would be as under:—

- (i) In case of development of serviced housing plots, a minimum land area of 10 hectares.
- (ii) In case of construction development projects, a minimum built up area of 50,000 sq.mts.
- (iii) In case of a combination project, any one of the above two conditions would suffice.

(b) The investment would further be subject to the following conditions:—

- (i) Minimum capitalization of US\$ 10 million for wholly owned subsidiaries and US\$ 5 million for joint ventures with Indian partners. The funds would have to be brought in within six months of commencement of business of the Company.
- (ii) Original investment cannot be repatriated before a period of three years from completion of minimum capitalization. However, the investor may be permitted to exit earlier with prior approval of the Government through the FIPB.

(c) At least 50% of the project must be developed within a period of five years from the date of obtaining all statutory clearances. The investor would not be permitted to sell undeveloped plots.

For the purpose of these guidelines, "undeveloped plots" will mean where roads, water supply, street lighting, drainage, sewerage and other conveniences,

as applicable under prescribed regulations, have not been made available. It will be necessary that the investor provides this infrastructure and obtain the completion certificate from the concerned local body/service agency before he would be allowed to dispose of serviced housing plots.

(d) The project shall conform to the norms and standards, including land use requirements and provision of community amenities and common facilities, as laid down in the applicable building control regulations, bye-laws, rules, and other regulations of the State Government! Municipal/Local Body concerned.

(e) The investor shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary approvals, including those of the building/layout plans, developing internal and peripheral areas and other infrastructure facilities, payment of development, external development and other charges and complying with all other requirements as prescribed under applicable rules/bye-laws/regulations of the State Government! Municipal/Local Body concerned.

(f) The State Government/Municipal Local Body concerned, which approves the building/development plans, would monitor compliance of the above conditions by the developer."

2. Para (iv) of Press Note 4 (2001 Series), issued by the Government on 21-5-2001, and Press Note 3 (2002 Series), issued on 4-1-2002, stand superseded.

(Umesh Kumar)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

F.No. 5 (6)/2000-FC

Dated 3rd March, 2005.

Land Allotted to BSNL

3551. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether land allotted by L and DO/Union Government to BSNL for construction of staff quarters, opening of school and construction of community centre in NDMC area has not been utilised for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether land use has been changed;

(d) if so, whether the approval was taken from Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and circumstances under which land use was changed?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of answer at (a) above.

[English]

Mechanism against Terror Financing

3552. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a mechanism to check flow of funds for terror financing by electronic transfer through various intermediaries by Non-Resident Indian's (NRI) in the Gulf countries and America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken this move under pressure from international community;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government has set up a Financial Intelligence Unit—India (FIU-India) under Ministry of Finance as monitoring agency under Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002. In terms of Rules notified under the said Act, banks, financial institutions and non-financial institutions report specified cash transactions and suspicious cash transactions to FIU-India. RBI has also issued guidelines, on 13-04-2007, regarding combating of Financing of Terrorism through Electronic Fund Transfer and Wire Transfers. The guidelines are available at RBI's website www.rbi.org.in.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

MR. SPEAKER: It seems some sections of the House are not willing to allow the House to function. So I adjourn the House till 12 Noon.

11.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock

12.00 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Opposition Party has been discussing in the House for last two-three days to constitute J.P.C. The main reason behind discussion being held in the House is that the agreement with America has not been entered into in right earnest ...*(Interruptions)* it poses a danger to sovereignty of India...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER: The House will discuss the issue on the Nuclear Deal.

...(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

RE: ATTACK ON MEMBER, SHRI JANARDHAN REDDY, FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Prabhunath Singhji, today in morning hon'ble Member

of this House Shri N. Janardhana Reddy was attacked but fortunately he escaped. The House should condemn this attack. Sh. Janardhana Reddyji is the former Chief Minister and presently, he is a respectable Member of this House...(Interruptions). He had a narrow escape ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: We should express concern at the incident and express our happiness that a very respected Member of the House has been saved. But these are very serious incidents. We condemn the incident. I am sure, all sections of the House condemn that incident.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: On such matters, of course, the Government had the security forces have to take appropriate action and the culprits should be apprehended.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: Yes, some Members from Andhra Pradesh are associated in the matter.

12.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Hon. Members, whatever you wish to raise, we will discuss that after the Papers are laid on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri SushilKumar Shinde, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:—

- (i) The Indian Electricity Grid Code (Amendment) Regulations, 2007, published in Notification No. L-7/25/(6)/2004-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2007.
- (ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007, published in Notification No. L-7/25(5)/2003-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2007.
- (iii) The Central Electricity Authority (Furnishing of Statistics, Returns and Information) Regulations, 2007, published in Notification F.No. CEA/PLG/LF/9/40/07 in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2007.
- (iv) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Recruitment, Control and Service Conditions of Staff) Regulations, 2007, published in Notification No. F.No. 2/2(1)/2006-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2007.
- (v) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Leased Accommodation) Regulations, 2007, published in Notification No. F.No. 7/1(2)/2007/Estt./CERC in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2007.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item nos. (i to iii) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6938/2007]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Delhi Development Authority, Engineer Member Recruitment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 161 in weekly Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 2007 under section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions)

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6939/2007]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Conduct of Election (Amendments) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 728(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6940/2007]

- (2) A copy each of the following Reports of the Law Commission (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) 196th Report on Medical Treatment to Terminally Ill Patients (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners)—March, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6941/2007]

- (ii) 197th Report Public Prosecutor's Appointments—July, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6942/2007]

- (iii) 198th Report of Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programmes—August 2006 alongwith consultation Paper on Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programmes—August 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6943/2007]

- (iv) 199th Report Unfair (Procedural and Substantive) Terms in Contract—August, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6944/2007]

- (v) 200th Report on Trial by Media Free Speech and Fair Trial Under Criminal Procedure Code, 1973—August, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6945/2007]

- (vi) 201st Report on Emergency Medical Care to Victims of Accidents and During Emergency Medical Condition and Women Under Labour (Draft Model Law Annexed)—August, 2006

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6946/2007]

- (3) A copy the Notaries (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 319(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2007, under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 330(E) dated the 8th May, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6947/2007]

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2007, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 1-CA(7)/102/2007(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2007 under section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6948/2007]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 490(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July 2007, Constituting a Quality Review Board consisting of a Chairman and four members issued under section 29A of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6949/2007]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 448(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June 2007, Constituting a Quality Review Board consisting of a Chairman and ten members issued under section 28A of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6950/2007]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 489(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July 2007, establishing a Tribunal consisting of Presiding Officer and two members issued under section 10B of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6951/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the following Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March 2007 together with Audit Report thereon:—

- (i) Faridkot Bathinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bathinda.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6952/2007]
- (ii) Madhya Bihar Gramin Bank, Patna.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6953/2007]
- (iii) Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Diphu.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6954/2007]
- (iv) Baitarani Gramya Bank, Mayurbhanj.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6955/2007]
- (v) Haryana Gramin Bank, Rohtak.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6956/2007]
- (vi) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6957/2007]
- (vii) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gonda.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6958/2007]
- (viii) Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Cooch Behar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6959/2007]
- (ix) Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank, Mandya.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6960/2007]

- (x) Deccan Grameena bank, Hyderabad.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6961/2007]
- (xi) Narmada Malwa Gramin Bank, Indore.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6962/2007]
- (xii) Ultra Bihar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6963/2007]
- (xiii) Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Papum-Pare.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6964/2007]
- (xiv) North Malabar Gramin Bank, Kannur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6965/2007]
- (xv) Bihar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Monghyr.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6966/2007]
- (xvi) MGB Gramin Bank, Pali-Marwar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6967/2007]
- (xvii) Mewar Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Udaipur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6968/2007]
- (xviii) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6969/2007]
- (xix) Vidharbha Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Akola.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6970/2007]
- (xx) Krishna Grameena Bank, Gulbarga.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6971/2007]
- (xxi) Baroda Eastern Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank, Raebareli.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6972/2007]
- (xxii) Paschim Banga Gramin Bank, Howrah.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6973/2007]
- (xxiii) Aurangabad—Jalna Gramin Bank, Aurangabad.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6974/2007]

- [Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]
- (xxiv) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6975/2007]
- (xxv) Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6976/2007]
- (xxvi) Puri Gramya Bank, Puri.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6977/2007]
- (xxvii) Jhabua Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhabua.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6978/2007]
- (xxviii) Mizoram Rural Bank, Aizwal.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6979/2007]
- (xxix) Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank, Bharuch.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6980/2007]
- (xxx) Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank, Meerut.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6981/2007]
- (xxxi) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6982/2007]
- (xxxii) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Malappuram.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6983/2007]
- (xxxiii) Rushikulya Gramya Bank, Berhampur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6984/2007]
- (xxxiv) Cauvery Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Mysore.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6985/2007]
- (xxxv) Vanachal Gramin Bank, Dumka.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6986/2007]
- (xxxvi) Aryavart Gramin Bank, Lucknow.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6987/2007]
- (xxxvii) Punjab Gramin Bank, Kapurthala.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6988/2007]
- (xxxviii) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6989/2007]
- (xxxix) Sharda Gramin Bank, Satna.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6990/2007]
- (xl) Jaipur Thar Gramin Bank, Jaipur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6991/2007]
- (2) A copy of the Post Office (Monthly Income Accounts) (Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 521(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August 2007, under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6992/2007]
- (3) A copy of the Export-Import Bank of India (Employee's Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English Versions) published in Notification No. EXIM/Pension/2006 in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2007, under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6993/2007]
- (4) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 618A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Industrial Development Bank of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6994/2007]
- (5) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:—

- (i) The Uttaranchal Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. 07/UGB/HO/Pers/300 in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2007.
- (ii) The Shreyas Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. PCW/RRBD/302/988/2006-07 in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2007.
- (iii) The Vananchal Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. HO/Per/38/2007-08 in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2007.
- (iv) The Kalinga Gramya Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. PAD/HO/68/2007-08 in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2007.
- (v) The Dena Gujarat Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. 16 in weekly Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6995/2007]

(6) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) S.O. 693(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (ii) S.O. 769(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.

- (iii) S.O. 854(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (iv) S.O. 982(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (v) S.O. 1102(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (vi) S.O. 1171(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (vii) S.O. 1413(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (viii) The Authority for Advance Rulings (Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax) Procedure (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 486(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6996/2007]

(7) A copy Notification No. G.S.R. No. 339(E) (Hindi and English versions) Published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2007,

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances mentioned which can, as soon as may be after their seizure, be disposed of, the officers who can so dispose them of and the manner in which they can be disposed of, issued under section 52A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6997/2007]

(8) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

(i) G.S.R. 562(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of nonylphenol, originating in, or exported from, Chinese Taipei and imported into India.

(ii) G.S.R. 563(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 97/2002-Cus. dated the 12th September, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6998/2007]

(9) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 433(E) (Hindi and English Versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum directing that the Service Tax on roaming services provided to international inbound roaming subscriber for the period prior to 15-1-2007 shall not be required to be paid, issued under section 83 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6999/2007]

(10) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 565(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 2007,

together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/2006 dated 1st March, 2006, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7000/2007]

12.06 hrs.

REPORT ON INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AT 116TH ASSEMBLY OF INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Report on Indian Parliamentary participation at the 116th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Nusa Dua, Bali (Indonesia) from 29 April to 04 May, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7001/2007]

12.06½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-fifth to Thirteenth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the Tenth and Eleventh sessions.

12.06½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Fifth Report

(Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

12.07 hrs.

—————

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID
ON THE TABLE
Thirteenth Report**

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2007-08) and Minutes related thereto.

12.07¼ hrs.

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**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE
LEGISLATION
Eighteenth Report**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.07½ hrs.

—————

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS
Twenty-eighth to Thirty-first Reports**

[English]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Sir, I beg to present a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Railways:—

- (1) Twenty-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Railways on 'Land Management';

- (2) Twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Seventeenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Railways on 'Railway Production Units—Workshops and Maintenance of Rolling Stock';

- (3) Thirtieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixteenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on 'Expansion of Railways Network—New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification'; and

- (4) Thirty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty-first Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Railways on 'Terminal Facilities in Metropolitan Cities'.

12.08 hrs.

—————

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
Twenty-first Report**

[English]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): I beg to present the Twenty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on the Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007 pertaining to the Ministry of Power.

12.08¼ hrs.

—————

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
Fiftieth Report**

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): I beg to present the Fiftieth Report (Hindi and English versions)

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2007-2008) on Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

12.08½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND FAMILY WELFARE

(i) **Twenty-fourth Report**

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2007.

(ii) **Evidence**

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Committee on Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2007.

12.09¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL,
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

Twenty-third Report

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Government's Policy of Appointment on Compassionate Ground.

...(Interruptions)

12.09½ hrs.

MOTION RE: EXTENTION OF TIME FOR
PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF
JOINT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL POSITION
RELATING TO OFFICE OF PROFIT

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir,
I beg to Move:

"That this House do extend upto last day of the Winter Session, 2007 the time for Presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee to examine the constitutional and legal position relating to office of profit."

MR. SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That this House do extend upto last day of the Winter Session, 2007 the time for Presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee to examine the constitutional and legal position relating to office of profit."

The motion was adopted.

12.10 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority (APEDA)**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, I beg to Move:

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (4) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985 read with Rule 3 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1986, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve

as Members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (4) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985 read with Rule 3 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1986, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.10¼ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Selection of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for Indira Gandhi Official Language Award for the year 2005-06

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to announce in the House that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been selected for first prize of Indira Gandhi official language Award for the year 2005-06. Earlier also, the Ministry had secured first position for this award in the year 2000-2001.

Even though the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is a small Ministry, it has always been making efforts for implementation of the official language policy of the Government of India and to do maximum work in Hindi.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7002/2007]

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the case related to constitute Joint Parliamentary...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Please wait. One or two items are there.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The Government Business will not be taken up first...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER: This is the other matter. Now, I am coming to that.

Now, item no. 22—Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER: Sir, Malhotraji, you will be given opportunity after his speech is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.10½ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 10th of September, 2007 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:—
 - (a) The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2006; and
 - (b) The payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2006.
3. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007.
4. Consideration and passing of the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2005.
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:
 - (a) The Carriage by Road Bill, 2005; and
 - (b) The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1994.

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Now, I have got certain notices for submissions, as you know. Prof. Malhotra, if you want to say something, you can say.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is being discussed in this House for last many days but the Government is turning a deaf ear to it, they are ready to talk. They are adamant. Hon'ble Prime Minister has made a statement here. Hon'ble Prime Minister has spoken thrice and after his statement it has become the property of the House. But after the statement of Hon'ble Prime Minister a Committee consisting of Members from Congress and Communist Party was constituted outside and in that Private Committee

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: You cannot go into this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: When they feel it necessary to constitute a Committee then why can the Joint Parliamentary Committee not be constituted? Sir, our demand is that a J.P.C. should be constituted

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you can suggest an item to be discussed.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No question, Sir.

[Translation]

When a Private Committee can be constituted then why can J.P.C. not be constituted?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: There is a well established procedure on the...

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If a Private Committee can be constituted outside then why can a J.P.C. not be constituted? This is an insult to the opposition and the Parliament also to constitute a Committee outside...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Please allow me to complete my sentence. There is a well established procedure. I have received notices from ten hon. Members suggesting subjects to be taken up for discussion. I will go through that. I will allow the Members who have kindly given notices. They are entitled to speak.

[English]

Prof. Malhotra, as you are the Deputy Leader of the main Opposition party,

[Translation]

That is why I gave an opportunity to you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, but they have ousted the main Opposition Party....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Let me go through the notices.

Shri Hansraj G. Ahir.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No, Sir.
...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: This is submission on the subjects.

[Translation]

This is not a Government business.

[English]

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya. Shri Tukaram Renge Patil.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: Dr. Jatiya, do you want to say?

[Translation]

You make your submission.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following two subjects may kindly be included in the agenda of next week.

1. Making provision by the Government to provide facilities of roads, electricity and construction of internal water ways to provide water for drinking and irrigation purposes in rural areas....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you cannot interrupt. An hon. Member wishes to say about inclusion of subjects for discussion. Interrupting him is not correct. An hon. Member of your Party wants to mention two subjects for discussion.

...(Interruptions)

12.14 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Subhash Maharia and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: Now, item no. 24. We have fixed the Discussion under Rule 193—Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to raise a discussion on problems being faced by the farmers. It is the farmer's issue. You have to raise it.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, do you want to speak?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No.
...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia—not present.

...(Interruptions)

12.15 hrs.

APPRENTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007*

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up item no. 23. Shri Oscar Fernandes.

...(Interruptions)

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 7-9-2007.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Cluses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.16 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*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me a chance to put forth my point. I would like to request you that for the last three days a discussion has been going on the Constitution of JPC in the House...(Interruptions)* We want to make a submission to you and seek your protection...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go in record. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 25.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is the contempt of the House. The Prime Minister has already made a statement in this regard and the House has agreed to that. First of all constitute a JPC of the House and...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Sir, I will be able to speak only when order is restored in the House...(Interruptions)

14.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen
of the Clock.*

15.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at ten minutes past
Fifteen of the Clock*

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 27—Shri Jai Prakash

15.10¼ hrs.

**MOTION RE: THIRTIETH REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 6th September, 2007."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 6th September, 2007."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Items Nos. 28, 29 and 30.

Shri L. Rajagopal—not present.

Items Nos. 31 and 32.

Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh—not present.

15.10½ hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—Introduced

**(I) National Rural Employment Guarantee
(Amendment) Bill, *2007**

(Amendment of Section 6)

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to introduce ** the Bill.

15.11 hrs.

**(II) Agricultural Land Acquisition Regulatory
Authority Bill, *2007**

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 7-9-2007.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

constitution of an Agricultural Land Acquisition Regulatory Authority for the purpose of regulation of land acquisition in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an Agricultural Land Acquisition Regulatory Authority for the purpose of regulation of land acquisition in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to introduce ** the Bill.

15.11½ hrs.

(iii) Payment of Subsistence Allowance to Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Bill 2007*

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of subsistence allowance to farmers and agricultural labourers in order to provide social security to them and their family members and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide payment of subsistence allowance to farmers and

agricultural labourers in order to provide social security to them and their family members and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to introduce ** the Bill.

15.12 hrs.

(iv) National Commission for Farmers Bill, 2007*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the Setting up of a National Commission for Farmers for their welfare and overall development and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the Setting up of a National Commission for Farmers for their welfare and overall development and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I beg to introduce ** the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 37. Shri Alok Kumar Mehta—not present.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 7-9-2007.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 7-9-2007.

15.15 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2004—*Contd.*

(Insertion of new article 16A)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we are taking item no. 38—further consideration of the Motion moved by Shri Mohan Singh.

Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on my legs to speak on Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 (insertion of new article 16 A) introduced by respected Mohan Singhji, Mohan Singhji had expressed very good views in the House while introducing the Bill. I strongly urge the Government that the same may be introduced in such a form so as to make the right to employment a fundamental right in the constitution. Particularly, I would like to lay stress on this Bill.

Sir, unemployment is a serious problem in our country. The statistics show that approximately four crore people are unemployed in the country. Special attention has not been given to this problem by the Union Government and State Governments so far. Various types of schemes and programmes are launched by the Union Government and State Governments to generate employment opportunities but they are not being implemented in true spirit and effectively. As a result the problems of unemployment is aggravating. The Members from all the parties are deeply concerned with these problems.

The Employment scenario in employment exchanges in the States is very disappointing. When the graduate and post graduate youth who go there for registration feel helpless and despaired they are least confident of getting job. Efforts are not being made by the Union Government and State Government to fill up the vacant posts or to utilize the available resources for employment generation in the Government departments. From time to time we discuss in this House the issue of filling up the vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other

Backward classes but those vacant posts are not being filled up by the various Government. If the youths are unemployed, they will tend to committing crimes. There are a number of such youths whose parents have taken lot of pains to educate them so that they may get a job and become a source of income for their family. But when they fail to get jobs, they are compelled to commit crimes. In many cases, youths commit suicide when they fail to get employment. That is why education is required to be made job oriented. When a student goes to the University after completing intermediate or does graduation, he should be given job oriented education of his choice. Subsequently he will be skilled in that job and be able to get employment. If this can be done, we will be able to tackle the problem of unemployment by providing employment to the youths.

It has also been noticed in our country that most of those who are arrested in the criminal cases are the children from the educated and well off families. Most of them are found involved in crimes like kidnapping for ransom. Unemployment is the root cause of all the evils whether it is the problem of terrorism or naxalism. They are compelled to opt for ignominious path of crime on account of being unemployed which deteriorate their standard of living and familial condition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Labour is present here. Stressing on this Bill, I would like to say that meagre fund has been provided in this Bill. You should provide one thousand crore per annum therein, so that enemployed youths could be provided employment or paid unemployment allowance. Late Lohiaji was the first to say that employment should be provided to the youngsters, or they should be paid unemployment allowance. In Uttar Pradesh, this allowance was introduced by the then Chief Minister, hon'ble Mulayam Singh Yadav. First of all he made a provision for paying monthly unemployment allowance to educated unemployed youths. But we feel distressed to say that the existing Government struck down that provision in a single blow which deserves to be, condemned. The Government says that they will do justice. In the National Democratic Alliance Government respected Atalji was the Prime Minister at that time. His Government had said that they would provide

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

employment to one crore people every year but that Government failed to provide employment to the unemployed youths. Our population is constantly increasing. Whether it is the Government of UPA or of NDA or our Government in Uttar Pradesh, the Government will have to think seriously as to how to provide employment to the educated youth so that their deviation from the right path could be checked and we may take our country on the track of the growth. Stressing on this Bill, I would like to urge the Government to take this matter seriously and make a provision for payment of unemployment allowance to the educated unemployed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri S.K. Kharventhan—Not Present.

Chaudhary Lal Singh.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views. The Parliament has failed to transect its business or a long and we feel that we have failed to fulfil the duty that we were expected to do. Our leader hon. Shri Mohan Singhji had also introduced a Bill earlier and today again he has mentioned about right to employment. I thank him because the country needs this kind of approach.

Today the youth of the country is in distress and trouble and taking resort to drugs and this is because of his being unemployed. Persons with job concentrates on his work but an unemployed youth goes astray from his target easily and this is what happening with the unemployed youth. We have formulated many plans during the 61 years of our independence. A number of schemes with different names have been devised. It seems that we are going to provide employment to the unemployed but the reality is otherwise, we are only cherishing dreams keeping aside the reality, nobody is trying to understand the actual problem of the unemployed. I had also mentioned it on the other day that our educational system is "non oriented and non-guaranteed". A well-educated young man from my State

came here in search of job. He was well qualified and quite intelligent.

Sir, that young fellow told me that had slipped into depression and I enquired about the reasons of the same. He told me that his father had died in his childhood and his mother joined in a private school. He and his brother were given half freeship. His mother had taken great pains in educating both of them. But today when he goes in search of job with his degrees he is asked whether he has got any recommendations. When he told that he was only having his degrees he was asked to wait with other candidates sitting outside. I took meal with that young man and prevailed upon him that his depression would kill his mother first. I advised him to make struggle. He said that he does not know as whom to approach, his degrees have no value and nobody is even providing him with mental work.

Today when we accuse our youths as criminals, hooligans with unfair lifestyle we never think what we have given to them. They got the admission when we tried for it, and remained uneducated when we did not try for it. We gave them vocational education as per our wishes and they got it. We gave them technical education and they got it. But their degrees are of no use. No youth feels secured, where will he go? Employment Assurance Scheme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and many other schemes have been formulated. However, unemployment is on the rise instead of decline. We should include employment in our fundamental rights. Government have failed to deliver by enacting Acts. Sometimes ago I had participated in a function where people showed me the job cards. They told me that their cards have been issued to them six months ago and they have worked for three months, but they have not been paid even a single rupee for that. Today, this is the situation even after enacting an Act. I want to say that who would become aware of the unemployment of the youth, when they take out procession the police is there to arrest them and they are even booked under TADA, MISA etc. My suggestion is that first of all education system should be changed, that is important. Everyone, the minorities, majorities SCs and STs should be given education. Educated people should be provided with jobs. Scholarship should be given

to poor students; the unemployed persons have been taken for a ride. Children are being educated without any destination, they are doing graduation, post graduation, M. Phil or Ph.D.

Sometimes back interview for the grade of class IV was going on in my State. I was pained to see M.Sc.s and under metric candidates were queuing up for the post of peon. Why it so happened because when he failed to get a suitable job as per his degrees then he tried to use it for the class IV post. What sort of education system is this where a well educated person applies for the post of class IV? Government should change it if these are only gossips. Great books have been written for the departments, new books hit the stands but controversial things are mentioned in them. Bhagat Singh is depicted as a terrorist; the history of Rana Pratap Singh and the mythological stories of Lord Ram and Krishna get distorted, which is not a fair thing. People are getting very interested in writing substandard stories. I mean to say that they do not get employment. *[English]* What is the fun in having education? You must change the education system. *[Translation]* The system says that it should be treated legally. I mean to say that the education system should be changed so that the children of a Member of Parliament, be he is of Chaudhary Lal Singh, an MLA, an Educationist, IAS or IPS should get their education in government schools so that infrastructure could be checked. If the child of a DC or of a Member of Parliament would study in a distinguished school and the child of a common man would get education from a school where there is no teacher, school building or staff he would be called as unworthy. On the one hand there is State Board and on the other hand there is C.B.S.E. The third one is something else and the fourth one is luxury. What has been style of our education system today? By speaking English people think that this way the country would progress. It is about English speaking persons that they are very modern. They were lesser clothes. Our culture has deteriorated so much that everyday a case comes into being. A good system of education should be in schools. There should be an education structure. They all repent who became doctors by doing M.B.B.S., became engineers after studying engineering, did polytechnic, did I.T.I. and underwent technical training.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chaudharyji, you have already spoken on this Bill. Your name has been called mistakenly, so please conclude your point.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: That was about unemployment allowance. *[English]* This is on right to employment, Sir. This is a different subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I say this based on the record. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, I request to get it included in the Fundamental Rights so that this problem of unemployed can be solved. I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, first of all I thank you for giving me permission to speak on this important Bill. Simultaneously, I would like to thank hon'ble Member Shri Mohan Singh who has drawn the attention of the Government by bringing such an important Bill before the House. Besides, I express my gratitude towards Shailenderji and Lal Singhji who have put forth their views very nicely on the proposal of hon. Member Shri Mohan Singh.

Through this Constitution Amendment Bill, 2004 hon. Member has urged the Government to provide unemployment allowance in compliance with our constitutional fundamental rights. Our country is a vast country. The population of our country is more than one billion. According to the Government's figure about four crore people are unemployed in the country. I am telling this as per the figures of those people who have got their names registered with the Employment Exchanges and I think that there are large number of educated young people who do not get their names registered with the Employment Exchanges. They have no interest in getting their names registered with the employment exchanges because employment opportunities are decreasing. They are of the view that there is no use of getting their names registered in these employment exchanges because there is no job opportunity.

15.37 hrs.

[Shri Mohan Singh in the Chair]

[Shri Ram Kripal yadav]

Earlier it was essential in the government advertisements published through Employment Exchanges that only the applications of those whose names are received through Employment Exchanges will be considered. But no vacancy is being advertised from the office of State Government or Central Government for years together. The new economic policy has created a big problem for our country in regard to vacancies. Earlier it was used to say that the new policies will bring employment opportunities and Multinational companies will increase employment opportunities. But following the computer era, where fifty people used to work manually, only five people are sufficient to accomplish the same work and at some places, there is no need of manpower. The opportunities for employment are being reduced like this. Such policies are being framed, due to which employment opportunities are decreasing day by day. The employees are being retrenched and they are forced to opt for V.R.S. particularly at the time of poor economy. Thus, the opportunities for recruitment of the young people are being finished. When no vacancy is published, how you would get employment. Today young people are in frustration. This sorry state of affairs has prompted hon. Member to bring this Bill. What is happening in the country today? To which direction the young people of our country are going. Unemployment has given rise to crime all over the country. The Naxalism is also increasing. But the basic reason behind all this is bread. When he does not get bread and employment then he will be compelled to commit a theft or dacoity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, generally you must have seen that now-a-days the incidents of crimes and murders taking place in the country are being exaggerated and telecast on TV which is affecting the society, anyway this is an different thing. The people who have pursued the Ph.D. are involved in crimes. What is the reason behind it? Hon. Minister you will have to realize it. You belong to a village. You have earned this position after suffering a lot. You have spent a long period with the villages. You must have felt it more. The basic reason is that the people are getting frustrated. Our country is already poor, despite getting education people do not

get employment. The half of population of this country is living below poverty line. Employment opportunities are decreasing at large scale due to economic policies. We are retrenching manpower at large scale. I am talking about Government offices. The manual work is also being snatched. I had discussed it last time also.

Now a days the mall culture is coming to our country. Tea, shoe-polish, toothpaste and vegetables are also being sold in malls. All the items are being sold in one building. Hon. Minister, the city to which you belong, has many number of malls but whether you have ever tried to know the condition of the people in villages where they are being rendered jobless. Hon'ble Member has felt it that is why he has brought this Bill. Such type of policies are being framed and such culture is being adopted while our economy should be different. Our culture should be different but we are adopting foreign culture contrary to ours. That is why I am to say that we cannot survive in this culture.

India is a vast country. There is already so much poverty and unemployment. We are not able to satisfy people. The Government has started Employment Guarantee Scheme. The Government wants to provide employment to the village people. But this scheme is also not being implemented effectively. We should also pay attention towards the educated unemployed people because nothing can be done without education. It is also a good thing to pay attention towards education but it is a sorry state of affairs that the people are not getting employment even after completion of education. The process of linking the technical education being imparted through ITI or any other institute with employment has been started which also is unable to provide employment. The items made in our small industries are not able to compete with items made by foreign companies. You will find China's goods in each and every house of our country. But what will happen to our industry?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I request you not to ring the bell. If bell is rung, it will create an awkward situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken fifteen minutes. Please be brief.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I have just started speaking. What happens in fifteen minutes? This is such kind of a subject on which discussing can be held for more than fifteen hours. I am trying to be brief. I seek your cooperation. I would not be able to speak anything without your cooperation and whenever you ring the bell, an awkward situation is created. If I speak anything wrong then you may ring the bell....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you are right. But this is our compulsion. Please be brief.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it may be your compulsion but it is the consent of the House that I should speak...(Interruptions). Even you also would like that I should speak...(Interruptions). I was telling that the situation is going to be worst. Here I would like to tell that when a child is born in the foreign country, his psychological test is conducted. To which they are paying attention? We have such a education culture under which parents want their sons to be doctor, engineer, I.A.S. and this is natural for them and also for you. But the child has no interest because he knows that he is not going to get employment even after that. He pursues M.A. or Ph.D. under compulsion. Therefore, education should be linked with employment. Today, employment is not being given in commensurate with the population because population is increasing at the rate of 1.9% while unemployment is increasing at the rate of 2.9%. How will this country run and how can unemployment removed? When the Constitution has provided Fundamental right, it is the responsible of the Government to make arrangements to provide employment. If it cannot provide the employment, then arrangement should be made to give unemployment allowance. I strongly support this thing Hon'ble Minister Sir, while enacting law, what will be your priority? Will you provide them employment or unemployment allowance? Providing employment allowance will put mental as well as financial pressure on Government and under that pressure the Government will make arrangements for providing employment. Unless employment is provided, unemployment allowance must be paid. The strain on Government exchequer will compel the Government to consider and make a policy so as the people may get employment. But the existing policy is

not being executed. We are unable to discharge our duties Properly. That is why, I support this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the naxalite activities are increasing in our country and the unemployment is its root cause. We have to check it. The Government has to frame policies to strengthen the economy of the country. If you want to control crime as well as naxalism at gunpoint, it is quite impossible. Employment is the cause of suffering of our youth that is why, their exploitation is being done. As Chaudhary Lal Singhji was stating about Jammu and Kashmir, the youth of the State are being exploited. They are being lured by monetary incentives to launch terrorist activities. As they are unemployed they have no other option to earn bread for their parents and children, they get involved in terrorist activities easily. It is their utter helplessness which attract them towards terrorism. Crores of people of the country love their nation but the youth are getting involved in terrorist activities at an alarming rate. They kill themselves by being used as human bombs. They are causing loss to others as well....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude your point, you have spoken long enough. There are many other hon'ble Members who are waiting to express their views.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not taken much time, but if you want, I will conclude it shortly. The main cause of the turmoil is unemployment. Our country follows the principles of Buddhism and everyone wants to have peace, but it is not being practiced. The unemployment is its root cause. That is why, hon. Minister Sir, I would like to urge you to take some concrete measures to overcome the problem of unemployment. Please consider this proposal seriously. The Government should accept this proposal. Do not persuade the hon'ble Member to withdraw the Bill. We listen speeches daily, your reply will also come. Probably, it will not satisfy us. Until the youth get employment or unemployment allowance, their capacity and caliber cannot be utilized for the development of the nation. That is why, I would like to request you to change the policies and start the recruitment for the vacant posts at the earliest. A new tradition has come in force now-a-days. Earlier, the retirement age for the

[Shri Ram Kripal yadav]

teachers and doctors was 56 and 58, which has been now increased upto 64 and 65 years. On the one hand, a person cannot work because of old age as his health does not allow him to work and on the other hand such kind of practices are minimizing the employment opportunities for the youth. If the service of an employes has been extended for two years, it means the vacancy has been postponed for another two years, which disqualifies eligible applicants for new recruitment. You can bring our country back on the track of development by reviewing all such policies. It is the only way which will bring peace. Therefore, I would like to request that either you accept this Bill or make some alternative arrangements. It can be possible only when right to employment is included in the list of fundamental rights after making amendment in the Constitution.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. You have yourself introduced this Bill and I congratulate you for this since it is a very relevant Bill in view of the unemployment prevailing in the country. As you and all my colleagues present here are very well aware that whenever we visit our constituencies, the most important issue for the people who come to meet us is that they want jobs. People often come to us and request us to recommend them for job in a particular institution or office or organization etc. or anywhere. You all must be aware of the fact that there's nothing like this in the jurisdiction of any Member of Parliament or Member of Legislative Assembly or any other person associated with the Government. He cannot provide a job by merely asking some other persons telephonically or otherwise to do so. Be it a government department or a private organization, people across the world think that they could get a job if we only try a little in this regard. They do not know that jobs cannot be got by merely making telephone calls in this regard. It may be right or wrong but it has been made a practice in the country. When our country became free, a practice started evolving in our country after the year 1947 that if anyone approached a Minister or an influential personality seeking a job, he or she used to get a job if the said Minister or an eminent person recommended or forward him or her.

But, those were the practice during early period of independence. Gradually, laws and rules were framed. Public Service Commissions were set up at Central level and in the states. Since then, recruitments in the government departments are made on merit and examination basis. You cannot give everyone a job and it should not be done so. One should not be favoured also in this regard. You may yourself see various types of actions being taken against those who do so and get anyone a job irresponsible. A number of members of various Public Service Commissions are presently behind the bars.

The most important issue today pertains to unemployment and there could be no doubt about it. So, the Bill introduced by you is very much relevant. Until and unless we basically provide the people Right to Employment in the Constitution, the youth of the country, who are the future of the country, would have no aspiration of how to live life. It is very necessary and I heartily congratulate you for this. There is no doubt about it that it should be provided in the Constitution. The question now arises that if the Bill is drafted and thereafter amendments are made to law, how would you implement it after amendments to the law. Now that there is Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which is a very ambitious scheme. Time and again the Government of India have announced that there will not be any ceiling regarding the budgetary allocation for this scheme. It may be Rs. 18 thousand crores or even 20 thousand crore. I would talk about my own State where there is no implementation of this scheme. The Government of Bihar were asked to implement the scheme with the fund which was allocated to them for the purpose. I am telling you the figures upto February. Only 21 or 22 per cent amount was spent out of it. Why was it so? According to them cent per cent amount could not be spent. But, it should have been at least fifty per cent of the total allocation. The people who are jobless in the rural areas must have got employment for their livelihood. If they get their wages at the rate of Rs. 68 per day, they will earn at least Rs. 1800/- in a month. But, they are deprived of this amount of Rs. 1800/-. They are getting only Rs. 500 or Rs. 300 or Rs. 400. Worse still, no record is being maintained in this regard. They say

how the record is maintained. Wages are paid for earth work, but the extent of such a work is calculated with a separate method in which if you dig 80 or 100 cubic feet earth, only then you will get wage of such work. What is the way by which such a standard has been fixed? We are always in the search of able bodied persons barring physically seek ones. If you have able bodied person, even then they cannot dig 110 cubic feet earth in 8 hours and if they cannot do so, they will not get their wages. As a result of it, this ambitious scheme is not being implemented. You did not give much time to Shri Ram Kripalji to speak, saying that so many hon. Members are yet to speak. So, I am giving an example which is incorporated in the rules but we are not able to act upon it. Responsibility must be fixed in this regard.

We wish that the Bill be passed and a proper amendment be made in the Constitution and our people get justice and jobs. When all these things are done, we need to pay attention to its implementation. Now, the another thing is naxalism which was pointed out by Shri Ram Kripalji. I come from such area which has a long history of bloodshed. Much bloodshed and violence is reported from this area. Thousands of people were killed. Our area is badly affected from naxalism for which some measures need to be taken. I would like to point out that I have no grievances with those who are following the philosophy of naxalism. I would like to point out for the reason that they are seeking socio-economic equality, development and an end to all dispute regarding land. These things are correct but I disagree with their philosophy of violence. If they want to get their demands fulfilled by way of committing violence, killings and bloodshed, I am dead against such an act. That should not be done.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we appeal to them that they should give up such an attitude. The ground reality which lies in the philosophy of naxalism is that they should have economic resources, but they do not have so. They do not have the money or resources to earn their livelihood. That is why naxalism is growing. In view of this, there is an urgent need to explore the

opportunities of employment. For this it is necessary to make some provision in the Constitution and it will be possible only when the Constitution is amended, as has been proposed in this Bill. Therefore, I support this Bill.

Sir, Shri Ram Kripalji has stated that one computer is disposing the works of 10 people, so the advocacy of computers meant you were abolishing the employment opportunities. This is not correct at all. In fact, if the plan of electronic governance, as proposed by the Central Government, comes in effect, unemployment will not increase and those who are in job will not be jobless. With this plan there will be reforms in the functioning of administration. If e-governance reaches the Panchayat level, at least two people having knowledge of computer will get employment in each Panchayat. For example, there are 203 Panchayats in our Constituency. Each Panchayat needs two computer operators. In this way, 406 people will get jobs and, at the same time, some operators should also have to be kept as stand by. If the recruitment is made for additional strength, some more people will get employment opportunities. I have first hand experience of all these things because we are making efforts to do this in our constituency Aurangabad. So, if we take steps for the application of computers in administrations, we will not be promoting unemployment.

Sir, if we implement e-governance, it will be necessary for us to make people, competent enough so that they could work in e-governance. For this, computer education is necessary, whether it is in the form of diploma or degree in BCA or MCA and for this purpose, the State Government should have to give priority to computer education. It is more necessary and I am repeating this necessity. In view of all these things my own opinion is that your Bill is very prudential and I fully support it. I wish that the youths of our country should get employment which is their basic right. They should be in a position to say "we need job, so give us jobs". It is possible only when our Constitution is amended and the Bill presented here to bring amendment in the Constitution is passed on urgent basis in the House, and I strongly support it and I once again congratulate you for thinking about the good thing like this.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you Mr. Chairman for piloting this Bill and also for presiding over this House when I am standing here to deliberate on this important topic.

The Motion is to amend the Constitution of India, in the provisions in the Directive Principles of State Policy relating to employment. It is to provide equal opportunity in public employment, to promote the right to employment in Part III of the Constitution thereby making it a fundamental right of the citizens.

Mr. Chairman, as the Mover of this Bill, you have stated that the State shall provide gainful employment to every able-bodied citizen who has attained 18 years of age. If the State fails to provide employment to any such person, he shall be given an unemployment allowance till he gets gainful employment. In the Financial Memorandum it is stated that around Rs. 1,000 crore per annum be kept as recurring expenditure and Rs. 1,000 crore be kept as non-recurring expenditure.

In this age of booming economy, I would like to quote two instances, which have major significance for all of us. One is about an advertisement which was published in a newspaper for which more than 10,000 applicants, including MBAs, Engineers, applied for two posts of Peon, which offered a salary of Rs. 5,500 per month. Please remember there were 10,000 applicants, including those with MBA and Engineering degrees. This shows the amount of unemployment and the hankering to get a Government job. The other instance is about an eighty-year old beggar from Ayodhya who was able to educate his two sons. One of whom became a doctor and the other became a lawyer.

So, these two contrasting situations are before us, before the nation. Begging is an offence; and prolonged unemployment is a sin that an individual is subjected to by the State. Though the Supreme Court has taken a serious view of starvation deaths, reports of unemployment deaths have failed to catch the attention of any spirited organisation or individual.

According to one estimate, over 41 million educated and qualified persons are registered with employment

exchanges across the country. In fact, many others are not able to get their names registered because registering their names in such exchanges is a difficult task, as registering an FIR is also a difficult task in police stations. Whether they would ever get a job or become over-aged by the time an opportunity comes their way is another matter, but the fact remains that educated as well as others are entitled to the constitutional right to life, which according to the Supreme Court is incomplete without livelihood.

Since, 1980, as many as 30 countries, including 18 developing countries, have incorporated right to work in their constitutions. Another 25 countries have guaranteed "Working Right" to their citizens. But even after sixty years of Independence, the basic right to life continues to elude the people of India. According to article 41 of the Constitution, the State shall within the limits of its economic capacity make effective provisions for securing the right to work, to education, and to public assistance in cases of unemployment. To give effect to this Directive Principle of the Constitution, the erstwhile Government of Madhya Pradesh, in the year 1980, had undertaken a novel experiment. To provide employment opportunities to the rural educated youth, it created an organisation named "Bhoomi Sena", that is "Land Army" and recruited thousands of educated youth as "Bhoomi Sainiks" who have been employed in constructing irrigation work, canals, roads, soil conservation in the country-side on payment of daily wages under the Minimum Wages Act. Engaged in nation building manual work, they were treated as public servants, learning dignity of labour. It is not known—the Government may find out—having worked successfully for about five years, I fail to understand why this experiment was not inculcated by other States. But it was also stopped in Madhya Pradesh after five years.

Following the explosive rise in unemployment through the 1920s, many Western capitalist countries introduced different forms of unemployment insurance. By the 1980s, the Constitution of 30 countries, as I have said, including 18 developing nations had incorporated the right to work. The Indian Constitution does include the right to work via article 41, but this is not a part of the Fundamental Right. It is figuring only in the Directive

Principles. Various judgments of the Supreme Court have suggested that the State must place the Directive Principles on par with Fundamental Rights. Whether this constitutional obligation is fortified by making the right to work a Fundamental Right or a stronger meaning is attributed to the Directive Principles, either way the State has an obligation to protect its people from unemployment.

India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ILO Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Both of these incorporate the right to work. There is an international imperative as well.

Policy in India began with the presumption that the only salvation for millions of unemployed in the countryside was for them to get work in industries set up in urban areas. The massive droughts of the mid-60s forced a policy rethink that led to Green Revolution. It also led to a monumental neglect of our poorest regions. The result is, there is intense concentration of poverty and distress in certain pockets. Today, economic development is increasingly widening disparities across the States. This is a major challenge today before this country.

The Economic Advisory Council to the hon. Prime Minister headed by C. Rangarajan has stated that there will be no unemployment by 2010. Whether people are satisfied with their remuneration or not is a different matter, but large number of people believe today that economic growth will create employment. Rangarajan has given certain figures. I am not going to those details. But UNDP has stated that there is jobless growth. Today in many countries and also in our country, the report states that in India and China, there is sharp fall in unemployment intensity of growth. There are very many reasons behind it—the change from regulation—based substitution economy to competition and integration with the global economy has its impact. Sharp shift away from labour-intensive economic activities towards capital-intensive one is another reason. These are the broad parameters about which I am just touching.

Inappropriate market intervention is also affecting the job market. I would come to the suggestions. I would

complete within a few minutes. The Infosys mentor Shri Narayana Murthy has said that to tackle the rising poverty and unemployment, Government should create an environment where there is incentive for more entrepreneurs to create a large number of jobs. Today, the law is discouraging the entrepreneurs to set up industries to provide more jobs. We have a large number of illiterate and semi-literate people. How do you meaningfully employ such people? Shri Narayana Murthy says that these people have to be moved into low-tech manufacturing. China has been able to create over 140 million jobs in the last 11 years by moving people from agriculture and rural areas to low-tech manufacturing. Our workers have no upgrade their skills. Why there is a rise in the rate of unemployment today? Unemployment is most amongst the unskilled.

There is a vast shortage of talent at the skilled level. This is the failure of the Government to address some hard policy issues on labour. We have to recognize and address this. Political response would be to reach for more State interventions including pushing up employment in Government agencies. But there is a need to correct the policy. As the service sector which is actually providing more employment today in our country, the service sector is unlikely to give more jobs after a given point of time. There is a need today to give industry the freedom on this score.

The census figures indicate that 17 per cent of India's graduates are jobless. If employment is defined as productive work, the figures go upto 40 per cent. The total number of unemployed in the country has increased three-fold in the last ten years. These are alarming figures. In absolute numbers, the jobless army is 44.5 million strong. Therefore, there is a need to change our attitude towards skills to democratise knowledge and work. It requires to recast the education system also.

Now, I will conclude by making the last point. Only mass production by mass manufacturing units can absorb a large number of unemployed youths. Vocational training be given significance to upgrade skills. Industries that generate jobs should be encouraged. Wealth should be put to socially good uses.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

The rich should save and invest. The Government must make policies that encourage the rich to establish industries that generate much employment. There is a need for a total change in development plan which should emphasise on labour-intensive industries to tackle the problem of unemployment. As employment in the traditional agricultural sector is dwindling, this has become more important. There is great potential for agro industries and some identified rural industries like horticulture, floriculture, etc. The perception of the State machineries only to increase the GDP earnings by labour-reducing technologies and strategies would have to change because the lower tiers of the population have also a right to existence. The dual purpose of employment generation and rural development was addressed by Mahatma Gandhi many years back. He said:

"Do not go in for production for the masses. Go for mass production by the masses."

If there is a course correction, we can meet the challenge of unemployment. If we go in for mass production, for mass consumption instead of having production for the masses by some limited industries, we can meet the challenge of unemployment. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for drawing our attention towards a basic problem. Actually through your Bill we want to fulfil the dream cherished by our great leaders of making India a prosperous country. According to the Bill, State will provide profitable employment to every able person who has attained the age of 18 years. This is first part. It means providing livelihood to every able person and every person does not mean only a single person but the persons dependent on him. If a youth is living with his old aged parents then they should also be considered. If he is married then his wife and if he has small children then they all should be considered. Our slogan is "Hum Do Humare Do", can others be left in the lurch? What will happen to old parents. We will

have to consider entire Indian family. We can see unemployment is on the rise and in such circumstances your second suggestion is that if State is not able to provide employment to any person and no arrangement could be made for it then unemployment allowance will be provided to him. Employment Guarantee Scheme has been introduced but it has not reached a large number of people. We are hopeful about it. We have not lost hope yet. But once it is implemented it should offer employment opportunities through out the year. People will be employed for 100 days then they will receive unemployment allowance and this procedure will go on. What is the benefit of such an employment? What is employment actually. If this employment do not fulfil his daily needs then it is of no value. What is the amount to be given as unemployment allowance? Whether this allowance is sufficient to meet his needs? If not then there is no point in giving it. We are calling it an allowance so that he can get his daily meals from it. It has been mentioned in the Bill that if the State fails to provide employment to any person then until he gets profitable employment, he will be provided unemployment allowance. Minimum wages should be provided as per the work done offer of employment should not degenerate into unremunerative work or exploitation, but in today's world of globalisation it will not do to talk about minimum wages because globalisation means capitalization which means some people will become prosperous, one lakh people will become billionaires while the remaining person will lag behind. It has been mentioned further in the Bill that until profitable employment is provided unemployment allowance will be given according to the rules and regulations laid down by the law. Unemployment allowance means that if a person is unemployed then his daily needs of food, shelter and other necessities of life should be taken care of through this allowance. All arrangements should be made to fulfil all the basic needs of a human being. We all are aware of the plight of the village, poor people and labourers. We all are viewing this whole situation in the backdrop of India completing 60 years of Independence and we need to do so.

The different schemes being run by the Government should be reviewed in the context of the amount spent on them and achievement made. Until

we take into account the people who are pushed to the brink of starvation and are struggling to make both ends meet due to unemployment, and do something for them, the Government achievements will be meaningless. The Government can go ahead with its schemes but the need of the hour is to provide bread and butter and shelter to the common man....(Interruptions) They are in power that is why we are asking them to do all this. Otherwise we should not have asked them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have drawn our attention towards a very important issue. In Parliament we can do nothing except drawing attention towards on issue. What can we do besides this. So the Government should ensure that the budget provision should be made for all so that nobody starves. Shelter food and clothes should be given to those who are in need of them. All this is not being done because the public distribution system is not working properly. It does not have foodgrains, clothes or anything else. In this way this system has become useless. So the Government should start from there only. The Government should ensure that every citizen in our country which might have a population more than 110 crore should get food. This is the view of a welfare state. Which entails welfare of all people. When the constitution of India says that we the people of India—it means a society where equality prevails but in reality one person is very powerful and the other is very weak, one is a multi billionaire, a billionaire or a multi millionaire and other has nothing. The disparity between the income is too glaring. At one time it was envisaged that there should be some proportion between the income of the rich and the poor but now this difference has widened excessively, this should not have happened. Recently it has been appeared in some magazines that some people are getting salaries in crores. Why this huge amount is being paid in salaries? Since globalization has taken place, capital is dominating, so one has to bow one's head before it and accept the situation. There is no other option except it. Our country is a democratic country. Is it a democracy in real sense? Each and every word of Preamble should be followed, for which the Government should be committed, no matter which Government is in power. Whosoever has been in the

power, does not matter but what progress we have made in the last 60 years, this should be looked into. Until we honestly consider all the aspects, we would definitely not be able to do justice. So, the vision of social, economic and political justice can only be fulfilled if social justice is accompanied by economic justice. Our first requirement is economic justice because economic justice brings prosperity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem related to education should be considered as you are a great thinker so it is time to think in this regard. Today, everybody is not able to get education. One is getting education on donation, while the other is getting expensive education. One pays Rs. 2-3 lakh as school fee for a year while the other has not even roof over its school. The gap is increasing day-by-day and it is not going to bring equality in the country. I request that the allowance to be given for education and employment should not be so meagre as to turn into a joke. It should be enough to meet one's minimum requirements. It has to be seen that how this allowance can support one's family and daily requirements. After that, technical aspects should be discussed. The conclusion of such a discussion would be satisfactory. Freedom means that the Government should reach out to the poorest of the poor. If any changes have occurred after the independence, they should be visible otherwise tall promises are of no use to us?

"Bade bade naare ki gharibi hatayenge, unka kya fayda, kya matlab hai uska.

Buland Vaadon ki bastiyan lekar, hum kya karenge.

Hamein hamari zameen de do, aasmaan lekar kya karenge."

What we want is something worthwhile which can bring prosperity to all. They should provide employment to everyone. The Government has talked about imparting training, but there is no infrastructure for that. They should find out some way to provide infrastructure so that everybody gradually gets a chance to live with self-respect.

I thank you for bringing this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for discussion on this Bill is over, but I have names of three more Members who want to speak on it. So if the House wishes, the time for the discussion on it can be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, there should be Zero Hour also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, that would follow.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Sir, I would like to thank you for the concern you have expressed for the unemployed people of the country.

Sir, nearly 60 years have passed since we gained independence. The most important thing is that 40 per cent of our population is young, but it is a matter of regret that on the one hand, we are going to be called the country of youths on the other hand, these youths are in the grip of unemployment and it is promoting crime, terrorism, usage of drugs etc. You have said about providing unemployment allowance while expressing your concern over unemployment. I do not think it as a permanent solution to this problem. I would like to support the Bill, but at the same time, I feel that this is not a permanent solution. I feel that the root cause of this serious problem is the continuously increasing population and we should think over as to how to check it. Be it terrorism or other criminal activities, 60 to 70 per cent reason behind it is unemployment. Further, the education policy of our country is also to be blamed. A student is not able to decide which career he has to opt and in which direction he has to go till class tenth. By the time he starts thinking in this direction, he completes 18. If he belongs to some rich family he has a family business to lean on, but if he is from a poor family, then gradually he deviates from the path. First of all, we have to make changes in our education policy as the school bags are getting heavier, books are getting heavier, new subjects are being introduced. One-by-one, but our education is not leading us to our destination, it is not imparting social education. What does the High School Board examination signify? It has become a synonym

of terror. Many students commit suicide if they do not get good marks. I am still unable to understand the significance of this examination. The education being provided abroad is different. At a very early age, they observe the inclination of the student and then education is imparted accordingly. In our country, it is quite late in life that the students are able to make up their minds about their inclination. So, it is necessary to change the education policy of our country.

On the one hand is our education policy and on the other the inequality in education. The difference between the present standards of education for a rich kid and a poor kid pushes the later towards gruesome crimes. I would like to give an example. Various engineering and medical colleges are opened for the minorities and the scheduled castes, but if they do not pay Rs. 30 lakhs as donation to that college, they do not get admission. This is nothing but a joke. I would say if it is investigated then the Government would come to know the number of such colleges. A minority college is started in an area because the people of minorities community live there but hardly 15 students of minority community get admission there because they are unable to give donation. You can well imagine the manner in which they are denied admission by trapping them into legal complexities. The gap between riches and poverty is one of the major reason of the unemployment. If we are concerned about unemployed youths, we would have to change our education system and check the population first. A number of unemployed youths are found involved in various terrorist activities, but they are not in it by choice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if this Bill is passed, we would be giving unemployed youths Rs. one thousand as allowance on one hand, but on the other, there are several crimes by which people are earning a lot. For this reason, youths get tempted to deviate from the path. We would have to think whether one thousand rupees are sufficient to support oneself when prices are so high.

The scheme of Rashtriya Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana was given a legal shape to provide employment in the country and was implemented. But our implementation is so poor that we have only

implemented it but without results. You may take the example of Bihar, there are certain district and villages where water is not required, but people are being given the soil related jobs. This does not make sense and nobody gets employment. If we really want to uproot this problem of unemployment, we have to keep a vigil on its implementation. We have implemented old age pension scheme, but you would see that the beneficiary does not get money for six months to one year. If one is entitled to one thousand rupees, he/she gets two hundred only. This way the schemes with crores of rupees are going on, but these are not being implemented properly. The corruption has taken roots in the country. No scheme will be successful unless it is not checked and the problem will not be solved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support your view. This is a matter of serious concern. In few years our country would be a nation of youths. This is beyond understanding how this problem would be solved by giving just Rs. one thousand only at that time and we have to consider whether we would be able to attract youths with this meagre amount.

On one hand, we are expressing our concern over unemployment, and on the other, we are supporting SEZ policy. We are implementing SEZ in the country. We have to see what benefit we are getting out of it. Number of farmers in Punjab whose land was taken for SEZ were rendered unemployed. A farmer works round the clock, toils for his land and we buy his land at cheaper rate and sell it to the capitalists, how is it going to benefit the farmer. We have not formulated any such policy for SEZ as to how to provide employment to that person and his family who is shareholder and whose land has been taken for SEZ, who has a family of 7-8 members and farming is his source of livelihood.

If we are genuinely concerned about unemployment, we first have to bring a Bill for population control. A Bill has been brought about providing an allowance of rupees one thousand but when there would be population explosion, then how many people would we be able to get support in this manner. This should also be taken into consideration. So, the most important thing is to reform the education policy and check population

growth. Further, I would like to say that we should take sports as a compulsory subject. Keeping in view the present scenario in the country and increasing unemployment, sports should be included in the school curriculum as a compulsory subject so that the task of character building of youths could be done. How long would we be able to support them if they lack in character. Some crimes even help them to earn crores of rupees which attract unemployed youth towards them. So it is a matter of serious concern.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill presented by you and appreciate your views. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN (Trichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that you have introduced a Bill on a very important problem that the country is facing. It is a Constitutional amendment by which you are suggesting that every able-bodied person should be provided with a gainful employment. If the Government feels doing so, you are suggesting that they should be provided unemployment allowance.

Now, Sir, I would like to present some of the eloquent facts before this House. These are the facts given by the journal *Yojana* of the Planning Commission. It says that unemployment in the country today is variously estimated between 250 million and 300 million. That is the magnitude of unemployment. The journal also says that annual addition to this unemployment is 35 million to 40 million. So, it is growing every year. The journal also says that the generation of job opportunities every year is just 30 million jobs. So, that is to say, if we go at this rate, unemployment in this country will increase more steeply as years pass by. This is the situation. In this situation, if you have to find a solution to the problem of unemployment, the Government will have to find some way, and they should create 60 million to 70 million job opportunities every year. I do not think that the Government has any such plan.

Now, while concluding this discussion, we can all imagine that the hon. Minister will request you to kindly withdraw this Bill and will say that the Government will

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

come with certain proposals. That is the fate of all these Bills. But I have a suggestion. The Government can suggest these things. If the Common Minimum Programme is taken up seriously and two Programmes are implemented, I think, to a great extent, Sir, what you have demanded in your Bill could be met. One is the Employment Guarantee Scheme. If that is seriously implemented throughout the country, Sir, it will partly meet the requirement of what you are seeking for. It guarantees 100 days' employment to an individual. If employment for 100 days is not given by the Government, then unemployment allowance is also guaranteed. That is for one individual in a family. But today, even that Scheme is implemented only in 300 districts. Another 300 districts in the country are not having even that programme. So, if the Government is serious, while replying, I would expect that they will give an assurance to this House that at least the Employment Guarantee Programme will be implemented in all the districts of the country. Immediate steps may be taken by the Government. If that is done, it would partly meet your demand.

Another thing is what the Common Minimum Programme has promised, that is about the Bill in respect of unorganized labour. The Minister in-charge of the Labour Ministry promised this House, and our Parliamentary Affairs Minister promised long ago and said that this Bill would be coming. The Government has not yet listed that Bill. I am mentioning the Bill in respect of the unorganized workers' welfare. That is what the Common Minimum Programme has said. That has not yet come. This Planning Commission journal talks about the situation of the unorganized sector people. It says that about 90 per cent of the workforce is in the unorganized sector. Nobody knows what they get. There is no legislation protecting them. Even after hard labour throughout the day, there is no guarantee of any welfare measures including pension. Taking that into account, the Government said that they would bring a Bill, which will protect them. But now, that Bill is still a distant dream. You promised that it is coming, but it has not been listed. I am saying, Mr. Minister that if you promise to bring the Government Bill, while replying and

requesting the Member to withdraw his, it would be a one step ahead that you are making. Sir, these are some of the important areas of problems on which the Government can take positive steps.

Now, understandably, there is a problem of health-care. In this country, healthcare is still not upto the mark. But we have a large number of doctors, who are unemployed. Still larger is the number of nurses being unemployed. If some girl passes a B.Sc. (Nursing) degree, she seeks employment abroad. In this country where there is a crying need for healthcare, the Government is not spending sufficiently to meet that requirement. If that requirement is made properly, then you can provide a large number of employment to educated doctors, educated nurses and health workers. But in that way, probably the Government's thinking has not yet come to meet this requirement of the people.

Sir, another important area is education. This country even today, is illiterate. I do not minimise the achievements the Government has made in the field of literacy. But the Planning Commission's Journal says that 'today, India is a country having 50 per cent of its population below the age of 25 years.' It is an asset. Economists say that it is a demographic dividend. But it becomes a curse when they are not trained to do any useful job.

Last time also, I mentioned about the ITIs that the ITIs in this country are to be strengthened; they should be more widespread so that you can train skilled labour in the country.

But, Sir, the *Yojna*, the Planning Commission Journal, also says that 'out of the 4,500 ITIs in this country, still there is underutilisation.' That means, we are not getting the people to be trained. It is not that people are not there. Either they are not having sufficient money to go there or due to some reasons, they are not going there. Secondly, they say that 75 per cent of the money spent on the ITIs have been spent on salaries. This means, 25 per cent is the money spent on education. This should be reversed. Only then, we would be doing justice. I am not saying that teachers should not be paid...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): The basic element of education is the rôle of a teacher. Among all other things, teacher is the major requirement for education.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Of course, the teacher is very important. You pay him well, but then what is required is that you have to spend more in that sector so that the teacher is paid, the student is supported and the institution is utilized. But what is happening today is that the teacher is paid well, which is okay also, but the institution remains underutilized. The number of institutions, which you have—considering the requirement of the country—is still far less than satisfactory. So, there should be a new policy in the field of education and training to meet this problem of trained personnel.

Sir, I will not speak for a long time. Now, there are areas where there is a fashion to say that IT industry is coming; and technology is developing. I can list a number of industries that they are suggesting. This week *The week* magazine says, "Jobs are plenty but no people to do the jobs because of lack of training." But where we will give emphasis, in an important thing. I am not against modern industrialists coming up or stylish development taking place in the IT sector.

But if SEZ is a solution that you are seeking, then I would say this. They say 15,000 jobs were created by SEZ in 2007. *Yojana* says this. They say: "Another 8.9 lakhs of employment will be created by SEZ in the coming three years." But even if we take it that 10 lakhs of employment they generate in the next three years, every year we are facing 30 million people in the employment market seeking jobs. The new job seekers are 30 million. So, where will you give emphasis while spending money or resources?

I say that you have to give a lot of money for the revamping of our agricultural economy, agrarian sector where suicide is taking place. Mass suicide is taking place there. If the agrarian sector is content and if the rural people are provided employment, this will greatly benefit the unorganised sector. Even today India's 90 per cent of the job is done by unskilled, unorganised

sector workers. They are largely in the rural sector and agrarian sector. That area has to be taken special care of so that you can get maximum employment generated and people could be provided with employment there. There should be special schemes for that.

And, lastly, I will say that I have mentioned this once before that there is a scheme which will appear to be very attractive. It is the scheme of inviting foreign investment in the retail trade. They say it will create a lot of jobs. They say there are possibilities of creating a few lakhs of jobs there but millions and millions of people, who are presently employed in that sector, are displaced. They are thrown to the streets. They become beggars. If a few million jobs are created by this way, then that is not a good planning. I would request you to have a second look at the invitation of foreign investment in that sector creating big malls and all that.

Then, there is SEZ also. SEZ will create limited number of stylish jobs. There is no doubt about it. But the Parliamentary Committee on Commerce itself recommended to the Government that a second look is absolutely necessary on that plan. Looking at the resources we are losing by creating SEZ, its paltry contribution to the field of employment that it is generating, the land that is being utilised for that, and the way the peasants are thrown to the streets without any future for them—all this puts together, the SEZ requires a second look. Only with that kind of a changed attitude towards the economic planning, your dream will come true. Otherwise, very nice promises will be made. Very politely they would request you to withdraw this Bill but nothing will happen. So, I hope, the Government will take seriously two or three measures that I suggested. Thank you once again. I thank him for moving this Bill.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I seek your permission to speak from here. Secondly, I express my heartiest gratitude to Shri Mohan Singhji who is presiding over the House presently.

You have introduced the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2004 for right to employment in the House. For

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

this, not only he but the whole House, the youths and all the citizens of the country express their gratitude towards you. You have presented a burning issue of the country in the House as has been written in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

[English]

"Unemployment is emerging as a major problem in India. The provisions in the Directive Principles of the State Policy relating to employment to all cannot be fulfilled until this is made the fundamental right of the citizen."

[Translation]

I completely agree with you that the Constitution should provide right to employment as a fundamental right to every citizen.

[English]

"The number in the identifiable unemployment in India is more than four crore."

[Translation]

I think that the figure of four crore which has been provided is not adequate. I feel that the number of such people should be more in the country with a population of 120 crore about whom this House has always been concerned and this would be a subject for consideration as well as a matter of concern after the Bill being brought by you.

[English]

"But the State Administration has no concern for these unemployed youth which has given rise to criminal tendency among them and every other day they are either committing suicide or indulging in the criminal activity."

[Translation]

Sir, this is true that in our country, the problem of unemployment can be seen everywhere due to which new terrorists are coming into existence everyday and

creating problems which the country is facing. Maoism is on the rise on the border areas in the country. We are facing naxalism since long. Moreover, terrorism is being spread by way of human bombs. Children are trained to die for money by the organisations which have a particular mindset.

They are given allurements to money and they are all set to be even human bombs in order to make a sabotage. Today crime is increasing every-where in the country. Thefts, robberies, roads held up take place, cars, motors are looted on the roads and people are killed. Apart from it robberies in trains, thefts in houses take place. If we look at it we find youths behind it. If they are caught and examined then we find that they are educated youths. Nowadays different types of programmes are being telecast on TVs and the crimes like bank robberies, theft, train dacoity etc. are being committed and all these crimes and plans are chalked out after being viewed these things on TVs and all these crimes are because of unemployment. Apart from it I would like to say that not only boys but girls are also involved in these crimes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this Bill, I would like to request the Government that problem of unemployment in our country should be considered and solved at the earliest. Discussion on this matter has been held in this House a number of times. Apart from it, it is mentioned.

17.00 hrs.

It is also mentioned that:

"It is difficult to make social equality a reality unless the problem of unemployment is solved. In such a situation, the State should make its administration frugal and the money saved thereby should be distributed as unemployment allowance so that the youth can be involved in constructive activities."

[Translation]

It is true that unemployed youth should be given unemployment allowance every month, so that they can get some relief till they find a job. Apart from it, I would also like to demand from this House that our education system is such where in spite of doing B.A., M.A., M.Sc.,

LLB and LLM the children remain unemployed. There is a need of technical education for this. We establish only one ITI in a district. Why we don't we give it to private sector because this is the need of the hour to provide technical education and make the children welders, carpenters, painters, electricians, masons, plumbers etc. If we impart such technical training then our middle class and rural children can earn lots of money in cities. Today if we call on electrician to home then he charges minimum Rs. 100 for a work. If he visits 10 places then he will earn nearly rupees one thousand a day. It is necessary that Government should pay attention towards it and not only Governments ITIs should be there, but licences should also be given in private sector to them so that these children can be imparted technical education and they should be allowed to visit abroad freely. If we are unable to provide them employment in our country then why they are not allowed to go abroad? They should be allowed to go abroad. They will get employment there. When our children will get jobs and they will bring foreign exchange to country, it will be good for the country. Our Government should pay attention towards it also.

Apart from it we find that nearly 60 years of our independence have passed. Even today people do not have clothes to wear, do not get meals even for a single time in a day, the Government should also pay attention towards it. If we can provide technical education to poor children who are living in slum areas, it would be an immense contribution to the society. I have seen at various places that children do not get meals even for a single time in a day. They eat chapatis by tracing them out from dustbin and thrown away food, just like animals. It is very unfortunate and shameful. The Government should make laws for the same so that we can provide protection to them, we can give scholarships to them, we can educate them. We can provide rojgaar guarantee programmes to them so that we can convert future of these youths into better ones.

As far as National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is concerned, you know that the Government of India has brought forward this scheme but few days back I was watching a programme on TV. Some of our hon. Members might have also seen that cards have

also been issued to those people who are not living in that village. The people who are fleeing villages out of fear, those people asked them why are you leaving village? They said that Administrative Officer and Government employees are threatening them to leave the village. A number of fake cards have been made. The money which should be reached the poor is not reaching them. Payments are being made on the basis of fake muster rolls. I urge hon. Minister that a monitoring committee should be constituted with regard to all employment related schemes and raids should be conducted. People have watched the programme on TV. The money provided by the Government to the poor is being misused and not reaching them. Stringent action should be taken against them. How we would fulfil our dreams to develop new India, the promises made by our Government to the people? Such type of complaints are coming not from one place but from many places. Hence, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I remember that when late Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India in 1984 and I was the Member of Lok Sabha at that time it was discussed to provide licence to Pepsi and Coca-Cola. He made Food Processing Ministry, whose first Minister was Shri Jagdish Tytler. At that time this condition was laid down that whichever foreign company comes to India, they will have to set up agriculture based factories in rural areas so that rural people can get employment. Vegetables, fruits or flowers are produced in rural areas, if we set up industries related to them they will get employment. If tomato is produced work pertaining to making of tomato ketchup should be started, work of making potato chips should be started. Hon. Chaudhary Lal Singh mentioned about apples produced in Jammu and Kashmir. Apples are produced on hills but market is not available. Hence, they suggested to make apple juice. This will protect crops of the farmers and people will also get employment but no action has been taken in that direction. Licenses were issued to Pepsi and Coca-Cola companies and they kept on making soft drinks. The conditions laid down for these foreign companies that these companies will set up factories in rural areas, provide employment to people, have not been fulfilled.

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gandhiji started spinning wheel to make clothes. We had our Khadi Gramodyog meeting in which people participated from rural areas. They told that annual budget of Khadi Gramodyog is only Rs. seven crore. It is unfortunate that the industry which we brought in villages and spun wheel to make clothes, is not seen anywhere. Mr. Chairman, Sir, my point is that today there is no industry of Khadi in villages. We should established it in villages so that people get employment. In villages honey production is also related to Khadi Gramodyog. Flower nectar and many other things are also there. If we start Khadi Gramodyog there, we can provide employment to the people in villages through it, thus we will be able to fulfil the assurance given by Gandhiji for which our Government is committed. I would like to request the hon. Minister to consider on unemployment allowance also. If we talk about police, there is only one police personnel on 800 to 1000 population. Why do Government of India and State Governments decide that they will extend Police Force to provide employment to the people. Apart from this, there are CISF, BSF, Army and RPF under Union and State Governments where recruitment is either discontinued or very few job opportunities are left. Therefore, I would like to request you that recruitment in these forces may be increased through developing co-ordination between Union and State Government so that more and more job opportunities could be created in Union and State Governments for the youths of the country and also to strengthen external and internal security of the country.

In the end, I would like to mention one more thing that there is progress in population control programme being run by Department of Health. I would like to request hon. Minister that Government of India should highlight the programme with the co-ordination of the Department and programme should be telecast on television and some incentives should be provided in this regard. Promotion, increment and reward should be given for two children only so that the scheme may be popularized and we could control the population. There is no doubt that the country is progressing in each field. Today we are signing Atomic Energy Agreement and

moving ahead towards power generation which is backbone of our progress. I don't want to go into details.

Recently a delegation from Japan visited the country. I asked them what is the percentage of unemployment in their country? They replied that only four per cent people are unemployed there. Prime Minister of Japan has made an announcement to invest Rs. 60,000 crore for the construction of International Corridor connecting Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra upto Mumbai. A number of factories will be established and a huge amount will be invested there. If there will be no power, how do we achieve industrial development? If there will be no industrial development, how do we provide employment? Therefore, it is the need of the hour to create such an atmosphere so that we could provide employment on a large scale. I once again thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (Hardoi): Chairman, Sir, I fully support the Bill introduced by you. You had drawn the attention of the Government towards the burning problem of the country through this Bill. Unemployment is main problem of the country. Educated youth of the country is wandering here and there with his degrees. Problem of unemployment is not going to eliminate in 1 or 2 days. We are observing that parents are educating their children by facing hardships with a view that the child will support them after completing education.

We are seeing that problem of unemployment has increased to an extent for which there is a need to amend Education Policy. Youths of the country possessing degrees of BA, MA are wandering. There is a need to impart Technical Education to the children by identifying their capacity immediately after High School by bring amendment in Education Policy. Besides, unemployment ratio is also increasing with the risings of population of the country. Therefore, the need of the hour is to check the population growth. Such youths from my constituency approached me who are possessing degree of BA and MA but forced to render class-IV services. When I asked them what is the minimum qualification required for class IV service, they replied that Minimum qualification required for the said

post is class VIII. They are applying for the post by producing class-VIII certificate only and not disclosing their higher degrees i.e. B.A., M.A. degree.

I fully support the proposal to provide allowance to unemployed youths. There is one more problem that less educated and illiterate persons can earn their livelihood by making of shoe polish, by selling vegetables and by selling newspaper, but educated youths do not perform such petty jobs and are attracted towards crime world due to frustration.

Sir, I would like to say that I fully support the provision made in the Bill to provide unemployment allowance to unemployed persons by providing Rs. 1000 crore per year. There is a need to impart technical education to children and to amend the education policy, with these words I support the Bill.

*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): Sir, India is an old nation, but a young country. In a country of 100 crore people it is very rare to see 50 crore people below the age of 25. So, we have a huge force of youth. Unless this huge force is properly engaged, it will spell doom for our nation. Youth unrest gives birth to all kinds of extremism like Naxalism, etc. Patriotism will be replaced by violence and mayhem.

Sir, youth is the time for love and poetic fantasy. Every young man gets spell-bound by the beauty of the moon. When his heart pines for the moon, his feet get burnt by the fire of stark reality. And that reality is poverty, squalour and deprivation. The youths of Orissa leave their native land in search of livelihood. They end up being migrant labours. In urban area, parents dream of their children being educated and subsequently becoming doctors and engineers etc. They sale their ancestral land for the education of their children. Sir, as you know, getting admission in a good technical college may cost as high as 50 lakhs. Even if the children manage to pass with high percentage, they do not get a suitable job and leave the motherland in search of greener pastures. They go to USA and London and eventually settle there. The parents are left all alone. This is the reality of today's India.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

Sir, unless the Government announces allowances for the unemployed youths, all the tall claims of welfare measures will far flat. For the very survival of our country, all these young men should either be properly employed or be given some financial assistance. This is very essential for the self-respect and dignity of our nation. The same sentiment was echoed by Gandhiji.

Sir, the condition of the youth can be well imagined if we compare them to a imprisoned convict. As a jail inmate a convict is entitled to some food, clothing and shelter, whereas the youth outside is enchained with hunger and poverty. If the youths do not get the basic necessities of life, they will be definitely tempted to break the high walls of prison and prefer to stay there. All the political parties must realize this. Just by merely drafting meaningless manifestoes and promising the moon to the hapless youths in exchange of their votes, they are doing a great disservice to the nation.

Sir, we are virtually sitting on the top of a volcano, which may erupt anytime. Hence, I request all concerned that the young men of this country must be given a better deal by way of unemployment allowance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member had presented the problem of Orissa through his speech.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill presented by hon. Member Shri Mohan Singh. Shri Mohan Singhji is a senior leader of Samajwadi Party in the House. The Bill presented by him is very important. There is a need to provide employment to unemployed youth, if you have to save the country. People registered their names with Employment Exchange, but don't receive employment call even after 4, 5, 10 and sometimes 15 years. 4 lakh people applied against 1000 posts. Examination is conducted and 4-5 thousand people are passed in written examinations, but later only one thousand people are selected. It means it is a big problem.

Sir, I fully support the Bill presented by Shri Mohan Singh. It is my request that there should be a system to provide unemployment allowance of Rs. 3000/- per month to those youths who have not been provided employment even after registering their names with

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

Employment Exchange within a period of three years. Mr. Oscar Fernandez, you are a very good Minister. You are in charge of Labour Department, but they have the entire amount. There should be a law for urban areas also on the lines of 'Rozgar Guarantee Scheme' meant for rural areas. Besides this, there is a need to establish industries in rural areas and to provide employment to youth. Therefore, on behalf of my party I support the Bill.

Sir, there is a need to formulate a plan to provide employment to 30 crore unemployed youths of the country. One and half year tenure of this Lok Sabha is left but there is no surety as to when it will be dissolved. Therefore, as long as we are here, we should try to establish such a system by formulating at least a 10 year plan so that employment could be provided to all the unemployed youths.

Sir, the leader from Orissa has expressed his view very empathically but by not taking more time. I would only like to state that during 'Guptakal' people from all over the world, like England, Portugal came to our country but now people from our country are going all over the world due to unemployment in our country. This situation is prevalent in our country even after 60 years of Independence, so we should think about it seriously. We are increasing employment opportunities gradually. Those who were given employment for six years, have been rendered unemployed. We have got employment for only five years. There is a need to formulate a concrete plan to give employment to the unemployed youths of our country. U.P.A. Government should think about formulating such a plan. I fully support his Bill and would like to state that it is a very good Bill. We discuss every Bill elaborately and express our views vehemently but it all amounts to nothing. During the elections we make big promises but after coming to power we forget everything. I would like to tell Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji that if we want to be in power again then we have to formulate a good plan to provide employment to the unemployed persons of the country. Only then we can continue to be in power for the next five years.

[English]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much time except to say that the problems faced by the people in the hilly areas and the tribal areas are increasing, though there is a scheme in the Government of India to be provided to the States and which should have been implemented by the States. They are not able to allocate the funds in time and execute the scheme.

17.26 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Recently, there was a problem in my constituency, that is Koraput Constituency; there were two districts which were affected by some diseases and they are spreading. On the one side, they are saying that it is due to the non-availability of health network in those remotest areas and so, people are dying. But then, there is another problem which is important; and that is, the food-grains are not available because of non-availability of different schemes in those areas, which are to be executed by the State Governments through the District Collectors.

So, on the one side, we have starvation due to non-availability of food and on the other side, we have death due to diseases. These two are the problems which are linked to employment, which should have been the target area, especially in the tribal and hilly areas.

Another point which is there in our mind is this—education should be linked with employment. There are three types of education—one is, education for head, that is, knowledge; second is education for hands, that is, technical education; and the third one is education for hearts, that is, the attitudinal change. So, the three 'Hs' of education will have to be tied in such a way that at least those who are unemployed will get some employment and those who are not educated will go for wage earning under different schemes.

Recently, the Prime Minister has announced a number of educational plans for the future of the country. All those universities and ITIs or the others which are

listed in the Plan Scheme, they should be earmarked and there should be adequate funding for the backward areas which are actually backward in the country. Unless that is done, whatever may be the announcements that are there, the backward areas in the country and the tribal areas in the States will be lagging behind for want of execution in the country.

Always we are confusing with two words—one is implementation and the other is execution. Implementation will be the 'policy implementation' by the State Governments and the execution will have to be there in the district, block and panchayat levels. Originally, the implementation of policy is by the Government of India in the form of framing the policy, allocating the funds to the States, etc. But the money that is reaching the States will have to be provided to the districts and down below. This network will have to be strengthened by two things. One is by integration of all the resources which are being funded by the Centres and the State Government funding will have to be integrated with the levels down below, that is, districts and others, and there should not be any time-overrun in allocating the funds. Secondly, the administration also will have to be strengthened.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue next time.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: It will have to be strengthened in such a way that there is integration of all the Departments for executing the programmes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue next time.

17.30 hrs.

POSTPONEMENT OF HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Regarding Half-an-hour discussion, I have inform the House that Shri Avinash Rai Khanna has requested the hon. Speaker to postpone the Half-an-hour discussion and the hon. Speaker has agreed to his request. So, if the House agrees, we will take up the 'Zero Hour'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, we will take up the 'Zero Hour'. Before that, I would like to take a suggestion from the Chair. Private Members' Business is very important. Unfortunately, we are taking up this business on Friday. That is the position in almost all the Houses; State Assemblies and Parliament. We will have to consider advancing it to Wednesday because on Friday all the Members will be leaving.

I was watching the TV and I found all the benches empty and only the Minister and the Chairman were shown on the TV. It is none of the fault of the channel people. We are discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I will call it as a kind of trick on the Constitution. The constitutional amendment requires a specific and not an ordinary quorum. For passing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill there is a specific quorum mentioned in the Constitution. Without any of these provisions being followed, we are discussing this Constitution (Amendment) Bill to the convenience of the Private Members. This is the position. The entire country is watching it on TV.

Earlier there was no such live telecast. Now live telecast is there. The hon. Minister, the Chair and only a few Members are present. I was watching that on the TV and it is when we are discussing a Constitution Amendment) Bill. I can understand it when an ordinary Bill is being discussed but we are discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill when at least semblance of Quorum should be there. The entire nation is watching that the House is discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill with a few people present. On watching the TV one could see that only a few people are present in the House. I am sorry.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the general tendency is a Member remains present when he has to speak. You can see a number of Members present now because they all have come to speak in the 'Zero Hour' ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Earlier the live telecast was not there. I do not blame the channel people. It is not their fault. We are at fault. We do not have enough Members assembled here. They can show the Members on TV only when hon. Members are occupying their seats. When the House is more or less empty what can the TV people do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, let us continue with the 'Zero Hour'.

17.34 hrs.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an urgent matter which I am raising with your permission.

A scheme named Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme was introduced in our country three years ago. All the concerned departments the electricity department, P.D.C. and P.D.D., all prepared a plan for providing electricity in all uncovered areas and villages in their respective States. A proper plan was prepared. After that Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme was sent to N.H.P.C. for execution. N.H.P.C. did not execute it itself. As N.H.P.C. is not aware of the position there, it handed over this work to a company named Larsen and Turbo after receiving the tender. In this way one more contractor was involved in this work. First of all this work was given to N.H.P.C., which in turn handed over the work to L and T and after that L and T also engaged contractors for this work. I mean to say that the work which could have been done by the department of concerned States would now be undertaken by various contractors, resulting in exploitation and additional financial burden on the States as only one pole could be set up in place of ten poles which could have been set up with the same expense.

I want to submit that we should think about the policies which are being formulated for the benefit of contractors. Our own engineers in the concerned department can execute the same work. He can set up poles. Local labour is also suffering due to this. I would

like to request that such plans are only increasing unemployment and expenditure and are adding to the financial burden on the country and States. My submission is that this work should be undertaken by the concerned department which has prepared such project as plan.

With these words I conclude.

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): The Central Government should drop immediately the steps to import fishes from European countries as part of Indo-European Free Trade Agreement.

Crores of traditional fishermen in India will be driven to starvation, if we import fishes from Thailand and other European countries.

The worst affected will be the 10 lakh fishing community members of Kerala. Like the farmers in the state, the fishing community too will be driven to mass suicide.

Fishes form a major export item of Kerala. Due to the wrong import policy of Central Government, the fish export from Kerala will come to a stand still, starvation and unemployment will spread and it will break the very economic backbone of our state.

To save the fisheries sector of India and Kerala, the Central Government should stop immediately the steps to import fishes from European countries.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I too have given a notice and it is a very important matter ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a state matter.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Sir, I am presenting a very important subject before you. The country is celebrating 150th anniversary of independence struggle of 1857. State Government and the Central Government of the country are celebrating

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

150th anniversary of independence struggle of 1857. I am sorry to state that the place where we are sitting, Parliament of the country, Lok Sabha, Rajasthani Bhawan, North Block, south Block and the entire New Delhi have come up on the area covering 12 villages of Malch group. The people of those villages participated in freedom struggle against Britishers. Several of them were killed and several were ousted by Britishers, some people fled the place and some people who were loyal to the Britishers remained there. This happened 150 years ago.

In my constituency there is a village called Malcha. Some persons settled in Kurukshetra, some in Gurgaon and some shifted to different villages nearby Delhi. Several of them were killed by Britishers. They ousted them from their land and were not given any compensation. The people of these villages are compelled to work as labourers as they were not given any compensation for the land where all these buildings are standing and New Delhi has come up. Their names are not even included in the list of freedom fighters of the country. Our freedom fighters are being meted out injustice. They have given various representations but to no avail. There is an old Shivalaya (temple of Lord Shiv) in the midst of Malcha and surrounding villages ...*(Interruptions)*. This temple is still in existence and prayers are offered there. When the Britishers started suppressing the agitation, the people of those twelve villages gathered in that temple and took a vow to start freedom struggle against Britishers. There used to be big a forest at the place where Buddha Garden is located today. The women of those twelve villages assemble and mobilised the people of all the villages and cooked food for them. There used to be a well in the area which is known as Dhaula Kuan today, the people took oath there by throwing salt in it. The whole well was filled with salt that is why it came to be known as Dhaula Kuan. So many people raised the voice of revolt against Britishers. They were ousted from their land, but the Government do not have such records with them....*(Interruptions)* They did not get a single penny as compensation and big buildings have been raised there.

Previously Kolkatta was the capital of the country

when it was shifted here in 1911, then it was given the name "New Delhi". The the Britishers' had acquired all the land in their possession...*(Interruptions)*

Through you I would request the Central Government that there have been people who have made so much sacrifice but the Government did have such records with them. The land records of the villages should be checked and they should be given compensation for their lands. They should be declared freedom fighters. They should be given facilities meant for freedoms fighters ...*(Interruptions)* They should be given respect of freedom fighters, and everything should be duly entered in records. This is what I demand.

There is a village called Libaspur near Sonapat. Rai is a village nearby and there was a time when Rai was a base for British Army. Nearly 28-30 people were crushed alive in the crusher. Such a record is available. I am telling you the names of such four persons. They were severely tortured...*(Interruptions)* Udami Ram and his wife, Gulab Singh, Jasram were the four persons who were nailed down to the trees by the Britishers. They died after three days. There were 28-30 persons who were crushed in the crusher. That crusher is still there in that village. The entire village was evicted. Today they do not have even a single inch of land. There is no crematorium no pond there. They were not allotted any land, nor any compensation was provided to them. There have been people who had made so much sacrifices for the country, but they are not even being called as the freedom fighters.

I request that there should be investigation with regard to the past events of the people who have made sacrifices for the country in real sense of the term. They should be declared freedom fighters and given all the facilities.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, it has been revealed that the UPA Government's Law Ministry has let Bofors-accused, Ottavio Quattrocchi walk free by deciding not to appeal against the Argentine Court order rejecting the CBI's extradition request.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

It has been further revealed that not only was this decision signed and approved by the Law Minister but the CBI was also constantly kept in the loop and was even given copies of the opinion several days before Quattrocchi got his passport back in Buenos Aires on 15th August. This contradicts the claims made by the Government and the CBI after the Italian business man's release. There was no dissenting opinion on the file.

I urge upon the Government to place all records before this House so that our people will know the bare facts.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Physical Education teachers play a very important role in education. We have always lagged behind in the field of sports from the very beginning. I would like to draw your attention to middle schools where there is a dire need of Physical Education Teachers. Physical Education Teachers are not being posted in the middle schools of the country for the last many years. Ministry of Human Resource Development facilitates to appoint 2 lakh category three teachers to State Governments every year through the Sarvshiksha Abhiyan. I know that thirty thousand teachers were appointed in Rajasthan last year and fifteen thousand teachers were appointed this year but not even a single physical education teacher has been appointed.

I request that the Central government should allocate one post of Physical Education Teacher for each middle school while allocating posts of teachers to the states through Sarvshiksha Abhiyan so that Physical Education Teachers sitting idle in the country could get the opportunity. I would like to particularly talk about Rajasthan that the posts of Physical Education Teachers should be provided there while creating the posts of teachers.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to elucidate the life of great saint Guru Ghasidas of Chhattisgarh. He was born in

1756 in the Girodpuri village of District Raipur. From his very childhood he started showing miracles and new thoughts e.g. resuscitating the dead snakes, resuscitating a person who died with snake bite and growing brinjals on the chilli plant etc. He observed strict asceticism continuously for six months and obtained the Bijamantra of Satyanam. After obtaining the Bijamantra, he resuscitated Mata Safura Devi, who had been a corpse for 6 months, by giving her the nectar of Satyanam. Everyone was wonderstruck seeing this and started recognizing him as their God. Some of the people said that it was a common miracle and if he was a great saint then he should resurrect a dead she-calf. He resurrected the she-calf also. He cured many people by the mantrajap of Satyanam. Be it leprosy or cancer, failure of heart or kidney, he would give the nectar and the person would become alive. If anyone had eye problem he would go to him and that person would start seeing. Thus the miracle man became famous all over the country.

As many as 10 to 15 lakh people of village Girodpuri, District Raipur organize a fair in the memory of that great saint. Guru Ghasidas monument pillar has been erected as symbol of his memory as a saint of Satyanami cult. He is worshiped all over India on 18th December. Around two crore people are his followers. This great saint taught the lesson of truth and love to the entire country which could lead the society towards complete peace free from any kind of dispute. He preached the truth free from any kind of corruption but having the existence of honesty, peace, love, affection, kindness and forgiveness. With his discrete advice, he gave a new direction and message to the human society. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Governments have declared 18 December a holiday in the memory of that great saint. I demand that it should be declared a holiday by the Central Government and Girodpuri should be developed as a tourist spot so that lakhs of people could come to that spot. A national holiday should be observed on 18th December and that place be declared as a tourist spot.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that it is treachery with the farmers of the country to

import wheat at higher price instead of buying wheat available at cheaper rates. It is an injustice to the farmers. The decision to purchase wheat from international market at higher rates is like looting the Indian farmers in broad daylight. This is a wheatgate scam. Indian farmer will never forgive that. In the year 2007, a tender of importing wheat at a rate of 263 dollars per metric ton was canceled on the pretext of rates being high. But just 10 day after that, a decision was taken to import 5.7 lakh tons of wheat at 325 dollars per metric ton and now the Government have permitted the import of 8-lac metric tons of wheat at 390 dollars per metric ton. Support price of wheat of Indian farmer is Rs. 825 per quintal. The farmer is demanding the rate of Rs. 1100 per quintal, which the Government is not ready to give but the Government is paying at the rate of Rs. 1600 per quintal to the farmers abroad. It is an injustice and an insult to the Indian farmer. Besides, the imported wheat is not worth eating. So through you, I would like to tell the Government that a huge irregularity has been committed in the entire matter. The Government of India should immediately stop import of wheat from foreign countries, give full support price to farmers and order a CBI inquiry into the wheat scam involving crores of rupees.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this House, I want to say some thing about Trivini Structural Limited, a public sector company situated in Naini, Allahabad.

Sir, it is observed that all the public sector companies are being closed slowly. TCL company was established in the year 1965 in Naini, Allahabad. It is a company where thousands of employees were working earlier, but it is very unfortunate that because of malfunctioning due to poor management, most of the employees of the company opted for VRS or retired from service and now only 300 employees are working there. For revival of this company a proposal seeking Rs. 2 crore have been submitted, but I regret to say that the Government is not willing to revive it.

I would like to convey to the Government, through you, that previously when NDA Government was there in the center, it had formed a separate VRS Ministry which worked as an instrument to close many private

sector companies. Now, this UPA Government is also following the same path. On 8th March in a meeting of PSU's, the Minister had said:

[English]

"I hope the Board for Reconstructions of PSEs will come forward with a time-bound programme for revival of sick PSEs. It must help the Government take an early decision on all the pending proposals".

This was the Prime Minister's wording which I have quoted here.

[Translation]

I want to say that this company is a fabrication unit and it has worked in countries like Tanzania, Jamaica, Iraq etc. when a meeting of all PUSs was called in Indraprastha Stadium, this company was awarded the status of Rashtriya Gaurav In spite of revival proposal given in favour of their company by BRPSE and DHI, it is not being revived.

I am to say that an amount of Rs. 71 crore is being given to Madras Fertilizer Company by the Ministry of Finance but I am sorry to say that an amount of only, Rs. two crore is not being given for Trivini Structural Limited. Naini, Allahabad. I would like to urge the Government, through you, that this company should be revived by giving Rs. two crore immediately.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Rewati Ramanji.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to bring an important issue to the notice of the House and the Government. One private Television Channel Star Plus is telecasting a serial on Prithvi Raj Chauhan on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9 p.m. Wherein the character of Aalha Udal hero of the famous Aalha poetry of Mahoba, Bundelkhand, a land of brave people of this country is being tampered. In this serial, history of Mahoba has been presented in a distorted form due to which resentment is prevailing among the people of that area. Everyone knows that when Prithvi Raj Chauhan had

[Shri Rajnarayan Budholia]

attacked Mahoba then not once but six times his warriors were defeated. But inspite of Prithvi Raj Chauhan's warriors being defeated by great warriors like Aalha Udal, this T.V. channel has tampered with his character and has shown Aalha Udal being defeated by Prithvi Raj Chauhan. He was such a great warrior about whom it is said—

Aalha Udal Bade Ladaiya.

Jinse Haar Gayee Talwar.

Ek ko mare, Do mar Jave, Teesra

Dekh dekh mar jaye.

Jaako Bairee sukh se sove,

Aise Jeevan ko Dhikkar.

Action should be taken against star channel which has tampered with the character of such a great hero of Aaiha poetry who was such a brave warrior and the disputed part should be removed from the serial and this serial should be stopped from being telecast.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Rajnarayan Budholiaji.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Shipping and Road Transport about the urgent need for setting up a port at Barunei Muhan, in my constituency, Kendrapara in Orissa.

Barunei Muhan is situated in the Kendrapara district and located at 150 kilometers from Bhubaneswar. Barunei Mohan was a port during the medieval period. Geographically it has a very suitable location for becoming a port. It is deep without having any under current. Towards the north of Barunei Muhan there are extensive stretches of unoccupied land and forests. On the South similarly, there is a vast stretch of uninhabited land of more than ten thousand acres. In the year 2000, the Government of Orissa had declared Barunei Muhan as ideal for any proposed port.

Development of the above port will go a long way

in the economic development of the people of the area. Since a lot of thrust is being given for the industrial development in the State, the setting up of the Barunei Muhan Port will help in boosting export and thereby create employment opportunities for the people.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to take urgent necessary action to set up the Barunei Muhan Port at the Kendrapara district in Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The issue the hon. Members want to raise is a State matter. But, as a special case, I am allowing two hon. Members to raise the issue.

Firstly, I would call Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. Allahabad, Prayag which is a city of Ganga-Yamuna composite culture and which has been in the limelight for intellectuals, religious and historical independence also falls in my Parliamentary constituency. Recently on 1st instance when I visited my Parliamentary Constituency, I came to know that a few pages of holy book Kuran Sharief were torn out near a religious place, Kuran Sharief is a holy book of one of our communities and people of the community have great faith in this holy book. Due to this incident, curfew was clamped in six police station areas which is still continuing. In Kotwali Shahganj Khuldabad, Atarsuiya and Kareili innocent people are being implicated and false cases are being filed against them. Action is taken against our Samajwadi Party Mahanagar area President Abdul Salman under NSA. When DGP of Uttar Pradesh visited that place, he called it a well planned political conspiracy.

18.00 hrs.

I condemn it through this House. When Uttar Pradesh police fails in doing its duty, then allegations are leveled directly against Samajwadi Party and our leader, the name of honourable Atiq Ahmad who is Member of the House is associated with it. I have mentioned twice about the incident happened in Allahabad University. Students are getting agitated there, dharnas and demonstrations are taking place. On

Janmashtmi, when devotees of Lord Krishna were doing parikrama in the Hanuman temple in civil line area of the city, the local police resorted to lathicharge on them brutally. I would like to urge the honorable Minister, through you, that a JPC or a high level committee be sent to Allahabad. Allahabad has been center of Independence, peace, tranquility and harmony is getting disturbed there. The situation must be brought under control by sending armed forces there. With these words I would like to say that during zero hour honourable Raj Babbar was allowed to speak in this house.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter concerning the Uttar Pradesh Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: That time, curfew was also clamped in Agra and night curfew is still continuing in my constituency also in many police station areas and it is termed as a State matter. While expressing my protest over this decision I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma. It is about construction of a bridge.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is Uttar Pradesh Government's affair.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my constituency is divided into two parts, Jalaun and Jhansi. When we come to Urai via Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Banaras and from Urai when we proceed towards Madhya Pradesh via Kota then there comes Gursarai which is in Uttar Pradesh and there is a road connecting Agroutha, Mauranipur, Tikamgarh there and there is a river named Betwa connecting this road. Since there is no bridge over this river, the people of that area have to face a lot of problems. I demand from the Union Government that a bridge be constructed on Betwa river because for reaching Madhya Pradesh from Allahabad, Lucknow, etc. places, it is a direct route. So, if a bridge is constructed on it, then a direct route would be there for the people living in this region as well as the people living outside the region.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 10th September, 2007 at 11 a.m.

18.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 10th September, 2007/Bhadrapada 19, 1929 (Saka).

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