

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Eleventh Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# CONTENTS

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

**No. 6, Monday, August 20, 2007/Sravana 29,1929 (Saka)**

| SUBJECT  | COLUMNS          |
|--|------------------|
| <b>ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS</b>   |                  |
| *Starred Question Nos. 101 to 104 .....  | 1-28             |
| <b>WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS</b>  |                  |
| Starred Question Nos. 105 to 120 .....   | 28-43            |
| Unstarred Question Nos. 951 to 1107 .....  | 44-297           |
| <b>PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE .....</b>  | <b>297-300</b>   |
| <b>STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE</b>   |                  |
| Thirty-second Report .....   | 300-301          |
| <b>STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE</b>  |                  |
| Eighty-third Report .....  | 301              |
| <b>STATEMENT BY MINISTER</b>   |                  |
| Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment |                  |
| Shri Oscar Fernandes .....   | 301              |
| <b>CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE .....</b>   | <b>304-320</b>   |
| Situation arising out of proposed formation of Salem Railway Division by bifurcating Palghat Railway Division  |                  |
| Shri N.N. Krishnadas .....   | 304-307          |
| Shri Lalu Prasad .....   | 305-310, 317-319 |
| Shrimati C.S. Sujatha .....  | 311              |
| Adv. Suresh Kurup .....  | 312              |
| Shri S. Ajaya Kumar .....  | 313              |
| Shri K.V. Thangabalu .....   | 313-315          |
| Shri A. Krishnaswamy .....   | 315              |
| <b>MOTION RE: THIRTY-NINTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE .....</b>   | <b>320</b>       |
| <b>RE: NEED TO TAKE ACTION FOR THE EXTRADITION OF MR. OTTAVIO QUATROCCHI FROM ARGENTINA .....</b>  | <b>323-329</b>   |

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

## SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Re: Delay in implementation of the recommendation of Justice Sacchar Committee Report on Minorities .....  | 330            |
| <b>GOVERNMENT BILLS—INTRODUCED .....</b>   | <b>332-333</b> |
| (i) All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007 .....   | 332-333        |
| (ii) Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2007 ..... | 333            |
| <b>MATTER UNDER RULE 377 .....</b>   | <b>333-339</b> |
| (i) Need to build a monument at Virupakshi in honour of Shri Gopal Naicker, a great warrior and freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu  |                |
| Shri S.K. Kharventhan .....  | 334-335        |
| (ii) Need to sanction four-laning of National Highway No. 3 between Gwalior and Dewas in Madhya Pradesh  |                |
| Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot .....   | 335            |
| (iii) Need to provide rail link between Tellicherry and Mysore   |                |
| Shrimati P. Satheedevi .....   | 335            |
| (iv) Need to accord the status of a Central University to Gandhigram Rural University, Tamil Nadu  |                |
| Shri A.V. Bellarmin .....  | 335-336        |
| (v) Need to improve primary education in the country   |                |
| Shri Ramji Lal Suman .....   | 336-337        |
| (vi) Need to evolve a National Plan to help the sugarcane growers  |                |
| Shri D. Venugopal .....  | 337-338        |
| (vii) Need to take steps for maintenance and conservation of the Shiv Mandir, a historical monument at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh   |                |
| Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul .....  | 338            |
| (viii) Need to undertake the repair of National Highway in North Gujarat with a view to check waterlogging in the areas  |                |
| Shri Harisinh Chavda .....   | 338            |

## STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF STATE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2007 AND

### STATE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Shri Ramji Lal Suman .....    | 339, 340-341 |
| Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal ..... | 339-340      |
| Shri Lakshman Singh .....     | 341-343      |



|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Shri K.S. Rao .....   | 343-347 |
| Shri Sudhangshu Seal .....                                      | 347-349 |
| Shri Shailendra Kumar .....                                     | 349-350 |
| Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh .....                                  | 350     |
| Shri B. Mahtab .....  | 350-353 |
| Shri Prabodh Panda .....  | 353-354 |
| Shri Rajeev Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' .....                          | 354-356 |
| Prof. M. Ramadas .....  | 356-358 |
| Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat .....                                    | 358-361 |
| Shri Adhir Chowdhury .....                                      | 361-363 |
| Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan .....                                | 363-365 |
| Shri Kharabela Swain .....                                      | 365-367 |
| Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh .....                                 | 367-368 |
| Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy .....                               | 368-369 |
| Shri P. Chidambaram .....                                       | 369-374 |
| Motion to Consider .....  | 375     |
| Clauses 2 to 10 and 1 .....                                     | 375     |
| Motion to pass .....  | 375     |
| DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193 .....                                 | 375     |
| Situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country |         |
| Shri Sita Ram Singh .....                                       | 375-380 |
| Shri Anil Basu .....  | 380-383 |
| Shri Shivraj V. Patil .....                                     | 383-384 |
| Shri Madhusudan Mistry .....                                    | 384-388 |
| Shri Tapir Gao .....  | 388-391 |
| Shri Shailendra Kumar .....                                     | 392-394 |
| Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta .....                            | 394-396 |
| Shri Brahmananda Panda .....                                    | 396-398 |
| Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' .....                           | 398-402 |
| Shri M. Shivanna .....  | 404-405 |
| Prof. Saifuddin Soz .....                                       | 406-410 |

#### **ANNEXURE-I**

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Member-wise index to Starred Questions .....</b>   | <b>411</b>     |
| <b>Member-wise index to Unstarred Questions .....</b> | <b>412-416</b> |

#### **ANNEXURE-II**

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Ministry-wise index to Starred Questions .....</b>   | <b>417-418</b> |
| <b>Ministry-wise index to Unstarred Questions .....</b> | <b>417-418</b> |

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

[Translation]

Monday, August 20, 2007/Sravana 29, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock

(Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today lakhs of farmers from all over the country are staging a rally at the Ramila ground for the fulfilment of their demands. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After Question Hour, I will hear everybody who has given the notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our party demands a JPC on Indo-US nuclear treaty as this matter is not concerned with a single party or group, rather it is a matter concerned with the entire country. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After Question Hour, I will hear you. I have already allowed a discussion on this. Please wait till one hour. Let the Question Hour begin.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: Do not say such things. Please strike them down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. You are very senior, responsible Members. You have to set examples for your Members.

11.01 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 101, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot

## Sugarcane Dues

\*101. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of sugarcane dues that remained pending for payment to farmers against sugar mills during the last three years and thereafter till date, sector-wise;

(b) the time since when the said dues are pending for payment;

(c) whether the farmers are giving up sugarcane farming as a result of the hardships being faced by them due to the pending dues; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure payment of the dues at the earliest to mitigate the problems of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## Statement

(a) The sector-wise and season-wise status of cane price arrears for the sugar season 2004-05 & earlier seasons, 2005-06 season and for the current sugar season 2006-07, as on 30th June, 2007 was as under:-

(in crore Rs.)

| Sugar season              | Public sector | Cooperative sector | Private sector | Total cane price arrears |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 2004-05 & earlier seasons | 9.26          | 64.41              | 168.36         | 242.03                   |
| 2005-06                   | Nil           | 1.17               | 1.47           | 2.64                     |
| 2006-07                   | 310.90        | 1074.78            | 2799.58        | 4185.26                  |
| Total                     | 320.16        | 1140.36            | 2969.41        | 4429.93                  |

(b) Supply of sugarcane by cane growers to sugar mills and their payment by the sugar mills is a continuous process. The cane price arrears arise when the farmers do not get their dues within 14 days of supply of sugarcane as provided in the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. Since the cane price dues payable to the cane growers for a sugar season pertains to supply of sugarcane to different sugar mills at different points of time and the position is continually

changing on account of payments towards fresh supplies by a very large number of farmers during the course of the season, it is not possible to pinpoint the dates from which such dues are pending to individual farmers.

(c) and (d) The Government has not received any report from any of the sugar producing States that farmers are giving up sugarcane farming. However, the Central Government has taken the following steps to mitigate the problems of sugarcane growers:

- (i) A buffer stock of 20 lac tons has already been created for a period of one year from 01.05.2007 to 30.04.2008. An additional buffer stock of 30 lac tons has also been created for a period of one year from 1.8.2007 to 31.7.2008. Creation of 50 lac tons of buffer stock would involve a subsidy amount of Rs. 945 crore (approximately) to be borne from Sugar Development Fund. The banks would also provide additional credit of Rs. 1050 crore (approximately) on creation of buffer stock. The buffer subsidy amount and the additional credit are to be exclusively used for liquidation of cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers;
- (ii) Export assistance to defray part of the expenditure on internal transport, marketing and handling charges and ocean freight @ Rs. 1350/- per tonne for sugar factories located in coastal areas and Rs. 1450/- per tonne for sugar factories located in non-coastal areas (subject to actuals for export by road/rail to neighbouring countries) have been announced for a period of one year with effect from 19th April, 2007. The amount involved is Rs. 205 crore (approximately) which is to be borne from Sugar Development Fund. The export assistance is also to be used exclusively for cane price arrears payment.
- (iii) Ban on export of sugar has been removed in January, 2007 and requirement of obtaining an export release order for export of sugar except for exports to EU countries and USA has been withdrawn w.e.f. 31.07.2007, for the current and next sugar season.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugarcane growers and other farmers of the country have been making demands from the Government for a long time to resolve their problems by staging agitations from time to time. Even today lakhs of farmers from all over the country have reached Delhi and they are urging the Government to resolve their problems. The question which I have raised is especially related to the sugarcane growers. The dues payable to them by the public sector organizations, cooperative sector organizations and the private sector organizations on account of the purchase of sugarcane amounts to Rs. 4.5 crores. As per the rules, they have to

make the payment to the farmers within 14 days from the date of purchase of sugarcane but after the passage of 2, 3 and even four years payments have not been made to them. As a result the sugarcane growers are in trouble which is affecting their production. I would like to know from the Government whether they are preparing any special action plan to ensure payment of dues to the sugarcane growers and whether Government is going to increase the sugarcane price in order to provide remunerative price to sugarcane growers. If not, the reasons therefore?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Regarding non-payment, if you see, in the year 2005-06, not a single pie has been delayed by the public sector mills. In cooperative sector, the outstanding amount was only Rs. 1.17 crore. In private sector, the outstanding amount was Rs. 1.47 crore. The total outstanding amount comes to Rs. 2.64 crore.

In the year 2006-07, what the hon. Member said is true that the total amount which was not paid yet was Rs. 4,185.26 crore. As per the Sugarcane (Control) Order, it is the responsibility of every mill that they have to make the payment to the farmers within 14 days. If they are not in a position to pay within 14 days, then they are liable to pay 15 per cent interest over and above the basic price to the farmers. This entire job has to be executed by the State Governments. It has been brought to the notice of the State Governments that such and such outstanding amount was there. The powers have been given to the State Government and the Collectors under the Sugarcane (Control) Order to take appropriate action against the mills. But there is another side also to it. This year, there has been an abnormal production. The country's requirement is 190 lakh tonnes whereas the actual production is 280 lakh tonnes. When we add last year's carry over stock of 40 lakh tonnes to this year's production, the available stock of sugar in the country today becomes 320 lakh tonnes, as against the requirement of 190 lakh tonnes. That is the reason why prices have collapsed, not only in India but internationally. In such a situation, there is no buyer for sugar at a reasonable rate. That is why ultimately it reflects on the sugarcane prices.

The Government of India has taken this particular subject seriously and just to help the industry, certain decisions have been taken. For instance, 50 lakh tonnes of buffer stock has been approved by the Government of India. The amount of interest and storing charges, which comes to about Rs.900 crore, is going to be provided by the Government of India to the mills on the condition that the mills have to pass each and every paisa of that money to the farmers as cane arrears. This money has been kept ready under the Sugar Development Fund.

In another effort, just to liquidate the stock, the Government of India is encouraging exports. It is true that Indian sugar mills are not in a position to face the competition of international market because of prices. But the Government of India has taken a decision that Rs.1340 per tonne is the incentive for export to the States which are near to sea; and for those States which are away from the sea, it would be Rs.1440 — a hundred rupees more. That subsidy has been provided to them. This amount also has to be spent for payment to the farmers. That is also a precondition. So, we are taking some steps. It is true that abnormal production has created this problem.

MR.. SPEAKER: A very elaborate answer.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: The hon'ble Minister has stated that the amount of dues does not entail any big amount, in his reply he himself has stated that Rs. 4429.93 crore i.e. around Rs. 4500 crore are payable to farmers. This is a very big amount and as a result of this farmers are very worried.

I would like to ask the Minister a second question that keeping in view the rising inflation and input cost of production of sugarcane in the country and in view of the farmers making demands that necessary facilities should be provided to them with regard to the required inputs involved in their production so that they could get remunerative price for their production, do the Government propose to increase the price or not? Apart from this, whether the Government also propose to increase other facilities like subsidies etc. If not, the reason therefore?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have heard his answer already.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: He has not given this information. He hasn't said anything about raising the subsidies; there isn't any mention of raising the cane price.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you need not repeat it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I have replied in the beginning that a buffer stock of 50 lac tonnes has been created by the Government and the Government is willing to give them Rs. 945 crore on the condition that the entire amount would be earmarked for the payment of cane price dues to the farmers, the said amount should not be spent on some other heads.

[English]

Besides that, an amount of Rs. 1000 crore has also been provided to all banks through the banks with the condition that that money has to be paid to farmers.

[Translation]

He has termed the price issue as that of the coming year. This proposal was there before the CACP. Their proposal will be received today, tomorrow or in this week and a final decision will be taken in this regard.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an alarming issue. Sugarcane farmers are burning their crops in the fields. In some areas, farmers are giving up sugarcane cultivation. Dues, amounting to Rs.4429 crore, are to be paid to sugarcane farmers.

In some States, farmers are committing suicides due to heavy burden of loans, which they have taken from the private lenders. Would this Government tie up with the banks to lend to farmers? For the Government which is talking of the welfare of the farmers, Rs.4400 crore is not a big amount. Would the Government initiate necessary steps to settle Rs.4400 crore to the sugar mills? Would the Government make a move in that direction?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have already replied this.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want all the private sector banks to pay this money?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: How can we do that? We are the facilitator. We have created a situation where banks also are contributing. We give the direction that the entire amount should go to the farmers.

Secondly, it is not correct to say that it has affected the production. In fact, I am worried about the latest information we got. It is about this year's crop which is 10 per cent more than the last year. That is the reason why it is anticipated that there would be a serious problem. As the hon. Member has stated that there are some States, including Andhra Pradesh, where there were some canes which were uncrushed. The Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have provided certain compensation to the farmers as they could not crush the canes.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of the fact that the sugar-cane growers are committing suicide

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada

particularly in Chamaraja Nagar, Mysore and Mandya districts in Karnataka as a result of the hardships being faced by them due to the pending dues.

In such a situation what are the steps taken by the Government to rescue those sugar-cane farmers and also to encourage them to continue cultivation ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered that. Mr. Minister, repeat it very briefly.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There are two things. The Government of India is seriously thinking of the problem of demand and supply. Too much supply is there and there is insufficient demand. So, we are seriously thinking to allow sugar mills to convert molasses and sugar juice into ethanol and that ethanol should be mixed in petroleum products, which is environment-friendly. To look into this, there is a Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of the hon. Minister of External Affairs. The Group has considered this issue, and decided to recommend compulsorily mixing of five per cent ethanol in all automobile units.

Secondly, if it is possible, from October, 2007 onwards, we should try to take five per cent to 10 per cent; and a uniform rate of Rs.21.50 should be given to ethanol. So, that money would come to the mills and the same would ultimately passed on to the farmers. There are a number of suggestions which the Government of India is considering.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister in his reply stated that 15 per cent interest on the outstanding amount is paid to farmers on account of delay by the sugar mills. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the process of making payment to farmers within 14 days is delayed due to the involvement of middlemen. When a farmer faces scarcity of resources, when he has to make arrangements for wedding and do other important rituals or due to some other reasons he experiences hardships, at that time, middlemen purchase the produces from them at reduced price and take the full payment from the mills later. Due to this also farmers face difficulties and on account of natural disasters also farmers face difficulties. Payments are not made to them at right time. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has made any assessment to find out whether the dues payable to the farmers are paid to them with 15 per cent interest or not or he only wants to satisfy the House by quoting mere statistical data? If he has made any assessment in this regard, I would like him to cite an example of a particular State where dues have been paid to farmers with 15 per cent interest.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is a very simple matter that

in the event of not paying dues to the farmers within the 14 days, it is the responsibility of the mills to pay 15 per cent interest over and above the basic amount to the farmers with which they have entered into an agreement and where such payments have not been made, it is the responsibility of the State Governments that as per the Sugarcane Control Order, powers have been given to the State Government and the collectors to take appropriate action against the mills and to make arrangements for the payment of dues to farmers.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has said that this year sugarcane has been produced in abundance. Since sugarcane has been produced in abundance, the private sugar mill owners will exploit the farmers and would not like to give them the price fixed by the Government. Either they exploit them by under weighing their produce or by delaying procurement as a consequence of which the farmers will not produce sugarcane in future. I would like to know whether there is any scheme to ensure that the farmers get minimum support price and the procurement process of sugarcane is not delayed?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister has already said about it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This first thing is about this year's production. I have said that there has been 10 per cent more sugarcane production this year. The problem before the Government particularly the State Government is how to crush the sugarcane as in Maharashtra alone last year's sugarcane grown in 52,000 hectares of land is lying uncrushed due to which farmers are incurring huge losses. There is a possibility that such a situation may arise in several states. Hence our effort is to advance the crushing season by one-two months instead of November-December and provide marketing and other facilities to the farmers. The amount thus received can be given to farmers.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Thank you very much. Just now, the hon. Minister said that ethanol production is going to be there for mixing with the auto-fuel up to five per cent. Now, it is co-generation only. If the Government takes it up fully and sets up such mills for full production of ethanol, it can mitigate the sufferings of the farmers. Will the Government take steps to do it immediately for the cause of the farmers?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Certainly. This particular issue of mixing ethanol has been given a serious thought to by the Government of India. But the automobile industry has communicated to us that the condition of the automobile industry today is such that it cannot absorb more than five per cent; they need to make some changes in the engine and that would require some time. That is the reason why we cannot thrust on them or put a condition that they have to take more than such and such percentage.

[Translation]

### Foodgrains Production

+

\*102. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains production is declining in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTLAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The foodgrains production estimated at 216.13 million tonnes during 2006-07 as per the 4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007, is the highest production level achieved so far. The earlier peak foodgrains production levels were 213.19 million tonnes in 2003-04 and 212.85 million tonnes in 2001-02. The foodgrains production declined in 2002-03 as it was a drought year. In 2004-05, the monsoon rainfall was 13% less than its long period average which affected the production of wheat and rice. In 2005-06 there was abnormal rise in temperature in February and March which affected the production of wheat in particular and thereby the production of foodgrains.

(c) To increase cereals production, Centrally Sponsored Schemes Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals are in place from October 2000. Under the schemes, assistance is provided on 90:10 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for propagation of improved/hybrid production technology, pest management, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. Likewise, to increase the production of pulses, Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is in place since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments.

The Government of India has recently approved two schemes for increasing foodgrains production and improving the agricultural growth in the country. These are (i) National Food Security Mission (KFSM), and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS).

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last three four years there has been continuous decline in

foodgrain production. Due to this while on the one hand the farmers of our country are committing suicide on the other, the common man, the consumers, the poor people have started committing suicide as a result of price rise. In reply to my question I had asked about agricultural production, it was replied that the estimated crop would be 216.13 million tonnes. Four months back, in this very Lok Sabha it was said that production would be 209 million tonnes. Therefore, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that when the estimated production has increased from 209 million tonnes to 216 million tonnes, then why the Government have decided to import wheat instead of giving remunerative price to the farmers?

[English]

What is the basis on which he is giving this answer?

[Translation]

On what basis he has quoted this difference of 9 lakh metric tonnes?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned 216 lakh metric tonnes in my reply. This is the fourth advance estimate because the estimate is made five times according to situation. If there is good sowing, production level increase. But later if there is less rainfall production is affected and if there is good rainfall, production level increases. That is why the estimate increased to 216 lakh metric tonnes and it is the record production of wheat. It is also a fact that despite record production, we have resorted to import of wheat. We are not happy with this situation, the reason being that last year total procurement was 9.2 lakh metric tonnes which has increased to 111 lakh metric tonnes this year. 150 lakh metric tonnes of wheat are required for PDS in the country. Out of these, 10 lakh metric tonnes are required if there is emergency, there is flood situation and also for maintaining buffer stock. There is a gap of 40 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains if we take into account the current available stock of the Government for one year requirement of the country or the need for buffer stock. We have to import to fill this gap. The reason is that we cannot compromise on the issue of food security and that is why we have to take this step.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now comes the issue of cost. It's true that we have to pay more while importing wheat. We are not happy for this. While fixing the cost, the cost of wheat was fixed at Rs.850/- per quintal. When this cost was fixed at that time, the farmers of America were not getting more than Rs.750/- per quintal. Everybody knows about Shikago market process. This cost was increased to Rs.850/- to encourage the farmers of the country. If you go through the cost of last five years, you will find that prior to formation of our Government there used to be an increase of only Rs.10/- every year however during our tenure this cost has been



increased by Rs.50/- in the first year and then by Rs.150/- in the third year. Therefore, this step has been taken keeping in view the necessity of providing them maximum price. But it has given rise to a new problem. An amendment has been made in the Agriculture Produce Market Act. Prior to this amendment, there was restriction that farmers can sell their produce only to licence holder traders in regulated market, however, now this restriction has been removed and now they can sell their produce anywhere in the country. The Food Corporation of India used to procure wheat after fixing the cost at Rs.850/- by the Government. The farmers, producing wheat, used to carry their produce to mandis in trollys or bullock carts. For this they had to pay transport cost, octroi duty and mandi charges also which came to Rs. 80- Rs. 100. Now they don't have to pay all these charges as the people go to villages to procure wheat from them at the rate of Rs.850/- or Rs. 5 to 10 more per quintal fixed by the Government. It is adversely affecting the procurement. Further it give rise to another question as to why the traders are allowed to procure wheat from them? I would like to say that it was not acceptable to the Government that when all the producers have a right to sell their produce anywhere then why the farmers are deprived of such a right. Therefore, now the farmers can sell their produce anywhere and have full right to accept whatever price they receive. The Government cannot compel them to sell at lower cost. Therefore, the Government has deliberately given them this right to protect their interests despite the fact that it had to bear the burden of import.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that why the Government is not giving remunerative price to the farmers instead importing wheat whereas the farmers can produce wheat in abundance here itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He has explained it. You are putting the same question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the hon. Minister has told that the production of wheat in the country has been favourable then what is the need to import wheat and that too at a higher cost?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told that for the first time after independence, there was an increase of Rs.150 in procurement price in one year but despite that increase when we did not get sufficient. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing this?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not respond to such interruptions. Do not record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is a fact that we are doing more than that. The problem is that if the requirement of the country is 150 and our production is 11 then how we will able to solve the problem of food scarcity in the near future? So, some how, we will have to procure it from somewhere. We know that despite offering higher prices, we get less quantity of wheat. The cooperation of the State Governments is also required in this regard. At present the total procurement of wheat was made only in Punjab and Haryana. In rest of the States where wheat is grown be it Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat or Bihar, the Government of these States have made very negligible procurement. The farmers of Punjab and Haryana ask me whether it is the responsibility of only these two States to supply foodgrains to the entire country. So, the remaining States should also co-operate. It is a fact that farmers get more prices for their produce, so we do not object. However, if there is shortage of foodgrains on account of this, then we will have to some how arrange foodgrains and solve the problem of food scarcity. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...\**

MR. SPEAKER: You are deliberately violating the request of the Chair. Please do not do that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your co-operation.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the entire agricultural production. I would like to know whether the agricultural production of our country is more than the requirement or less than our requirement. Last year, the agricultural production in the country was more than our requirement. It has been given in the Statement and is correct. By and large our agriculture depends on monsoon. There is no uniform distribution of monsoon throughout the country and so, while some parts witness heavy monsoon and some parts remain deprived of it. So, there is a need to take measures to reduce our dependence on monsoon and implement irrigation projects in those area which have low rainfall. There is a need to provide irrigation water by any means, whether by constructing big dams or small dams. On the other hand there is a need to implement NDA Government river linking project in those areas which have excess water

\* Not recorded

to ensure sufficient production of foodgrains all over the country. It will guarantee constant supply of foodgrains in the country for all time to come.

MR. SPEAKER: You are giving suggestion, please ask question.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I am asking question only.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to deliver speech.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: It is not a speech. I have asked two questions.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one question.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: On the one hand there is drought like situation in the country and on the other some areas witness heavy rainfall. I would like to know as to what measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle this situation.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked two important questions. One is related to the total agricultural production. Last year, the farmers of the country contributed immensely as we achieved record production of wheat and there was increase in the production of rice. There was record production of sugarcane, cotton and soyabean. Only pulses and oilseeds witnessed a low yield. There is a need to increase their production. It is true that the future of all these crops depend on the monsoon as has been mentioned by the hon. Member. Presently, 60 percent of the total agriculture of the country depends on rainfall and the farmers have to depend on monsoon. So, unless more funds are provided for irrigation, the present situation will not improve. Three years ago, only 0.35 per cent of the GDP was allocated for irrigation in the country. That means out of Rs.100 only 35 paise were given for irrigation, whereas 60 per cent of the agriculture depends on monsoon. There is a need to bring about improvements in it. Once this process is initiated we will pay more attention in this direction by all means.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the agricultural production is not increasing in proportion to the growth in population. The Government have mentioned about many schemes that have been implemented in this regard. But the fact remains that I have found many lapses in the schemes of the Government and there is no check to it. There is no planning regarding production and the funds allocated are misused. Recently, under technology mission of the Government, 25 lakh plants were purchased at the rate of two three rupees each which were shown as purchased for Rs.25 each. The plants that were given to farmers and were planted by them perished. Whether it is cultivation of fruits or food grains, all these are

falling prey to faulty planning. With regard to the above situation, I would like to know whether the Government have any programme to exercise check over the scheme being implemented by the Government.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Special attention has been paid towards increasing agricultural production. On 29 May, meeting of all the Chief Ministers of the States was called by the hon. Prime Minister to discuss only one subject as to how the agricultural production of the farmers can be increased and to evolve future policy in this regard.

[English]

The meeting of the NDC was called for the first time to exclusively discuss this subject and it was unanimously decided by all the Chief Ministers and it was announced by the Prime Minister that an additional amount of Rs. 25,000 crore will be provided just to improve the productivity and production.

Two schemes have been announced. One is the National Food Security Mission for rice, wheat, and pulses and second one is Additional Central Assistance Scheme.

[Translation]

The State Governments have been given choice that those who want to work by way of formulating district plan may get hundred per cent more provision from the Government of India. These two schemes have been introduced and the work has been commenced in each State after making a review while visiting the States. The hon. Prime Minister himself visited three States of the country and in next two three months wants to visit other two places.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the reply of the hon. Minister and would like to ask that

[English]

The Swaminathan Committee has been set up by the Government.

[Translation]

The Commission reported about the food crisis.

[English]

This is my first point. Secondly, I do not know why the imported wheat is so sweet.

[Translation]

Thirdly, you should know that if agriculture depends on the agricultural land, food production depends on agricultural land and if this land is diverted as has been done, our country,

[English]

Fertile agricultural land has been diverted for other purposes. I want to know whether the Government is planning to do something so that fertile agricultural land which has been diverted for other purposes is returned to the farmers. Fertile agricultural land should not be used for any other purpose because agriculture is the backbone of our country. May I know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government is planning to return the fertile agricultural land which has been taken away from the farmers and given to individuals including the land in Nandigram and other parts of the country.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I require a separate notice to answer this particular issue. But I would like to quote one thing.

[Translation]

Out of the total number of farmers of the country who are dependent on agriculture, 82 per cent of farmer families have got less than 2.5 acres of land and a farmer's family with less than 2.5 acres of land consists of say, five members and 60 per cent of agriculture is rain-fed while there is not even a single fountain of water. If 60 per cent agriculture rain-fed and a family comprising five members with just 2 acres of land; however, hard they may toil in the fields, it will be an arduous task for such a family to meet the both ends. Therefore, there is a need to relieve the burden on agriculture. Please, take a look at all the countries of the world, 7 per cent people are engaged in agriculture in America, in Germany, it is 4 per cent and in England three per cent people are engaged in agriculture. There was a time when there used to be a huge burden on agriculture there also, but Governments of these countries were successful in diverting the burden of agriculture to other sectors. Hence, this issue got resolved there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on; you, the senior members are making interruptions while sitting in your respective seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if one wants to transform the lot of the farmers of the country, the matter of increasing the productivity of agriculture is very significant, likewise there is a need to lessen the burden on agriculture and generate employment opportunities in other sectors and this work cannot be done in air. For this purpose, land has to be acquired from somewhere or other, but the Government are concerned about the fertile agriculture land involved in it and in order to reduce it, the Government have appointed a Cabinet Committee under my chairmanship. This committee has made a recommendation that by taking recourse to the land acquisition laws for the industries, Government cannot

set in motion the process of land acquisition till they get a go ahead from the farmers in this regard. In this way, the Government will not have the right to purchase land of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* This recommendation has been made by me. Subsequently, a decision will be made in this regard. I have full confidence that all the States of the country will cooperate with us in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to have a full-fledged discussion on the farmers' issue. You all can take part in that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There will be a full-fledged discussion on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)*...\*

MR. SPEAKER: No interruptions please.

Q. No.103. — Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan will put her supplementary question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No cross talks please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on here?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should ignore them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking them not to interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Md. Salim, please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you to put the question. We are happy that you have come today to attend the Session.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you to put the question. What more can I do?

\* Not recorded

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...\*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot go on throttling them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please control yourself.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have the right to put a question. I have conceded that right. Do not get upset by what they are saying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good contribution.

...(Interruptions)

#### Shortage of Officers in Armed Forces

\*103. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of shortage of officers in all the three wings of the Armed Forces;

(b) the number of officers who have expressed their desire to leave the Armed Forces from 2004 onwards alongwith the number of officers who have already left;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any attractive plan to check the exodus of officers from the Armed Forces and to recruit young officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

*There is a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. The details are as follows:-*

|                     | Army  | Navy | Air Force |
|---------------------|-------|------|-----------|
| Authorized strength | 46615 | 8797 | 12128     |
| Positioned strength | 35377 | 7336 | 10563     |
| Shortage            | 11238 | 1461 | 1565      |

Details of officers seeking discharge and whose applications were accepted during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

| Year | Army              |                        | Navy              |                        | Air Force         |                        |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
|      | Seeking Discharge | Approved for Discharge | Seeking Discharge | Approved for Discharge | Seeking Discharge | Approved for Discharge |
| 2004 | 435               | 290                    | 119               | 115                    | 249               | 247                    |
| 2005 | 536               | 365                    | 176               | 168                    | 308               | 177                    |
| 2006 | 811               | 464                    | 259               | 178                    | 230               | 88                     |
| 2007 | 882               | 377                    | 253               | 176                    | 239               | 53                     |

Several steps have been undertaken by the three Services to fill up the vacant posts. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. Time scale promotion for officers in Colonel and equivalent ranks after 26 years of service has also been introduced. Government has also issued orders extending the tenure of SSC officers from 10 years to 14 years.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates

and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

The Government has also appointed 6th Central Pay Commission to go into the question of revision of pay and allowances etc. of all the Government servants including the Armed Forces. The three Services have presented a joint memorandum to the Pay Commission suggesting revision of pay and allowances and other conditions. The matter has also been discussed with the Pay Commission by the three Service Chiefs and officers in the Ministry of Defence.

\* Not recorded

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is evident from the reply given by that there is a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter? You came here, asked the question; he gave replies to it, why are you acting in this way?

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You have given me an opportunity to ask the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? It's OK. Very good contribution. Sumitraji, you may put your supplementary question.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can't shout.

MR. SPEAKER: The Speaker gives you the opportunity to only express your views.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by the hon'ble Minister, both the facts appear to be clear. I had told him about the shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. Along with this, the number of officers who have expressed their desire to leave the Armed Forces is also increasing day-by-day. Out of the armed forces, it is the army, artillery and infantry where the number of personnels seeking voluntary retirement is the maximum and in those services, the number of officers is very low. In the reply to my above questions, it has been stated that attractive schemes have been initiated wherein publicity campaigns and awareness campaigns have been launched, however, the most significant reasons are the huge differences in salary and allowances of officers and of normal soldiers and their lack of promotional avenues in comparison to the basic facilities provided to the people belonging to the civil services. These people get very fewer chances of promotion. The figure, which has been quoted, appear to be very low. Their salary and allowances are not good and there is no proper arrangement for their accommodation. Even if they are posted in peaceful areas, we can see that the quarters allotted to them are not suitable even for common man. There was a mention about the recommendations of the sixth pay commission; its recommendations are out. The army chief and the defence research and development organization have made some suggestions. These are under consideration. There is another matter in this that there is a shortage of defence scientists in defence projects and to meet this shortage facilities need to be provided. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any timeframe has been fixed for this purpose, because if we continue to deliberate this matter for years, then situation will get worse day-by-day.

By when a final decision on their pension, allowances and accommodation will be taken? Has any timeframe has been fixed for this purpose?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, she wants to know whether any time-limit is there?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very exhaustive supplementary question. I seek to answer the question to the fullest extent possible.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not match the exhaustiveness; you match only in the content.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: I think, it is a matter of concern about the shortage of officers. It is a matter of concern, but it is not a matter of alarm. I can assure you that the Ministry is doing all it can to bring up the officers' level. All the three Forces are taking adequate steps to fill-in the cadres and suitable steps have been taken including increasing the strength in our Academies. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She has asked for a time- limit. Have you given any time-limit to this Commission?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: We are working at the quickest possible way to fill up these categories. We are taking a lot of steps outside the steps which have been outlined in this question, including the other avenues. The hon. Member has raised a very important point regarding the remuneration. I would like to inform you that the Ministry is taking all the steps possible to improve the conditions on the field. You might have read in the Press Reports recently the Cabinet's acceptance of the decision recommended by the Raksha Mantri for increasing the allowances in the high altitude areas.

Similarly, the other steps that we are taking are to increase the married accommodation project which makes the lives of the officers easier. This 'Married Accommodation Project' has been sanctioned with a budget of Rs. 18,000 crore which is to be implemented in four phases, which will come up with about two lakh dwelling units. These are the aspirations of the current officers' level and also the jawans. These are the steps that we are trying to take in the quickest possible time.

MR. SPEAKER: The answer is 'as quick as possible'

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Again the same thing, quickest possible time

[Translation]

is going on for years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Sir, my second question is that incidents of accident in the armed forces are on rise and the main reason behind it is that at some times soldiers suffers from bouts of depression and many psychological problems, due to which they do not want to remain in Army and desire to leave Armed Forces as early as possible. It is being observed in Air Force, that pilots want to join private companies as early as possible by quitting the Air Force.

MR. SPEAKER: Because they give better pay packages.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Sir, I am more concerned about incidents of fratricide in the Armed Forces. They need psychiatric help in this regard. Secondly, I would like to know whether any period of time of deployment of soldiers in naxal affected inaccessible areas and terrorism affected areas has been fixed? Because generally a person loses his mental balance in adverse working conditions in difficult areas of deployment. Has any period of four or six months for deployment in difficult areas been fixed? Is it being complied? Are any efforts being made for providing psychological advice to them?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question.

[English]

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: The hon. Member touched upon a very important matter of serious concern. She is referring to the matter of fragging, fratricide and suicides that have been happening in areas of difficult deployment. The step that we are taking is based on a report given by the Defence Institute of Psychological Research which is under the DRDO. Steps have been taken to post JCOs as Counsellors in those areas. Similarly, in terms of the working conditions and the length of deployment, we are looking into those issues. Again, a recent decision that has been approved by the Cabinet on the recommendation of the Raksha Mantri has been to increase the number of times that the soldiers can go home from the areas of difficult deployment without any limit of length of journey that they make.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister was giving reply to very serious question and he has accepted in writing that Armed Forces are facing huge shortage of officers and along with it, he has also admitted that many officers are seeking retirement. I would like to know whether the reason for shortage of officers in Armed Forces is that Armed Forces do not attract officers any more and they seek retirement because of lack of facilities?

MR. SPEAKER: Sumitraji has already raised this point?

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I would like to know whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard to ascertain the reasons for pessimistic attitude of Armed Forces Officers? Are they lacking patriotism or they do not want to serve the country?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not raise a question about their patriotism. Our soldiers are most patriotic.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: I would like to reassure the House that our officers and our soldiers possess a high degree of patriotism and they are truly motivated about joining the Forces. If you look at the condition that our Armed Forces work in, it is a matter of pride.

Regarding the reasons why they leave, usually, the normal reasons are if they are superseded in their promotions or if they are categorised in the low medical category, they leave. Or, due to domestic problems in their villages or with their families, they leave. Of course, one of the reasons why people are seeking to leave these days is because of the nature of the economy. There are many opportunities arising out of the economy today. So, to balance this, the Ministry is doing all that it can to improve the living conditions and their service.

Regarding pay, the Sixth Pay Commission is looking into it. We expect their recommendations some time before the middle of next year.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: From the answer given by the hon. Minister, it is clear that there are about 15,000 posts which are vacant in the Navy, Air Force and the Army. These posts are not in the Civil Services but in Defence Services. So, the issue is serious and alarming. On the one side, there are lakhs of unemployed youth with high qualifications who are waiting for employment. On the other side, even in the Defence Sector, we are not able to give posts for them. In this connection, I want to know whether the 10 per cent ban of the Central Government in the public sector and in the other sectors is applicable to Armed Forces or not. Is it one of the reasons for not filling up these posts?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: That is not the reason but I know there is a shortage. But, again, I would like to reassure the House that it is not of an alarming nature. We are also looking for taking in the youth from other areas also. But let me tell you that the criterion of the Services Selection Board is very strict. They will not compromise on the standards. That is the reason why we are not able to get them in adequate numbers.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, first of all I would like to say that our soldiers may not be

getting facilities but despite it they are defending our country and are full of patriotic fervour. Therefore, we are sitting here without any tension. Therefore, we should salute them and should not doubt their integrity because today some doctors and engineers are getting hefty pay packages of 1.5 lakh, two lakh, five lakh and despite that they have opted for Armed Forces and are deployed in Siachin and Kargil areas and even if their mothers or wives meet death, it takes 20 days for them to reach home. Therefore, we should not doubt their integrity. I had discussion with some army men from close quarters, they asked question which I would like to ask you. Is it true that high ranking officers deployed in far flung areas are granted leave even if they do not require it and airlifting facilities are provided to them, but the low ranking officers are not granted leave even in case of medical emergency or death in the family and preference is given to grant leave to high ranking officers? Sometimes the process even takes twenty days and during the course even last rites of their family members are performed but they are not able to attend it. All this disturb them mentally. I would like to tell you that two years ago somebody had raised a similar question over here, whether the Government have provided them counselling facility or have set criterion for granting leave. I would like to say that even war widows are not getting houses to live even after facing such adverse situation, even today, the condition of families of Kargil Martyrs is pathetic, even after that people are joining Army. Are we are seriously considering in this regard? Two years have lapsed, but we have not implemented any scheme. Are we giving consideration towards their pay and allowances?

Sir, I would like to say one thing, it may sound harsh, even then I would say that we people, our bureaucrats often visit foreign countries, but is the Government of view of giving such facilities to the Defence personnel. The young people may get attracted by the recruitment advertisements and may join armed forces, but what steps are being taken so that he may stick to his job. I would like to say just that it is a matter of great concern. You must take up this matter and should pay serious consideration towards it and should implement it at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please submit the notice, we will consider it.

[English]

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, again it has been a very ustive supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER: When they are relevant I allow them.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: She has summarised a lot of observations which are quite relevant also. I can only assure you, on behalf of the Ministry, that we are taking all suitable steps to ease the conditions for soldiers to travel home in

cases of emergency or in cases of medical emergency. There exists an order of priority by which transport is made available to them and we are trying to step up. Sometimes, it is made more difficult because of weather conditions, but we are doing our best. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will wait for a proper notice.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Government is very much concerned about the welfare of the Armed Forces personnel who are working in the most difficult conditions. The problem is that a sizeable portion of our Armed Forces personnel are deployed in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir because the insurgency is continuing for a long time. Normally the deployment is for a short period, but because of the continuing insurgency, a sizeable portion of the personnel of the Indian Army and Air Force are in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir and some of them are working at an altitude of 19,000 feet and 23,000 feet which is very difficult. The oxygen is 30 per cent there and it is very difficult to live in those conditions. We know their conditions. We are trying to improve their conditions. That is why the leave facility which was given for 60 days in a year only once previously has been increased and we are giving it twice or thrice a year now. We are giving more railway facilities and we are trying to improve their airlifting facilities also.

Moreover, the Indian society is fragmenting now. There are no more joint families these days. The soldiers are working in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir and their families are residing in far-flung areas. The soldiers are worried about the education of their children and their property etc.. So, we are addressing the State Governments also in this matter. The State Governments must also help us to see that the interests of the families of the soldiers, who are working in far-flung area, are protected. So, we are taking care of that aspect also.

Another thing is the pay packet which is available to the personnel of the Armed Forces. If they are able, they are getting attractive pay packets in the private sector. The Air Force pilots are getting a particular pay packet in the Air Force, but in the private sector they are offered 10 times or 15 times more salary than what they are getting in the Air Force. We cannot match that, but at least we have to give maximum increase to these people. I would request the entire House that we must be sympathetic towards the Armed Forces personnel. I am happy that all of us are sympathetic. This sympathy must be translated into action. So, I hope that jointly we can try to improve their salary. The Sixth Pay Commission must be more sympathetic towards the cause of the Armed Forces. We are trying, but you should also help us.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I said that I would wait for a notice if you want more discussion on this subject. Let a proper notice come.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 104 — Shri L. Rajagopal -Not present

Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao.

**Multi-State Agricultural Competitiveness Project**

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\*104. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has selected four States to develop competitive marketing system and improved market access to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aims and objectives of the World Bank aided Multi-State Agricultural Competitiveness Project; and

(d) the extent to which this project will help to overcome the existing constraints of farmers regarding poor access to markets?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

The Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the World Bank and various States, which have implemented market reforms, has initially selected five States namely Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Maharashtra to implement the Multi-State Agricultural Competitiveness Project (MACP) with the assistance from the World Bank, for which, the project proposals are expected to be made ready by the States concerned by September, 2007. Subsequently, on the request of Punjab Government, that State has also been allowed to be considered, if they could prepare and submit the required project proposal in time. Which of the above States will finally participate in the initial phase of funding, will depend on their ability to maintain the project time-table with the rest of the States and to develop suitable project plans. The appraisal of projects is likely to be taken up by the World Bank before December, 2007. Depending on the pro-activeness of the other states, the project could later be extended to them in next phases.

The Multi-State Agricultural Competitiveness Project (MACP) aims to improve the competitiveness of India's small farmers that would allow them to capture increased income-generating potential associated with a number of emerging trends in Indian agriculture, including: (i) shifting demand towards high value agriculture and higher quality of produce;

(ii) urbanization of demand; and (iii) the move of large corporations into agricultural marketing. While doing so, the project intends to put in place a process that will empower small farmers to be able to respond positively to these accelerating changes in the food market by creating enabling conditions and support for production systems diversification, increase in on-farm productivity, improved product quality and standards, and realization of value-addition opportunities, in this context, knowledge and technology transfer will play an important role, something that the project aims to achieve by creating conditions that would allow the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA)-based model of extension reaching its full potential. In addition, the project intends to make agricultural markets more efficient by creating enabling conditions and support for reducing spoilage, generating economies of scale in output marketing and input supply and fostering increased competition among buyers of agricultural produce. The project would particularly support models that would allow farmers to obtain a larger slice of the retail rupee by fostering the establishment of forward linkages and the emergence of balanced supply chains. While doing so, it would open up alternative marketing platforms, besides existing regulated markets and direct purchase arrangements. The project offers the prospects of both improved prices for producers and the production which will better match consumer's demand. Through this Project, farmers should be better able to attune their production to changes in demand and to take advantage of new and alternative marketing channels, as well as, the potential of new technologies.

The MACP will mainly focus on, (i) expanding market infrastructure and opportunities by increasing market and associated infrastructure and making market management more responsive to farmers needs and promoting private sector investment in agribusiness, (ii) increasing farmers' access to market opportunities by improving the relevance of market information and regulatory framework; improving supply chain management, promoting business linkages, and, (iii) facilitating intensification and diversification of production by making extension and adaptive research more relevant and accessible to farmers; encouraging the development and introduction of more effective agricultural production systems; and reducing the risk associated with change, especially for small operators.

The project will greatly help to overcome the existing constraints of farmers regarding poor access to markets through the preparation of a District Agricultural Development & Marketing Strategy (DADMS) in each District, which would have a greater focus on the identification of the constraints and opportunities for increasing farmers' income, which in turn will be determined largely by market access, linkages, opportunities and the overcoming of constraints.



[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, most of the State Governments have enacted the legislation to provide for regulation of agriculture produce market. The purpose of State regulation of agriculture produce market was to protect the farmers from exploitation of intermediaries and traders; and also to ensure better prices and timely payment for their produce. Over a period of time, these markets have, however, acquired the status of monopolistic market. Monopolistic practices and modalities of the State controlled markets have prevented private investment in the agriculture sector. The post harvest losses are estimated to be of the order of five to seven per cent in the food grains and 25 per cent to 30 per cent in fruits and vegetables.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: In view of this situation, I would like to ask the hon. Minister the broad parameters and mechanism about marketing projects which are to be implemented with the assistance of the World Bank so that the benefits of marketing competitiveness percolate to the poor farmers.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is true that there was a complaint from some of the farming community that though regulated market is giving protection, which was very useful to the farmers also, the same situation is not there. The farmers have also become alert. They are aware of the overall price situation, that is why, they should be allowed to dispose of their produce anywhere in the country. That is the reason why these reforms have been made.

About four years back, the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee called a meeting of all the Ministers of Cooperation and Marketing and in that meeting a unanimous decision was taken to amend the Agriculture Produce Market Act and to allow the farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country, including the markets.

The second issue which has been raised by the hon. Member is a correct issue and that is the lack of infrastructure. There are, of course, losses in our country that are on the quite high side. Every year, the total losses because of the non-availability of the post harvesting infrastructure are to the tune of Rs.50,000 crore worth agriculture produce. We have to check the situation. That is why, this project, that is, Multi-State Agriculture Competitiveness Project has been formulated with the help of World Bank to provide excellent quality infrastructure.

Today, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Maharashtra came forward and have prepared their proposals. Recently, the Government of Punjab has also taken an initiative. We have agreed that we are ready to include Punjab also. Those States, which have completed the APMC

marketing reforms are eligible to get advantage of this. In this particular project, there will be substantial provision for setting up the infrastructure, whether cold storage, whether packaging houses, or whether upgradation of other equipment, etc. that will be available in the market.

Secondly, market information is also a very important thing. The farmer should know when to bring his produce in the market and he should know which Mandi is there, and today what are the prices, etc. That is why, through the connectivity, internet, mobile phones, televisions and other equipment, this information also will be provided to the farmers in this project.

Lastly, as far as the extension is concerned, these facilities will be provided in this scheme and I am happy that the World Bank has shown interest to provide money. Of course, this money will not be in the form of grant but it will be interest free loan.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister that the manner in which the World Bank and Multi-State Agriculture Competitiveness Projects would help the farmers in accessing the market without any fear, how it will increase the private sector investment in agriculture sector and how it will promote more effective use of Government funds allocated for research work?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, here one of the important things is that the private sector is also encouraged to enter the market so that they could help the farmers to get the proper price. That type of provision is very much there.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Child Labour in Agriculture Sector

\*105. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the children engaged in Agriculture and farming sector are passing through a critical situation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plans to free such child labour; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the plans will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14

years in 15 hazardous occupations and 57 hazardous processes. Employment of children in agriculture and farming sector has not been prohibited under the Act except in the processes where tractors, threshing and harvesting machines are used and chaff cutting is involved as also handling of insecticides and pesticides. No adverse reports have been received with regard to a critical situation in these sectors in respect of engagement of children.

(d) Under the programmes of this Ministry, rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations is being provided. Under these programmes, children withdrawn from work are admitted to special schools where they are provided with education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition as well as health check-up facilities. At present, this programme is being implemented in 250 districts covering 20 States in the country under the National Child Labour Project Scheme. An expansion in the Scheme alongwith the enlargement of its scope through additional components during the XI Plan is under consideration. This inter alia covers the children working in notified hazardous occupations in the agricultural and farming sectors also. In addition, a scheme of Grants-in-aid to voluntary agencies for the benefit of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations is being implemented in the uncovered districts.

[Translation]

#### **Amendment in Information Technology Act, 2000**

\*106. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make amendments in the Information Technology Act, 2000;
- (b) if so, whether the views of State Governments has been solicited on the proposed amendments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15.12.2006. The Speaker had referred the said Bill to the Standing Committee on 19.12.2006 for consideration and report.

(b) to (d) The Government had setup an Expert Committee consisting of experts from Government, Industry and IT Industry Associations, Legal profession to suggest amendments in the Information Technology Act, 2000. The recommendations of the Expert Committee were put up on the website of Department of Information Technology,

"www.mit.gov.in" for inviting views and suggestions from all. A mail box was also opened on the website for posting suggestions. Several suggestions were received relating to the proposed amendments. Some of the suggestions received were incorporated in the Bill.

#### **Patenting of Seeds**

\*107. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some Multinational Companies are misleading the poor farmers by patenting the indigenous seeds in the name of Genetically Modified Seeds;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government against such companies;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for the scientific study and development of the indigenous seeds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Bt. cotton is the only genetically modified crop approved for commercial cultivation in the country by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of the Ministry of Environment & Forests constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. All the Bt. cotton hybrids have been developed by private seed companies from Indian cultivars using genetically modified seeds procured from Monsanto of USA, Biotechnology Transgenes China Corporation and IIT Kharagpur. Seeds are not patentable under Section 3 (j) of the Patents Act, 1970 as amended in 2002. However, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 has been enacted and operationalized for protection of the rights of farmers, plant breeders, researchers and local communities.

(c) and (d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned a project for development of Transgenics to increase yield and quality of different crops. The National Agriculture Research System is continuously engaged in development of new and improved varieties of crops.

[English]

#### **Marketing of Agricultural Produce**

\*108. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers are unable to get remunerative prices for their produce due to lack of advanced and modern marketing facilities in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has initiated any

special scheme for development of advanced and modern marketing infrastructure to facilitate better marketing of agricultural produce; and

(c) if so, the steps taken for upgradation of infrastructure and daily links with the markets alongwith the allocation made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Farmers, at times, are unable to get remunerative prices for their produce due to inadequate marketing facilities in the country. There are temporal and spatial variations in the agricultural markets and most of the markets lack required infrastructure for efficient marketing.

The Ministry of Agriculture has initiated implementation of market reforms by circulating a Model Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act in 2003 and a reform-linked Central Sector Scheme titled "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" has been launched on 20.10.2004 to facilitate development of marketing infrastructure, market user common facilities, infrastructure for direct marketing of agricultural commodities, infrastructure for supply of production inputs and need-based services, infrastructure for e-trading, market intelligence etc. and mobile infrastructure for post-harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) by providing credit-linked back-ended capital investment subsidy to entrepreneurs and direct assistance to State agencies. Assistance to State agencies is also being provided under the Scheme for the modernization and upgradation of existing marketing infrastructure.

During the Tenth Plan period an expenditure of Rs.73.23 crore has been incurred under this Scheme and 1540 bank funded marketing infrastructure projects were sanctioned a subsidy by NABARD, 4 cooperative sector projects were assisted through NCDC and 45 State agency projects were approved for assistance by the Department. For the year 2007-08, an allocation of Rs.62.50 crore has been made in the Plan Budget for this purpose.

The linking of important agricultural produce wholesale markets spread all over the country to a national level Agricultural Marketing Information Network (Agmarknet) for collection and dissemination of market information to facilitate better price realization by the farmers has been taken up by the Ministry of Agriculture under the Central Sector Scheme, "Market Research and Information Network". Under this Scheme, so far, more than 2800 market nodes have been set up by providing computer sets, connectivity and capacity building and out of these about 1800 market nodes are

regularly reporting daily prices and arrivals data for dissemination through the Agmarknet portal covering more than 300 commodities with more than 2000 varieties. Under this Scheme, an expenditure of Rs.29.96 crore has been incurred during the X Plan period for setting up various market nodes and taking up other activities for running the portal and an allocation of Rs.3.05 crore has been made for 2007-08 in the Plan Budget for expanding the coverage of the Scheme.

[Translation]

#### Licence for Courier Service

\*109. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a licensing policy for running courier services;

(b) if so, the norms laid down in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is a proposal to amend the Indian Post Office Act 1898, which seeks inter alia to regulate the running of private courier services. This is yet to be finalized.

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

[English]

#### Production of Certified Seeds

\*110. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to offer a capital grant on concessional financing with a view to double the production of certified seeds within the next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had invited public as well as large private sector companies to submit plans to scale up production of seeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the said companies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Sir, the Government is considering a proposal to enhance and expand the incentives for seed production in the country to achieve desired Seed Replacement Rates.

*[Translation]***Expenditure of Imported Wheat**

\*111. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the price at which wheat is being imported in the country and the additional expenditure likely to be incurred thereon after the imports;

(b) the price at which the said wheat is proposed to be distributed in the country;

(c) whether the said price is lower than the price prevailing currently in the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for import of the said wheat?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The CF (FO) cost of imported wheat for the 5.11 lakh tons contracted in 2007-08 is US\$ 325.59 per metric ton. Further, the cost of port clearance is about Rs.450 per metric ton and the cost of movement from port to the FCI godowns depends on the distance to FCI godowns.

(b) The imported wheat is released to the State Governments against allotments under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes at Central Issue Prices which are as follows:-

(Rate: Rs./Quintal)

**Name of the schemes**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Above Poverty Line (APL)  | 610 |
| Below Poverty Line (BPL)  | 415 |
| Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)   | 200 |
| Welfare Schemes: Mid Day Meal,<br>National Food for Work Programme, Nutrition<br>Programme, Welfare Institutions & Hostels etc.,<br>Annapurna, Nutritional Programme for<br>Adolescent Girls. | 415 |

(c) and (d) Imported wheat is distributed at Central Issue Prices. The prevailing wholesale prices of wheat as on 01.08.2007 are in the region of Rs.1025/quintal (Delhi), Rs. 1300/quintal (Mumbai) and Rs. 1450/quintal (Chennai).

(e) Import of wheat is required to take care of the requirements of the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), welfare schemes, emergency relief measures and to ensure food security.

**Agriculture Development Centre**

112. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a mega project for setting up of Panchayat level Agriculture Development Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such Agriculture Development Centres are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture has not launched any mega project for setting up Panchayat level Agriculture Development Centre.

However, as recommended by the National Commission on Farmers, DAC is promoting setting up of Farm Schools at Gram Panchayat/Block level. Main features of Farm Schools are:

- Farm Schools would normally be set up in the field of outstanding farmers and awardees of nationally recognized awards for farmers.
- "Teachers" in the Farm Schools could be progressive farmers, extension functionaries or expert belonging to Government or Non-Government Sector.
- The trainees of Farm Schools would preferably be leaders of farmers' groups producing the same commodity.
- Demonstration and training would be the main activities at Farm Schools.
- Trainees of Farm Schools would also be supported for undertaking Field Demonstrations in their own fields.
- Knowledge and skills of "teachers" would be upgraded on a continuous basis through training at district/state/national level institutions and exposure visits, etc.

Farm Schools have been added in July, 2007 as an eligible activity under the scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" based on Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) model. This list of eligible activities provides unit cost ceiling as well as activity ceiling. States have flexibility in choosing extension activities and outlays for each one of them subject to overall budgetary ceiling and activity ceiling.

*[English]***Interlinking of Rivers in South India**

\*113. SHRI A. KRISHNA SWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to link the rivers in South India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to negotiate with the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Under Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective Plan, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) after carrying out various studies, has identified 16 links for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). The status of the FRs of these links is given in the enclosed statement. Out of these 16 links, the following 12 link proposals envisage to link the rivers in South India.

1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram)
2. Godavari(Polavaram) – Krishna (Vijayawada)
3. Godavari(Inchampalli) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)
4. Godavari(Inchampalli – Krishna (Pulichintala)
5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila)
6. Krishna (Srisaillam) – Pennar
7. Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar
8. Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut)
9. Cauvery (Kattalai) – Vaigai – Gundar
10. Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar
11. Netravati-Hemavati and
12. Bedti-Varda.

(b) All the reports prepared by NWDA are circulated to the concerned State Governments. The State Government officers are invariably invited to all the important meetings e.g. Annual General Meeting of NWDA Society, Governing Body, Technical Advisory Committee etc. A group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) has been constituted in June, 2002 to discuss with the States for arriving at consensus regarding sharing of surplus waters and preparation of detailed project report by NWDA. This group has already held nine meetings for consensus building on priority links including one for Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component*

1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link\*
2. Godavari (Polavaram) – Krishna (Vyayawada) link\*#
3. Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna ( Pulichintala) link\*
4. Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link \*

5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) link\*
6. Krishna (Srisaillam) – Pennar link\*
7. Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link\*
8. Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link\*
9. Cauvery (Kattalai) – Vaigai – Gundar link\*
10. Parbati – Kalisindh – Chambal link\*#
11. Damanganga–Pinjal link\*#
12. Par–Tapi–Narmada link\*#
13. Ken–Betwa link\*#
14. Pamba – Achankovil – Vaippar link\*
15. Netravati – Hemavati Link
16. Bedti – Varda link

\* FRs completed

# Priority links

[Translation]

#### **Irregularities in Public Distribution System**

\*114. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints of irregularities in the Public Distribution System from various parts of the country especially from Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to conduct a detailed enquiry through an independent group or Central Agency into the foodgrain scams; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for allocation of foodgrains within the State, identification of eligible families and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible families through the fair price shops rests with the State/UT Governments.

The State/UT Governments are mandated to ensure that the foodgrains allocated under the TPDS reach the targeted families and no leakages/diversions take place.

Complaints about functioning of TPDS in different States and UTs keep coming to the Government. Whenever such complaints are received, they are sent to the concerned State/UT Governments directing them to conduct inquiries into the complaints and take appropriate action required under the law. Complaints were also received about functioning of TPDS in Uttar Pradesh, particularly, in the district of Lakhimpur Khiri and Siddhartnagar. The complaints received were sent to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for necessary inquiry and required corrective action.

As reported by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, complaints about irregularities in functioning of TPDS in 54 districts in the State received by it have recently been handed over by the State Government for inquiry and required further action to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted for this purpose. This SIT is presently inquiring into the complaints.

Since the State Government has already entrusted the inquiry into these complaints in the 54 districts to the SIT and the investigation is in progress, the Government of India does not propose to conduct any additional inquiry through any other independent group or Central Agency.

#### Agricultural Growth Rate

\*115. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set out a target for increasing the growth rate in agricultural sector to 4 percent during the Eleventh Plan; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made in this direction and the results achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 reaffirmed its commitment to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the Eleventh Plan. It also resolved, inter alia, the following:

- Launching of a Food Security Mission covering wheat, rice and pulses aimed at producing an additional 8 million tonnes of wheat, 10 million tonnes of rice and 2 million tonnes of pulses.
- Introducing a new scheme for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State Plans. The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.
- To provide additional resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agricultural research effort.
- To take new initiatives for skill development in the farming community.
- The State Governments are to prepare District and State

Agricultural Plans for prioritizing the investment in the sector.

In view of the above, Government of India has approved two schemes for accelerating the growth rate in the agriculture sector. These are: (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for implementing the State and District Plans for agricultural development.

#### Import of Pulses

\*116. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to import pulses to improve its availability and check prices;

(d) if so, the quantum and price of pulses imported by various agencies during the last one year and thereafter till date, agency-wise;

(e) the total expenditure incurred on the said imports;

(f) the comparative figures of the prices fixed for imported pulses and those prevalent in domestic market; and

(g) the reasons for failure to check price of pulses despite imports?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Area under pulses crop increased from 22.39 million hectares in 2005-06 to 23.76 million hectares in 2006-07. However, the area sown under kharif crops this year (2007-08) has come down to 4.01 million hectares in comparison to last year (4.79 million hectares). The Fourth Advance Estimates has put the production of pulses for 2006-07 at 14.23 million tonnes. The estimated demand for pulses in 2006-07 was between 16.0-16.5 million tonnes. Production and imports of pulses for the last 6 years are given below:

| (million tonnes) |            |        |
|------------------|------------|--------|
| Year             | Production | Import |
| 2001-02          | 13.37      | 2.21   |
| 2002-03          | 11.13      | 1.99   |
| 2003-04          | 14.91      | 1.72   |
| 2004-05          | 13.13      | 1.30   |
| 2005-06          | 13.39      | 1.70   |
| 2006-07          | 14.23      | 2.25   |

Planning Commission's Working Group for 11th Five Year Plan has projected production of pulses for 2007-08 at 14.03 million tonnes with a demand gap of 2.74 million tonnes.

(c) Yes Sir. In order to augment availability of pulses in the domestic market, private traders were allowed to import pulses at zero duty and NAFED imported 49,300 tonnes of pulses during 2006-07. Government have authorized the STC, MMTC and PEC besides NAFED to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses during 2007-08. The NCCF has also been authorized to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of moong, urad and tur during 2007-08.

(d) The quantum and rate of pulses imported by various agencies during the last one year and thereafter till 6.8.07, agency-wise is given below:

| Organisation       | Variety of pulses    | Qty imported  | Purchase price (US \$ PMT) |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| PEC Ltd.           | Urad                 | 6870          | 570-659                    |
|                    | Moong                | 1907          | 630                        |
|                    | Tur                  | 6479          | 384-454                    |
|                    | Yellow peas          | -             | -                          |
|                    | Chick peas           | -             | -                          |
|                    | Red Lentils          | -             | -                          |
|                    | <b>Total (PEC)</b>   | <b>15256</b>  |                            |
| MMTC Ltd           | Urad                 | 3000          | 586                        |
|                    | Moong                | 980           | 638.5                      |
|                    | Tur                  | 19424         | 412-457                    |
|                    | Masoor               | 2451          | 569.85-576.20              |
|                    | Dunpeas              | 1959          | 378-380                    |
|                    | Yellow peas          | 51230         | 344-365                    |
|                    | Desi Ghana           | -             | -                          |
|                    | <b>Total (MMTC)</b>  | <b>79044</b>  |                            |
| NAFED              | Urad                 | 38041         | 565-670                    |
|                    | Moong                | 5219          | 630                        |
|                    | Tur                  | 5221          | 532                        |
|                    | Yellowpeas           | -             | -                          |
|                    | <b>Total (NAFED)</b> | <b>48481</b>  |                            |
| STC                | Urad                 | 30507         | 634.5                      |
|                    | Yellow peas          | 67324         | 358.95-365                 |
|                    | Tur                  | 980           | 563.45                     |
|                    | Moong                | 2760          | 703.69                     |
|                    | <b>Total (STC)</b>   | <b>101571</b> |                            |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |                      | <b>243175</b> |                            |

(e) The total expenditure incurred on the said imports is about Rs. 462 lakhs (provisional).

(f) The imported pulses are being sold in the market through open tender. Prices of pulses including imported and or indigenous are differ for each variety and depend on quality besides market forces like demand and supply that are prevailing in the market at a particular time.

The comparative figures of the prices fixed for imported pulses and those prevalent in domestic market is subject to variability on account of the dynamic nature of price behaviour in the international and domestic markets. The average difference in international and domestic prices is indicated below:

- (1) Urad:- Rs. 150-400 per qtl higher than the price of imported pulses depending upon the quality.
- (2) Moong:- Rs. 70-300 per qtl higher than the price of imported pulses depending upon the quality.
- (3) Arhar:- Rs. 50-300 per qtl lower than the price of imported pulses depending upon the quality.
- (4) Yellow Peas:- US\$ 10-20 (about Rs. 400-800) per MT lower than the price of imported pulses depending upon the quality.

(g) The basic reason for rise in prices of pulses is a mismatch in the demand and supply of most pulses. In addition, there has been a steady escalation in global prices of pulses and of other commodities. Availability of surplus pulses in the global market is also limited and the uncertainty in timely supply also attributes to rise in prices of pulses in the domestic market.

Imports have augmented the domestic availability of pulses. This has, to some extent, arrested the rising trend in prices of pulses. It has also led to relative stability in the prices of pulses over the past few months.

[English]

#### Production Cost of Cotton

\*117. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the weighted average of per quintal cost of production of cotton in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the weighted average of selling price of cotton per quintal for cotton during the said period, year-wise;

(c) whether the farmers are unable to get remunerative price of cotton as compared with the rise in the cost of its production; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide remunerative price to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per the projections made by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the weighted average of per quintal Cost of Production of Cotton i.e. A2+FL cost (actual expenses in cash and kind including rent paid for leased in land + imputed value of family labour) in the country during the last three years are as follows:

| (Rs. per quintal) |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Year              | Per quintal (A2 + FL)<br>Cost of Production* |
| 2004-05           | 1529.27                                      |
| 2005-06           | 1549.01                                      |
| 2006-07           | 1538.93                                      |

\* Weighted Average with reference to major cotton growing States

A2: All paid out costs

FL: Imputed value of family labour cost

(b) According to Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Limited, the average Kapas (cotton) prices for J-34 and H-4 varieties are as under:-

| (Price in Rs. per quintal) |       |      |
|----------------------------|-------|------|
| Year/Variety               | J-34# | H-4# |
| 2004-05                    | 1867  | 2024 |
| 2005-06                    | 1978  | 1998 |
| 2006-07                    | 2015  | 2072 |

# based on fortnightly average prices

(c) and (d) With a view to ensuring remunerative prices to cotton growers, the Government of India, on the recommendations of CACP, decides and announces MSPs of cotton before commencement of sowing season and organizes purchase operations through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). Views of the State Governments and Central Ministries are, inter alia, taken into account before fixing MSPs. While recommending MSPs, CACP takes into account the cost of cultivation/production as one of the important factors. For the year 2006-07, Government had fixed MSPs of cotton F-414/H-777/J34 and cotton H-4 varieties at Rs.1770 and Rs.1990 per quintal respectively. The designated nodal agency viz. CCI intervenes in the market for undertaking procurement operations with the objective that the market prices do not fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. In case the prevailing prices are higher than the MSP, farmers are free to sell their produce in the market.

### Small Scale Industries in Defence Production

\*118. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is being considered to allow small and medium enterprises to manufacture defence equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this step would benefit both the defence sector and the small scale industries of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Since May 2001, the defence industry sector has been opened for Indian private sector participation, subject to licensing. The Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) can also undertake production of defence equipment after obtaining industrial licence.

(c) This would encourage SMEs, who have the potential to take up design and development work of defence items, to make substantial contribution in defence production.

### Irrigation and Seed Development

\*119. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has urged the State Governments to give special focus on irrigation and seed development in partnership with the Union Government to address the bottlenecks in agriculture;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government has prepared any detailed action plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the Central assistance proposed to be provided to each State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Sir, the State Governments have been urged to enhance seed production to achieve the required Seed Replacement Rate in three to five years. Government of India has been providing assistance to States under various schemes for this purpose. As regards irrigation, States have been requested to improve water use efficiency and water conservation. Further, under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and Surface Minor Irrigation Scheme, loan assistance and grants are given to States to complete major/medium and minor irrigation projects.



### Cultivable Land

\*120. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultivable land in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh has declined considerably whereas that under non-agriculture uses has increased over the Ninth and Tenth Plan Period;

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

(c) the steps taken to increase the extent of cultivable land in order to achieve the targeted growth rate of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) As per available estimates, there is a marginal decline in cultivable land from 183.59 million ha. in the beginning of Ninth Plan (1997-98) to 182.57 million ha. in 2005-06 in the Tenth Plan for which the figures are available. During the same period, area under non-agricultural purposes has increased from 22.69 million ha. to 24.94 million ha. in the country.

In case of Andhra Pradesh also, there is a marginal decline in cultivable land from 15.86 million ha. in the beginning of Ninth Plan (1997-98) to 15.76 million ha. in 2005-06 in the Tenth Plan for which the figures are available. During the same period, area under non-agricultural purposes has increased from 2.58 million ha. to 2.71 million ha.

The marginal decline in cultivable land in the country including Andhra Pradesh is due to diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc.

Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA) (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of lands in the country. Under these programmes, since inception upto Tenth Five Year Plan, an area of about 50.83 million ha. has been developed. Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses. To achieve the targeted growth rate in agriculture, the major thrust is on increasing productivity.

### Construction of Helipads by BRO

951. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is planning to construct helipads at many places along the route of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the time by which the new helipads are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 8 Helipads are proposed to be constructed as part of the construction of Ghatlabgarh-Lipulekh road in Uttarakhand at the estimated cost of Rs.600 Lakhs.

(c) By 2011.

### Use of Fertile Land for SEZs

952. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of agricultural fertile land being diverted for the construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of agricultural land acquisition for Special Economic Zones on the production of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The total land area in the 362 valid formal approvals for setting up SEZs is about 48781 hectares. Of this, about 17800 hectares of land were already in the ownership/possession of State Industrial Development Corporations which were acquired for industrial purposes by the State Governments much prior to the introduction of the SEZ policy. As little area has been consumed by the SEZs so far as compared to the total cultivable area of about 183 million hectares in the country, no systematic assessment about its impact on foodgrain production has been undertaken.

### Ageing Fleet of IAF

953. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fleet position of Indian Air Force (IAF) as on date;

(b) whether most of the aircraft are ageing and they have to be retired from the fleet shortly; and

(c) if so, the details of proposed retirement plan of the IAF fleet?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) IAF has a variety of aircraft to cater to various missions. These include fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters, trainer aircraft etc. of different kinds and for different roles.

(b) and (c) The life of military aircraft is specified by "Total Technical Life" (TTL) which is a combination of flying hours and calendar life. The vast majority of IAF aircraft currently in service have a considerable life left before approaching TTL. Upon completion of assigned technical life, aircraft are progressively phased out. This is a continuous process.

[Translation]

#### Stress Problem and Changes in Recruitment Rules

954. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any changes in the recruitment rules of defence personnel keeping in view the rising trends of stress among them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any plan to reduce tension among the personnel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (d) Recruitment rules for selection of officers in the Defence Forces are already designed to identify candidates who are prone to stress. The officers' selection is based on personality assessment carried out at the Services Selection Boards which includes Group Testing, Psychological Test and Interview. Psychological Test, comprises of Situation Reaction Tests, Thematic Appreciation Tests, Word Association Tests and Self Description Test.

For recruitment of Personnel Below Officer Rank in the Army the Defence Institute of Psychological Research has been engaged to develop a system for psychological testing of the candidates. There is no such proposal in the Navy and the Air Force.

The Government is alive to the problem of stress among the troops and have taken several measures to prevent it. Some of the steps are:-

(i) Better man management and prompt attendance of grievances at Unit level.

(ii) Improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with the soldiers.

(iii) Some Junior Commissioned Officers of Army Medical Corps (AMC) have been trained and deployed as psychological counsellors in Northern and Eastern Commands.

(iv) More JCOs and NCOs are being trained so that two counsellors are available in every unit.

(v) Training capsules on relaxation techniques including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.

(vi) Leave policy has been liberalised permitting splitting of annual and casual leave. The troops will now be able to go to their home towns on leave thrice a year instead of twice a year earlier.

(vii) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.

(viii) All Chief Ministers have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families,

(ix) It has been decided to strengthen Rajya Sainik Boards and Zilla Sainik Boards in all States to take necessary follow up action on the grievances of soldiers in their home towns/villages.

(x) A helpline with toll free number has been established.

(xi) Efforts are made for identification and counselling of persons who are at higher combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(xii) Grant of additional rail warrant to go home or Selected Place of Residence of family to all ranks of armed forces serving in field/counter insurgency/counter terrorist operational areas.

(xiii) Rationalisation of scheme for LTC for both officers and Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBORs) allowing availing of home travel concession even for visit to Selected Place of Residence (SPR) of families in case of personnel posted in field areas and removal of restriction of 1450 kms for availing All India LTC.

(xiv) Grant of High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) (HAUC) allowance at enhanced rates to troops deployed in more difficult, hazardous isolated areas within the existing HAUC areas.

#### Violation of Post Office Act

955. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the Indian Post Office Act 1898 is being violated;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases registered under the said Act during the last three years and the nature of cases registered so far;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **Business Oriented Courses in Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship**

956. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce more business oriented courses in the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), at Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Business oriented courses at IIE, Guwahati are demand driven and keep varying from year to year depending upon the needs of target groups in the North Eastern Region. The details of such courses conducted at IIE, Guwahati during 2006-07 are as under:

| S.No. | Category   | Courses conducted during 2006-07 |                  |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|------------------|
|       |  | No. of Programmes                | No. Participants |
| 1     | 2  | 3                                | 4                |
| (i)   | Promotion of New Entrepreneurs (PNE)               | 62                               | 2950             |
| (ii)  | Growth of Existing Entrepreneurs (GEE)             | 102                              | 3794             |
| (iii) | Creation of Environment for Entrepreneurship (CEE) | 16                               | 392              |
| (iv)  | Entrepreneurship Education (EE)                    | 32                               | 1423             |

| 1     | 2                           | 3   | 4    |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----|------|
| (v)   | Information Technology (IT) | 03  | 66   |
| (vi)  | Seminar/Workshop (S/W)      | 10  | 486  |
| Total |                             | 225 | 9111 |

[Translation]

#### **Construction of Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh**

957. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction work of the tunnel which provide an all-weather road to district Lahul of Himachal Pradesh through Rohtang Pass near Manali Tehsil of Kullu District in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the expenditure proposed for this year and the expenditure already incurred till date and the total expenditure likely to be incurred for the construction of the said tunnel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Proposal for construction of 8.82 Km Tunnel at Rohtang alongwith approach roads and alternative road to Leh via Darcha-Padam-Nimu has been approved by the Government on 6.9.2005. A consultant has been appointed for design and advisory service for construction of Rohtang Tunnel. BRO have now finalized the list of firms to whom Tender papers for construction of Tunnel are to be issued.

(b) Out of the total approved cost of the project at Rs. 1355.82 crores, an expenditure of Rs.106.23 crores has been incurred up to March 2007. During financial year 2007-2008, provision of Rs.55.73 crores has been made.

(c) The work is expected to be completed by 2013-2014.

#### **Procurement of Defence Equipment**

958. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several countries including USA, Russia, France, Israel and Germany have offered to provide weapons and defence systems to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the countries with which the Government is holding talks regarding procurement of weapons and defence systems; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent on procurement of weapons by the Government this year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Defence items including weapons and defence systems are acquired in accordance with the provisions of the Defence Procurement Procedure. These items are procured from indigenous as well as foreign sources including USA, Russia, France, Israel, Germany etc. Divulging the details relating to these items on the floor of the House would not be in the interests of national security.

Budgetary provisions to the tune of about Rs.32610 crore under Capital head have been made for the modernization of the Armed Forces during the year 2007-2008.

#### System of Collection of Post

959. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to consider the system of Collection of Post (Speed Post);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Department of Posts has been providing the facility of collection of Speed Post articles from the customer's premises by post man and collection agents. They are paid an incentive/commission for collection. The extension of Speed Post collection facility is an on going process.

#### Statement-I

##### Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production

##### Details of Project proposals received and approved during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07

| Sl. No. | State       | Project proposals received                             | Decision Taken                       |
|---------|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1       | 2           | 3  | 4                                    |
| 1       | Bihar       | i Dèsh Ratna Milk Union, Barauai                       | Observation sent to State Government |
| 2       | Maharashtra | i Kajrat Taluka Dudh Vyavsaik Va Prakriya Maryadit     |                                      |
|         |             | ii Bhandra Dist Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Maryadit   |                                      |
|         |             | iii Gondia Zilha Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh           |                                      |
|         |             | iv Shree Warana Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Prakriya Sangh   |                                      |
|         |             | v Latur Zilha Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Ltd.         |                                      |
|         |             | vi Nagpur Zilha Nutan Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh Ltd. |                                      |

[English]

#### Indo-Japan Military Cooperation

960. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Military Cooperation agreement has been recently signed by India and Japan; and

(b) if so, the broad features and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Funds for Dairy Development in Orissa

961. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received for dairy development during the last two years State-wise particularly from Orissa; and

(b) the decision taken by the Government on the said proposals alongwith the details of the proposals rejected and the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing two Centrally sponsored schemes for dairy development. State-wise list of proposals received and decision taken in the last two financial years under these schemes, including those from Orissa is given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

| 1 | 2 | 3  | 4   |
|---|---|--|---|
|   |   | vii Shrigonda Taluka Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Ltd.                        |   |
|   |   | viii Aurangabad Jilha Sahakari Dudh Sangh Maryadit                           |   |
|   |   | ix. Hindustan Agro Cooperative Maryadit, Taluka Rahuri, (Multi State)        |   |
|   |   | x Kolhapur Zilha Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh                                 |   |
|   |   | xi Parner Taluka Sahakari Dugdh Ut Va Prakriya Sangh, Supa, Tal Parner       |   |
|   |   | xii Shri Fatteshingara Naik Sahakari Utpadak Sangh, Shirala                  | State Government has been advised to revise the proposals as per revised guidelines |
|   |   | xiii Hiranyakeshi-Ghatprabha Multipurpose Multi State Cooperative union Ltd. |   |
|   |   | xiv Patoda Taluka Dudh Vyavasaik Sahakari Sangh Ltd. Taluka Patoda           |   |
|   |   | xv Satara Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Va Prakriya Sangh Ltd.                       |   |
|   |   | xvi Godavari Khore Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Ltd., Kopergaon               |   |
|   |   | xvii Samarth Dudh Utpadak Va Puravatha Sangh Ltd., Ambad                     |   |
|   |   | xviii Manjara Dudh Sankalan Va Prakriya Sangh Ltd., Latur Taluka             |   |
|   |   | xix Mayur Sahakari Dudh Sangh Ltd.   |   |
|   |   | xx Wardha Jilha Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Ltd.                             |   |
|   |   | xxi Jalgaon Jilha Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh                                |   |
|   |   | xxii Akola Dist Coop Milk Union, Akola                                       |   |
|   |   | xxiii Beed Jilha Sahakari Dudh Sangh   |   |
|   |   | xxiv Bhoom Taluka Shahakari Dudh Sangh                                       |   |
|   |   | xxv Rajaram Bapu Patil Walwa Taluka Dudh                                     | Approved  |
|   |   | xxvi Dudhganga Sahakari Dudh Sangh Ltd. Indapur                              | Approved  |
|   |   | xxvii Phaltan Taluka Sahakari Dudh Puravatha Sangh                           | Approved  |
|   |   | xxviii Shivamrut Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh                                 | Approved  |
|   |   | xxix Hutatma Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh                                     | Approved  |
|   |   | xxx Vasantdada Dudh Sangh  | Approved  |
|   |   | xxxi Beed Taluka Sahakari Dudh Sangh   | Approved  |
|   |   | xxxii Ashti Taluka Dudh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh                               | Approved  |
|   |   | xxxiii Newasa Taluka Dudh Vyavsaik Sangh                                     | Approved  |
|   |   | xxxiv Vriddeshwar Dudh Sangh   | Approved  |

| 1  | 2              | 3  | 4                         |
|----|----------------|--|---------------------------|
|    |                | xxxv Tulja Bhawani Dudh Sangh                    | Approved                  |
|    |                | xxxvi Pune Zilha Dusuh Sangh                     | Approved                  |
|    |                | xxxvii Dr Limbaji Mukta Rao Pansambal Dudh Sangh | Approved                  |
| 3. | Madhya Pradesh |  |                           |
|    |                | i Indore Milk Union                              | Approved                  |
|    |                | ii Ujjain Milk Union                             | Approved                  |
|    |                | iii Bhopal Milk Union                            | Approved                  |
|    |                | iv Gwalior Milk Union                            | Observation sent to State |
|    |                | v Jabalpur Milk Union                            | Government                |
|    |                | vi Bhopal Milk Union                             |                           |
|    |                | vii Bhopal Milk Union                            |                           |
|    |                | viii Bhopal Milk Union                           |                           |
|    |                | ix Bhopal Milk Union                             |                           |
|    |                | x Bhopal Milk Union                              |                           |
|    |                | xi Jabalpur Milk Union                           |                           |
|    |                | xii Indore Milk Union                            |                           |
|    |                | xiii Ujjain Milk Union                           |                           |
| 4  | Uttar Pradesh  |  |                           |
|    |                | i Raibareilly Milk Union                         | Approved                  |
|    |                | ii Badaun Milk Union                             | Approved                  |
|    |                | iii Fatehpur Milk Union                          | Approved                  |
|    |                | iv Bulandshahar Milk Union                       | Approved                  |
|    |                | v Aligarh Milk Union                             | Approved                  |
|    |                | vi Moradabad Milk Union                          | Approved                  |
|    |                | vii Meerut Milk Union                            | Approved                  |
|    |                | viii Mau Milk Union                              | Approved                  |
|    |                | ix PCDF, Noida                                   | Under consideration       |
|    |                | x Lucknow Milk Union                             | Observation sent to State |
|    |                | xi Kanpur Milk union                             | Government                |
|    |                | xii Allahabad Milk Union                         |                           |
|    |                | xiii Farukhabad Milk Union                       |                           |
|    |                | xiv Agra Milk Union                              |                           |
|    |                | xv Mathura Milk Union                            |                           |

| 1 | 2         | 3  | 4                         |
|---|-----------|--|---------------------------|
|   |           | xvi Etah Milk Union                                      |                           |
|   |           | xvii Shravasti Milk Union DD                             |                           |
|   |           | xviii Rampur Milk Union DD                               |                           |
|   |           | xix Basti Milk Union DD                                  |                           |
|   |           | xx DUSS Kanpur   |                           |
|   |           | xxi DUSS Sitapur   |                           |
|   |           | xxii DUSS Hardoi   |                           |
|   |           | xxiii DUSS Barabanki                                     |                           |
|   |           | xxiv DUSS Bijnor   |                           |
|   |           | xxv DUSS Gonda DD  |                           |
|   |           | xxvi DUSS Faizabad DD                                    |                           |
| 5 | Gujiarat  |  |                           |
|   |           | i Surat Milk Union                                       | Approved                  |
|   |           | ii Baroda Milk Union                                     | Approved                  |
|   |           | iii Ahmedabad Dist. Coop Milk Union                      | Approved                  |
|   |           | iv Panchmahal Milk Union                                 | Approved                  |
|   |           | v Mehsana District Coop Milk Producers Federation Ltd.   | Approved                  |
|   |           | vi Valsad District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd. | Approved                  |
|   |           | vii Banaskantha Dist. Coop Milk Prod Union Ltd.          | Approved                  |
| 6 | Karnataka |  |                           |
|   |           | i Gulbarga-Bidar Milk Union                              | Approved                  |
|   |           | ii Raichur-Bellary, Koppal Milk Union                    | Approved                  |
|   |           | iii Shimoga Milk Union                                   | Approved                  |
|   |           | iv Dharwad Milk Union                                    | Approved                  |
|   |           | v Mysore Milk union                                      | Approved                  |
|   |           | vi Bangalore Milk Union                                  | Observation sent to State |
|   |           | vii Belgaum Milk Union                                   | Government                |
|   |           | viii Bijapur Milk Union                                  |                           |
|   |           | ix Dakshina Kannada Milk Union                           |                           |
|   |           | x Hassan Milk Union                                      |                           |
|   |           | xi Kolar Milk Union                                      |                           |
|   |           | xii Mandya Milk Union                                    |                           |
|   |           | xiii Tumkur Milk Union                                   |                           |

| 1  | 2              | 3  | 4  |
|----|----------------|--|--|
| 7  | Andhra Pradesh | i A.P.Dairy Dev. Coop. Fed. Ltd.<br>ii A.P. Dairy Dev. Coop. Fed. Ltd.<br>iii Prakasham Dist. Coop Milk Union<br>iv Karimnagar Milk union<br>v APDDCF<br>vi APDDCF   | Approved<br>Approved<br>Approved<br>Observation sent to State<br>Government  |
| 8  | West Bengal    | i The Himalayan Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.<br>ii The Midnapore Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.<br>iii Bardhaman Milk Union<br>iv Kulick Cooperative Milk Union Ltd.<br>v Mayurakshi Milk Union<br>vi Kangsaboti Milk Union<br>vii Ichamati Milk Union<br>viii Bhagirathi Milk Union | Approved<br>Approved<br>Approved<br>Approved<br>Approved<br>Approved<br>Observation sent to State<br>Government  |
| 9  | Haryana        | i Ambala Milk Union<br>ii Kurukshetra-Karnal Milk Union<br>iii Ambala Milk Union<br>iv Ballabgarh Milk Union<br>v Kurukshetra Kamal Milk Union<br>vi Hisar-Jind Milk Union<br>vii Sirsa Milk Union<br>viii Rohtak Milk union   | Approved<br>Approved<br>Observation sent to State<br>Government  |
| 10 | Tripura        | i Tripura Coop Milk Union  | Observation sent to State<br>Government  |
| 11 | Orissa         | i Orissa State Milk Prod Federation<br>ii Puri District Coop Milk Producers Federation Ltd.  | Rejected. Same district is covered under IDDP Scheme<br>Rejected. Against the 2050 litres per day (LPD) milk procurement, 4000 LPD Bulk cooling capacity already available in the project area |



| 1  | 2                | 3   | 4                                    |
|----|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 12 | Himachal Pradesh | i HP Milk Fed                             | Observation sent to State Government |
| 13 | Pondicherry      | i Pondicherry Coop Milk Prod Union Ltd.   | Approved                             |
| 14 | Goa              | i Goa State Coop Milk Prod. Union         | Approved                             |
| 15 | Manipur          | i Manipur Milk Producers Coop. Union Ltd. | Approved                             |
| 16 | Assam            | i Directorate of Dairy Development        | Approved                             |
| 17 | Tamil Nadu       | i Erode Milk Union                        | Approved                             |
|    |                  | ii Kanchipuram-Thiruvallur Milk Union     | Approved                             |
|    |                  | iii Nilgiris Milk Union                   | Approved                             |
|    |                  | iv Madurai Milk Union                     | Approved                             |
|    |                  | v Dindigul Milk Union                     | Approved                             |
| 18 | Kerala           | i Erankulam Milk Union                    | Approved                             |
|    |                  | ii Emakulam Milk Union                    | Approved                             |
|    |                  | iii Thiruvananthapuram Milk Union         | Approved                             |
|    |                  | iv Thiruvananthapuram Milk Union          | Approved                             |
|    |                  | v Malabar Milk Union                      | Approved                             |
|    |                  | vi Malabar Milk Union                     | Approved                             |
|    |                  | vii Malabar Milk Union                    | Approved                             |
|    |                  | viii Malabar Milk Union                   | Approved                             |
|    |                  | ix Emakulam Milk Union                    | Approved                             |
|    |                  | x Thiruvananthapuram Milk Union           | Approved                             |
|    |                  | xi Thiruvananthapuram Milk Union          | Approved                             |
| 19 | Rajasthan        | i Churu Milk Union                        | Approved                             |
|    |                  | ii Alwar Milk Union                       | Approved                             |
|    |                  | iii Pali Milk Union                       | Approved                             |
| 20 | Punjab           | i Ludhiana Milk Union                     | Approved                             |
|    |                  | ii Patiala Milk Union                     | Approved                             |

**Statement-II**

*Project proposals received from various states (including Orissa) for dairy development during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, their present status & decisions of the Government of India*

**Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP):**

| Sl. No. | Name of State     | Name of the districts covered                                   | Decision of Government of India/ Present status   |
|---------|-------------------|---|---|
| 1       | 2                 | 3   | 4   |
| 1       | Arunachal Pradesh | West Kameng and Tawang  | The State Government has been requested to review the project.  |
| 2       | Andhra Pradesh    | Medak & Nizamabad   | Project sanctioned.   |
| 3       | Andhra Pradesh    | Suicide Prone Areas / Districts                                 | Project sanctioned.   |
| 4       | Bihar             | Aurangabad & Rohtak   | Bihar State Dairy Federation has been requested to revise the proposals on the basis of benchmark survey.   |
| 5       | Bihar             | Nawada & Shekhpura  |   |
| 6       | Bihar             | Munger & Lakhisarai   |   |
| 7       | Bihar             | Banka & Jamui   |   |
| 8       | Bihar             | Gopalganj, Savar & Siwan  |   |
| 9       | Chattisgarh       | Korba, Jajgir-Champa Jagdishpur, Kanker, Dantewada, Rajnandgaon | Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) considered the proposal. The State Government was requested to increase milk procurement in ongoing project areas from 2000 liter per day to 10,000 liter per day before this project is taken up for implementation. |
| 10      | Haryana           | Jhajjar, Sonapat, Rewari, Mahendergarh & Bhiwani                | Project sanctioned.   |
| 11      | Haryana           | Fatehabad   | It was examined and observation conveyed to State   |
| 12      | Haryana           | Mewat   | It was examined and observation conveyed to State   |
| 13      | Haryana           | Kurukshetra, Karnal & Kaithal                                   | Project sanctioned.   |
| 14      | Haryana           | Punchkula   | Project sanctioned.   |
| 15      | Jharkhand         | Ranchi  | Project sanctioned.   |
| 16      | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu, Kathua & Doda  | Proposal was considered by PSC and observation conveyed to State Government.  |
| 17      | Jammu and Kashmir | Anantnag, Pulwama, Srinagar, Leh & Kargil                       | State Government has been advised to revise the project proposal as per guidelines of the project.  |
| 18      | Kerala            | Pathnamthitta   | Project sanctioned.   |
| 19      | Kerala            | Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur & Kasaragod    | Project sanctioned.   |

| 1  | 2              | 3   | 4   |
|----|----------------|---|---|
| 20 | Kerala         | Suicide Prone Areas / Districts                     | Project sanctioned.   |
| 21 | Karnataka      | Suicide Prone Areas / Districts                     | Project sanctioned.   |
| 22 | Madhya Pradesh | Jhabua  | Project sanctioned  |
| 23 | Madhya Pradesh | Balaghat & Chhindwara                               | Project sanctioned.   |
| 24 | Madhya Pradesh | Harda, Barwani, Neemuch, Sheopur & Seoni            | Project sanctioned.   |
| 25 | Madhya Pradesh | Burhanpur and Khandwa                               | Madhya Pradesh Cooperative Dairy Federation has been requested to complete the old project approved during 8th plan before consideration of any new proposal. |
| 26 | Madhya Pradesh | Raisen-Vidisha                                      | Madhya Pradesh Cooperative Dairy Federation has been requested to complete the old project approved during 8th plan before consideration of any new proposal. |
| 27 | Madhya Pradesh | Hoshangabad   | Madhya Pradesh Cooperative Dairy Federation has been requested to revise the proposal based on the observations of the Department.                            |
| 28 | Maharashtra    | Amravati, Nanded, Nandurbar, Latur & Nagpur         | Project sanctioned.   |
| 29 | Maharashtra    | Suicide Prone Areas / Districts                     | Project sanctioned.   |
| 30 | Maharashtra    | Gondia, Buldhana, Nasik & Sanghli                   | State Government has been requested to revise the project proposal based on the observations of the Department.   |
| 31 | Manipur        | East Imphal & East Imphal                           | Project sanctioned.   |
| 32 | Mizoram        | Champhai  | Project sanctioned.   |
| 33 | Orissa         | Balasore, Bhadrak & Mayurbhanj (Repeated districts) | Project sanctioned.   |
| 34 | Orissa         | Bolangir, Kalahandi & Nuapada (Repeated districts)  | Project sanctioned.   |
| 35 | Orissa         | Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara & Nayagarh                | Orissa Milk Federation (OMFED) has been requested to complete on-going projects approved during 9th plan before new proposal is considered.                   |
| 36 | Rajasthan      | Baran   | Project sanctioned.   |
| 37 | Rajasthan      | Rajsamand, Churu & Sriganganagar                    | Project sanctioned.   |
| 38 | Rajasthan      | Sirohi, Tonk & Dholpur Nayagarh                     | Revised proposal has been received from the State Government recently.  |

| 1   | 2             | 3                                    | 4   |
|-----|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 39. | Tamil Nadu    | Tirunelveli & Thoothukudi            | Project sanctioned.   |
| 40  | Tamil Nadu    | Kanyakumari                          | Project sanctioned  |
| 41  | Tamil Nadu    | Thanjavur, Thiruvavur & Nagapattinam | Project Sanctioning Committee, taking up the project on 22.08.2007 for approval.                    |
| 42  | Tamil Nadu    | Dindigul                             | The State Government has been requested to send its recommendation.                                 |
| 43  | Tripura       | West Tripura (Repeated)              | Project sanctioned.   |
| 44  | Uttar Pradesh | Ghazipur                             | State Government has been requested to revise the project proposal on the basis of Benchmark Survey |
| 45  | Uttar Pradesh | Farrukhabad                          | State Government has been requested to revise the project proposal as per guidelines of the Scheme. |

[English]

**Coarse Grains and Pulses  
under PDS**

962. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether unlike rice and wheat coarse grains and pulses do not enjoy any marketing support in the form of Government procurement;

(b) if so, the remedial measures being adopted to provide marketing support to coarse grains and pulses to encourage their production and productivity;

(c) whether the Government is considering to include coarse grains pulses and edible oils in the Public Distribution System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir, Coarsegrains are being procured by the State Governments and their agencies under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations. In case of pulses, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) undertakes procurement of pulses under Price Support Scheme (PSS) as and when prices fall below MSP.

(c) and (d) Government is already making allocation to States willing to distribute Coarsegrains in TPDS depending upon the availability in the Central Pool. It has also been

decided that the State and UT Governments, desirous of importing pulses and edible oils for distribution to ration card holders may avail of services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU's) and NAFED for this purpose. The State and UT Governments have been informed accordingly and the CPSUs and NAFED have been requested to give priority to import pulses and edible oils if requests are received from the State/UT Governments.

**FDI Proposals**

963. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the number of Foreign Direct Investment proposals approved by the Union Government in the Telecom Sector;

(b) the total amount of investment involved in these proposals; and

(c) the places where these investments are proposed to be made, State-wise and locution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) During August 1991 to May 2007, 792 Foreign Direct Investment proposals have been approved in the Telecom Sector.

(b) Total amount of investment involved in these proposals is Rs. 42,088 Crores.

(c) Statement on State-wise break-up for these Foreign Direct Investments is enclosed.

**Statement**

**State-wise Break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved by FIPB during August 1991 to May 2007 Sector Telecommunications**

(Amount in Million)

| Sl.No. | Name of the State   | No. of Approvals Financial | Amount of Foreign Direct Investment approved |           | % to Total |
|--------|---------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------|------------|
|        |                     |                            | (in Rs.)                                     | (in US\$) |            |
| 1.     | Andhra Pradesh      | 4                          | 2,404.93                                     | 56.30     | 0.57       |
| 2.     | Bihar               | 2                          | 23.75  | 0.74      | 0.01       |
| 3.     | Gujarat             | 8                          | 4,364.07                                     | 96.75     | 1.04       |
| 4.     | Haryana             | 16                         | 1,455.78                                     | 33.67     | 0.35       |
| 5.     | Jammu and Kashmir   | 1                          | 0.00   | 0.00      | 0.00       |
| 6.     | Karnataka           | 40                         | 7,680.80                                     | 192.57    | 1.82       |
| 7.     | Kerala              | 5                          | 335.52                                       | 7.76      | 0.08       |
| 8.     | Madhya Pradesh      | 1                          | 3.20   | 0.10      | 0.00       |
| 9.     | Maharashtra         | 132                        | 17,417.54                                    | 412.33    | 4.14       |
| 10.    | Orissa              | 2                          | 112.80                                       | 2.69      | 0.03       |
| 11.    | Punjab              | 7                          | 1,699.80                                     | 48.48     | 0.40       |
| 12.    | Rajasthan           | 3                          | 598.00                                       | 14.99     | 0.14       |
| 13.    | Tamil Nadu          | 58                         | 13,935.62                                    | 371.18    | 3.31       |
| 14.    | Uttar Pradesh       | 12                         | 574.99                                       | 13.80     | 0.14       |
| 15.    | West Bengal         | 22                         | 5,616.99                                     | 145.81    | 1.33       |
| 16.    | Uttaranchal         | 1                          | 735.00                                       | 23.41     | 0.17       |
| 17.    | Chandigarh          | 3                          | 645.49                                       | 16.34     | 0.15       |
| 18.    | Delhi               | 202                        | 164,751.77                                   | 4,694.30  | 39.14      |
| 19.    | Goa                 | 5                          | 551.96                                       | 14.03     | 0.13       |
| 20.    | Pondicherry         | 1                          | 2.45   | 0.05      | 0.00       |
| 21.    | State not indicated | 267                        | 197,978.11                                   | 5,424.58  | 47.04      |
| Total  |                     | 792                        | 420,888.58                                   | 11,569.88 |            |

**National Rainfed Area Authority**

964. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision for States' representation on the newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure representation of farmers and State Governments on the Executive Committee of the Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been constituted as a

two tier structure. The first tier is the Governing Board that will provide necessary leadership and appropriate coordination in implementation of programmes in rainfed areas. The Governing Board is chaired by the Union Agriculture Minister and co-chaired by the Union Rural Development Minister. The Union Ministers of Water Resources and Environment & Forests, Member (Agriculture) Planning Commission, Secretaries of Ministries/Departments of Agriculture & Cooperation, Rural Development, Water Resources, Environment & Forests, Panchayati Raj, Chairman of NABARD, One Farmer's representative/organization and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NRAA are the other members. The second tier is the Executive Committee which is headed by CEO, NRAA. Five eminent Experts in the fields of water management, agriculture/horticulture, animal husbandry & fisheries, forestry and watershed development, one representative each from Ministries of Rural Development, Agriculture, Environment & Forests, Panchayati Raj and Water Resources, Advisor (Agriculture) Planning Commission, Director of Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) Jodhpur, Director of Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad are other members of the Executive Committee. There is provision for subject matter specialists in the Executive Committee. However, there is no provision for states' representation since the Authority is a policy making and technical knowledge based body and its structure has accordingly been designed. However, the relevant States will be invited to the meetings of the Executive Committee of the NRAA, as and when required, as special invitees.

In so far as the representation of farmers and State

Governments on the Executive Committee is concerned, already there is a provision for farmers' representative at the Governing Board level and accordingly a nomination has also been made in the Governing Board. All policy decisions of the Authority are taken by the Governing Board and the Executive Committee basically is the implementing arm.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Upgradation in Gujarat

965. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any upgradation work in rural telephone sector in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to the rural areas under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of upgradation work done in rural telephone sector in Gujarat during the last three years are given below:

(i) The independent small exchanges in rural areas have been converted into Access Node Rural Automatic Exchange (ANRAX) and Remote Switching Unit (RSU) to include the services and make available additional facilities as per the following details:-

| Sl. No. | Item  | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07                                | Balance |
|---------|---|---------|---------|--|---------|
| 1.      | Conversion of C-DOT RAX to ANRAX                              | 888     | 860     | 0 (since all RAXs have been converted) | -       |
| 2.      | Conversion of SBM to RSU                                      | 49      | 13      | 0 (since all RAXs have been converted) | -       |
| 3.      | Conversion of VPT on MARR to Other technology (WLL/ Landline) | 562     | 402     | 309                                    | 112     |

(ii) New wired line telephone exchanges, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Basic Transceiver Station (BTS) and Mobile BTS have also been opened in rural areas to cover

additional area for provision of telephone service. Details are given below:

| Year    | Telephone Exchange opened | WLL BTSs opened in rural area | Mobile BTS |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| 2004-05 | 2                         | 12 (Cor-DECT)                 | 0          |
| 2005-06 | 0                         | 45 (CDMA)                     | 747        |
| 2006-07 | 3                         | 143 (CDMA)                    | 0          |
| Total   | 5                         | 200                           | 747        |

(c) The benefits that are likely to accrue to the rural areas are as under:

- (i) Availability of Caller Line Identification Protocol (CLIP) facility on landline.
- (ii) Availability of Short Message Service (SMS) facility and Internet services on Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) based WLL telephone connections.
- (iii) Availability of telephone connections in deeper rural areas in Gujarat from 188 Code Division Multiplex Access (CDMA) WLL BTS set up during last two years.

#### Farmers Living Below Poverty Line

966. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the number of farmers who are living below poverty line in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the welfare schemes that are being implemented for the farmers;
- (d) the details of the funds released by the Government during the last three years and the current year, Scheme-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the number of farmers benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) According to estimates of the Planning Commission, 30.53 percent of persons belonging to farmer households were living below the poverty line during 2003. This estimate is based on the results of 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization. State-wise above data are not available.

(c) to (e) A number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), National Horticulture Mission, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern Region including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are under implementation in the country for the benefit of farmers. The schemes raise the farm income and thereby the well-being of farmers including those below poverty line.

The details of funds released under the major Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the last three years, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement. The schemes are implemented by the State Governments who maintain the list of beneficiaries.

#### Statement

##### Funds released under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme

|        |                   |          |         |         | (Rs. in Lakhs)            |
|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| Sl.No. | State             | 2004-05  | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 (up to 30.6.2007) |
| 1      | 2                 | 3        | 4       | 5       | 6                         |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh    | 4702.31  | 7707.69 | 2541.54 | 2600.00                   |
| 2      | Arunachal Pradesh | 1214.15  | 1420.00 | 2200.00 | 1325.00                   |
| 3      | Assam             | 1661.93  | 860.00  | 1000.00 | 0.00                      |
| 4      | Bihar             | 1786.51  | 850.00  | 1564.37 | 1200.00                   |
| 5      | Jharkhand         | 2458.75  | 906.00  | 830.00  | 850.00                    |
| 6      | Goa               | 280.53   | 332.59  | 385.77  | 150.00                    |
| 7      | Gujarat           | 5305.61  | 4850.00 | 2330.84 | 2175.00                   |
| 8      | Haryana           | 1813.68  | 1460.00 | 2700.00 | 1125.00                   |
| 9      | Himachal Pradesh  | 1600.00  | 1700.00 | 2770.59 | 1150.00                   |
| 10     | Jammu and Kashmir | 2285.38  | 2250.00 | 3351.50 | 0.00                      |
| 11     | Karnataka         | 11872.44 | 4702.58 | 5214.24 | 3505.00                   |

| 1  | 2              | 3        | 4        | 5        | 6       |
|----|----------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 12 | Kerala         | 4583.19  | 5950.00  | 1350.00  | 0.00    |
| 13 | Madhya Pradesh | 7224.76  | 2550.00  | 3963.00  | 3250.00 |
| 14 | Chhattisgarh   | 5359.23  | 2775.00  | 1129.76  | 1175.00 |
| 15 | Maharashtra    | 17225.59 | 10328.01 | 11751.30 | 6225.00 |
| 16 | Manipur        | 1146.16  | 1785.40  | 2200.00  | 1325.00 |
| 17 | Mizoram        | 1821.64  | 1950.00  | 2300.00  | 1500.00 |
| 18 | Meghalaya      | 1223.18  | 800.00   | 900.00   | 925.00  |
| 19 | Nagaland       | 1768.00  | 1800.00  | 2221.04  | 1500.00 |
| 20 | Orissa         | 4036.54  | 2300.00  | 3550.00  | 1650.00 |
| 21 | Punjab         | 996.54   | 0.00     | 426.00   | 650.00  |
| 22 | Rajasthan      | 11955.30 | 6255.00  | 8212.55  | 4300.00 |
| 23 | Sikkim         | 861.80   | 1422.00  | 2000.00  | 1200.00 |
| 24 | Tamil Nadu     | 5137.01  | 3670.00  | 6337.70  | 2725.00 |
| 25 | Tripura        | 1699.91  | 1861.56  | 2000.00  | 1200.00 |
| 26 | Uttar Pradesh  | 8888.67  | 7423.23  | 5668.14  | 4050.00 |
| 27 | Uttarakhand    | 2361.06  | 1787.87  | 3144.37  | 1325.00 |
| 28 | West Bengal    | 3152.65  | 2500.00  | 3190.00  | 1750.00 |

*Funds released under Integrated scheme of Oilseeds Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (TSOPOM)*

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08<br>(up to 30.6.2007) |
|--------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| 1      | 2                 | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6                            |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh    | 3559.97 | 4816.50 | 4542.00 | 232.90                       |
| 2      | Assam             | 4.00    | 3.00    | 0.00    | 0.00                         |
| 3      | Bihar             | 145.00  | 245.00  | 385.00  | 187.30                       |
| 4      | Goa               | 10.00   | 16.50   | 0.00    | 0.00                         |
| 5      | Gujarat           | 1883.00 | 1850.00 | 975.00  | 82.18                        |
| 6      | Haryana           | 497.00  | 434.00  | 411.00  | 250.00                       |
| 7      | Himachal Pradesh  | 40.00   | 75.50   | 75.00   | 50.00                        |
| 8      | Jammu and Kashmir | 85.00   | 142.50  | 0.00    | 0.00                         |
| 9      | Karnataka         | 2155.00 | 1800.00 | 2700.00 | 801.33                       |
| 10     | Kerala            | 5.00    | 7.50    | 15.00   | 0.00                         |
| 11     | Madhya Pradesh    | 2925.00 | 2400.00 | 3750.00 | 900.00                       |



| 1  | 2             | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6      |
|----|---------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 12 | Chhattisgarh  | 625.00  | 400.00  | 675.00  | 104.70 |
| 13 | Maharashtra   | 1040.00 | 2739.00 | 925.00  | 431.78 |
| 14 | Mizoram       | 107.00  | 90.00   | 102.87  | 75.00  |
| 15 | Orissa        | 455.00  | 500.00  | 525.00  | 250.00 |
| 16 | Punjab        | 52.50   | 87.50   | 0.00    | 0.00   |
| 17 | Rajasthan     | 2000.00 | 2840.00 | 2934.50 | 700.00 |
| 18 | Tamil Nadu    | 990.00  | 1245.00 | 1345.00 | 500.00 |
| 19 | Tripura       | 5.00    | 7.00    | 0.00    | 500.00 |
| 20 | Uttar Pradesh | 785.00  | 1065.00 | 1115.00 | 650.00 |
| 21 | West Bengal   | 260.00  | 450.00  | 674.50  | 300.00 |

*Funds released under Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC- MM-II)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl.No. | State          | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08<br>(up to 30.6.2007) |
|--------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| 1      | 2              | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6                            |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh | 571.16  | 570.52  | 1227.91 | 387.97                       |
| 2      | Gujarat        | 773.04  | 812.42  | 1095.11 | 482.18                       |
| 3      | Haryana        | 112.50  | 270.43  | 223.17  | 62.26                        |
| 4      | Karnataka      | 478.58  | 500.00  | 438.62  | 145.03                       |
| 5      | Madhya Pradesh | 483.28  | 302.35  | 377.70  | 178.38                       |
| 6      | Maharashtra    | 771.44  | 763.00  | 989.93  | 634.82                       |
| 7      | Orissa         | 40.00   | 78.97   | 120.41  | 58.84                        |
| 8      | Punjab         | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00                         |
| 9      | Rajasthan      | 231.25  | 392.87  | 548.11  | 0.00                         |
| 10     | Tamil Nadu     | 342.94  | 338.45  | 290.54  | 144.00                       |
| 11     | Tripura        | 22.00   | 15.00   | 32.00   | 0.00                         |
| 12     | Uttar Pradesh  | 40.00   | 35.00   | 40.00   | 0.00                         |
| 13     | West Bengal    | 38.59   | 92.77   | 40.00   | 0.00                         |

*Funds released under National Horticulture Mission*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08<br>(up to 30.6.2007) |
|--------|-------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| 1      | 2                 | 3       | 4       | 5                            |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh    | 4420.96 | 7500.00 | 179.88                       |
| 2      | Bihar             | 3100.00 | 3500.00 | 269.72                       |

| 1  | 2              | 3       | 4        | 5       |
|----|----------------|---------|----------|---------|
| 3  | Chhattisgarh   | 2367.83 | 5500.00  | 0.00    |
| 4  | Gujarat        | 3239.28 | 2577.03  | 1596.00 |
| 5  | Goa            | 315.20  | 200.00   | 0.00    |
| 6  | Haryana        | 1050.00 | 3480.00  | 2238.33 |
| 7  | Jharkhand      | 3030.00 | 4000.00  | 0.00    |
| 8  | Karnataka      | 4455.17 | 8448.25  | 492.64  |
| 9  | Kerala         | 3533.98 | 7959.53  | 467.73  |
| 10 | Madhya Pradesh | 2839.77 | 4291.75  | 327.83  |
| 11 | Maharashtra    | 8260.28 | 14492.65 | 490.49  |
| 12 | Orissa         | 3611.91 | 4450.00  | 77.41   |
| 13 | Punjab         | 2868.82 | 1150.00  | 80.00   |
| 14 | Rajasthan      | 2259.57 | 3837.93  | 2204.95 |
| 15 | Tamil Nadu     | 3891.67 | 6450.00  | 5076.00 |
| 16 | Uttar Pradesh  | 5340.25 | 1500.00  | 90.84   |
| 17 | West Bengal    | 4035.31 | 4600.00  | 192.00  |

Note: New Scheme - launched in 2005-06

*Funds released under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh & Jammu & Kashmir (MM-II)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl.No. | State             | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08<br>(up to 30.6.2007) |
|--------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| 1      | Arunachal Pradesh | 1645.55 | 1300.00 | 1612.90 | 625.00                       |
| 2      | Assam             | 871.00  | 1300.00 | 1400.00 | 550.00                       |
| 3      | Manipur           | 1286.25 | 1500.00 | 1700.00 | 475.00                       |
| 4      | Mizoram           | 1801.10 | 1800.00 | 3200.00 | 625.00                       |
| 5      | Meghalaya         | 1395.99 | 1700.00 | 2000.00 | 575.00                       |
| 6      | Nagaland          | 1875.00 | 1700.00 | 2356.00 | 625.00                       |
| 7      | Sikkim            | 1150.00 | 1800.00 | 2331.00 | 700.00                       |
| 8      | Tripura           | 1111.30 | 1500.00 | 1400.00 | 0.00                         |
| 9      | Uttarakhand       | 975.00  | 1100.00 | 4000.00 | 0.00                         |
| 10     | Himachal Pradesh  | 1300.00 | 1100.00 | 4000.00 | 600.00                       |
| 11     | Jammu and Kashmir | 1233.00 | 1550.00 | 2933.00 | 600.00                       |

### Interruption in BSNL Services

967. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shortage of electricity supply to energies the telephone lines in exchanges, the services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are badly affected in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas where such problems are being encountered by BSNL;

(c) whether BSNL is serious in countering such problems to provide better facilities to its subscribers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, there is an acute problem of non-availability of commercial electric power supply particularly in rural telephone exchanges in some of BSNL's Telecom circles such as Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, J&K, North East-II, Karnataka, Punjab and Maharashtra. Although services are maintained by running Engine Alternator and Battery backups, these get affected sometimes due to poor availability of commercial power supply.

(b) Details of areas where such problems are being encountered by BSNL are as follows:

| Sl. No. | Telecom Circle  | Area  | No. of exchanges where power problem is there |
|---------|-----------------|---|---|
| 1.      | Bihar           | Area spread over all the districts                      | 900   |
| 2.      | Orissa          | Keonjhar  | 02  |
|         |                 | Bhawanipatna  | 15  |
| 3.      | Jharkhand       | Jamshedpur  | 56  |
| 4.      | Jammu & Kashmir | Leh and Srinagar  | 44  |
| 5.      | North East-II   | Nagaland  | 06  |
|         |                 | Arunachal Pradesh                                       | 49  |
|         |                 | Manipur   | 20  |
| 6.      | Karnataka       | Hassan and Shimoga                                      | 71  |
| 7.      | Punjab          | Sangrur   | 07  |
| 8.      | Maharashtra     | Ahmednagar, Bhandara, Jalna, Raigad, Sangli and Yeotmal | 104   |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) BSNL has taken various steps such as:

1. Provision of backup batteries with adequate capacity;
2. Provision of solar power panels in many places;
3. Provision of Diesel Generator/Engine Alternators of adequate capacity;
4. Taking up the matter with senior managements of state electricity authorities and state government for giving due priority in providing adequate commercial power supply to BSNL telephone exchanges.

### Funds for Brahmaputra Board

968. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation to the Brahmaputra Board for 2006-07 with its scheme-wise break-up;

(b) the details of schemes implemented and the extent of the funds utilized; and

(c) the reasons attributed to non-utilization of the full allocation and the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) During 2006-07, an allocation of Rs.48.57 Crore was made for Brahmaputra Board. Out of this, an amount of Rs.35.88 Crores was utilized. The schemes wise break up of allocation and its utilization are as under:-

| (Rs in crore) |   |                               |                                |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sl. No.       | Name of Schemes   | Fund allocated during 2006-07 | Amount utilized during 2006-07 |
| 1             | 2   | 3                             | 4                              |
| 1.            | Continuing scheme of Brahmaputra Board                      | 28.12                         | 19.57                          |
| 2.            | Construction of Pagladiya Dam Project                       | 5.00                          | 2.07                           |
| 3.            | New Scheme for Majuli Island in Assam, Debang, project etc. | 14.45                         | 13.10                          |

| 1     | 2   | 3     | 4     |
|-------|---|-------|-------|
| 4.    | Critical Flood Control and Anti-erosion scheme- Avulsion of Brahmaputa at Dholia Hatighuli Phase-III. | 1.00  | 1.14  |
| Total |   | 48.57 | 35.88 |

(c) The shortfall in utilization of funds provided in the Budget for 2006-07 was due to the problems in land acquisition in respect of 7 (seven) nos of Drainage development schemes, non availability of construction materials for execution of protection works of Mujuli Island and Communication bottlenecks.

#### **Field Trials of GM Seeds**

969. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the enquiry committee reports prepared by a State Government on field trials of genetically modified seeds of Bt. Paddy and Bt. Okra claimed to have been sanctioned by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) the steps taken to rectify the situation and discipline the private companies undertaking field trials for multinational companies violating the mandatory requirements and causing biotech pollution and damage to crops;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate guidelines for strict compliance by all companies or institutions engaged in development and field trials of genetically modified seeds of Bt. Crops under direct supervision and responsibility of ICAR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Ministry has not received any such report. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is not the sanctioning authority for conducting field trials of genetically modified seeds of different crops.

(b) to (d) All private companies, institutions and universities engaged in the development and field trials of genetically modified seeds of Bt. Crops have been instructed to comply with the biosafety guidelines and institutional mechanism under the provisions of Rules, 1989 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Under the provisions of Environment Protection Act, 1986, whoever fails to comply with or contravenes any of the provisions of the Act or the rules made there under, are punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years with fine up to rupees one lakh.

#### **International Food Regulatory Authority**

970. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first International Food Regulatory Summit was held in Delhi in April 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up a Food Regulatory Authority (FRA); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Permission to Private Mobile Subscribers**

971. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow private mobile subscribers to roam on its own networks;

(b) if so, the expected revenue loss to the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recoup such revenue losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the provisions of the access services licence agreements, all the licensees including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), are free to enter an agreement with other service provider(s) for providing roaming facility to the subscribers.

(b) Government gets the revenue by way of license fee paid by the service providers as applicable under the respective licence agreement.

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

#### **Uniform Billing Format**

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

(a) whether the Department of Telecom proposes to introduce and enforce a uniform billing format applicable to State owned and private telecom service providers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration in Department of Telecom. However, TRAI has directed the service providers through a Direction dated 4th May, 2007 that certain critical information as mentioned below, be included in the bills to be issued on and after 1st August, 2007 for ensuring transparency in billing:

- (i) the name of applicable Tariff Plan;
- (ii) methodology applied for calculations of amount mentioned in the telephone bills, details of pulse rates and charges, particularly mentioning local, subscriber trunk dialing, International subscriber trunk dialing, short message service (also referred to in the telephone bills as STD, ISD and SMS respectively) charges and monthly fixed charges;
- (iii) applicable credit limit;
- (iv) the amount of security deposit made by the customer to be shown separately in the first bill and whenever it is adjusted, subsequently, in the bill;
- (v) mode and procedure for making payment of telephone bills;
- (vi) details of set up of public grievance mechanism;
- (vii) information system for change of billing address;
- (viii) details of late payment charges;
- (ix) acknowledgment of last payment made; and
- (x) customer information box.

#### **Increase in Growth Rate of Small and Medium Enterprises**

973. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce new projects to facilitate the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country to increase the employment generation in the Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the targets fixed for Eleventh Plan year-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has taken a slew of measures including, inter alia, implementation of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, announcement of the package for promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises in February/March 2007, announcement of the package to step up credit to SMEs in August 2005, announcement of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, etc., to facilitate the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the country to increase the employment generation in the sector.

(b) and (c) Does not arise since the XI Five Year Plan targets and allocations are yet to be finalized.

#### **Fresh Water**

974. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of fresh water in natural resources;

(b) the total quantity of fresh water available in the country;

(c) whether fresh water is suitable for agriculture irrigation purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Fresh water of the World has been assessed under International Hydrological Programme (IHP) sponsored by UNESCO. As per the summary of the monograph "World Water Resources", 97.5% of the world water resources are saline waters and only 2.5% is fresh water. The greater portion of this fresh water (68.9%) is in the form of ice and permanent snow cover in the Antarctic, the Arctic, and in the mountainous regions. Next, 29.9% exists as fresh groundwaters and 0.9% includes soil moisture, swamp water and permafrost. Only 0.3% of the total amount of fresh waters on the Earth are concentrated in lakes, reservoirs and river systems where they are most easily accessible for our economic needs and absolutely vital for water ecosystems.

For India, the average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). After accounting for the natural process of evaporation etc., the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM.

(c) and (d) Fresh water is generally suitable for agricultural purposes. However, the quality of freshwater observed at different locations varies to certain extent and the same are duly accounted for at the time of crop and irrigation planning.

### Sainik Schools

975. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sainik Schools running in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open some Sainik Schools in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) There are 21 Sainik Schools in the country. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Sainik Schools are established on receipt of a specific request from a State Government agreeing to provide land and funds for the creation and maintenance of basic infrastructure, equipment and facilities besides scholarships for the cadets of the State. No such request has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for establishing another Sainik School in that State.

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

### Statement

1. Sainik School, Korukonda, Andhra Pradesh
2. Sainik School, Goalpara, Assam
3. Sainik School, Nalanda, Bihar
4. Sainik School, Gopalganj, Bihar
5. Sainik School, Balachadi, Gujarat
6. Sainik School, Sujanpur Tira, Himachal Pradesh
7. Sainik School, Kunjpura, Haryana
8. Sainik School, Tilaiya, Jharkhand
9. Sainik School, Nagrota, Jammu & Kashmir
10. Sainik School, Bijapur, Karnataka
11. Sainik School, Kazhakootam, Kerala
12. Sainik School, Satara, Maharashtra
13. Sainik School, Imphal, Manipur
14. Sainik School, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh
15. Sainik School, Pungliwa, Nagaland
16. Sainik School, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
17. Sainik School, Kapurthala, Punjab
18. Sainik School, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan

19. Sainik School, Amaravathinagar, Tamil Nadu

20. Sainik School, Ghorakhal, Uttarakhand

21. Sainik School, Purulia, West Bengal

### Defence Co-operation Pact with Sri Lanka

976. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is initiating a defence co-operation pact with Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) There is no Defence Cooperation Agreement with Sri Lanka. Signing of Defence Cooperation Agreement with a country is decided based on India's strategic and security considerations.

### Workers Union for Contract Labour

977. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to make it mandatory for manufacturing units employing more than 1000 contract labour to have workers union;

(b) if so, whether units located in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) employing contract labour are also proposed to be bound by said mandatory provision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

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

### Foodgrain Procurement by Private Companies

978. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private companies have started purchasing foodgrains directly from the farmers at prices much higher than those fixed by Government for procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the rates being paid by private companies and those fixed by the Government, commodity-wise;

(c) the impact of private procurement on the availability and price of various foodgrains in the domestic market;

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring a new comprehensive food policy in view of instability in production of foodgrains, pulses and sugar in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for foodgrains fixed by the Government for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07 and Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08 is given in the enclosed statement. Data regarding the quantity of foodgrains purchased by each private company and rates paid by them is not maintained in this Department. However, as per latest returns filed under the Wheat (Stock declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order, 2007 (upto 10.8.2007), the purchase of wheat declared by private companies, who have purchased more than 50,000 tonnes each, in RMS 2007-08, is 18.89 lakh tonnes.

(c) So far in this year there is no substantial impact of private procurement on the availability of various foodgrains and the prices in the domestic market.

(d) and (e) In order to increase production and productivity, the National Development Council (NDC), in its meeting held on 29th May, 2007, adopted a resolution to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10 million, 8 million and 2 million tonnes by 2011.

Government has initiated action to implement the NDC resolution, through the National Food Security Mission.

#### Statement

*The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for foodgrains fixed by the Government for Kharif Marketing Season 2006-07 and Rabi Marketing Season 2007-08 is given below:*

| Marketing Season                | Commodity    | Variety | MSP<br>(Rs per Quintal) |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------|
| 1                               | 2            | 3       | 4                       |
| Kharif Marketing Season 2006-07 | Paddy        | Common  | 580*                    |
|                                 |              | Grade A | 610*                    |
|                                 | Jowar Hybrid |         | 540                     |
|                                 | Maldandi     |         | 555                     |
|                                 | Bajra        |         | 540                     |
|                                 | Maize        |         | 540                     |
|                                 | Ragi         |         | 540                     |

| 1                             | 2              | 3 | 4    |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|------|
|                               | Tur (Arhar)    |   | 1410 |
|                               | Moong          |   | 1520 |
|                               | Urad           |   | 1520 |
| Rabi Marketing Season 2007-08 | Wheat          |   | 750# |
|                               | Barley         |   | 565  |
|                               | Gram           |   | 1445 |
|                               | Masur (lentil) |   | 1545 |

\* An incentive bonus of Rs 40 per quintal over and above MSP given for paddy

# An incentive bonus of Rs 100 per quintal given for wheat

[Translation]

#### Increase in Prices of Vegetables

979. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep rise in prices of vegetables in the country, especially in Delhi during the past six months; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to check the rising prices of vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Weekly Wholesale Modal Prices of major vegetables namely onion, tomato and potato at the all-India level during last six months of 2007 in Rupees per quintal are given below:

#### Weekly Wholesale Modal Price of Major Vegetables during last six months of 2007

| (Rs. per quintal) |      |       |        |        |
|-------------------|------|-------|--------|--------|
| Month             | Week | Onion | Tomato | Potato |
| 1                 | 2    | 3     | 4      | 5      |
| Feb. 2007         | 1st  | 1251  | 749    | 482    |
|                   | 2nd  | 1166  | 584    | 455    |
|                   | 3rd  | 1068  | 600    | 535    |
|                   | 4th  | 797   | 673    | 549    |
| March 2007        | 1st  | 841   | 560    | 582    |
|                   | 2nd  | 830   | 503    | 641    |
|                   | 3rd  | 776   | 476    | 642    |
|                   | 4th  | 711   | 527    | 607    |

| 1          | 2   | 3    | 4    | 5   |
|------------|-----|------|------|-----|
| April 2007 | 1st | 713  | 419  | 615 |
|            | 2nd | 653  | 433  | 729 |
|            | 3rd | 594  | 458  | 720 |
|            | 4th | 585  | 447  | 741 |
| May 2007   | 1st | 649  | 464  | 752 |
|            | 2nd | 655  | 496  | 736 |
|            | 3rd | 604  | 571  | 830 |
|            | 4th | 671  | 621  | 770 |
| June 2007  | 1st | 781  | 788  | 834 |
|            | 2nd | 855  | 823  | 831 |
|            | 3rd | 939  | 1067 | 876 |
|            | 4th | 971  | 1418 | 909 |
| July 2007  | 1st | 989  | 1598 | 885 |
|            | 2nd | 987  | 1070 | 918 |
|            | 3rd | 1054 | 1003 | 933 |
|            | 4th | 980  | 1066 | 902 |
| Aug., 2007 | 1st | 940  | 1124 | 997 |

It may be seen from above that prices of onion was Rs. 1251/- per quintal in the first week of February, 2007 and stood at Rs. 940/- per quintal (latest available) in the first week of August, 2007. During the same period prices of tomato and potato have increased from Rs. 749/- to 1124/- per quintal and Rs. 482/- to 997/- per quintal respectively. However, there were intermittent fluctuations depending on the availability.

In Delhi, prices of onion have reduced from Rs. 1300/- per quintal in first week of February to Rs. 1100/- per quintal in the first week of August. However, prices of tomato during the same period increased from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1500/- per quintal and for potato from Rs. 450/- to Rs. 1100/- per quintal.

(b) Lower market arrivals, lean production season and higher demand are some of the reasons for recent rise in prices of vegetables. The prices and market arrivals of vegetables are regularly monitored.

[English]

#### **Poor Quality of Food for Army**

980. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether good quality food is not supplied to Indian

Army at present as reported in Hindustan Times dated August 9, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to provide quality food to Army;

(d) whether the Government proposes to streamline the existing procedure for local purchase of rations for defence; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (e) The quality of food items being supplied to Indian Army is according to laid-down specifications. Control on the quality is exercised through the Composite Food Laboratories which ensure that the rations of right specifications are only accepted for consumption by troops. The review of scales, specifications and varieties of rations is a continuous process based on the institutionalized feedback mechanism. The specifications of various rations like rice, pulses and tea have been recently upgraded to ensure that forces get better standard of rations. In inaccessible areas, where it is not possible to supply fresh milk, provision of tetra pack milk is made to the satisfaction of the troops. The streamlining of the procurement procedures is undertaken from time to time depending on need thereof. However, at present there is no proposal under consideration to change the local purchase arrangements.

#### **Promotion of Production of Mangoes and Apples**

981. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of promotional drives taken for various products like Mangoes and Apples by the Ministry;

(b) whether any promotional drive for products of North Eastern Region (NER) like ginger, pineapple, orange and other organic products are taken up in the similar line;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be taken up;

(e) whether Ministry has planned to send any trade delegation abroad for promotion of organic farm products of NER.

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of infrastructure facilities created for promotion of export from the NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY



OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal" to address various issues related to development of horticulture which include promotion of various products of mango, apple, pine apple, orange, ginger and other organic products. Under Mini Mission-IV of the Technology Mission, which is being implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, assistance @ 50% of the cost of the project limited to Rs.4.00 crores is provided for setting up of new processing units and @ Rs. 1.00 crore for upgradation of existing processing units in North Eastern Region. The details of the processing units established in North Eastern Region are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Agriculture has not received any proposal from State Governments regarding sending of trade delegation abroad for promotion of organic farm products of North Eastern Region (NER).

(g) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce has established four Agri Export Zones (AEZs) for promotion of export of various horticultural products in North Eastern Region namely (i) AEZ for organic pineapple in Tripura, (ii) AEZ for fresh and processed ginger in Assam, (iii) AEZ for flowers (Orchids) and Cherry pepper and (iv) AEZ for ginger in Sikkim. APEDA is also setting up four walk in type Cold Rooms and one Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) under Scheme for Development of Infrastructure to promote the exports of perishable products from airports of North Eastern Region, besides providing financial assistance for setting up of a pack house at Guwahati, Assam for export of ginger.

#### Statement

*List of processing units established under Mini Mission-IV of Technology Mission on Horticulture in North Eastern States*

| Sl. No. | Processing Units   | Amount released<br>(Rs.in lakhs) |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1       | 2  | 3                                |
| 1.      | Setting up of Spice Oil and Oleoresin Unit at Bymihat, Meghalaya by J.G. Spices Ltd.   | 75.000                           |
| 2.      | Ginger Processing Unit at Bymihat, Meghalaya NERAMAC   | 46.000                           |
| 3.      | Fruit and Vegetable Processing Unit, Meghalaya by Mansan Fruit Products  | 16.606                           |
| 4.      | Upgradation Fruit Juice Centre Plant Chhingchhip, MIFCO, Aizwal  | 100.00                           |
| 5.      | Upgradation of Food Processing Plant at Sairang, Mizoram – Mizoram Food & Allied Industries Corporation Ltd. (MIFCO), Aizwal | 35.15                            |
| 6.      | Setting up of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Unit, Wangoi, Manipur by Voluntary Service Centre                               | 16.61                            |
| 7.      | Setting up of Ginger Processing Unit, Imphal-East District, Manipur by United Development Agency                             | 8.06                             |
| 8.      | Post harvest Infrastructure and cold chain for fruit processing - Community Development Society, Imphal                      | 19.50                            |
| 9.      | Good Samaritan Social Service Association, Punanamei, Mao, Senapati  | 253.919                          |
| 10.     | Setting up of potato based processing unit by Kishlay Snack Products, Guwahati, Assam  | 400.00                           |
| 11.     | Setting up of fruit & Vegetable processing unit by Gramin Manila Vikas Kendra, Assam   | 2.922                            |

| 1     | 2  | 3        |
|-------|--|----------|
| 12.   | Post harvest processing of organically produced horticultural herbal & aromatic products for high value addition by Changki organic Biotech park, Nagaland | 41.455   |
| 13.   | Pineapple processing unit by Assoc. of Extensive growers Innovative services (AEGIS), Manipur  | 28.09    |
| 14.   | Setting up of a unit for manufacturing processed food products namely, fruit pickles etc. of M/s Sanskar Recipes Pvt. Ltd., Assam                          | 139.475  |
| 15.   | Setting up of fruits and vegetables processing unit of M/s Sanghavi Foods Pvt. Ltd., Assam   | 45.955   |
| 16.   | Expansion/Modernization of existing fruits and vegetables processing unit of M/s Parafruit Product Pvt. Ltd., Manipur                                      | 12.59    |
| 17.   | Setting up of Integrated fruit processing unit of M/s. Bisra Agro company Pvt. Ltd., C-10, Takyel Industrial estate, Imphal.                               | 13.055   |
|       | Promotional activities   | 5.26     |
| Total |  | 1359.647 |

**I.T. Professionals**

982. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to initiate a specific programme or scheme for the women I. T. professionals in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. However, under the provisions of Gender Budgeting, the Government is considering various programmes for Gender Empowerment through Information and Communication Technology.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Development of Technical Education  
in Maharashtra**

983. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides grant for development of technical education in Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Ministry of Human Resource Development is developing technical education in all States including State of Maharashtra. As per information received from Ministry of

Human Resource Development, following institutes located in Maharashtra are functioning with the Central assistance.

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
2. National Institute of Technology, Nagpur
3. Northern Institute of Training & Industrial Engineering, Mumbai
4. Board of Apprenticeship Training, Mumbai

Central Government provides funds for Centrally funded Institutions only. No grant is given to Maharashtra by Technical Bureau, Department of Higher Education and there are no guidelines in this regard.

[English]

**Import of Poultry**

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lift ban on the import of poultry products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of discussion held in the meeting of India-UAE Trade Policy Forum; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) In view of the

outbreak of Avian Influenza in various countries of the world, the Central Government has imposed restrictions on import of poultry products from the countries positive for Avian Influenza since 2004 and recently extended vide notification No.1311(E) dated 1st August 2007 to prevent the ingress of Avian Influenza into the country. There is no proposal under consideration to lift the ban on import of poultry products from Avian Influenza positive countries in the interest of animal and human health of the country.

(c) During the 9th India- United Arab Emirates (UAE) Joint Commission meeting held on 5-6th June 2007 at New Delhi, United Arab Emirates was requested to lift the ban which it had re-imposed in March 2007 on import of poultry products from India.

(d) In pursuance to these discussions, United Arab Emirates had agreed to lift the ban on import of eggs from India subject to the condition that India will give a written undertaking that India is free from avian influenza. A Ministerial Order No.257 of 2007 to this effect was also issued by United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Environment and Water on 6-6-2007. However, United Arab Emirates (UAE) has imposed a ban on Indian exports of all live birds and poultry products after outbreak of Avian Influenza in Manipur (Village – Chingmeirong) on 25th July 2007.

[Translation]

#### Contract Farming of Cotton

985. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start contract farming of cotton in cotton producing areas of Vidarbha;

(b) whether such an experiment has been made in the country earlier also;

(c) if so, whether any review of success of this experiment has been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There is no proposal before the Government for contract farming of cotton in cotton producing areas of Vidarbha. However, farmers in Yavatmal District of Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra are reportedly engaged in the contract farming of organic cotton under an arrangement between M/s Eco Farms and Vidarbha Organic Farming Association. The Government of Maharashtra has amended the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 1963 and notified Rules thereunder recently for facilitating contract farming in the State.

(b) to (d) Farmers have engaged themselves in contract farming of cotton in Tamil Nadu under an agreement with Super Spinning Mills Limited. A study has been conducted in this regard by the faculty of Tamil Nadu University, Coimbatore and in this study it has been reported that the total cost of cultivation was higher in case of non-contract farming. The cost benefit ratio and cost of production per quintal were found remunerative under contract farming and there was an increase in the yield of cotton also. The Cotton Corporation of India has also taken up projects for contract farming of cotton in various areas of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa but there are no reports available regarding the review of success of these projects.

[English]

#### Rebate Scheme for Coir Products

986. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government towards rebate for Coir-Products during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has decided to replace the 20% Rebate to Coir-Products with Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme;

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

(d) whether requests have been received from some States for re-introduction of 20% rebate scheme for Coir-Products; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Rebate Scheme on Coir Products has been discontinued since 2000-01. As such no funds have been released under this scheme during last three years.

(b) and (c) The market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme has been introduced w.e.f 2000-01 in lieu of Rebate Scheme. Under the scheme, financial Assistance is provided to the Apex co-operative Societies, Manufacturing and Primary Societies, Public Sector Undertakings and sales depots of Coir Board @ 10% of their Annual Sales Turnover of Coir and Coir Products. The Assistance is shared by the Central and the concerned State/Union Territory Government on 1:1 basis.

(d) and (e) A request was received from the Government of Kerala for continuance of the rebate scheme in July, 2006. It has been observed that the assistance provided under the

MDA scheme can be utilized for varied purposes such as Publicity, Opening New Showroom/Sales Outlets, Renovation of existing Sales Outlets, Market Study, Setting up of Market Intelligence Net Work/ Upgradation of design facilities like installation of Computer etc. This scheme, therefore, allows more flexibility than the Rebate Scheme for promotion of coir products. As such it has not been found possible to accommodate the request of the State Government. The decision has been communicated to Government of Kerala.

#### **Impact of Pesticides on Farmers and Agricultural Workers**

987. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government maintains data relating to farmers and agricultural workers whose health was affected on account of use of pesticides due to inhaling/exposure and poisoning etc.;
- (b) if so, the number of victims affected by pesticides during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether any deaths have been reported due to inhalation/over exposure to pesticides;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any compensation is being paid to the affected victims; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, State Governments maintain data regarding effects of pesticides on the health of farmers and agricultural workers.

(b) to (d) On the basis of reports received from States, for the period 2001-02 to 2005-06, the number of occupational poisoning due to pesticides i.e. on account of inhalation/ exposure/ poisoning while using the pesticides in agricultural operations, is as follows:-

|               |   |    |
|---------------|---|----|
| Haryana       | - | 65 |
| Kerala        | - | 2  |
| Punjab        | - | 21 |
| Rajasthan     | - | 8  |
| Uttar Pradesh | - | 56 |

Other States have not reported any occupational poisoning.

(e) and (f) No reports of payment of compensation to the victims of occupational poisoning have been received from the States.

[Translation]

#### **Contractual Farming**

988. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has permitted contract farming for Food Processing Sector;
- (b) if so, the criteria fixed in this regard;
- (c) the policy formulated by the Government to ensure that contract farming would be restricted to food processing only;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to convert the entire farming sector into contract farming; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Since contract farming involves sale of agricultural produce by the producer to the sponsor, it requires enabling provisions under the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Laws of the concerned States. On the basis of the Model APMC Act circulated by the Central Government, several State Governments have amended their APMC Acts to include the provisions for facilitating contract farming for Food Processing Sector, as well as, for other sectors and farming contracts are not restricted to food processing only under the Government policy. To enable both farmers as well as sponsors to execute mutually beneficial contract farming agreements with clear-cut terms and conditions, a model agreement format has been suggested by the Central Government through the Model APMC Act which has been adopted and incorporated in their amended APMC Acts by most of the concerned States. The model agreement format provides for specifying the arrangements of marketing, quality specifications of the commodity, inputs and technical assistance, credit support, production management, crop delivery arrangements, duration of the contract, pricing arrangements, procedures for paying farmers and reclaiming credit advances, arrangements for insurances, provisions of indemnity to producers, dispute resolution mechanism etc. in the agreement to be executed between the producer and the sponsors.

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Question does not arise.

### Procurement of Wheat

989. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments to monitor the procurement of wheat by private companies from the open market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government notified the Wheat (Stock Declaration by companies or Firms or Individuals) Order, 2007 under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 which requires that any company or firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 50,000 MT (total purchases made throughout the country) during the Rabi Marketing Season, 2007-08 shall furnish to the Central Government, a weekly return in the prescribed form indicating the quantity of wheat purchased and quantity of wheat in stock. The major wheat producing States have accordingly been requested to give wide publicity to this Order through local newspapers and electronic media. State Governments were also directed to monitor the purchase of wheat by private companies to ensure payment of all statutory levies and taxes by such companies.

[English]

### Welfare Scheme for Coir Workers

990. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men and women engaged in Coir Industry at present, Statewise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any Welfare and Insurance Scheme for the workers engaged in Coir Factory;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The estimated State-wise details (reference year 2006-2007) of men and women engaged in Coir Industry are as follows:-

| State          | Men<br>(Numbers) | Women<br>(Numbers) | Total  |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Kerala         | 94500            | 355500             | 450000 |
| Tamil Nadu     | 25270            | 64980              | 90250  |
| Karnataka      | 6435             | 18315              | 24750  |
| Andhra Pradesh | 5376             | 39424              | 44800  |
| Orissa         | 2760             | 9240               | 12000  |
| Others         | 3458             | 14742              | 18200  |
| Total          | 137799           | 502201             | 640000 |

(b) to (d) The Coir Board, a statutory body under the Ministry, has been implementing the Coir Workers Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme since 1st December, 1998 for the welfare of the coir workers all over the country. Under the Scheme, the coir workers engaged directly or indirectly by the employer, dealer or producers of coir and coir products and under any person employed by or through a contractor or through an agent and depends mainly on coir industry for his livelihood are eligible for compensation in case of death or disability caused by an accident. Further the coir workers may be self employed in the organized coir industry or working in the organizations of any of the recognized or unrecognized coir sector. The details of compensation payable to the disabled coir worker or nominee of the disabled/deceased coir worker under the scheme are as follows:-

### Compensation payable

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Accident death                 | : Rs. 50,000   |
| 2. Permanent Total Disability     |  |
| (i) Loss of two limbs/ two eyes   | : Rs. 50,000   |
| (ii) Loss of one limb and one eye | : Rs. 50,000   |
| 3. Permanent Partial Disability   |  |
| Loss of one limb/one eye          | : Rs. 25,000   |
| Provision for finger cut          | : Depending upon the finger and limited to applicable percentages of capital sum insured |

Since inception of the Scheme, 186 claims have been settled and an amount of Rs. 47, 37,500/- has been paid as compensation by Coir Board.

Another welfare scheme namely Production Enhancement Linked Coir Workers Welfare Scheme was implemented during 2005-2006 with an outlay of Rs. 130 lakh.

An amount of Rs. 2.60 crore has been allotted for implementation of Welfare Measures for coir workers during 2007-2008.

#### Upper Bhadra Project

991. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the stage as which the Upper Bhadra Project in Karnataka stands at present;
- (b) the time by which the project is likely to be completed; and
- (c) the funds allocated by the Union Government therefor so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding as well as priority of execution of irrigation projects is within the purview of the State Government. The detailed project report of Upper Bhadra Project has not been received in the Central Water Commission for appraisal so far.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Illegal Constructions

992. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether illegal constructions are being raised on the land belonging to the Department of Communications in Delhi as well as other States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such cases that have been noticed during the last three years and thereafter;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the time by which these illegal constructions are likely to be removed; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop/prevent any such illegal construction in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In 24 vacant plots owned by Department of Posts, illegal constructions like hutments and jhuggi-jhopris have been raised. No illegal construction on the land owned by Wireless Monitoring Organisation under Department of Telecommunications has been reported.

In so far as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, are concerned, the assets and liabilities pertaining to Department of Telecommunications Services, Department of Telecommunications Operation and partly of Department of Telecommunications (except those required for the use by Department of Telecommunications) have been transferred to them with effect from the date of their formation.

(c) The following steps have been taken in this regard by Department of Posts:

- (i) The heads of Circles/Units have been instructed to review and monitor such case at their level from time to time.
- (ii) Assistance from Local/Police authorities are sought for removal of the illegal construction.
- (iii) Secretary, Department of Posts has requested all the Chief Secretaries of State Governments to help in removal of encroachments on land owned by the Department.

(d) It is not possible to set a time from as most of the cases are sub-judice in different courts.

(e) To protect the lands from encroachments and illegal construction action have been initiated to raise boundary walls in phased manner subject to availability of funds.

[English]

#### Production and Sale of Khadi Products

993. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production and sale of Khadi products in the country has declined;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by Government to raise the production and sale of Khadi in the country; and
- (d) the number of employment opportunities created in the Khadi industry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. The production and sales of khadi have increased in the last five years (2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) as detailed below:

| Year    | Value of Production<br>(Rs. crore) | Value of Sales<br>(Rs. crore) |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2002-03 | 443.07                             | 577.63                        |
| 2003-04 | 453.50                             | 587.04                        |
| 2004-05 | 461.54                             | 617.84                        |
| 2005-06 | 468.30                             | 628.69                        |
| 2006-07 | 491.52                             | 663.19                        |

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To promote the production and sales of khadi in the country, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Credit at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum provided by banks as per the assessed requirement of the institutions registered with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme;
- (ii) Larger availability of funds for payment of rebate on sales of khadi;
- (iii) Establishment of Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs) by the KVIC for setting up common facility centres (CFCs);
- (iv) Organising exhibitions at National/Zonal/District levels;
- (v) Participation in national and international exhibitions;
- (vi) Providing financial assistance under Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging of khadi products;
- (vii) Launching 'Mission Khadi' to convert the Khadi fabric into ready-made garments with modern designs;
- (viii) Launching brand name "Khadi India" for khadi products;
- (ix) Launching the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for implementation in 34 khadi clusters for their holistic development over five years beginning 2005-06;
- (x) KVIC has taken many initiatives to attract modern youth of the country. Marketing development courses have been arranged for the youth, who have just passed out of schools and colleges, through 38 Multi Disciplinary Training Centres, which impart the knowledge on the products of khadi and village industries. Attempts are also being made to increase the use of khadi in schools;
- (xi) Public awareness programmes are conducted by KVIC

throughout the country to increase the awareness and knowledge among the public, especially the young generation.

(d) The number of persons employed in khadi sector during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as below:

| Year    | Employment (lakh persons) |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 2004-05 | 8.61                      |
| 2005-06 | 8.68                      |
| 2006-07 | 8.84                      |

[Translation]

#### **Eradication of Child Labour**

994. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of success achieved in National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and Indo-US Project (INDUS) during each of the last three years and thereafter indicating the number of child labourers rescued under the said projects during the said period, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on NCLP and INDUS separately during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the provisions made for prosecution of offenders under Child Labour Prohibition Acts;

(d) the details of industries/persons against whom action was taken for employment of child labour during the said period, State-wise;

(e) whether complaints have been received regarding re-employment of child labour rescued by Non-Government Organisations;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidents; and

(g) the reaction of the Government on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Report released in June, 2007 to mark the World Anti-Child Labour Day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):  
(a) Under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme and the Indo-US (INDUS) Project, children engaged in hazardous jobs are withdrawn from work. They are provided with accelerated bridging education and other benefits like stipend, mid-day meal, vocational training, health check-ups, etc. in special schools for a maximum period of three years to

enable them to join regular mainstream education system. The number of children enrolled in the special schools under the two projects and the children mainstreamed in the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) State-wise details of the expenditure incurred on NCLP and INDUS separately during the said period are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) As per Section 14 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is banned under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-. The quantum of punishment for a repeat offence is imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 6 months but which may extend to two years.

(d) Details of industries/persons against whom action has been taken for employment of child labour are not maintained. However, State-wise details of prosecutions and convictions for the said period are given in enclosed statement-III.

(e) No such complaints have been received in the Ministry.

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

(g) The INDUS-ILO Project released a book titled "Child Labour Facts and Figures: An Analysis of Census 2001" on 12 June 2007, World Day Against Child Labour. This book provides factual information on the data related to child labour for all the states, and Government is aware of these statistics.

**Statement-I**

*No. of children enrolled in Special Schools under NCLP Scheme (9-14 Years)*

| Name of the State | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1                 | 2       | 3       | 4       |
| Andhra Pradesh    | 49193   | 37882   | 63056   |
| Assam             | 0       | 4750    | 4555    |
| Bihar             | 6500    | 8500    | 8500    |
| Chhattisgarh      | 5899    | 11639   | 11002   |
| Gujarat           | 0       | 0       | 5650    |
| Jharkhand         | 5700    | 7375    | 8856    |
| Karnataka         | 7339    | 13212   | 13790   |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 4091    | 17404   | 19688   |
| Maharashtra       | 2554    | 6615    | 8649    |

| 1             | 2      | 3      | 4      |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Orissa        | 34679  | 83557  | 33212  |
| Punjab        | 4571   | 4657   | 4308   |
| Rajasthan     | 8706   | 19545  | 39601  |
| Tamil Nadu    | 16764  | 17540  | 16522  |
| Uttar Pradesh | 8563   | 34171  | 71479  |
| West Bengal   | 13266  | 17095  | 28401  |
| Total         | 167825 | 283943 | 337269 |

*No. of children enrolled in Special Schools under INDUS Project (9-13 Years)*

| Name of the State | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Madhya Pradesh    | 7500    | 8528    | 8619    |
| Maharashtra       | 5472    | 7756    | 8080    |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 14784   | 16085   | 18355   |
| Tamil Nadu        | 7661    | 8584    | 6410    |
| Delhi             | 0       | 0       | 1550    |
| Total             | 34855   | 40953   | 43014   |

*No. of Children mainstreamed under NCLP Scheme (9-14 years)*

| Name of the State | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Andhra Pradesh    | 20341   | 9217    | 38186   |
| Assam             | *       | *       | *       |
| Bihar             | *       | 545     | *       |
| Chhattisgarh      | 549     | 540     | *       |
| Gujarat           | 480     | 3885    | *       |
| Jharkhand         | 2018    | 1411    | 90      |
| Karnataka         | 1254    | 1319    | 0       |
| Madhya Pradesh    | *       | *       | 2824    |
| Maharashtra       | 7619    | 9478    | *       |
| Orissa            | 466     | 1290    | 1781    |
| Punjab            | 2756    | 1559    | *       |
| Rajasthan         | 5301    | 2197    | *       |
| Tamil Nadu        | 3248    | *       | 4193    |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 3429    | 5876    | *       |
| West Bengal       | 47461   | 37317   | *       |
| Total             | 20341   | 9217    | 47074   |

\* Information is awaited from the State Government.



*No. of Children mainstreamed under  
INDUS Project (9-13 years)*

| Name of the State | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1                 | 2       | 3       | 4       |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 0       | 1269    | 4877    |
| Maharashtra       | 0       | 367     | 1914    |

| 1             | 2 | 3    | 4     |
|---------------|---|------|-------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 4990 | 7598  |
| Tamil Nadu    | 0 | 2126 | 4572  |
| Delhi         | 0 | 0    | 0     |
| Total         | 0 | 8592 | 18961 |

**Statement-II**

*Expenditure of last three years under NCLP*

|       |                   |           |            | (in Rupees) |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| S.No. | Name of States    | 2004-05   | 2005-06    | 2006-07     |
| 1     | Andhra Pradesh    | 232220831 | 211610829  | 141635611   |
| 2     | Assam             | 686500    | 12468000   | 12403500    |
| 3     | Bihar             | 28205834  | 43386910   | 142679960   |
| 4     | Chhattisgarh      | 23080814  | 36857738   | 31107540    |
| 5     | Goa               | 592000    | 0          | 0           |
| 6     | Gujarat           | 2153500   | 4404800    | 15549200    |
| 7     | Haryana           | 458500    | 1718000    | 0           |
| 8     | Jammu and Kashmir | 458500    | 592000     | 0           |
| 9     | Jharkhand         | 19285773  | 37280078   | 18382939    |
| 10    | Karnataka         | 33101388  | 50651674   | 52567717    |
| 11    | Madhya Pradesh    | 44521226  | 36826745   | 29409567    |
| 12    | Maharashtra       | 16848418  | 19255655   | 27828784    |
| 13    | Orissa            | 131264355 | 134419118  | 110792590   |
| 14    | Punjab            | 18404902  | 15528577   | 9020900     |
| 15    | Rajasthan         | 44303713  | 68613939   | 116269919   |
| 16    | Tamil Nadu        | 72462692  | 98404201   | 62730916    |
| 17    | Uttar Pradesh     | 70736376  | 151892537  | 186647881   |
| 18    | Uttarakhand       | 61368     | 592000     | 0           |
| 19    | West Bengal       | 74236099  | 83128311   | 99140687    |
| Total |                   | 813082789 | 1007631112 | 1056167711  |

*Expenditure of last three years under INDUS by Ministry of Labour and Employment*

(in rupees)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | 2004-05   | 2005-06   | 2006-07   |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1.      | Maharashtra       | 17202840  | 27933618  | 22118000  |
| 2.      | Madhya Pradesh    | 20140000  | 29149893  | 21238000  |
| 3.      | Tamil Nadu        | 23773134  | 25597200  | 19065550  |
| 4.      | Uttar Pradesh     | 38884026  | 40064507  | 45135853  |
| Total   |                   | 100000000 | 122745218 | 107557403 |

**Statement-III**

| Sl.No. | Name of State/UT            | No. of Prosecutions |         |         | No. of Convictions |         |         |
|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|
|        |                             | 2003-04             | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2003-04            | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| 1      | 2                           | 3                   | 4       | 5       | 6                  | 7       | 8       |
| 1      | Andaman & Nicobar U.T.      | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 2      | Andhra Pradesh              | 4870                | 1212    | 6124    | 2158               | 1109    | 620     |
| 3      | Arunachal Pradesh           | 24                  | 11      | 11      | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 4      | Assam                       | 12                  | 0       |         | 0                  | 0       |         |
| 5      | Bihar                       | 385                 | 259     | 147     | 0                  | 0       |         |
| 6      | Chandigarh U.T.             | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 7      | Chhattisgarh                | 1                   | 4       |         | 0                  | 0       |         |
| 8      | Dadra and Nagar Haveli U.T. | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 9      | Daman and Diu U.T.          | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 10     | Delhi U.T.                  | 66                  | 74      | 253     | 0                  | 0       | 10      |
| 11     | Goa                         | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 12     | Gujarat                     | 29                  | 106     | 23      | 0                  | 0       | 2       |
| 13     | Haryana                     | 38                  | 13      | 0       | 18                 | 3       | 2       |
| 14     | Himachal Pradesh            | 1                   | 0       | 0       | 1                  | 0       | 0       |
| 15     | Jammu and Kashmir           | 9                   | 2       | 19      | 1                  | 0       | 3       |
| 16     | Jharkhand                   | 76                  | 153     |         | 1                  | 11      |         |
| 17     | Karnataka                   | 2781                | 612     | 1078    | 79                 | 80      | 139     |
| 18     | Kerala                      | 0                   | 1       | 1       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 19     | Lakshadweep U.T.            | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 20     | Madhya Pradesh              | 28                  | 54      | 37      | 66                 | 16      | 5       |
| 21     | Maharashtra                 | 17                  | 32      |         | 8                  | 4       |         |
| 22     | Manipur                     | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 23     | Meghalaya                   | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 24     | Mizoram                     | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 25     | Nagaland                    | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |
| 26     | Orissa                      | 3                   | 5       |         | 0                  | 0       |         |
| 27     | Pondicherry U.T.            | 0                   | 0       | 0       | 1                  | 1       | 0       |
| 28     | Punjab                      | 35                  | 2       |         | 23                 | 5       |         |
| 29     | Rajasthan                   | 0                   | 7       | 13      | 1501               | 15      | 6       |
| 30     | Sikkim                      | 0                   | 185     | 0       | 0                  | 0       | 0       |

| 1     | 2             | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    |
|-------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 31.   | Tamil Nadu    | 302  | 590  | 244  | 237  | 145  | 192  |
| 32    | Tripura       | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 33    | Uttar Pradesh | 399  | 31   | 19   | 0    | 10   | 40   |
| 34    | Uttarakhand   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 35    | West Bengal   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Total |               | 9076 | 3353 | 7969 | 4094 | 1399 | 1019 |

#### Health Mela by MTNL

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

- whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) organises Perfect Health Mela in Delhi every year;
- if so, whether any such Mela was organised in 2006 also;
- if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons examined and the diseases for which they were examined; and
- the total amount spent by the MTNL on organisation of the said Mela?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, MTNL, in the capacity of one of the sponsors, paid Rs. 10 lacs in 2006 to the organizers of the Perfect Health Mela namely, M/s Heart Care Foundation of India, New Delhi.

#### Irregularities In Storage

996. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- the complaints received by the Government during the last two years in respect of storage by the Food Corporation of India State-wise;
- the number of irregularities found on the basis of such complaints and the nature of such irregularities; and
- the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No formal complaints have been received by FCI in respect of storage and transit losses. However, irregularities in storage

of foodgrains have been noticed. Zone-wise cases registered on account of storage losses (including transit losses) during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement-I

(c) Action taken against the guilty persons is given in the enclosed statement-II.

FCI has been directed by Government to fix responsibility for abnormal transit & storage losses of foodgrains, whenever such instances come to notice.

#### Statement-I

*Zone-wise number of cases registered on account of storage losses (including transit losses) during the last two calendar years i.e. 2005 and 2006*

| Zone            | 2005 | 2006 |
|-----------------|------|------|
| North Zone      | 757  | 1075 |
| West Zone       | 21   | 43   |
| East Zone       | 110  | 60   |
| North East Zone | 05   | 00   |
| South Zone      | 08   | 17   |
| Total           | 901  | 1195 |

#### Statement-II

*Action taken against the guilty persons and the outcome of such action*

The employees who were found responsible for losses are suitably punished. During the last 2 years, the following punishments were imposed upon the delinquent officials who were found responsible on account of irregularities of storage losses and other irregularities:-

| S. No. | Nature of penalty imposed              | 2005 | 2006 |
|--------|--|------|------|
| 1      | 2                                      | 3    | 4    |
| 1.     | Dismissal/removal/compulsorily retired | 44   | 79   |
| 2.     | Reduction in rank                      | 30   | 30   |

| 1  | 2   | 3           | 4           |
|----|---|-------------|-------------|
| 3. | Reduction in time scale of pay              | 313         | 318         |
| 4. | Withholding of increments                   | 118         | 216         |
| 5. | Recovery from pay of the loss caused to FCI | 886         | 1731        |
| 6. | Withholding of promotion                    | 05          | 02          |
| 7. | Censure                                     | 307         | 382         |
|    | <b>Total</b>                                | <b>1703</b> | <b>2758</b> |

**[English]**

### Sugarcane Growers

**997. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:**

**SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:**

**SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:**

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether there has been a record production of sugarcane during 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sugarcane farmers are facing great hardships due to depressed prices and a big portion of their produce lying un-procured with them;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to procure the entire produce of the sugarcane farmers and ensure remunerative price to them; and

(e) the other steps being taken by the Government to mitigate the problems of sugarcane farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Request for Additional Quota of Foodgrains

998. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from Kerala for allocation of additional quota of

foodgrains and sugar in view of the festival of Onam particularly, in the regions struck by natural calamities; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Request has been received from the State Government of Kerala for allocation of additional quantity of 71000 MTs of rice, 35500 MTs of wheat and 7100 MTs of sugar for the Onam festival.

The Government has made a one time special allocation of 21000 tons of rice at APL rates to the State of Kerala for the Onam festival during the month of August, 2007. Also, an allocation of 8000 tons of levy sugar, as festival quota, has been released for the State of Kerala.

## BSNL Plan to Increase Revenue

**999. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL is offering various plan for home users to increase the revenue and to compete with the private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue generated during the last two years in different plans for home users, State-wise and rural and urban-wise separately?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):** (a) BSNL has not offered any specific plan only for Home users under fixed line, WLL and Cellular services. However Plans have been offered for home users under Broadband service.

(b) The details of Broadband Home Plans are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The revenue generated for Broadband service from different Home Plans State-wise for the last two years are given in the enclosed statement-II and III. (Bifurcation of revenue under rural and urban is not being maintained separately.)

**Statement-I**

### Broadband Tariff - Home Plans

| Particulars | Home<br>250                    | Home<br>500                    | Home<br>1000                   | Home<br>1800                   | Home<br>3300                   | Home<br>UL900 | Home<br>UL900 Plus |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1           | 2                              | 3                              | 4                              | 5                              | 6                              | 7             | 8                  |
| Bandwidth   | 256<br>kbps/<br>upto 2<br>mbps | 256<br>kbps/<br>upto 2<br>mbps | 256<br>kbps/<br>upto 2<br>mbps | 256<br>kbps/<br>upto 2<br>mbps | 256<br>kbps/<br>upto 2<br>mbps | 256 kbps      | 256 kbps           |

| 1   | 2                                    | 3      | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7         | 8  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|--|
| Monthly Charges                                     | 250                                  | 500    | 1000  | 1800  | 3300  | 900       | 900  |
| Annual Payment                                      | 2500                                 | 5000   | 10000 | 18000 | 33000 | 9000      | 9000   |
| Option to customers                                 |                                      |        |       |       |       |           |  |
| Free Download/<br>Upload Limit (GB)                 | 1.0 GB                               | 2.5 GB | 5 GB  | 10 GB | 20 GB | Unlimited | Unlimited  |
| Additional Usage<br>Charges/MB beyond<br>free limit | 0.90                                 | 0.80   | 0.80  | 0.70  | 0.70  | Nil       | Nil  |
| Telephone rental per<br>month                       | As per existing plan of the customer |        |       |       |       | Nil       | As per<br>existing<br>plan of<br>the<br>customer |
| Free Calls  |                                      |        |       |       |       | Nil       |  |
| MCU charge per<br>pulse                             |                                      |        |       |       |       | Rs. 1.00  |  |

**Statement-II**

**Broadband Revenue for 2005-2006\***

(Rs. in lakhs)

|                     | Home    | Home    | Home   | Home   | Home   |         |
|---------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Circle              | 250     | 500     | 1000   | 1800   | 3300   | Total   |
| Andaman and Nicobar | 0.39    | 3.07    | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00   | 3.48    |
| Andhra Pradesh      | 396.00  | 379.19  | 18.51  | 22.94  | 12.21  | 828.86  |
| Assam               | 27.11   | 25.28   | 1.80   | 1.58   | 0.31   | 56.08   |
| Bihar               | 92.13   | 72.48   | 1.87   | 1.86   | 0.77   | 169.11  |
| Gujarat             | 296.66  | 132.04  | 8.34   | 9.15   | 11.36  | 457.55  |
| Haryana             | 81.61   | 67.97   | 3.35   | 4.70   | 3.25   | 160.89  |
| Himachal Pradesh    | 12.29   | 5.29    | 0.26   | 0.64   | 0.30   | 18.78   |
| Jammu and Kashmir   | 23.08   | 11.90   | 0.68   | 0.92   | 0.00   | 36.58   |
| Karnataka           | 448.20  | 794.81  | 68.88  | 101.09 | 24.68  | 1437.66 |
| Kerala              | 182.94  | 129.76  | 7.93   | 8.76   | 6.32   | 335.70  |
| Madhya Pradesh      | 267.42  | 94.22   | 2.75   | 4.12   | 3.34   | 371.85  |
| Maharashtra         | 328.44  | 417.68  | 19.59  | 26.24  | 11.56  | 803.51  |
| North East          | 17.82   | 8.65    | 1.51   | 0.81   | 0.65   | 29.44   |
| Orissa              | 33.77   | 18.01   | 1.39   | 1.07   | 1.56   | 55.81   |
| Punjab              | 210.76  | 129.41  | 5.61   | 4.86   | 3.08   | 353.73  |
| Rajasthan           | 136.63  | 82.11   | 4.63   | 7.54   | 2.52   | 233.44  |
| Tamil Nadu          | 490.29  | 942.14  | 18.11  | 23.62  | 13.64  | 1487.81 |
| UP East             | 186.83  | 55.14   | 2.36   | 3.95   | 1.66   | 249.94  |
| UP West             | 83.79   | 82.68   | 4.10   | 5.64   | 2.02   | 178.23  |
| West Bengal         | 470.33  | 398.38  | 20.83  | 20.31  | 9.03   | 918.89  |
| Total               | 3786.51 | 3850.22 | 192.49 | 249.82 | 108.28 | 8187.31 |

\* Data for 5 months

**Statement-III**  
**Broadband Revenue for 2006-2007**

| (Rs. in lakhs)      |             |             |              |              |              |              |             |          |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| Circle              | Home<br>250 | Home<br>500 | Home<br>1000 | Home<br>1800 | Home<br>3300 | Home<br>900P | Home<br>900 | Total    |
| Andaman and Nicobar | 25.57       | 19.18       | 0.25         | 0.41         | 0.70         | 0.33         | 1.52        | 47.96    |
| Andhra Pradesh      | 1439.68     | 1286.46     | 56.68        | 81.77        | 44.99        | 167.44       | 288.62      | 3365.64  |
| Assam               | 174.58      | 71.12       | 4.59         | 5.20         | 2.97         | 6.77         | 7.61        | 272.84   |
| Bihar               | 641.64      | 198.84      | 6.07         | 13.72        | 2.52         | 12.25        | 25.67       | 900.71   |
| Gujarat             | 1639.81     | 364.37      | 21.78        | 19.24        | 19.31        | 42.04        | 128.12      | 2234.66  |
| Haryana             | 469.74      | 188.60      | 9.74         | 15.97        | 8.55         | 37.45        | 36.04       | 766.08   |
| Himachal Pradesh    | 97.62       | 23.12       | 2.01         | 2.85         | 1.05         | 2.46         | 11.14       | 140.25   |
| Jammu and Kashmir   | 150.05      | 41.40       | 2.74         | 2.92         | 2.32         | 5.07         | 7.56        | 212.06   |
| Karnataka           | 2500.88     | 2210.92     | 200.88       | 282.98       | 78.11        | 431.92       | 268.43      | 5974.12  |
| Kerala              | 1213.16     | 414.32      | 21.62        | 26.58        | 16.64        | 88.92        | 83.78       | 1865.02  |
| Madhya Pradesh      | 1258.04     | 259.54      | 7.64         | 13.14        | 8.02         | 54.27        | 92.03       | 1692.69  |
| Maharashtra         | 2084.55     | 843.69      | 43.69        | 58.72        | 32.61        | 92.31        | 237.29      | 3392.88  |
| New Delhi           | 10.61       | 4.32        | 0.26         | 0.53         | 0.26         | 0.68         | 0.74        | 17.41    |
| North East          | 108.76      | 45.95       | 4.71         | 4.36         | 4.78         | 3.21         | 3.88        | 175.65   |
| Orissa              | 226.41      | 76.44       | 2.67         | 4.60         | 5.59         | 22.26        | 16.00       | 353.97   |
| Punjab              | 1193.42     | 504.84      | 18.06        | 20.83        | 14.47        | 159.75       | 155.89      | 2067.27  |
| Rajasthan           | 881.70      | 246.17      | 15.02        | 20.49        | 8.76         | 78.61        | 94.82       | 1345.54  |
| Tamil Nadu          | 2992.00     | 2757.65     | 70.46        | 106.18       | 57.28        | 366.34       | 399.84      | 6749.74  |
| UP East             | 845.38      | 189.18      | 8.72         | 11.51        | 9.35         | 82.41        | 50.54       | 1197.08  |
| UP West             | 543.81      | 239.38      | 14.07        | 21.05        | 6.45         | 39.82        | 45.89       | 910.46   |
| West Bengal         | 2880.50     | 1219.35     | 62.37        | 64.97        | 39.14        | 152.10       | 160.62      | 4579.06  |
| Total               | 21377.90    | 11204.85    | 574.03       | 778.03       | 363.89       | 1846.40      | 2116.01     | 38261.10 |

**Setting up of Post Office Bank**

1000. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has any proposal to set up a Post Office Bank in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The proposal of the

Department to set up the "Post Office Bank" in the country is at a conceptual stage and no details have been finalised.

**Drop in Postal Small Savings**

1001. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

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

(a) whether there has been a drop in the mobilization of postal small savings deposits recently due to higher rate of interest being offered by banks for deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the deposit mobilization and withdrawals during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Details of deposit mobilization, withdrawals and net deposit are as under:-

|                                     | (Rs. in crores) |               |               |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                     | 2004-<br>2005   | 2005-<br>2006 | 2006-<br>2007 | 2007-<br>2008<br>(up to<br>June 2007) |
| Deposit Mobilization                | 160895          | 173308        | 154418        | 31002                                 |
| Withdrawal                          | 76674           | 105737        | 117656        | 34211                                 |
| Net Deposit (Deposit(-) Withdrawal) | 84221           | 67571         | 36762         | (-) 3209                              |

(c) The decline in collections refer to inter-alia, investor's choice of alternative instruments for effecting savings. However, Central and State Governments take various measures to promote and popularize Small Savings schemes through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars and providing training to various agencies involved in mobilizing collection in Small Savings Schemes etc. A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance has also been launched to facilitate interface with public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and online registration and settlement of investor's grievances. The website address is [nsiindia.gov.in](http://nsiindia.gov.in).

[Translation]

#### Check of Telecom Services

1002. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiative to compare the quality of services provided by B.S.N.L. with the private mobile companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been monitoring performance of Cellular Mobile Operators against the bench marks laid

down for the various parameters (vide Regulation on Quality of Service of Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, 2005) through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports submitted by all the service providers including BSNL. TRAI had also undertaken independent assessment of the Quality of Service through an independent agency. Performance of BSNL is comparable to the private mobile companies in respect of quality of service of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service.

[English]

#### Water Harvesting

1003. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any direction or guidelines to States for promotion of rain water/ water harvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the same to each State during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to set up Water Regulatory Authority for better water management in States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources has requested all the concerned States/UTs for adoption of artificial recharge to ground water and promotion of rain water harvesting in all the over-exploited areas and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the Building Bye-Laws. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has prepared and circulated manual and guidelines on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water covering investigation techniques for selection of sites, planning and design of artificial recharge structures, economic evaluation and monitoring of recharge facility.

(c) A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" is being implemented by the CGWB at a total cost of Rs. 5.95 crores for 8 identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. However, State-wise allocations are not made.

(d) No, Sir, However, the report on Mid-Term Appraisal of X Plan has recommended that States should set up water regulators.

(e) Does not arise.

### New Postal Policy

1004. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to bring sweeping changes in the existing postal system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the corporatisation of the entire postal sector within a specific period would be undertaken;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a new postal policy is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) The draft National Postal Policy is under preparation.

### Non-availability of STD/ISD/FAX Facilities

1005. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in different parts of the country where STD/ISD/FAX facility is still not available;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As on 30th June, 2007, 18,118 eligible villages, excluding villages having population less than 100, villages lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc., remain to be connected with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). The telephone exchanges, from which these VPTs have been provided, are equipped with STD/ISD/Fax facilities. However, as per the present policy these facilities are extended to the VPT on the request of its custodian and subject to the completion of the requisite formalities by the custodian.

### Distribution under PDS

1006. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding allocation and offtake of foodgrains, sugar and kerosene for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether some States have requested for an increase in the allocation of various commodities made to them for distribution under Public Distribution System; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) State-wise and year-wise details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains (rice and wheat), sugar and kerosene are given in the enclosed statement-I to V.

(b) and (c) The details of requests received from the States and the action taken by the Government is summarised below:

- (i) **Foodgrains:** Requests have been received from 27 States/UTs for an increase in the allocation of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Keeping in view the position of stock in the Central Pool, requests received from the States have been considered and adhoc allocations of wheat have been made as given in the enclosed Statement VI.
- (ii) **Levy Sugar:** The State of Andhra Pradesh requested to increase the monthly quota of levy sugar. The same was not agreed to. Request received from Government of Kerala to allocate sugar for the festival of Onam was agreed to and an additional allocation of 4400 tons was made under festival quota as a one time measure, over and above the normal levy sugar quota.
- (iii) **Kerosene:** During the current year the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal requested for increasing the SKO allocation.

The Government has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS Kerosene may be restricted to BPL families only. On account of this, these requests received from various States could not be acceded to.



**Statement-I***Allocation and Offtake (Rice & Wheat) Under TPDS- Year 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007*

(In '000 Tons)

| Sl. No. | States/UTS        | 2004-2005  |          | 2005-2006  |          | 2006-2007  |          |
|---------|-------------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
|         |                   | Allocation | Offtake  | Allocation | Offtake  | Allocation | Offtake  |
| 1       | 2                 | 3          | 4        | 5          | 6        | 7          | 8        |
| 1       | Andhra Pradesh    | 3973.116   | 2855.573 | 3973.116   | 3217.5   | 3900.596   | 3209.074 |
| 2       | Arunachal Pradesh | 118.176    | 94.98    | 111.246    | 81.17    | 103.644    | 60.378   |
| 3       | Assam             | 1685.66    | 1284.066 | 1755.66    | 1221.15  | 1714.746   | 1511.916 |
| 4       | Bihar             | 4930.704   | 1202.301 | 4930.704   | 1118.62  | 3988.344   | 1024.178 |
| 5       | Chhattisgarh      | 1833.432   | 779.487  | 1833.432   | 818.242  | 1600.328   | 867.483  |
| 6       | Delhi             | 1168.296   | 572.836  | 1168.296   | 469.95   | 836.456    | 547.63   |
| 7       | Goa               | 134.256    | 5.04     | 134.256    | 12.354   | 102.758    | 27.01    |
| 8       | Gujarat           | 3671.212   | 764.201  | 3664.412   | 841.74   | 2295.882   | 862.19   |
| 9       | Haryana           | 1342.776   | 437.325  | 1342.776   | 290.21   | 830.085    | 310.349  |
| 10      | Himachal Pradesh  | 527.832    | 312.312  | 527.832    | 330.23   | 443.037    | 370.496  |
| 11      | Jammu and Kashmir | 756.804    | 571.862  | 756.804    | 645.82   | 791.804    | 659.255  |
| 12      | Jharkhand         | 1221.792   | 554.187  | 1221.792   | 684.7    | 1195.472   | 741.15   |
| 13      | Karnataka         | 3384.876   | 2122.214 | 3319.033   | 2131.61  | 2853.688   | 2085.051 |
| 14      | Kerala            | 2461.548   | 914.401  | 2461.538   | 961.627  | 2257.068   | 1026.108 |
| 15      | Madhya Pradesh    | 4267.848   | 1628.062 | 4264.828   | 1879.646 | 2756.644   | 1790.229 |
| 16      | Maharashtra       | 7445.184   | 2438.67  | 7445.184   | 2511.1   | 5015.204   | 2505.91  |
| 17      | Manipur           | 103.474    | 55.971   | 107.104    | 62.78    | 111.06     | 78.366   |
| 18      | Meghalaya         | 121.884    | 98.316   | 121.884    | 100.03   | 121.804    | 115.682  |
| 19      | Mizoram           | 122.52     | 98.749   | 100.7      | 83.55    | 72.222     | 69.044   |
| 20      | Nagaland          | 174.12     | 163.624  | 154.48     | 146.71   | 129.084    | 147.673  |
| 21      | Orissa            | 2852.256   | 1514.223 | 2852.256   | 1357.671 | 2535.682   | 1248.271 |
| 22      | Punjab            | 1669.776   | 159.097  | 1669.776   | 98.19    | 868.946    | 150.267  |
| 23      | Rajasthan         | 3724.296   | 1183.871 | 3697.156   | 974.31   | 2358.91    | 1025.874 |
| 24      | Sikkim            | 44.052     | 36.612   | 44.052     | 42.41    | 44.687     | 44.188   |
| 25      | Tamil Nadu        | 5830.356   | 2720.51  | 5830.356   | 3713.027 | 5805.936   | 3439.406 |
| 26      | Tripura           | 303.132    | 186.214  | 303.132    | 188.26   | 300.758    | 225.34   |
| 27      | Uttar Pradesh     | 10979.64   | 3910.933 | 10979.252  | 4038.718 | 8329.377   | 4499.145 |
| 28      | Uttaranchal       | 542.724    | 237.089  | 542.724    | 254.213  | 496.942    | 284.429  |

| 1     | 2                              | 3         | 4         | 5         | 6         | 7         | 8         |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 29    | West Bengal                    | 6099.72   | 2445.1    | 6099.72   | 2778.169  | 5617.51   | 2358.665  |
| 30    | Andaman and<br>Nicobar Islands | 45.59     | 2.91      | 45.588    | 18.13     | 28.91     | 17.13     |
| 31    | Chandigarh                     | 85.152    | 0.361     | 85.152    | 0         | 35.206    | 0.28      |
| 32    | Dadar & Nagar Haveli           | 13.86     | 0         | 13.86     | 3.28      | 13.37     | 4.44      |
| 33    | Daman and Diu                  | 11.1      | 0         | 11.1      | 0.81      | 10.58     | 1.08      |
| 34    | Lakshadweep                    | 4.248     | 0         | 3.9       | 3.78      | 4.154     | 3.23      |
| 35    | Pondicherry                    | 48.312    | 3.94      | 48.312    | 25.64     | 85.162    | 18.54     |
| Total |                                | 71,699.72 | 29,355.04 | 71,621.51 | 31,105.35 | 57,656.06 | 31,369.46 |

**Statement-II***State-wise/Season-wise (October to September) allocation of levy sugar from 2004-05 to 2006-07**(Qty. in '000 Tonnes)*

| Sl. No | State/UTs         | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|--------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1      | 2                 | 3       | 4       | 5       |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh    | 120.81  | 117.48  | 124.3   |
| 2      | Arunachal Pradesh | 10.24   | 10.27   | 10.61   |
| 3      | Assam             | 223.95  | 224.14  | 224.2   |
| 4      | Bihar             | 213.17  | 7.48    | 77.54   |
| 5      | Chhattisgarh      | 55.37   | 26.84   | 42.95   |
| 6      | Delhi             | 35.42   | 35.84   | 36.38   |
| 7      | Goa               | 1.58    | 1.59    | 1.59    |
| 8      | Gujarat           | 75.32   | 73.08   | 75.4    |
| 9      | Haryana           | 29.09   | 11.91   | 21.15   |
| 10     | Himachal Pradesh  | 54.51   | 55.88   | 56.01   |
| 11     | Jammu and Kashmir | 86.81   | 87.07   | 87.59   |
| 12     | Jharkhand         | 75.16   | 0.16    | 0.15    |
| 13     | Karnataka         | 102.64  | 69      | 82.71   |
| 14     | Kerala*           | 52.92   | 50.48   | 49.35   |
| 15     | Madhya Pradesh    | 153.12  | 156.67  | 155.98  |
| 16     | Maharashtra       | 161.53  | 106.55  | 148.7   |
| 17     | Manipur           | 20.92   | 21.9    | 21.91   |
| 18     | Meghalaya         | 21.08   | 20.96   | 20.95   |
| 19     | Mizoram           | 8.35    | 8.38    | 8.37    |

| 1     | 2                          | 3       | 4       | 5       |
|-------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 20    | Nagaland                   | 14.51   | 14.56   | 14.56   |
| 21    | Orissa                     | 103.77  | 107.36  | 108.5   |
| 22    | Punjab                     | 19.28   | 6.66    | 15.67   |
| 23    | Rajasthan                  | 83.92   | 24      | 55.37   |
| 24    | Sikkim                     | 4.74    | 3.95    | 4.34    |
| 25    | Tamil Nadu                 | 131.7   | 98.09   | 125.39  |
| 26    | Tripura                    | 32.58   | 32.72   | 32.93   |
| 27    | Uttar Pradesh              | 401.38  | 386.3   | 365.48  |
| 28    | Uttarakhand                | 70.61   | 73.03   | 72.81   |
| 29    | West Bengal                | 171.43  | 176.01  | 178.45  |
| 30    | Andaman and Nicobar Island | 4.74    | 4.74    | 4.62    |
| 31    | Chandigarh                 | 0.95    | 0.95    | 1.01    |
| 32    | Dadar and Nagar Haveli     | 0.6     | 0.6     | 0.6     |
| 33    | Daman and Diu              | 0.12    | 0.14    | 0.53    |
| 34    | Lakshdweep                 | 1.32    | 1.41    | 1.38    |
| 35    | Pondicherry                | 2.04    | 2.2     | 2.18    |
| Total |                            | 2545.68 | 2018.39 | 2229.66 |

**Statement-III**

*Offtake of Levy Sugar during 2004-05 to 2006-07*

(In '000 Tons)

| Sl. No. | State/UTs                   | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1       | Assam                       | 34.865  | 42.528  | 83.17   |
| 2       | Arunachal Pradesh           | 2.155   | 3.698   | 4.535   |
| 3       | Manipur                     | 1.822   | 7.309   | 7.764   |
| 4       | Meghalaya                   | 2.983   | 7.63    | 9.648   |
| 5       | Mizoram                     | 3.518   | 7.761   | 7.963   |
| 6       | Nagaland                    | 10.824  | 15.868  | 14.714  |
| 7       | Tripura                     | 15.522  | 15.412  | 21.275  |
| 8       | Jammu and Kashmir           | 31.844  | 46.56   | 59.541  |
| 9       | Sikkim                      | 0.811   | 0.3     | 0       |
| 10      | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 4.537   | 6.134   | 3.693   |
| 11      | Lakshadweep                 | 0.85    | 1.624   | 1.21    |
| Total   |                             | 109.731 | 154.824 | 213.513 |

Note: Release of allocated sugar under TPDS in the above States is made through Food Corporation of India (FCI). In rest of the States/UTs, lifting of allocated sugar is done directly by the State/UT Governments from sugar factories.

**Statement-IV***Details of PDS SKO Allocation made to the States/UTs during the year 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| Name of States/UTs          | (Quantity in MTs) |               |                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
|                             | 2006-07           | 2005-06       | 2004-05        |
| 1                           | 2                 | 3             | 4              |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 5816+591*         | 5816          | 5725+1024*     |
| Andhra Pradesh              | 517158+7800*      | 517158+856*   | 505057+19883*  |
| Arunachal Pradesh           | 9257              | 9257          | 9257+1167*     |
| Assam                       | 258007            | 258007+389*   | 251714+10293*  |
| Bihar                       | 647430            | 647430        | 631639+16569*  |
| Chandigarh                  | 13067             | 13067         | 13067          |
| Chhattishgarh               | 146938            | 146938        | 143354+3584*   |
| Dadar and Nagar Haveli      | 2782              | 2782          | 2782           |
| Daman and Diu               | 2118              | 2118          | 2118           |
| Delhi                       | 168484            | 168484        | 168484         |
| Goa                         | 19212             | 19212         | 19212+389*     |
| Gujarat                     | 743759+3891*      | 743759+622*   | 743759+194*    |
| Haryana                     | 145619            | 145619        | 142068+3588*   |
| Himachal Pradesh            | 50537             | 50537         | 50537          |
| Jammu and Kashmir           | 76044+389*        | 76044+3034*   | 75487+2658*    |
| Jharkhand                   | 211175            | 211175        | 211175         |
| Karnataka                   | 461478+934*       | 461478+389*   | 461478         |
| Kerala                      | 216308            | 216308        | 211033+10722*  |
| Lakshadweep                 | 795               | 795           | 795            |
| Madhya Pradesh              | 488609+622*       | 488609+409*   | 476691+11918*  |
| Maharashtra                 | 1276876+3892*     | 1276876+7782* | 1253530+23346* |
| Manipur                     | 19907             | 19907         | 19907          |
| Meghalaya                   | 20401             | 20401         | 20401+289*     |
| Mizoram                     | 6217              | 6217          | 6217           |
| Nagaland                    | 13312+300*        | 13312         | 12712+700*     |
| Orissa                      | 314977+1167*      | 314977        | 307295+8460*   |
| Pondicherry                 | 12257             | 12257+39*     | 12058+510*     |
| Punjab                      | 237192            | 237192        | 232813+4379*   |
| Rajasthan                   | 398913+2334*      | 398913        | 396500+2413*   |

| 1                | 2               | 3              | 4              |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sikkim           | 5582            | 5582           | 5283+571*      |
| Tamil Nadu       | 558929+9339*    | 558929+16342*  | 545297+26861*  |
| Tripura          | 30832           | 30832          | 30093+739*     |
| Uttar Pradesh    | 1241772+5136*   | 1241772+2054*  | 1211485+51688* |
| Uttarakhand      | 89849+4668*     | 89849+136*     | 85959+3890*    |
| West Bengal      | 752103+4046*    | 752103         | 748228+8155    |
| Total Allocation | 9163712+213990* | 9163712-32052* | 9013210+45109* |

\* Additional allocation

**Statement-V***Details of PDS SKO Uplifted during the year 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| (Quantity in MTs)           |             |         |         |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| State                       | 2006-07 (P) | 2005-06 | 2004-05 |
| 1                           | 2           | 3       | 4       |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 5971*       | 6582*   | 5945*   |
| Andhra Pradesh              | 524075*     | 509495  | 502012* |
| Arunachal Pradesh           | 9141*       | 9102    | 9801*   |
| Assam                       | 257937      | 257174  | 262953* |
| Bihar                       | 644582      | 647190  | 639270* |
| Chandigarh                  | 10478       | 11619   | 11721*  |
| Chhattisgarh                | 145420      | 145850  | 146815* |
| Dadar and Nagar Haveli      | 2540        | 2646    | 2151*   |
| Daman and Diu               | 2031        | 1928    | 1534*   |
| Delhi                       | 160786      | 157365  | 168521* |
| Goa                         | 19188*      | 19179   | 19589   |
| Gujarat                     | 747385*     | 744499* | 745318* |
| Haryana                     | 145447      | 144513  | 145206* |
| Himachal Pradesh            | 48936       | 47904   | 45792*  |
| Jammu & Kashmir             | 74536       | 71315   | 74192*  |
| Jharkhand                   | 210416      | 211960* | 210318  |
| Karnataka                   | 463239*     | 481576* | 461308  |
| Kerala                      | 216657*     | 215615  | 221990* |
| Lakshdweep                  | 858*        | 532     | 523     |
| Madhya Pradesh              | 488029      | 484609  | 486440* |

| 1             | 2        | 3       | 4        |
|---------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Maharashtra   | 1280062* | 1272009 | 1269676* |
| Manipur       | 19467    | 19729   | 20507*   |
| Meghalaya     | 19678    | 20265   | 21442*   |
| Mizoram       | 6215     | 6206    | 6058     |
| Nagaland      | 13599*   | 13298   | 13341*   |
| Orissa        | 316043*  | 312171  | 313431*  |
| Pondicherry   | 12253    | 12344*  | 10638    |
| Punjab        | 236044   | 235267  | 235466*  |
| Rajasthan     | 399988*  | 392790  | 396765*  |
| Sikkim        | 5589*    | 5559    | 6344*    |
| Tamil Nadu    | 569629*  | 568456* | 563597*  |
| Tripura       | 30641    | 30514   | 29841    |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1242373* | 1241148 | 1255090* |
| Uttarakhand   | 93790*   | 86009   | 91320*   |
| West Bengal   | 751894   | 748342  | 753341*  |
| Grand Total   | 9174917  | 9114760 | 9148256  |

\* Including additional allocation made to the States/UTs.

# PDS SKO upliftments as per IPC.

**Statement-VI***Additional Allocation of Wheat to States under APL Category for the months from September 2006 to July 2007*

(In Tons)

| Sl.No. | States            | Sep.,<br>06 | Oct.,<br>06 | Nov.,<br>06 | Dec.,<br>06 | Jan., 07-Mar 07<br>(Per month) | April -July, 07<br>(Per month) |
|--------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1      | 2                 | 3           | 4           | 5           | 6           | 7                              | 8                              |
| 1.     | Andhra Pradesh    | 4000        | 4000        | 4000        | 4000        | 4000                           | 4000                           |
| 2.     | Arunachal Pradesh | 300         | 300         | 300         | 300         | 300                            | 300                            |
| 3.     | Assam             | 4000        | 4000        | 3000        | 3000        | 3000                           | 3000                           |
| 4.     | Bihar             | 4000        | 4000        | 2000        | 2000        | 2000                           | 2000                           |
| 5.     | Chhattisgarh      | 3000        | 3000        | Nil         | Nil         | Nil                            | Nil                            |
| 6.     | Delhi             | 8000        | 8000        | 10000       | 10000       | 10000                          | 5000                           |
| 7.     | Goa               | 500         | 500         | 500         | 500         | 500                            | 500                            |
| 8.     | Gujarat           | 5000        | 5000        | 5000        | 5000        | 5000                           | 5000                           |
| 9.     | Haryana           | 2500        | 2500        | 1500        | 1500        | 1500                           | 1500                           |

| 1     | 2                      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6     | 7      | 8      |
|-------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| 10.   | Himachal Pradesh       | 3500   | 3500   | 3500   | 3500  | 6500   | 6500   |
| 11.   | Jammu and Kashmir      | 5000   | 5000   | 5000   | 5000  | 5000   | 5000   |
| 12.   | Jharkhand              | 2000   | 2000   | 2000   | 2000  | 2000   | 2000   |
| 13.   | Karnataka              | 4000   | 5000   | 5000   | 5000  | 5000   | 5000   |
| 14.   | Kerala                 | 5000   | 6000   | 8000   | 8000  | 8000   | 8000   |
| 15.   | Madhya Pradesh         | 5000   | 5000   | 5000   | 5000  | 5000   | 5000   |
| 16.   | Maharashtra            | 5000   | 6000   | 10000  | 10000 | 10000  | 10000  |
| 17.   | Manipur                | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300   | 300    | 300    |
| 18.   | Meghalaya              | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300   | 300    | 300    |
| 19.   | Mizoram                | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300   | 300    | 300    |
| 20.   | Nagaland               | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300   | 300    | 300    |
| 21.   | Orissa                 | 4000   | 5000   | 4000   | 4000  | 4000   | 4000   |
| 22.   | Punjab                 | 2500   | 2500   | 2500   | 2000  | 12000  | 3000   |
| 23.   | Rajasthan              | 6000   | 6000   | 6000   | 6000  | 6000   | 6000   |
| 24.   | Sikkim                 | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300   | 300    | 300    |
| 25.   | Tamil Nadu             | 4000   | 5000   | 5000   | 5000  | 6250   | 6250   |
| 26.   | Tripura                | 800    | 800    | 800    | 800   | 800    | 800    |
| 27.   | Uttar Pradesh          | 5000   | 5000   | 5000   | 5000  | 5000   | 5000   |
| 28.   | Uttarakhand            | 5000   | 5000   | 5000   | 5000  | 10000  | 5000   |
| 29.   | West Bengal            | 10000  | 5000   | 5000   | 5000  | 5000   | 5000   |
| 30.   | Andaman and Nicobar    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 300   | 300    | 300    |
| 31.   | Dadar and Nagar Haveli | 50     | 50     | 50     | 50    | 50     | 50     |
| 32.   | Pondicherry            | 100    | 100    | 150    | 150   | 150    | 150    |
| 33.   | Chandigarh             | 50     | 50     | 50     | 50    | 50     | 50     |
| 34.   | Lakshadweep            | 50     | 50     | Nil    | 50    | 50     | 50     |
| 35.   | Daman and Diu          | 50     | 50     | 50     | 50    | 50     | 50     |
| Total |                        | 100000 | 100000 | 100000 | 99750 | 119000 | 100000 |

Additional allocation of 18,800 and 21,000 tons of rice has also been made to Assam and Kerala respectively, during current year.

#### Decline In Profit of CWC

1007. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profits of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have declined during the last three years;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by CWC in this regard indicating the extent of reduction effected in establishment cost and profitability achieved as on date;

(d) whether CWC hired open plinths instead of utilizing its own storage capacity during the said period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the amount of rent paid for hiring their plinths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The income and profits of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) are continuously on the rising trend. The break up of profits earned by CWC during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07 (provisional) is as under:

| (Rs. in crores) |          |                   |                  |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| Year            | Turnover | Profit before Tax | Profit after Tax |
| 2003-04         | 462.86   | 33.88             | 22.43            |
| 2004-05         | 522.87   | 60.42             | 41.30            |
| 2005-06         | 619.50   | 106.95            | 70.62            |
| 2006-07         | 687.35   | 146.27            | 100.27           |

(c) In order to reduce the establishment cost, the Corporation introduced Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its employees during the year 2002-2003 and 2005-2006. In all, 1588 employees opted for the same. In addition to this, the Construction Cells of the Corporation have been progressively merged which are now reduced from 17 to 05. Similarly number of Regional Office has been reduced from 17 to 16 in order to reduce Establishment/Administrative Cost as well as bringing efficiency. The establishment cost to total cost has reduced from 42.49% in the year 2003-04 to 38.48% during the year 2005-06.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

#### **Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium**

1008. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing the Central Sector Scheme for setting up of Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the States have formed State level SFACs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure that all the States form State level SFACs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Central Sector Scheme for setting up of Small Farmers' Agri-business

Consortium (SFAC) was approved during the VIII Five Year Plan. The Ministry of Agriculture registered SFAC as a Society in January, 1994. The Government of India, Reserve Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce, State Bank of India and Industrial Development Bank of India are the promoter Members of SFAC Society with total corpus contribution of Rs. 10.95 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) During the VIII and IX Plan, SFAC, besides establishing its own infrastructure, had contributed matching corpus to 16 States for establishment of State level SFAC and the State level SFACs were established in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Four more State level SFACs have been established between 2003 and 2006 in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Bihar with matching corpus by Central SFAC and the concerned State Government.

Besides, four State Governments, namely, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh have designated Nodal agencies for implementing and coordinating the work relating to SFAC. The remaining States have been requested to establish State level SFAC in their respective States by making a matching contribution.

[Translation]

#### **Production of Foodgrains**

1009. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding production, demand and supply of foodgrains recorded during the last one year and the current year; state-wise;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains procured and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) paid therefor during the said period; and

(c) the other steps taken to meet the requirement of foodgrains in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the 4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007, country's foodgrains production is estimated at 216.13 million tonnes during 2006-07. For the current agriculture year 2007-08, sowing of Kharif crops is on and as per schedule the 1st advance estimates of foodgrains production for 2007-08 would be brought out in September 2007. State-wise production during 2006-07 are given in the enclosed statement.



On the basis of the monthly per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey 61st Round Report on "Household Consumption of Various Goods and Services in India, 2004-05" and the population projections given by the office of the Registrar General of India, the consumption requirement of foodgrains for the country during 2006-07 was estimated at 182.65 million tonnes which includes seed, feed and wastage. Country's consumption requirement of foodgrains in 2007-08 is

estimated at 185.23 million tonnes. State-wise consumption requirement are not available. For augmenting supply of foodgrains, 14.24 lakh tonnes of wheat and 19.70 lakh tonnes of pulses were also imported during 2006-07 (upto February).

(b) Following table gives the procurement and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rice and Wheat during 2006-07 and 2007-08 (as per marketing year):

| Crop  | Procurement (Lakh Tonnes) |                                 | MSP (Rs./Quintal)      |         |
|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
|       | 2006-07                   | 2007-08                         | 2006-07                | 2007-08 |
| Rice  | 249.95*                   | Procurement season yet to start | 580+40 Bonus Common    | 645     |
|       |                           |                                 | 610+40 Bonus Grade 'A' | 675     |
| Wheat | 92.25                     | 111.04 #                        | 750+100 Bonus          | -       |

\* As on 16.08.2007 # As on 13.08.2007

(c) To increase cereals production, Centrally Sponsored Scheme Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals is in place from October 2000. Under the scheme, assistance is provided on 90:10 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for propagation of improved/hybrid production technology, pest management, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. Likewise, to increase the production of pulses, Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is in place since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments.

The Government of India has initiated two schemes for increasing foodgrains production and improving the agricultural growth in the country. These are (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM), and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS).

#### Statement

##### State-wise Production of Foodgrains in Major States during 2006-07\*

| State          | Production ('000 Tonnes) |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1              | 2                        |
| Andhra Pradesh | 16286.0                  |
| Assam          | 2722.0                   |
| Bihar          | 10500.0                  |

| 1                 | 2        |
|-------------------|----------|
| Chhattisgarh      | 5803.0   |
| Gujarat           | 6499.0   |
| Haryana           | 14752.0  |
| Himachal Pradesh  | 985.0    |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 1517.0   |
| Jharkhand         | 3686.0   |
| Karnataka         | 9022.0   |
| Kerala            | 639.0    |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 13579.0  |
| Maharashtra       | 13092.0  |
| Orissa            | 7251.0   |
| Punjab            | 25247.0  |
| Rajasthan         | 13788.0  |
| Tamil Nadu        | 9056.0   |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 41659.0  |
| Uttaranchal       | 1750.0   |
| West Bengal       | 15873.0  |
| Others            | 2425.2   |
| All India         | 216131.2 |

\* 4th advance estimates as on 19.07.2007

### Setting up of Information Centre

1010. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a centre at Panchayat level for providing information regarding agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government has approved a Scheme in the Department of Information Technology for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would be opened in the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 Census villages in a State. These Centres would provide a mix of Government and private services in rural areas. The Scheme is to be implemented in a public private partnership mode.

The total outlay of the Scheme is estimated at Rs.5742 crores, including the cost of establishment of CSCs and their operation for four years thereafter. The Government support in the form of viability gap funding is estimated to be Rs. 1649 crores, with the balance coming from private sector investments.

The services to be delivered under the CSC Scheme are primarily to be delivered by State Governments. Various States are at various levels of e-enablement of their backends for delivery of e-governance services. These services would be e-enabled gradually by the State Governments and the States are responsible for prioritizing which of the government services, including agriculture, are to be provided through the CSCs and in what manner.

Development of computer based application packages on agriculture for providing information/services to the farming community is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Government of India under its DACNET initiative and by the States under the AGRISNET initiative funded by the DAC.

[English]

### Naval Academy at Cannanore, Kerala

1011. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities created in the Defence Academy (Naval) at Cannanore, Kerala;

(b) whether there are proposals to further expand this Academy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the activities undertaken by this Academy in recent times?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) The Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kerala is to cater for the training of 750 cadets up to B.Tech level. Infrastructure facilities such as Roads/Trunk Services, four Squadrons, Cadets Mess and Flotilla Complex etc. have already been completed.

(b) Further expansion of the Academy is not contemplated at this stage.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (b) above.

(d) Four Naval Orientation Courses have already been completed since the commencement of training in 2005.

### Agricultural Farms

1012. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Agricultural farms operated by the Union Government in Karnataka are running in losses; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken to overcome such loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central State Farm at Jawalgera in Sindhur Taluk of Raichur District, Karnataka is running on losses for want of required irrigation facilities. However, in addition to seed production in the farm, pulses seed production has also been started in nearby farmers' fields, to share some of the over-head expenses and to generate additional income. Improvement of irrigation infrastructure, lining of water courses, construction of water tanks, leveling of fields and purchase of machinery to bring additional area under crops is under consideration.

[Translation]

### Research Laboratories for Agriculture Development

1013. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other Research Centres in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of agricultural produces in which research work is being done in those centres;

(c) whether there is a proposal to open more such Research Centres in the country in view of increased requirement of food due to growing population; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There are 95 ICAR Institutes/Centres including 4 Deemed to be Universities, 5 National Bureaus, 43 National Institutes, 1 National Academy for Agricultural Research Management, 12 Project Directorates and 30 National Research Centres, located in different States of the country. Besides, there are 42 State Agricultural Universities catering to the specific needs of the State. The state-wise list is enclosed as statement-I and II.

(b) These centres are working on food crops, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, commercial crops, jute & allied fibres;

horticultural crops including fruit crops, vegetable crops, tuber crops, floriculture, plantation crops, medicinal & aromatic plants, spices; livestock and poultry; fisheries and post-harvest processing.

(c) Yes, Sir. Based on the research needs and emerging researchable issues, as of now the Department has proposed to seed in principle approval of the Planning Commission for setting up of following three new institutes:-

- (i) National Institute for Biotic Stress Management
- (ii) National Institute for Abiotic Stress Management
- (iii) National Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology

(d) Once the approval is granted by the Planning Commission, Expenditure Finance Committee Memoranda will be formulated and moved as per laid down procedure of Ministry of Finance.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise List of Institutes/NRCs/PDs*

| S. No. | Name of State/Institute/NRCs/PDs  | No. of Institutes/NRCs/PDs |
|--------|---|----------------------------|
| 1      | 2   | 3                          |
|        | <b>Andman and Nicobar</b>   | 1                          |
| 1      | Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair                       |                            |
|        | <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>   | 9                          |
| 2      | Central Tobacco. Research institute, Rajamundry                           |                            |
| 3      | Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad              |                            |
| 4      | National Academy of Agricultural Research & Management (NAARM), Hyderabad |                            |
| 5      | NRC Oil Palm, Pedavegi, West Godavary                                     |                            |
| 6      | NRC on Meat and Meat Products Technology, Hyderabad                       |                            |
| 7      | NRC Sorghum, Hyderabad  |                            |
| 8      | Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad                                   |                            |
| 9      | Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad                                |                            |
| 10     | Project Directorate on Poultry, Hyderabad                                 |                            |
|        | <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>  | 1                          |
| 11     | NRC on Yak, West Kameng   |                            |
|        | <b>Assam</b>  | 1                          |
| 12     | NRC on Pig, Gowahati  |                            |
|        | <b>Bihar</b>  | 2                          |
| 13     | ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna                           |                            |

| 1  | 2   | 3 |
|----|---|---|
| 14 | NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur   |   |
|    | <b>Delhi</b>  | 8 |
| 15 | National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources, New Delhi                    |   |
| 16 | IARI, New Delhi   |   |
| 17 | Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi             |   |
| 18 | NRC Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi  |   |
| 19 | National Centre for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi                 |   |
| 20 | National Centre for Agri. Economics & Policy Research, New Delhi          |   |
| 21 | Directorate of Maize Research, New Delhi                                  |   |
| 22 | Directorate of Information & Publication in Agriculture (DIPA), New Delhi |   |
|    | <b>Gujarat</b>  | 2 |
| 23 | NRC Groundnut, Junagarh   |   |
| 24 | NRC Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand                                  |   |
|    | <b>Goa</b>  | 1 |
| 25 | ICAR Research Complex Goa   |   |
|    | <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>   | 2 |
| 26 | Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla                                 |   |
| 27 | NRC for Mushroom, Solan   |   |
|    | <b>Haryana</b>  | 6 |
| 23 | Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal                          |   |
| 29 | National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal                                 |   |
| 30 | Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar                       |   |
| 31 | National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal                       |   |
| 32 | NRC on Equines, Hisar   |   |
| 33 | Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal                                     |   |
|    | <b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>  | 1 |
| 34 | Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar                     |   |
|    | <b>Jharkhand</b>  | 1 |
| 35 | Indian Lac Research Institute, Ranchi                                     |   |
|    | <b>Kerala</b>   | 5 |
| 36 | Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum                        |   |
| 37 | Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod                     |   |
| 38 | Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut                              |   |

| 1  | 2  | 3 |
|----|--|---|
| 39 | Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin                    |   |
| 40 | Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin                      |   |
|    | <b>Karnataka</b>   | 5 |
| 41 | Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore                  |   |
| 42 | National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bangalore       |   |
| 43 | NRC Cashew, Puttur   |   |
| 44 | Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore                   |   |
| 45 | PD on Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance, Hebbal, Bangalore    |   |
|    | <b>Meghalaya</b>   | 1 |
| 46 | ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani                         |   |
|    | <b>Maharashtra</b>   | 8 |
| 47 | Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur                           |   |
| 48 | National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur           |   |
| 49 | Central Institute of Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai             |   |
| 50 | Central Institute on Fisheries Education, Mumbai                       |   |
| 51 | NRC Citrus, Nagpur   |   |
| 52 | NRC Grapes, Pune   |   |
| 53 | NRC Onion and Garlic, Pune   |   |
| 54 | NRC Pomegranate, Solapur   |   |
|    | <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>  | 4 |
| 55 | Indian Institute of Soil Sciences, Bhopal                              |   |
| 56 | Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal                  |   |
| 57 | NRC Soybean, Indore  |   |
| 58 | NRC-Weed Science, Jabalpur   |   |
|    | <b>Nagaland</b>  | 1 |
| 59 | NRC on Mithun, Medziphema, Nagaland                                    |   |
|    | <b>Orissa</b>  | 4 |
| 60 | Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack                               |   |
| 61 | Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubneshwar               |   |
| 62 | Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar                |   |
| 63 | NRC for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar                              |   |
|    | <b>Punjab</b>  | 1 |
| 64 | Central Institute on Post harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana |   |

| 1  | 2   | 3         |
|----|---|-----------|
|    | <b>Rajasthan</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| 65 | Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner                             |           |
| 66 | Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur                               |           |
| 67 | Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan            |           |
| 68 | NRC Seed Spices, Ajmer  |           |
| 69 | NRC on Camel, Bikaner   |           |
| 70 | NRC Rapeseed & Mustard (NRCRM), Bharatpur                                   |           |
|    | <b>Sikkim</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| 71 | NRC on Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim   |           |
|    | <b>Tamil Nadu</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| 72 | Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore                                    |           |
| 73 | Central Institute Brackishwater Aquaculture,<br>Chennai                     | <b>4</b>  |
| 74 | NRC Banana, Trichi  |           |
|    | <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>  | <b>14</b> |
| 75 | Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur                                 |           |
| 76 | Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow                             |           |
| 77 | Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi                      |           |
| 78 | National Bureau of Agril. Important Micro-organisms (NBAIM), Mau            |           |
| 79 | Central Institute of Sub Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow                     |           |
| 80 | Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi                            |           |
| 81 | Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom                           |           |
| 82 | * Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar                               |           |
| 83 | Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar                             |           |
| 84 | National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow                          |           |
| 85 | NRC Agroforestry, Jhansi  |           |
| 86 | Directorate of Seed Research, Mau   |           |
| 87 | Project Dte. on Cropping System Research, Modipuram                         |           |
| 88 | Project Directorate - Cattle, Merut   |           |
|    | <b>Uttaranchal</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| 89 | Vivekananda Parvitya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora                     |           |
| 90 | Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Dehradun |           |
| 91 | National Research Centre on Cold Water Fisheries, Nainital                  |           |

| 1     | 2  | 3  |
|-------|--|----|
| 92    | PD on Foot & Mouth Disease, Mukteshwar<br><b>West Bengal</b>               | 3  |
| 93    | Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore         |    |
| 94    | National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology, Calcutta |    |
| 95    | Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpur            |    |
| Total |  | 95 |

| <i>Statement-II</i>                                 |  | 1  | 2  |
|---|--|----|--|
| <i>State-wise List of Agricultural Universities</i> |  |    |  |
| S.No.   | State/University   |    |  |
| 1   | 2  |    |  |
|   | <b>Assam</b>   | 13 | Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan-173230    |
| 1.  | Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat-785013                                   |    | Jammu and Kashmir  |
|   | <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>  | 14 | Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu-180004    |
| 2.  | Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad-500030                     | 15 | Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Srinagar-191121 |
| 3.  | Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati-517502                        |    | <b>Jharkhand</b>   |
| 4.  | Horticulture University, Venkataramanagudem near Tadepalligudem, West Godavari | 16 | Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi-834006                                     |
|   | <b>Biher</b>   |    | <b>Karnataka</b>   |
| 5   | Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa-848125                                  | 17 | University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore-560065                             |
|   | <b>Chhattisgarh</b>  | 18 | University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad-580005                               |
| 6   | Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Raipur-492012                            | 19 | Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar-585401     |
|   | <b>Gujarat</b>   | 20 | <b>Kerala</b>  |
| 7   | Anand Agricultural University, Anand-388110                                    |    | Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur-680656                                  |
| 8   | Junagarh Agricultural University, Junagarh                                     |    | <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>  |
| 9   | Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari-396 450                               | 21 | Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur-482004                         |
| 10  | Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Dantiwada - 385506       |    | <b>Maharashtra</b>   |
|   | <b>Haryana</b>   | 22 | Dr Balaesahib Sawant Kokan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli-415712                      |
| 11  | Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125004           | 23 | <b>Maharashtra Animal &amp; Fisheries Sciences University, Nagpur-440006</b>     |
|   | <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>  | 24 | Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani-431402                              |
| 12  | Ch. Sarwan Kumar Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Palampur-176062                       | 25 | Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth Rahuri-413722                                    |

| 1  | 2  |
|----|--|
| 26 | Dr Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Viswa<br>Vidyalaya, Akola-444104<br><br><b>Orissa</b>                           |
| 27 | Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology,<br>Bhubaneshwar-751003<br><br><b>Punjab</b>                   |
| 28 | Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141004  |
| 29 | Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal<br>Sciences University, Ludhiana-141004<br><br><b>Rajasthan</b>         |
| 30 | Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture &<br>Technology, Udaipur-313001                                    |
| 31 | Rajasthan Agricultural University,<br>Bikaner-334002<br><br><b>Tamil Nadu</b>                                |
| 32 | Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,<br>Coimbatore-641003   |
| 33 | Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences<br>University, Chennai-600051<br><br><b>Uttar Pradesh</b>            |
| 34 | Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture<br>& Technology, Kanpur-208002                                |
| 35 | Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Veterinary & Animal<br>Sciences University, Mathura-281001                              |
| 36 | Narendra Rao University of Agriculture<br>& Technology, Faizabad-224229                                      |
| 37 | Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel University of<br>Agriculture & Technology, Meerut-250110<br><br><b>Uttaranchal</b> |
| 38 | Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture &<br>Technology, Pantnagar-263145                              |
| 39 | University of Horticulture and Forestry,<br>Ranichauri, Tehri Garhwal<br><br><b>West Bengal</b>              |
| 40 | Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya,<br>Mohanpur-741252  |
| 41 | Uttar Bang Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya,<br>Coochbehar-736165  |
| 42 | West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery<br>Sciences, Kolkata-700037                                       |

*[English]***Diseases in Arecanut Trees**

1014. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether arecanut trees have been affected with disease in the State of Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any Research institute has been entrusted to know the cause of the disease; and
- (d) if so, the results thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information received from State of Karnataka, arecanut trees have been affected by phytoplasma, bacterial and fungal diseases namely yellow leaf disease, Koleroga or Mahali, bud rot and crown rot, inflorescence dieback, leaf spot, button shedding and foot rot. These diseases occur whenever conducive climatic conditions are prevalent in the arecanut growing areas.

(c) and (d) The Regional Station Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Vittal is exclusively working on these diseases. The Institute has recommended following control measures against the stated diseases:

- (i) Koleroga or Mahali: Spray of 1% Bordeaux mixture 2 times at 45 days interval.
- (ii) Bud rot and Crown rot: Spray of 1% Bordeaux mixture and application of Bordeaux paste to the crown. Drenching of base of palms with 0.3 % tridemorph or 0.3 % phosphoric acid (3 ml/l) against crown rot.
- (iii) Inflorescence dieback and Button shedding: Spray of Indofil M-45 @ 3 gm /l or Dithane Z-78 @ 4g/l.
- (iv) Leaf spot: Spray of 0.3 % Dithane M-45 (3 g/l of water).
- (v) Foot rot: Basin of palms be given 0.3 % Calixin (3ml/l) @ 4 liter /palm plus root feeding of 1.5 % Culixin (15 ml/1) @ 125 ml/palm at quarterly intervals. Application of 2 kg neem cake/palm/year and application of green leaf & Farm Yard Manure @ 15-20 Kg/palm/year, is also recommended.
- (vi) Yellow Leaf Disease: Adoption of integrated crop management technology which include, interalia, balanced nutrient management, green manuring, optimum irrigation and proper drainage, removal of affected palms, etc., is recommended.



[Translation]

### Funds for Flood Control

1015. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under flood control; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance given in this regard to the States during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was set up with NABARD in 1995-96 by Government of India with contributions from Commercial Banks by way of deposits to the extent of shortfall in their agriculture/priority sector lending. A portion of shortfall in agriculture sector lending target of 18% of net bank credit is being deposited by the Commercial Banks with NABARD as part of their contributions to the RIDF. The purpose of the fund is for assisting State Governments in the completion of ongoing Rural Infrastructure Projects and to take up new Infrastructure Projects. Flood Control is an eligible activity for funding under RIDF. During the current financial year (2007-08), no project has so far been sanctioned for control of floods as reported by NABARD, Mumbai.

[English]

### Use of Scarc Spectrum

1016. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GSM operators are not using the scarce spectrum efficiently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith action taken by the Government against GSM operators;

(c) whether the latest Calculation of Efficiency (CoE) of GSM and CDMA operators derived on the basis of subscribers and MHz; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The initial spectrum is being allotted to the GSM operators in accordance with the relevant provisions of their respective Service License Agreements.

Further, in order to ensure optimal and efficient use of allotted spectrum, necessary criteria for allotment of additional spectrum beyond the initial allotment, had been worked out. The existing criteria prescribe "Active Subscribers" and "Peak traffic" averaged over a month in the Visitor Locator Register (VLR) and Network Management System (NMS) respectively, as criteria for allotment of additional spectrum.

### SWAN Projects

1017. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Projects have been approved in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Department of Information Technology pursue the matter with the remaining States to finalise the SWAN Projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Scheme for development of the core e-Governance Infrastructure entitled "State Wide Area Network" (SWAN) was approved by the Government in March, 2005, with an estimated outlay of Rs.3334 crore for the entire country, out of which estimated expenditure of Rs.2005 crore would be met as Grant-in-Aid from DIT (Department of Information Technology) Budget, to be expended over 5 years. Under SWAN Scheme, it is envisaged to establish minimum 2 Mbps capacity intra-State Wide Area Networks (SWAN), linking the State Hqs. right up to the Block Hqs., in order to create a secure Government network for the purpose of delivering G2G and G2C services.

Out of 35 States/UTs the Empowered Committee on SWAN, constituted by the Government, has so far approved 28 SWAN projects and they are at various stages of implementation. The SWAN proposals from the State of Jammu & Kashmir and UT (United Territory) of Lakshadweep have been submitted to DIT for scrutiny. The proposals from UT of Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and State of Arunachal Pradesh are likely to be submitted to DIT shortly. UT of Andaman & Nicobar Island has opted out of the SWAN Scheme and State of Goa has initiated its own Broadband Network in collaboration with private sector.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Regular follow-up actions have been undertaken

by the DIT SWAN team to facilitate preparation and submission of SWAN project proposals by the States/UTs to Empowered Committee. For the remaining State/UTs also, DIT team had visited State of Arunachal Pradesh and UTs Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli to facilitate preparation of project proposals.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Making Intelligence Establishments Public**

1018. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether www.WIKIMAPIA website has made all important establishments of India including the intelligence establishments of the country public through the maps and satellite pictures;

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

(c) whether it is permissible for any website to make public the maps and pictures of country's important intelligence establishments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (d) www. WIKIMAPIA website is an open website on which maps and satellite imageries of selected areas are hosted. Users can put information on the maps and satellite imageries displayed on the site. Whenever any website which raises concerns of security comes to the Government's notice, the same is appropriately addressed.

#### **Armed Forces Medical Services**

1019. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Armed Forces Medical Services have expressed their apprehension that there is a lack of direct facility to contain the ill-effects of nuclear attacks in the country; and

(b) the measures being taken by the Government for the better preparedness to face such crisis in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) The ill effects of any nuclear attack are multifaceted, handling of which will require involvement of a large number of agencies including the Armed Forces Medical Services. A number of Quick Reaction Teams in the Army and Quick Medical Response Teams have been set up for immediate initial response. Other measures include identification of Service Hospitals in the four Metropolitan cities and one hospital in each State/Union Territory, as associated medical

institutions, so that these hospitals are able to handle mass casualties, training of physicians and para-medical staff, organizing training capsules and workshops in specialised institutions to reinforce the training of health professionals, etc. Such preparedness is a continuous process keeping in view the threat perception.

The Armed Forces Medical Services have not expressed any apprehension regarding their preparedness for handling the ill effects of nuclear attacks in the country.

[English]

#### **Policy in 3G Network**

1020. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

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

(a) whether the BSNL has requested to the Union Government to sanction 1.75 crore for GSM lines in Third Generation (3G) network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has finalised the policy for 3G network; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### **Poor Intake from Sainik Schools to NDA**

1021. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether intake from Sainik Schools to the National Defence Academy (NDA) is far from satisfactory as Sainik Schools are not fully serving the purpose of being feeder institutions to the NDA; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The share of Sainik Schools in the total intake to the National Defence Academy (NDA) has steadily increased from 16.9% in 2003 to 25.1% in 2007. The details are given below:-

| S. No. | Year | Total intake<br>(both terms) | No. of Sainik Schools<br>Students | % age of Sainik<br>School Students |
|--------|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.     | 2003 | 602                          | 102                               | 16.9%                              |
| 2.     | 2004 | 623                          | 125                               | 20.0%                              |
| 3.     | 2005 | 596                          | 114                               | 19.1%                              |
| 4.     | 2006 | 667                          | 171                               | 25.6%                              |
| 5.     | 2007 | 643                          | 162                               | 25.1%                              |

#### **Removal of Quantitative Restriction on Small Scale Sector**

1022. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn quantitative restriction of Medium Enterprises leading to deprivation of Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to increase the quantitative restriction on production capacity of Small Scale Sector to combat Medium Enterprises; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government has neither withdrawn nor imposed/or increased any quantitative restriction on production capacity of manufacturing small enterprises or medium enterprises.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Benefits to Fish Farmers**

1023. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether aquaculture is treated as a part of agriculture;

(b) if so, whether fish farmers are getting the same concessions in income tax, power and water tariffs etc. as are granted to Agriculture Sector; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor and the steps being taken to ensure grant of equal concessions to fish farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Agriculture is a State subject. While certain States have notified aquaculture as a part of agriculture, most States have not yet done so.

(b) Only those States, which have notified aquaculture as a part of agriculture, have extended some concessions

applicable to agriculture to the aquaculture farmers as well.

(c) It is entirely for the concerned State Governments to take a decision in this regard.

[Translation]

#### **Availability of Seeds**

1024. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.4329 dated May, 07, 2007 and state:

(a) whether the availability of seeds during kharif season 2007 has been very low in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of shortage, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any provision to shift seeds from surplus States to deficient States;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of reasons for not extending assistance to Rajasthan for development of seed infrastructure facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In the States of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Kerala and West Bengal the seed availability for Kharif 2007 has been less than the projected demand. In other States seed availability has been more than the demand. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) There is no restriction on movement of seed from surplus states to deficient states. All the deficit states have been advised to have a tie-up arrangement from the surplus States/State Seeds Corporation including National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India.

(f) Rs.50 lakhs have been sanctioned to Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation for development of seed infrastructure facilities (construction of seed godown) in the current financial year.

**Statement****State-wise Demand and Availability of Certified/  
Quality Seed during Kharif-2007**

(Quantity in Quintals)

| Name of State     | Demand  | Availability | Deficit<br>Surplus |
|-------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh    | 2206880 | 2400600      | +193720            |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 7100    | 7100         |                    |
| Assam             | 79404   | 78604        | -800               |
| Bihar             | 264580  | 253590       | -10983             |
| Chhattisgarh      | 156515  | 102934       | -53581             |
| Goa               | 3060    | 3060         | -                  |
| Gujarat           | 238956  | 281596       | +42640             |
| Haryana           | 84820   | 122268       | +37448             |
| Himachal Pradesh  | 22570   | 22570        | -                  |
| Jharkhand         | 104561  | 114775       | +10214             |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 20981   | 20587        | -394               |
| Karnataka         | 621665  | 681800       | +60135             |
| Kerala            | 22625   | 11062        | -11563             |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 680000  | 724682       | +44682             |
| Meghalaya         | 7367    | 8188         | +821               |
| Maharashtra       | 1268388 | 1301297      | +32909             |
| Manipur           | 2740    | 2740         | -                  |
| Mizoram           | 4675    | 4675         | -                  |
| Nagaland          | 12000   | 12000        | -                  |
| Orissa            | 237068  | 279661       | +42593             |
| Pondicherry       | 2270    | 3050         | +780               |
| Punjab            | 79425   | 164585       | +85160             |
| Rajasthan         | 421535  | 368623       | -52912             |
| Sikkim            | 3510    | 3510         | -                  |
| Tamil Nadu        | 100134  | 287267       | +187133            |
| Tripura           | 18383   | 18383        | -                  |
| Uttarakhand       | 24794   | 30128        | +5334              |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 656580  | 639287       | -17293             |
| West Bengal       | 511600  | 511050       | -550               |
| Grand Total =     | 7864186 | 8459679      | +595493            |

*[English]***CAG Report on Working of BSNL**

1025. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pulled up the public sector telecom company, BSNL for the inordinate delays in carrying out its expansion plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its report has pointed out that BSNL failed to select the suppliers for a major expansion of Cellular Mobile Telephone Services by 641 lakh lines even after the passage of nearly two years;

(d) if so, the other main objections raised by CAG in its report; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the BSNL to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, the CAG of India has highlighted some areas where BSNL has to focus to improve its efficiency. Accordingly, BSNL has taken steps to strengthen its machinery in site acquisition, infrastructure creation and in getting clearances from Standing Advisory Committee on radio Frequency Allocation (SACFA).

(c) and (d) The CAG has observed that there were delays at every stage of finalization of the tender. They have further observed that due to delays, there has been loss of opportunity of adding subscribers to the network.

(e) BSNL has since placed Advance Purchase Order (APO) on the successful bidder.

**Joint Exercise on Border Settlement**

1026. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to sign an agreement with any foreign country on joint defence exercise on border settlement issues; and

(b) if so, the details of the operational process thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

### Onion Cultivation

1027. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area under onion cultivation is likely to increase in the ongoing kharif season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of likely increase in production; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper storage of such huge production of onion and to maintain its price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The area under onion cultivation in the ongoing kharif season is expected to increase by 16% and an increase in production is expected by about 20% because of good rains in almost all the kharif onion growing States and prevailing better prices of onion. A statement showing the details of State-wise area and production estimates for current kharif season compared to previous year is enclosed.

(d) Kharif onion harvesting for early planted crop has already started in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In Maharashtra early crop will start from early September onwards and Gujarat and Rajasthan from October onwards. Major harvesting of kharif onion will be from November onwards. Kharif onion is not to be stored as huge production comes from Rabi season crop which starts harvesting from March end and good quality produce is stored during April-May.

### Statement

#### Preliminary estimates on area and production during Kharif 2006 and 2007

| States         | Area<br>(‘000 ha) |        |                         | Production<br>(‘000 MT) |         |                         |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
|                | 2006              | 2007   | % increase/<br>decrease | 2006                    | 2007    | % increase/<br>decrease |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2.10              | 3.50   | 66.67                   | 18.50                   | 35.00   | 89.19                   |
| Bihar          | 2.05              | 2.25   | 9.76                    | 30.65                   | 30.65   | 0.00                    |
| Gujarat        | 6.82              | 10.00  | 46.63                   | 136.40                  | 200.00  | 46.63                   |
| Haryana        | 5.30              | 5.50   | 3.77                    | 96.00                   | 100.00  | 4.17                    |
| Karnataka      | 34.78             | 38.00  | 9.27                    | 278.21                  | 305.00  | 9.63                    |
| Madhya Pradesh | 3.12              | 4.00   | 28.21                   | 49.92                   | 65.00   | 30.21                   |
| Maharashtra    | 11.70             | 16.00  | 36.70                   | 222.39                  | 310.00  | 39.40                   |
| Orissa         | 0.43              | 0.45   | 5.88                    | 7.23                    | 7.50    | 3.81                    |
| Rajasthan      | 14.47             | 15.50  | 7.13                    | 245.97                  | 270.00  | 9.77                    |
| Tamil Nadu     | 14.49             | 15.00  | 3.52                    | 159.39                  | 165.00  | 3.52                    |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 1.15              | 2.50   | 117.39                  | 12.00                   | 25.00   | 108.33                  |
| Others         | 4.36              | 4.55   | 4.42                    | 61.01                   | 65.00   | 6.55                    |
| All India      | 100.76            | 117.25 | 16.36                   | 1317.66                 | 1578.15 | 19.77                   |

### Geographical Indicator Mark for Basmati

1028. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the joint bid by the Government of India

and Pakistan to seek joint Geographical Indicator (GI) mark for Basmati seems to be receding fast due to disputes between traders of the two countries;

(b) if so, the main points of concern of traders of both the countries;

(c) whether there are also difference of opinion between his Ministry and Ministry of Commerce in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to resolve the issues involved in order to make a joint bid for GI mark for Basmati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No dispute between the traders of the two countries on joint registration of Basmati as a Geographical Indicator (GI) by India and Pakistan has come to the notice of this Ministry. Ministry of Agriculture endorses the view that both India and Pakistan should take action for joint registration of basmati rice as a Geographical Indicator in the interest of the farmers. In this regard there is no difference of opinion between Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Commerce.

(e) An MoU was signed in 2004 between the Rice Exporters' Association of Pakistan and the All India Rice Exporters' Association for mutual cooperation, including on Basmati GI. During the India-Pakistan Commerce Secretary level talks on Economic and Commercial Cooperation held in New Delhi on 31st July- 1st August, 2007, the issue relating to joint registration of basmati rice as GI was, inter alia, discussed. India has already set up a Working Group for joint registration of Basmati rice as GI.

#### **Delay in Completion of Projects of DRDO**

1029. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:

SHRI PUSP JAIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several projects concerning production and research of defence related equipment have been delayed at the DRDO;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, time of completion and cost escalation due to delay; and

(c) the action taken to ensure preparedness of the Armed Forces due to delay in production of vital equipment by DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) DRDO had equipped Services with state-of-the-art technologies in the field of strategic systems, battle tanks, electronic warfare and communication systems, armour and armaments, life support systems, naval systems, missile systems, etc. There had been delays in some of the DRDO projects due to some genuine difficulties like:-

- Technical Complexities.
- Technological embargo/sanctions and various control regimes.

- Non-availability of infrastructure within the country.
- Extended and long lasting user trials.
- Revision of systems specifications during development phase.

DRDO provides assistance and full support to the identified production agency to realize the products at the earliest.

(c) Government has taken the following concrete steps for timely completion of projects:-

- Ensuring timely review and monitoring for financial and technical progress through multi-tier review mechanisms.
- Adopting technology evaluation and assessment prior to taking up fresh projects.
- Promoting synergy and better coordination among User Services, DRDO and Production Agencies through cluster meetings.
- Adopting 'concurrent engineering' and 'joint venture' approach for development and production.
- Devising and implementing better project management methods.
- Making provision of private sector participation under "Make" category as per Defence Procurement Procedure-2006.
- The Armed Forces are kept apprised of the progress of DRDO projects as well as participate in the design and development.

#### **Modification in Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme**

1030. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the denial of credit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make modification in said scheme to extend its benefits to all the SMEs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of SMEs assisted under the said scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce new package for promotion, development and upgradation of SMEs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and target fixed for the purpose during Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. With a view to improve flow of credit to the micro and small enterprises (MSEs) without collateral security, the Government has made several modifications in the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme from time to time. Some of the major modifications made in the Scheme include: (i) Reduction in one-time guarantee fee from 2.5% to 1.5%; (ii) Enhancement of the eligible loan limit from Rs.25 lakh to Rs.50 lakh; (iii) Raising of the extent of guarantee cover from 75% to 80% for micro enterprises for loans up to Rs.5 lakh; (iv) Raising of the extent of guarantee cover from 75% to 80% for MSEs operated and/or owned by women; (v) Reduction in one-time guarantee fee from 1.5% to 0.75% for all loans in the North-East Region; and (vi) Raising of the extent of guarantee cover from 75% to 80% for all loans in the North-East Region. The State/UT-wise number of proposals approved under the Scheme during each of the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) The Government has announced a Package for 'Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' which, inter alia, provides for credit support, fiscal incentives, support for cluster-based development, technology and quality upgradation, marketing support, support for entrepreneurial and managerial development, empowerment of women owned enterprises, strengthening of Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), and strengthening of database for MSME sector. An amount of Rs.1585 crore has been proposed for Package-related schemes during Eleventh Plan.

#### Statement

*State/UT-wise details of proposals approved for guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises*

| S.No. | State/UT            | Number of proposals approved |         |         |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|
|       |                     | 2004-05                      | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| 1     | 2                   | 3                            | 4       | 5       |
| 1     | Andaman and Nicobar | 0                            | 2       | 13      |
| 2     | Andhra Pradesh      | 327                          | 1475    | 3323    |
| 3     | Arunachal Pradesh   | 2                            | 22      | 105     |
| 4     | Assam               | 159                          | 356     | 1252    |
| 5     | Bihar               | 89                           | 344     | 1416    |
| 6     | Chandigarh          | 19                           | 47      | 60      |
| 7     | Chhattisgarh        | 184                          | 379     | 180     |

| 1  | 2                      | 3    | 4    | 5    |
|----|------------------------|------|------|------|
| 8  | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 7    | 1    | 4    |
| 9  | Daman and Diu          | 3    | 5    | 8    |
| 10 | Delhi                  | 48   | 108  | 79   |
| 11 | Goa                    | 16   | 52   | 69   |
| 12 | Gujarat                | 183  | 334  | 816  |
| 13 | Haryana                | 214  | 451  | 1085 |
| 14 | Himachal Pradesh       | 156  | 254  | 503  |
| 15 | Jammu and Kashmir      | 293  | 201  | 182  |
| 16 | Jharkhand              | 320  | 459  | 232  |
| 17 | Karnataka              | 737  | 1649 | 1748 |
| 18 | Kerala                 | 2205 | 3459 | 3867 |
| 19 | Madhya Pradesh         | 505  | 769  | 1038 |
| 20 | Maharashtra            | 246  | 518  | 447  |
| 21 | Manipur                | 1    | 48   | 24   |
| 22 | Meghalaya              | 5    | 12   | 226  |
| 23 | Mizoram                | 1    | 41   | 189  |
| 24 | Nagaland               | 1    | 8    | 44   |
| 25 | Orissa                 | 363  | 707  | 2319 |
| 26 | Pondicherry            | 8    | 26   | 137  |
| 27 | Punjab                 | 248  | 324  | 322  |
| 28 | Rajasthan              | 110  | 230  | 1457 |
| 29 | Sikkim                 | 19   | 14   | 21   |
| 30 | Tamil Nadu             | 869  | 1713 | 3607 |
| 31 | Tripura                | 9    | 43   | 73   |
| 32 | Uttar Pradesh          | 1368 | 1055 | 1109 |
| 33 | Uttaranchal            | 19   | 39   | 106  |
| 34 | West Bengal            | 784  | 1139 | 1396 |

#### Availability of Seeds

1031. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any project for supply of high yielding seeds to farmers at reasonable rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRI-

BUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Details of assistance provided under various schemes for promotion of seeds of high yielding varieties are given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

*Details of assistance provided under various scheme for promotion of Seeds of high yielding varieties*

| Scheme/Component  | Crop                                 | Scale of Assistance  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Macro Management Mode of Agriculture - State Work Plan  | Rice and Wheat,                      | (i) Rs.200/- per quintal for certified seed distribution.  |
|   | Bajra, Jowar, Ragi and Barley        | (ii) Rs.400/- per quintal for certified seed distribution of varieties.  |
|   |                                      | (ii) Rs.1000/- per quintals for certified seed distribution of hybrid of bajra and jowar.  |
| Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize   | All Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize       | (i) Rs.500/- per quintal for foundation and certified seed production  |
|   |                                      | (ii) Rs.800/- per quintal or 25% of Seeds cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution.  |
|   | Oil Palm Sprouts                     | 75% of the cost with a ceiling of Rs.7500/ha. for entire land holding of farmers.  |
| Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta  | Jute and Mesta                       | (i) 50% of the cost limited to Rs.3000/- per quintal for foundation seed production.   |
|   |                                      | (ii) 25% of the cost limited to Rs.700/- per quintal for certified seed production.  |
|   |                                      | (iii) 50% of the cost limited to Rs.2000/- per quintal for certified seed distribution.  |
| Technology Mission on Cotton  | Cotton Seed                          | (i) 50% of the cost or Rs.50/- per Kg. whichever is less for foundation seed production.   |
|   |                                      | (ii) 25% of the cost or Rs.15/- per Kg. whichever is less for certified seed production.   |
|   |                                      | (iii) Rs.20/- per Kg. for certified seed distribution.   |
|   |                                      | (iv) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 40/- per Kg. for seed treatment.   |
| Transport subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal & hill areas of West Bengal | All certified seeds excluding potato | (i) 100% difference between road and rail transportation charge is being reimbursed to implementing States/Agencies for movement of seeds produced from out side the State to the identified State Capital/District Headquarter.     |
|   |                                      | (ii) Actual cost restricted to maximum limit of Rs.60/- per quintals whichever is less for movement of seeds transported within the State from State Capital/District Headquarter to sale outlets/sale counters is being reimbursed. |
| Seed Village Programme  | All Agriculture Crop                 | (i) To upgrade the quality of farmer saved seed financial assistance for distribution of foundation/certified seed at 50% cost of the seed for production of quality seed.   |
|   |                                      | (ii) Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ Rs. 15000/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.   |



### Cluster for Expansion of Telephone Network

1032. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up additional clusters for expansion of telephone network in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of clusters which are likely to be set up;

(c) the number of villages which will be benefited by these clusters; and

(d) the time by which the telephone facility is likely to be set up in all such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A scheme has been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provision of subsidy support for setting up and managing 7,871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) for providing mobile services spread across 500 districts in 27 States. A Group of Districts with two or more Districts have been clubbed together to constitute a Cluster for the purpose of bidding. Each Cluster has been assigned a unique Cluster Number and 81 such Clusters have been formed in the country for setting up these towers.

(c) and (d) A total number of 2,12,304 villages are likely to be covered under the Scheme. USOF has entered into an agreement with the successful bidders, which has become effective from 01.06.2007. Mobile services through these shared towers are targeted to be made operational in a phased manner by May, 2008.

[Translation]

### Facilities to Armed Forces Personnel

1033. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced to give allowances and facilities to the Army jawans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend these facilities to the personnel of all the three services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Improvement of service conditions, pay and allowances of Defence Services personnel is a continuous exercise. Recently, the Government has announced following

additional facilities and allowances for Defence Service personnel:

(i) Grant of additional rail warrant to go home or Selected Place of Residence of family to all ranks of Armed Forces serving in field/counter insurgency/counter terrorist operational areas.

(ii) Grant of High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) Allowance at enhanced rates to troops deployed in more difficult, hazardous and isolated areas within the existing High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) Areas.

(iii) Rationalisation of scheme for LTC for both Officers and Personnel Below Officer Rank and removal of restriction of 1450 kms for availing All India LTC.

[English]

### Production of Rose Onion

1034. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rose onion (Small Size Onion) produced in the country particularly in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) whether there is increase in the demand of rose onion in the International market;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to initiate a programme to increase the production of rose onion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURJA): (a) The total quantity of rose onion (estimated) produced in Karnataka during last three years is given as under:

| Year    | Production (MT) |
|---------|-----------------|
| 2004-05 | 35100           |
| 2005-06 | 39858           |
| 2006-07 | 46333           |

(b) and (c) Rose onion is grown for export purpose only and there is an increase in rose onion production during last three years. Total export of rose onion during the year 2006-07 was around 33421 mt. More than 90% export of rose onion was made to Malaysia.

(d) and (e) For enhancing horticulture production including rose onion, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes

namely National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Technology Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States, are being implemented in the country wherein assistance for area expansion under horticulture crops alongwith technical guidance for quality seed production to the growers is provided through extension programmes, which help in enhancement of area, production and productivity of horticultural crops including rose onion.

#### **Foreign Direct Investment in Commodity Exchanges**

1035. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the norms for allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in commodity exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any ceiling has been fixed by the Government on FDI in commodity exchanges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) The Government is in the process of finalizing the norms for allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Commodity Exchanges.

(e) The norms for allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Commodity Exchanges will be implemented as soon as it is finalized by the Government and notified by Reserve Bank of India under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 2000 (FEMA) regulations.

#### **Pune Airport Runway**

1036. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pune Airport Runway has been reported to be unsafe;

(b) whether there is any plan to make the airport safe by installing proper Instrument Landing System; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Modernisation and upgradation of infrastructure at airfield is a continuous process. As a part of

upgradation of infrastructure facilities, installation of Instrument Landing System at Pune airport has been planned by Airports Authority of India.

[Translation]

#### **Marketing of Branded Spices**

1037. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to market branded spices and value added products in the domestic market through a separate vehicle/mode;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure remunerative and stable prices for the farmers and availability of quality products to the consumers on economical prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Spices Board, Cochin has introduced spices in branded consumer packs in the domestic as well as international market under the brand name of 'Flavourit'. The Flavourit brand is prompted by Spices Board and marketed by STCL, a subsidiary of State Trading Corporation Ltd. Seventeen spices, mainly organic spices, are marketed under 'Flavourit' brand, viz: Black Pepper, White Pepper; Cardamom, Black Pepper Powder, White Pepper Powder, Chilli Powder, Turmeric powder, Ginger powder. Vanilla beans, Rose Mary, Thyme, Oregano, Tamarind Concentrate.

(c) Spices Board has initiated marketing of branded, spices, to introduce a direct marketing channel to the farmers and realize a better price to their produce, as spices in commodity form are more vulnerable to price competition. By value addition, branding and marketing of the branded products in domestic and international market, price fluctuations could be contained to a great extent leading to price stability and better price realization to farmers. Besides the above measures, Spices Board is taking steps to set up Spice Parks at main growing centers which will facilitate processing, grading, warehousing, value addition and marketing of spices by providing necessary infrastructure to farmers, traders and exporters. Besides Spices Board, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed an Agricultural Marketing Information Network (Agmarknet) by linking important agricultural markets in various States to collect and disseminate market information relating to various commodities for helping farmers to avail better marketing opportunities to fetch remunerative prices for their produce. Implementation of market reforms is also being pursued with

the States for creating alternate marketing opportunities which can facilitate better price discovery and price stability. Grading and certification of Agmark Standards is also being promoted for ensuring remunerative prices in the market and availability of quality products to the consumers.

### Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes

1038. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of skilled labourers in various sectors in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to enlarge the existing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and open new ones to generate adequate number of skilled workers of World Standard during Eleventh Plan;

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

(e) the funds allocated for the purpose alongwith the number of persons likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government to create skilled manpower in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) Ministry of Labour & Employment have not conducted any specific survey on shortage of skilled labourers in various sectors. However, it is felt that in the context of globalization and economic liberalization, skill levels of workers require upgradation in new trades and technologies.

(c) and (d) An externally aided 'Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP)' has been taken up during Eleventh Plan Period for up-gradation of 400 Government ITIs with the objective to produce multi-skilled workforce of world standard. 100 Government ITIs were taken up for up-gradation during the year 2006-07 and the remaining 300 ITIs are being upgraded during 2007-08 and 2008-09. State-wise and Year-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. Another scheme of upgradation of remaining 1396 Government ITIs is also being implemented from the current financial year in Public-Private Partnership mode.

(e) The average allocation per ITI is Rs. 3.0 crore for establishment of infrastructure for multi-skill courses and up-gradation of related trades. Minimum of 100 trainees per year per ITI selected for upgradation would be benefited under the scheme.

(f) Following schemes have been taken up to create skilled manpower in the country:

1. Establishment of new ITIs and strengthening of existing ITIs in NE States, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir.
2. Upgradation of 100 existing ITIs with domestic funding for producing multi-skilled workforce.
3. A scheme titled 'Skill Development Initiative (SDI)' has been taken up to train/test skills of one million workers in next five years.

### Statement

#### List of Government ITIs for Upgradation - State-wise and Year-wise details

| Sl.No. | Name of Participating State | Number of ITIs taken up during the year 2006-07 | Tentative number of ITIs to be taken up during the year 2007-08 & 2008-09 |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1      | 2                           | 3   | 4   |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh              | 5   | 14  |
| 2      | Bihar                       | 2   | 4   |
| 3      | Chhattisgarh                | 4   | 14  |
| 4      | Delhi                       | 1   | 2   |
| 5      | Goa                         | 1   | 1   |
| 6      | Gujarat                     | 15  | 14  |
| 7      | Haryana                     | 5   | 12  |
| 8      | Himachal Pradesh            | 1   | 11  |
| 9      | Jharkhand                   | 1   | 2   |
| 10     | Karnataka                   | 6   | 24  |
| 11     | Kerala                      | 3   | 1   |
| 12     | Madhya Pradesh              | 7   | 22  |
| 13     | Maharashtra                 | 15  | 60  |
| 14     | Orissa                      | 4   | 1   |
| 15     | Punjab                      | 2   | 20  |
| 16     | Rajasthan                   | 5   | 15  |
| 17     | Tamil Nadu                  | 5   | 9   |
| 18     | Uttaranchal                 | 1   | 11  |
| 19     | Uttar Pradesh               | 7   | 33  |
| 20     | West Bengal                 | 3   | 7   |

| 1     | 2                    | 3   | 4   |
|-------|----------------------|-----|-----|
| 21    | Pondicherry          | -   | 1   |
| 22    | Assam                | 4   | 3   |
| 23    | Jammu and Kashmir    | 2   | 8   |
| 24    | Sikkim               | 1   | 0   |
| 25    | Andaman and Nicobar  | -   | 1   |
| 26    | Arunachal Pradesh    | -   | 1   |
| 27    | Dadar & Nagar Haveli | -   | 1   |
| 28    | Daman and Diu        | -   | 1   |
| 29    | Lakshwadeep          | -   | 1   |
| 30    | Manipur              | -   | 2   |
| 31    | Meghalaya            | -   | 1   |
| 32    | Mizoram              | -   | 1   |
| 33    | Nagaland             | -   | 1   |
| 34    | Tripura              | -   | 1   |
| Total |                      | 100 | 300 |

[English]

#### **Paddy Procurement Centres**

1039. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of procurement centres of Food Corporation of India (FCI) currently working in Bihar for purchase of paddy;

(b) whether many of these procurement centres are not functioning causing hardships to the farmers;

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

(d) the steps taken to operationalise the paddy procurement centres in all the blocks of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD): (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that 127 procurement centers were opened by them in Bihar for procurement of paddy in Kharif Marketing Season 2006-07.

(b) All these centers are functioning properly.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Necessary steps have been taken by FCI and the State Government to operationalise all the procurement centers in the State. Cooperatives and State agencies have been directed by the State Government to open procurement centers in the remote areas of the State.

#### **Insurance Cover to Defence Personnel**

1040. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of insurance cover being provided by the Government to various categories of defence personnel;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend more such insurance facilities to the defence personnel and their families; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) Ex-gratia payments are made by the Government in the event of death of defence service personnel in the performance of bonafide official duties. The existing orders provide for payment of ex-gratia of Rs.5.00 lakhs in cases of death occurring due to accidents in the course of performance of duties and in cases of death occurring in the course of performance of duties attributable to acts of violence by terrorists, anti-social elements, etc. Ex-gratia of Rs.7.5 lakhs is admissible in cases of death during (i) border skirmishes and (ii) action against militants, terrorists, extremists, etc. Ex-gratia of Rs.10.00 lakhs is admissible in cases of death occurring during enemy action in war or such war like engagements which are specifically notified by Ministry of Defence.

In addition to the ex-gratia payments, insurance cover is provided to Army, Navy and Air Force personnel under Army Group Insurance Fund, Naval Group Insurance Fund and Air Force Group Insurance Fund respectively which are registered societies under the Societies Act XXI of 1860. The insurance is wholly self supporting and self administered scheme with a view to provide compulsory Group Insurance cum Saving Scheme to defence service personnel while in service. The insurance cover for Army and Navy under the scheme is Rs.15 lakhs for Officers and Rs.7.5 lakhs for Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR). Similarly, for Air Force Officers, PBORs and Non Combatants (Enrolled) the insurance cover is Rs.20 lakhs, Rs.10 lakhs and Rs.4 lakhs respectively. Besides, additional insurance cover under the Group Insurance Scheme is available for aviation/submarine personnel.

The Group Insurance Scheme is also providing post retirement insurance cover under Extended Insurance Scheme upto a specified age.

These insurance coverage are in addition to ex-gratia

payments made by the Government in the event of death or disability pension.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

**Technology Mission for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

1041. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a Technology Mission to assist Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in technology development, energy conservation and pollution mitigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of training institutes set up and proposed to be set up in the country under the said Mission, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated and released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Technology Mission has been set up to assist micro, small and medium enterprises in technology development, energy conservation and pollution mitigation. The said Mission will be implemented and monitored by a Governing Body under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises).

(c) No training institute is set up or is proposed to be set up under the Technology Mission.

(d) An amount of Rs. 35 lakh has been allocated for the functioning of Technology Mission during the current financial year (2007-08). So far no funds have been released.

[Translation]

**Telecom Service in Orissa**

1042. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the services made available in Orissa under Telecom facilities;

(b) the number of villages in which WLL Phone Service has been made available in Orissa;

(c) the number of villages still to be linked with WLL phone network; and

(d) the time by which the WLL facility is likely to be provided in all the villages of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of services made available in Orissa under Telecom facilities are given below:-

- As on 30th June, 2007, the fixed line and wireless subscribers in Orissa are 77,07,309 and 34,95,941 respectively.
- 40,540 villages have been covered with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in Orissa.
- 10,618 Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs in Orissa have been replaced by BSNL till June, 2007 against a target of 11,341.
- 4,899 remaining unconnected villages in Orissa will be provided by Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by November, 2007. This excludes villages having population less than 100, villages lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.
- 936 villages in Orissa having population of more than 2,000 and not having a PCO have been provided with Rural Community Phones (RCPs) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
- About 61,000 Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) have been provided by BSNL till 31.03.2007.

(b) As on 31.07.2007, 26,136 villages in Orissa have been provided with Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Service by BSNL.

(c) and (d) A total of 5,000 villages in Orissa are still to be linked with WLL phone network. These villages are likely to be provided with WLL facilities progressively by 31.03.2009.

[English]

**Growth Rate in IT Sector**

1043. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian IT and its enabled services are expected to register higher growth rates;

(b) if so, the growth rate expected during 2007-2008 and the extent to which it is higher in comparison to last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the total IT industry revenue during the financial year 2007-08 including exports is expected to reach US\$ 49 to 50 billion, recording a growth rate of about 26% over the year 2006-07. The growth rate achieved by the IT sector in the last three years is as follows:

| Year    | IT Sector Revenue<br>(percentage growth rate) |
|---------|---|
| 2005-06 | US\$ 22.6 billion. (35%)                      |
| 2006-07 | US\$ 30.3 billion (34%)                       |
| 2007-08 | US\$ 39.7 billion (31%)                       |

(c) The steps taken by the Government for the growth of IT Sector are given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

##### **Steps taken by the Government to promote the IT Sector**

- Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
- Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Information Technology (IT) Software is exempted from Customs duty.
- Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty.
- Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
- Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/ DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits is available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.

- Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.
- 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for units under EOU/STP/SEZ schemes.
- Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
- Weighted deduction of 150% of expenditure incurred on in house R&D in case of a company engaged in the business of electronic equipment, computers and telecommunication equipment is available under clause (1) of sub-section (2AB) of Section 35 of the Income Tax Act.
- Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
- Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.

#### **Calculation of Maximum Retail Price**

1044. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- the different cost factors taken into consideration for calculation of Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of a product before printing it on the package shell of the products;
- the steps taken to check the printing of inflated MRP;
- whether some manufacturers print different MRP on their products sold at different outlets; and
- if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 provide that for the purpose of "maximum

price" in relation to any commodity in packaged form, all taxes local or otherwise, freight, transport charges, commission payable to dealers and all other charges towards advertisement, delivery, packing, forwarding and the like may be included, as the case may be.

(b) To ensure that the manufacturers print Maximum Retail Price (MRP) that have relationship with the cost of production/ intended sale price, the Government have amended the Central Excise Act, 1944 to provide for levy of excise duty on the basis of MRP declared on the package in respect of notified commodities.

(c) The Rules only provide that the manufacturer declares, among other things, MRP on the package. The quantum of MRP declared on the package is left to the manufacturer. Further the Rules do not impose any restriction, whatsoever, on the declaration of MRP on the package by the manufacturer.

(d) Question does not arise.

### Reduction In Speed Post Charges

1045. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has reduced the local speed post charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tariff for parcels have been increased drastically;

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

(e) the steps taken to improve the growth, rate of parcels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has reduced the rates for local Speed Post articles with effect from 11th June, 2007 and the revised rates of Speed Post are given below:-

| Weight (in grams) |                                      | Rates (Rs.) |              |              |               |           |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
|                   |                                      | Local       | Upto 200 kms | 201-1000 kms | 1001-2000 kms | >2000 kms |
| (i)               | upto 50                              | 12*         | 25*          | 25*          | 25*           | 25*       |
| (ii)              | 51 to 200                            | 20          | 25           | 30           | 50            | 60        |
| (iii)             | 201 to 500                           | 20          | 40           | 45           | 70            | 80        |
| (iv)              | Additional 500 grams or part thereof | 5           | 7.5          | 15           | 30            | 40        |

(\*) – inclusive of service tax and education cess.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The tariff for parcels has not been increased recently.

(e) The Department of Posts is undertaking various innovative steps to improve the growth rate of parcel business through product improvement and marketing efforts.

### Norms for Telephone Connections

1046. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) the definition of urban areas and rural areas for giving telephone connections and charging bills;

(b) whether Ahmednagar and Osmanabad in Maharashtra can be treated as rural areas to encourage more people to take telephone connections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, BSNL does not have its own criteria for classification of areas as rural or urban and it merely adopts the classification made in the Census Report. An area which is classified as rural in the Census Report 2001 is treated as rural for the purpose of fixing rural tariff by BSNL. All other areas which are not classified as rural in the Census Report 2001 are treated as urban for this purpose.

(b) As per Census Report 2001, both Ahmednagar and Osmanabad in Maharashtra are classified as urban. As such these areas can not be treated as rural for the purpose of charging telephone tariff by BSNL.

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

### National Dairy Plan

1047. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Valsad district co-operative Milk Production Union from the backward area district has

appreciation from the Principal Evaluation Officers of the World Bank;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Dairy Plan 2007-08 to 2021-22 does not cover the backward area districts,
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review the said plan to include the dairies in the backward districts; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Valsad Milk Union has informed that Principal Evaluation Officers of World Bank visited Valsad Milk Union on 13th May, 1996 and stayed in an interior village called Khuatali in Dharampur Taluka of Valsad district for a day. They visited the houses and cattle sheds of members of the milk producing society managed by women and appreciated the milk producing activities.

(c) to (f) The draft National Dairy Plan (2007-08 to 2021-2022) prepared by the National Dairy Development Board proposes to assist 323 high milk potential districts through a consortium of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, National Dairy Development Board and National Cooperatives Development Corporation and the remaining 283 low milk potential districts with assistance from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, under ongoing dairy development schemes. The National Dairy Plan is yet to be finalized.

#### **Indo-US Military Cooperation**

1048. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and the US have reviewed the military cooperation between the two countries and discussed the security scenario in the sub-continent recently;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which this will improve the military relations between India and US?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Defence Cooperation between India and the US is periodically monitored by the Defence Policy Group (setup in 1995) and the other sub-groups constituted under its aegis. In these fora, matters of mutual military concerns/interests are discussed and activities in the field of defence cooperation are planned/drawn out. Regular monitoring of the India-US

defence cooperation has ensured progress in the areas of joint military exercises, training and exchange of experience. Military relations between the two countries were further strengthened with the implementation of the New Framework for India-US Defence Relationship signed in June 28, 2005..

#### **Regulation of Retail Trade**

1049. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some rating agencies has assessed the Indian retail market as the fastest growing retail market in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any rules for regulation of the retail market; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No such assessment has been made by any Government agency or any other agency on behalf of the Government.

- (c) No sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

#### **E-Commerce**

1050. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to make Electronic Commerce or E-Commerce popular in the country specially in the North East Region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also any plan for campaign through AIR, Doordarshan and Print Media in the NER; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In its facilitating and promotional role, the Government has enacted the Information Technology Act 2000 to promote E-commerce, which is applicable for the entire country.

There is no specific plan to make E-commerce popular in the North East.

- (c) and (d) Do not arise.



**Additional Resources to States**

1051. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the spurt in the prices of primary food articles, there is a demand from States to provide additional resources to them for implementing a proposed mission for raising the production of wheat, rice and pulses;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached between Union Government and State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) In view of stagnation in foodgrain production, the National Development Council (NDC) adopted a resolution to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes, respectively by the end of XI Plan. To operationalise the resolution of NDC, the Government has contemplated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" (NFSM) to enhance the production of wheat, rice and pulses during the XI Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

**Demand of Sugar**

1052. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production, stock and demand of sugar in the country from the year 2004 to June 2007, state-wise and year-wise;

(b) the quantum and rate of sugar imported during the said period alongwith the names of the countries from where it was imported, year-wise;

(c) whether sugar was exported during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the countries and the rates at which it was exported year-wise; and

(e) the details of the quality of imported and exported sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statement showing state wise production and stocks of sugar during the sugar seasons 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 (October - September) and current sugar season as on 30/06/2007 is enclosed. The sugar releases made to meet the demand of sugar in the country during the last three sugar seasons and current sugar season up to June 2007 is enclosed as Statement-II.

(b) Statement-III showing country-wise and year wise import of sugar for the last three financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed. However, there has been no import of sugar on Government account.

(c) and (d) Statement-IV showing name of the country and value of export for the last three financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed.

(e) This Department does not maintain data on the quality of import and export of sugar.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise Production and Stocks during the Sugar Season 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and Current Sugar Season as on 30th June, 2007 (Oct.-Sep.)*

| Sl.No. | State     | Production   |         |             |                                 | Stocks       |         |             |                                  |
|--------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|----------------------------------|
|        |           | Sugar Season |         |             |                                 | Sugar Season |         |             |                                  |
|        |           | 2003-04      | 2004-05 | 2005-06 (P) | 2006-07 (P)<br>(Upto 30th June) | 2003-04      | 2004-05 | 2005-06 (P) | 2006-07 (P)<br>(As on 30th June) |
| 1      | 2         | 3            | 4       | 5           | 6                               | 7            | 8       | 9           | 10                               |
| 1      | Punjab    | 3.88         | 3.37    | 3.88        | 5.50                            | 2.47         | 0.67    | 0.67        | 2.65                             |
| 2      | Haryana   | 5.86         | 3.98    | 3.88        | 6.77                            | 3.80         | 1.49    | 1.16        | 4.37                             |
| 3      | Rajasthan | 0.10         | 0.11    | 0.05        | 0.07                            | 0.10         | 0.01    | 0.02        | 0.08                             |

| 1         | 2              | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10     |
|-----------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 4         | Uttarakhand    | 3.93   | 3.36   | 4.14   | 5.28   | 2.55  | 1.39  | 1.03  | 3.08   |
| 5         | Uttar Pradesh  | 46.08  | 51.52  | 55.64  | 83.50  | 28.50 | 19.93 | 11.07 | 48.53  |
| 6         | Madhya Pradesh | 0.94   | 0.78   | 0.94   | 1.48   | 0.27  | 0.03  | 0.26  | 0.90   |
| 7         | Chhattisgarh   | 0.17   | 0.13   | 0.22   | 0.21   | 0.01  | 0.00  | 0.04  | 0.17   |
| 8         | Gujarat        | 10.77  | 8.32   | 12.44  | 13.90  | 6.93  | 4.28  | 4.33  | 8.90   |
| 9         | Maharashtra    | 31.99  | 23.03  | 52.64  | 90.13  | 26.35 | 12.87 | 14.03 | 63.73  |
| 10        | Bihar          | 2.77   | 2.70   | 4.19   | 4.83   | 1.10  | 1.01  | 0.76  | 3.19   |
| 11        | Assam          | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0      | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00   |
| 12        | Orissa         | 0.44   | 0.87   | 0.52   | 0.65   | 0.10  | 0.12  | 0.04  | 0.34   |
| 13        | West Bengal    | 0.07   | 0.05   | 0.07   | 0.04   | 0.01  | 0.01  | 0.02  | 0.02   |
| 14        | Nagaland       | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00   |
| 15        | Andhra Pradesh | 8.81   | 12.03  | 12.76  | 19.07  | 3.36  | 3.45  | 2.10  | 11.43  |
| 16        | Karnataka      | 11.57  | 11.32  | 20.09  | 24.30  | 5.25  | 3.33  | 6.75  | 15.64  |
| 17        | Tamil Nadu     | 11.90  | 14.75  | 21.38  | 19.64  | 7.03  | 8.81  | 5.95  | 12.86  |
| 18        | Pondicherry    | 0.20   | 0.19   | 0.26   | 0.46   | 0.22  | 0.08  | 0.04  | 0.37   |
| 19        | Kerala         | 0.01   | 0.00   | 0      | 0.00   | 0.07  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00   |
| 20        | Goa            | 0.10   | 0.09   | 0.11   | 0.19   | 0.09  | 0.07  | 0.02  | 0.12   |
| All India |                | 139.58 | 136.60 | 193.21 | 276.02 | 88.21 | 57.55 | 48.29 | 176.38 |

(P) Provisional

**Statement-II**

*Sugar Releases during the last three sugar seasons and current sugar season (upto 30th June, 2007) to meet the demand of sugar in the country*

(in lac tons)

| Sugar Season                 | Levy  | Non-Levy | Total  |
|------------------------------|-------|----------|--------|
| 2003-04                      | 24.79 | 147.53   | 172.32 |
| 2004-05                      | 25.44 | 146.00   | 171.44 |
| 2005-06                      | 19.83 | 162.26   | 182.09 |
| 2006-07<br>(Up to June 2007) | 15.95 | 123.00   | 138.95 |

**Statement-III**

*Country-wise Import of Sugar during the Financial Year 2004-2005*

Qty. in tonnes

Value Rs. in lakhs

| Sl.No. | Country   | 2004-2005 |         |
|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|
|        |           | Quantity* | Value   |
| 1      | 2         | 3         | 4       |
| 1.     | Australia | 42000     | 4346.52 |
| 2.     | Belgium   | 0         | 0.02    |

| 1     | 2            | 3      | 4        |
|-------|--------------|--------|----------|
| 3.    | Brazil       | 831558 | 86768.31 |
| 4.    | Canada       | 23     | 6.84     |
| 5.    | Denmark      | 25     | 8.90     |
| 6.    | Germany      | 520    | 91.38    |
| 7.    | Italy        | 55     | 7.34     |
| 8.    | Malaysia     | 22     | 7.12     |
| 9.    | Netherland   | 94     | 16.56    |
| 10.   | South Africa | 48322  | 5121.02  |
| 11.   | Thailand     | 118    | 22.31    |
| 12.   | UAE          | 2240   | 311.69   |
| 13.   | U.K.         | 242    | 41.33    |
| 14.   | USA          | 22     | 35.26    |
| 15.   | Others       | 7500   | 833.25   |
| Total |              | 932741 | 97617.85 |

\* including raw sugar

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

*Country-wise Import of Sugar during the  
Financial Year 2005-2006*

| Sl.No. | Country      | Qty. in tonnes |          | Value Rs. in lakhs |  |
|--------|--------------|----------------|----------|--------------------|--|
|        |              | 2005-2006      |          |                    |  |
|        |              | Quantity*      | Value    |                    |  |
| 1.     | Australia    | 25000          | 2957.1   |                    |  |
| 2.     | Brazil       | 451216         | 52601.53 |                    |  |
| 3.     | Canada       | 25             | 7.75     |                    |  |
| 4.     | China        | 123            | 52.35    |                    |  |
| 5.     | Germany      | 102            | 46.99    |                    |  |
| 6.     | Korea        | 730            | 143.59   |                    |  |
| 7.     | Mozambique   | 21000          | 2324.45  |                    |  |
| 8.     | Pakistan     | 3560           | 419.68   |                    |  |
| 9.     | South Africa | 53049          | 5918.82  |                    |  |
| 10.    | UAE          | 3655           | 598.48   |                    |  |
| 11.    | U.K.         | 220            | 53.72    |                    |  |
| 12.    | USA          | 33             | 20.42    |                    |  |
| 13.    | Others       | 60             | 35.18    |                    |  |
| Total  |              | 558773         | 65180.06 |                    |  |

\* including raw sugar

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics,  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

*Country-wise Import of Sugar during the  
Financial Year 2006-2007*

| Sl.No. | Country   | Qty. in tonnes |        | Value Rs. in lakhs |  |
|--------|-----------|----------------|--------|--------------------|--|
|        |           | 2006-2007      |        |                    |  |
|        |           | Quantity*      | Value  |                    |  |
| 1.     | Australia | 452            | 118.44 |                    |  |
| 2.     | Singapore | 215            | 58.02  |                    |  |
| 3.     | Germany   | 120            | 69.17  |                    |  |
| 4.     | Korea     | 154            | 37.96  |                    |  |
| 5.     | Others    | 67             | 43.65  |                    |  |
| Total  |           | 1008           | 327.24 |                    |  |

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics,  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

**Statement-IV**

*Country-wise Export of Sugar during the  
Financial Year 2004-2005*

| Sl.No. | Country              | Qty. in tonnes |          | Value Rs. in lakhs |  |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|----------|--------------------|--|
|        |                      | 2004-2005      |          |                    |  |
|        |                      | Quantity       | Value    |                    |  |
| 1.     | Bangladesh           | 8235           | 871.60   |                    |  |
| 2.     | Belgium              | 8219           | 2477.17  |                    |  |
| 3.     | Bhutan               | 3192           | 503.16   |                    |  |
| 4.     | Malaysia             | 8654           | 930.16   |                    |  |
| 5.     | Maldives             | 7501           | 1023.08  |                    |  |
| 6.     | Nepal                | 5868           | 749.42   |                    |  |
| 7.     | Pakistan             | 1958           | 237.19   |                    |  |
| 8.     | Somalia              | 8039           | 904.94   |                    |  |
| 9.     | Sri Lanka            | 43180          | 4820.87  |                    |  |
| 10.    | United Arab Emirates | 3219           | 537.44   |                    |  |
| 11.    | U.K.                 | 1448           | 247.76   |                    |  |
| 12.    | USA                  | 1593           | 326.83   |                    |  |
| 13.    | Others               | 7581           | 1323.1   |                    |  |
| Total  |                      | 108687         | 14952.72 |                    |  |

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics,  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

*Country-wise Export of Sugar during the  
Financial Year 2005-2006*

| Sl.No. | Country    | Qty. in tonnes |         | Value Rs. in lakhs |  |
|--------|------------|----------------|---------|--------------------|--|
|        |            | 2005-2006      |         |                    |  |
|        |            | Quantity       | Value   |                    |  |
| 1      | 2          | 3              | 4       |                    |  |
| 1.     | Bangladesh | 52722          | 9377.68 |                    |  |
| 2.     | Belgium    | 5126           | 1467.05 |                    |  |
| 3.     | Bhutan     | 2828           | 433.19  |                    |  |
| 4.     | Indonesia  | 35332          | 5668.42 |                    |  |
| 5.     | Malaysia   | 16774          | 2401.29 |                    |  |
| 6.     | Maldives   | 8172           | 1272.4  |                    |  |

| 1     | 2                    | 3      | 4        |
|-------|----------------------|--------|----------|
| 7.    | Nepal                | 14864  | 2311.71  |
| 8.    | Pakistan             | 72285  | 13036.05 |
| 9.    | Portugal             | 20173  | 4572.07  |
| 10.   | Singapore            | 8594   | 1356.06  |
| 11.   | Somalia              | 1735   | 243.96   |
| 12.   | Sri Lanka            | 53043  | 9577.49  |
| 13.   | United Arab Emirates | 3967   | 558.88   |
| 14.   | U.K.                 | 1085   | 172.76   |
| 15.   | USA                  | 13223  | 2123.54  |
| 16.   | Vietnam Soc Rep      | 1300   | 254.96   |
| 17.   | Others               | 5627   | 881.49   |
| Total |                      | 316850 | 55709.60 |

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

*Country-wise Export of Sugar during the  
Financial Year 2006-2007*

Qty. in tonnes

Value Rs. in lakhs

| Sl.No. | Country     | 2006-2007 |          |
|--------|-------------|-----------|----------|
|        |             | Quantity  | Value    |
| 1      | 2           | 3         | 4        |
| 1.     | Afghanistan | 3588      | 626.09   |
| 2.     | Bangladesh  | 272216    | 42025.69 |
| 3.     | Belgium     | 3059.0    | 934.94   |
| 4.     | Taiwan      | 2176.0    | 474.55   |
| 5.     | Djibouti    | 21204.0   | 3741.84  |
| 6.     | Croatia     | 3978.0    | 589.75   |
| 7.     | Ethiopia    | 20000.0   | 3978.14  |
| 8.     | Indonesia   | 107472    | 15487.69 |
| 9.     | Iraq        | 14000.0   | 2611.83  |
| 10.    | Iran        | 7515.0    | 1082.53  |
| 11.    | Greece      | 5624.0    | 1518.28  |
| 12.    | Malaysia    | 8992.0    | 1143.73  |
| 13.    | Maldives    | 8254.0    | 1499.79  |

| 1     | 2               | 3        | 4         |
|-------|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| 14.   | Nepal           | 9600.0   | 1232.36   |
| 15.   | Oman            | 2110.0   | 406.09    |
| 16.   | Pakistan        | 746929.0 | 160308.61 |
| 17.   | Serbia Montngro | 6370.0   | 944.87    |
| 18.   | Singapore       | 2526.0   | 503.67    |
| 19.   | Somalia         | 73353.0  | 12501.27  |
| 20.   | Sri Lanka       | 188038.0 | 32117.85  |
| 21.   | Syria           | 4763.0   | 751.96    |
| 22.   | Tanzania        | 11189.0  | 1683.56   |
| 23.   | UAE             | 22412.0  | 4314.98   |
| 24.   | U.K.            | 1405.0   | 228.10    |
| 25.   | U.S.A.          | 1586.0   | 257.29    |
| 26.   | Vietnam         | 3288.0   | 626.99    |
| 27    | Yemen Republic  | 65132.0  | 10758.83  |
|       | Others          | 19533.0  | 3194.54   |
| Total |                 | 1636312  | 305545.82 |

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

**Reduction in FDI**

1053. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether TRAI has recommended for reduction in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Internet Service Providers from the existing limit of 100% to 74%;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this recommendation has been made by TRAI in view of poor record of Internet Service Providers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether out of 700 licences issued during the last three years, only 135 internet service licensees are functionally active;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) TRAI in its recommendations on 'Review of Internet services' dated 10th May 2007, has recommended a uniform FDI cap/equity of 74% across all telecom licenses. TRAI has further noted that ISPs who have more than 74% FDI cap/equity at present shall be required to bring down their FDI cap/equity to 74% within two years.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) Out of 770 ISP Licenses issued till 31.07.07, 275 ISP Licenses reported start of service, while 397 ISP Licenses were surrendered/terminated. Moreover as per provisions of License agreement show cause notices for termination were issued to 51 Licenses for not starting the service and the request 7 ISP Licensees is under consideration for surrender of License before start of service. Further 40 ISPs have not completed the stipulated time frame of 24 months from date of signing the License agreement for start of service.

(g) There is no restriction on number of ISP licenses in a service area and licensees are also free to surrender their license based on their commercial decision under the framework of license. For non start of service showcause notices for termination can be issued by the Licensor. The steps indicated (e) and (f) above are in pursuance to this.

#### **American Aircraft Carrier**

1054. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:  
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:  
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US aircraft carrier warship equipped with nuclear warheads had anchored at the Chennai port recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for allowing entry of the said warship at Chennai port;

(c) whether foreign warships had anchored at Indian ports earlier also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) USS Nimitz, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, anchored few miles off Chennai harbour from the 2nd to 5th July, 2007.

(b) Port calls are routinely made by all navies, including the Indian Navy. The policy on the port calls by foreign naval vessels does not exclude nuclear-powered vessels from calling at Indian ports with the permission of the Indian Government. An arrangement for clearance of such vessels to call at Indian ports keeping in view environmental safety aspects, has been prescribed, and this was followed in the case of visit of USS Nimitz, it has, however, been the Government's policy that port-calls by foreign naval ships, that carry nuclear weapons are not permitted. Foreign Governments are fully aware of this.

(c) and (d) A number of warships of different countries have made port calls and have anchored at various Indian ports in the past.

#### **Leasing out Property in Cantonment Areas**

1055. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various properties have been given on lease in certain cantonment areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor, State-wise and area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Outsourcing of Defence Production System**

1056. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence industry is going to be the biggest source of outsourcing for the multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and policy, if any, made in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has given permission to the defence equipment manufacturers and ordnance factories to set up joint ventures with the foreign companies;

(d) if so, the names of the foreign companies with which joint ventures are proposed to be set up;

(e) whether any assessment has been made to reduce the yearly expenditure on equipment imported from abroad; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Indian defence industry is expected to be a significant source for outsourcing for the multinational companies by way of discharge of their offset obligations. In terms of the procedure

for implementing offset provision notified in Defence Procurement Procedure-2006, 30% of the indicative cost of Capital acquisitions categorized as 'Buy Global' and 30% of the foreign exchange component in 'Buy & Make' category acquisitions valued at Rs. 300 crore or more will be the minimum required offset. The offset obligations shall be discharged directly by any combination of the following methods:-

- (i) Direct purchase of, or executing export orders for, defence products and components manufactured by, or services provided by Indian defence industries.
- (ii) Direct foreign investment in Indian defence industries for industrial infrastructure for services, co-development, joint ventures and co-production of defence products.
- (iii) Foreign direct investment in Indian organisations engaged research and defence R&D as certified by Defence Offset Facilitation Agency (DOFA).

(c) to (f) While defence equipment manufacturers in the public and private sector can, with prior approval of the Government, set up joint ventures subject to a cap of 26% on FDI in defence sector, Ordnance Factories, being a Government Department, can have similar arrangements in the form of MOUs with foreign companies for co-development and co-production of defence items.

Defence PSUs enjoying the status of Nav Ratna are empowered to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad subject to the conditions specified by the Department of Public Enterprises. Government's endeavour is to reduce the yearly expenditure on import of defence equipment to the extent possible, inter alia, by encouraging indigenisation and joint ventures in the defence sector.

#### Cut in Import Duty on Wheat Flour

1057. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to cut customs duty on wheat flour to promote its import in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and
- (c) the reasons for promoting import of wheat flour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Reduction in Use of BT Cotton

1058. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fact finding team of Planning Commission has advised against the use of BT cotton seeds in Vidarbha region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether a similar caution has been raised by Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University against the use of BT cotton seed in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken to check the use of BT cotton in view of its negative impact on agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Planning Commission's Fact Finding Team has not made a specific recommendation to reduce the use of Bt cotton in Vidarbha region. It has however, observed that the net returns under Bt cotton are higher under irrigated conditions and has recommended strict quality control on Bt cotton seeds.

(c) and (d) In view of popularity of Bt cotton in Andhra Pradesh, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University has published the details of Bt cotton production technology, its mode of action, benefits and precautionary measures to guide the farmers for the cultivation of Bt cotton. In view of its positive impact in cotton production due to control of boll worms, the area under Bt cotton has increased from 0.29 lakh hectares in 2002-03 to 34.61 lakh hectares during 2006-07 in the country.

- (e) Question does not arise.

#### Sugar Mills

1059. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:  
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of sugar mills at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the total number of mills lying closed or declared sick in each of the States as on date;

(c) whether the Government is considering any plan to revive these mills;

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

(e) whether any special package was extended to the sugar mills during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A statement-I indicating the number of sugar mills, state-wise, as on 31st July, 2007 in the country is enclosed.

(b) A statement-II indicating the number of mills, state-wise, which did not work during 2006-07 is enclosed. Statement-III indicating the number of sick sugar mills, state-wise, is enclosed.

(c) and (d) It is the responsibility of the entrepreneur to take steps to reopen/revive the closed mills. The sick sugar mills belonging to private and public sectors are covered under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Such sugar mills are required to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) whenever their accumulated losses become equal to or more than the net-worth. If the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR provide for any relief/concession from this Ministry, the scheme is considered as per the extant guidelines. As regards the Cooperative sugar mills, a Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) to consider the proposals of the potentially viable sick sugar mills of this sector. No such proposal has been received by the Committee during the last three seasons.

(e) and (f) During the last three years, the Government has announced special package for cooperative sugar mills under which the term loan of the cooperative sugar mills were restructured/rescheduled and rate of interest was reduced to 10% per annum.

#### Statement-I

*The number of sugar mills, state-wise as on 31st July, 2007*

| S.No. | State          | No. of sugar mills |
|-------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1     | 2              | 3                  |
| 1.    | Andhra Pradesh | 43                 |
| 2.    | Assam          | 3                  |
| 3.    | Bihar          | 28                 |

| 1     | 2              | 3   |
|-------|----------------|-----|
| 4.    | Chhattisgarh   | 1   |
| 5.    | Gujarat        | 23  |
| 6.    | Goa            | 1   |
| 7.    | Haryana        | 15  |
| 8.    | Kerala         | 2   |
| 9.    | Karnataka      | 54  |
| 10.   | Madhya Pradesh | 11  |
| 11.   | Maharashtra    | 189 |
| 12.   | Nagaland       | 1   |
| 13.   | Orissa         | 8   |
| 14.   | Punjab         | 23  |
| 15.   | Pondicherry    | 2   |
| 16.   | Rajasthan      | 3   |
| 17.   | Tamil Nadu     | 39  |
| 18.   | Uttar Pradesh  | 146 |
| 19.   | Uttaranchal    | 10  |
| 20.   | West Bengal    | 2   |
| Total |                | 604 |

#### Statement-II

*The total number of 8 sugar mills, which did not work state-wise, during 2006-07*

| Sl. No. | State          | No. of sugar mills which did not work |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1       | 2              | 3                                     |
| 1.      | Andhra Pradesh | 5                                     |
| 2.      | Assam          | 3                                     |
| 3.      | Bihar          | 19                                    |
| 4.      | Gujarat        | 5                                     |
| 5.      | Haryana        | 1                                     |
| 6.      | Kerala         | 2                                     |
| 7.      | Karnataka      | 9                                     |
| 8.      | Madhya Pradesh | 5                                     |
| 9.      | Maharashtra    | 25                                    |
| 10.     | Nagaland       | 1                                     |
| 11.     | Orissa         | 3                                     |
| 12.     | Punjab         | 7                                     |

|       |               |     |
|-------|---------------|-----|
| 1     | 2             | 3   |
| 13.   | Rajasthan     | 2   |
| 14.   | Tamil Naidu   | 3   |
| 15.   | Uttar Pradesh | 14  |
| 16.   | West Bengal   | 1   |
| Total |               | 105 |

**Statement-III***The number of sick sugar mills, state-wise*

| Sl. No. | State          | No. of sick sugar mills |
|---------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1.      | Andhra Pradesh | 9                       |
| 2.      | Bihar          | 3                       |
| 3.      | Gujarat        | 6                       |
| 4.      | Haryana        | 7                       |
| 5.      | Kerala         | 1                       |
| 6.      | Karnataka      | 19                      |
| 7.      | Madhya Pradesh | 2                       |
| 8.      | Maharashtra    | 50                      |
| 9.      | Orissa         | 1                       |
| 10.     | Punjab         | 9                       |
| 11.     | Rajasthan      | 1                       |
| 12.     | Tamil Naidu    | 12                      |
| 13.     | Uttar Pradesh  | 37                      |
| 14.     | Uttaranchal    | 3                       |
| Total   |                | 160                     |

1. The figure of the sick sugar mills of the cooperative sector as on 31.03.2006 has been taken from the information provided by the NABARD.
2. The figures of the sick sugar mills of the private sector as on 31.10.2006 has been taken from the information provided by the BIFR.

**Private Sector in Defence Production**

1060. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase private sector participation in defence production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the level of private sector participation in defence production in volume and percentage terms; and

(d) the steps taken to simplify the procedures to involve private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) In May 2001, the Defence industry sector was opened up to 100% for Indian private sector participation with FDI permissible up to 26%, both subject to licensing. Since then, 38 Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences have been issued to various companies in the private sector for manufacture of a wide range of defence items.

(c) The level of private sector participation in Defence production in the Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factories during the year 2006-07 in terms of value has been of the order of Rs.3040 crore and Rs.2132 crore respectively, which works out to about 21% for Defence PSUs and 67% in the case of Ordnance Factories of the total purchases made by them.

(d) Detailed guidelines in the form of Press Note No.2 (2002 series) dated 4th January 2002 have been issued by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion in consultation with Ministry of Defence for licensing production of arms and ammunition.

[Translation]

**Licence to Private Companies**

1061. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private companies providing telecommunication services have been given licences for few years whereas these companies are giving offers of providing life-time services/schemes;

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

(c) the names of the major companies getting licences and the period for which they have been provided licences;

(d) whether these companies are giving offers of life-time schemes in violation of Government rules;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to prevent them from doing so alongwith the action taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) Telecom Access services



licensees have been given licences for a period of 20 years from the effective date of the respective licence agreement and extendable upto further 10 years. List of Telecom Access services licensees is given in the enclosed statement.

The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) provides flexibility to telecom service providers to fix tariffs. Currently telecom operators are offering a number of alternative tariff plans targeted at different classes of subscribers. In the months of December, 2005 and January, 2006 most of the service providers implemented the tariff plans under the name and style of life time validity wherein in lieu of an upfront payment the subscribers are being offered life long validity subject to certain conditions. Such plans would be suitable for subscribers who would like to have longer validity without having to pay recurring fixed monthly charges.

After a consultation process, TRAI has prescribed regulatory conditions through the Telecommunication Tariff (Forty Third Amendment) Order dated 21.3.2006, which inter-alia mandated:-

- (i) The operators to continue to provide service in respect of Lifetime Scheme as long as they have permission to provide such telecom service under current license or renewed license;
- (ii) Hike in any item of tariff during the specified validity period is prohibited; and
- (iii) The service provider shall inform the subscribers of the month and year of expiry of his current license.

TRAI has not reported any violation of Telecommunication Tariff Order dated 21.03.2006 in respect to life-time schemes by these companies.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Companies holding Access Service licences (As on 16-08-2007)*

| Sl.No. | Service Area                                      | Name of Licensee Company      | Type of Licence | Effective Date of Licence |
|--------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1      | 2   | 3                             | 4               | 5                         |
| 1      | Mumbai  | BPL Mobile Communication Ltd. | CMTS            | 29-Nov-1994               |
| 2      | Rajasthan   | Shyam Telelink Ltd.           | UAS             | 4-Mar-1998                |
| 3      | Chennai   | Aircel Cellular Limited       | CMTS            | 29-Nov-1994               |
| 4      | Andhra Pradesh                                    | Aircel Ltd.                   | UAS             | 5-Dec-2006                |
| 5      | Delhi   | Aircel Ltd.                   | UAS             | 5-Dec-2006                |
| 6      | Gujarat   | Aircel Ltd.                   | UAS             | 5-Dec-2006                |
| 7      | Karnataka   | Aircel Ltd.                   | UAS             | 5-Dec-2006                |
| 8      | Maharashtra                                       | Aircel Ltd.                   | UAS             | 5-Dec-2006                |
| 9      | Mumbai  | Aircel Ltd.                   | UAS             | 6-Dec-2006                |
| 10     | Rajasthan   | Aircel Ltd.                   | UAS             | 5-Dec-2006                |
| 11     | Tamil Nadu<br>(excluding Chennai<br>Service Area) | Aircel Ltd.                   | CMTS            | 31-Dec-1998               |
| 12     | Assam   | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.         | UAS             | 21-Apr-2004               |
| 13     | Bihar   | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.         | UAS             | 21-Apr-2004               |
| 14     | Haryana   | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.         | UAS             | 14-Dec-2006               |
| 15     | Himachal Pradesh                                  | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.         | UAS             | 21-Apr-2004               |
| 16     | Jammu and Kashmir                                 | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.         | UAS             | 21-Apr-2004               |
| 17     | Kerala  | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.         | UAS             | 14-Dec-2006               |

| 1  | 2   | 3                         | 4    | 5           |
|----|---|---------------------------|------|-------------|
| 18 | Kolkata   | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.     | UAS  | 14-Dec-2006 |
| 19 | Madhya Pradesh                                    | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.     | UAS  | 14-Dec-2006 |
| 20 | North East  | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.     | UAS  | 21-Apr-2004 |
| 21 | Orissa  | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.     | UAS  | 21-Apr-2004 |
| 22 | Punjab  | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.     | UAS  | 14-Dec-2006 |
| 23 | Uttar Pradesh (East)                              | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.     | UAS  | 14-Dec-2006 |
| 24 | Uttar Pradesh (West)                              | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.     | UAS  | 14-Dec-2006 |
| 25 | West Bengal                                       | Dishnet Wireless Ltd.     | UAS  | 21-Apr-2004 |
| 26 | Andhra Pradesh                                    | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 27 | Assam   | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 8-Ju1-2004  |
| 28 | Bihar   | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 10-Feb-2004 |
| 29 | Delhi   | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 29-Nov-1994 |
| 30 | Gujarat   | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 28-Sep-2001 |
| 31 | Haryana   | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 28-Sep-2001 |
| 32 | Himachal Pradesh                                  | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 33 | Jammu and Kashmir                                 | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 10-Feb-2004 |
| 34 | Karnataka   | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 15-Feb-1996 |
| 35 | Kerala  | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 28-Sep-2001 |
| 36 | Kolkata   | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 29-Nov-1994 |
| 37 | Madhya Pradesh                                    | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 28-Sep-2001 |
| 38 | Maharashtra                                       | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 28-Sep-2001 |
| 39 | Mumbai  | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 28-Sep-2001 |
| 40 | Orissa  | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 10-Feb-2004 |
| 41 | Punjab  | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 42 | Tamil Nadu<br>(including Chennai<br>Service Area) | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 28-Sep-2001 |
| 43 | Uttar Pradesh (East )                             | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 10-Feb-2004 |
| 44 | Uttar Pradesh (West)                              | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 28-Sep-2001 |
| 45 | West Bengal                                       | Bharti Airtel Limited     | UAS  | 11-Feb-2004 |
| 46 | North East  | Bharti Hexacom Ltd.       | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 47 | Rajasthan   | Bharti Hexacom Ltd.       | UAS  | 22-Apr-1996 |
| 48 | Andhra Pradesh                                    | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 49 | Assam   | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |

| 1  | 2   | 3                             | 4    | 5           |
|----|---|-------------------------------|------|-------------|
| 50 | Bihar                                       | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 51 | Chennai                                     | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 52 | Gujarat                                     | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 53 | Haryana                                     | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 54 | Himachal Pradesh                            | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 55 | Jammu and Kashmir                           | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 56 | Karnataka                                   | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 57 | Kerala                                      | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 58 | Kolkata                                     | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 59 | Madhya Pradesh                              | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 60 | Maharashtra                                 | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 61 | North East                                  | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 62 | Orissa                                      | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 63 | Punjab                                      | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 64 | Rajasthan                                   | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 65 | Tamil Nadu (excluding Chennai Service Area) | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 66 | Uttar Pradesh (East)                        | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 67 | Uttar Pradesh (West)                        | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 68 | West Bengal                                 | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.     | CMTS | 29-Feb-2000 |
| 69 | Punjab                                      | HFCL Infotel Ltd.             | UAS  | 30-Sep-1997 |
| 70 | Haryana                                     | Aircel Digilink India Ltd.    | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 71 | Rajasthan                                   | Aircel Digilink India Ltd.    | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 72 | Uttar Pradesh (East)                        | Aircel Digilink India Ltd.    | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 73 | Assam                                       | Essar Spacetel Ltd.           | UAS  | 5-Dec-2006  |
| 74 | Bihar                                       | Essar Spacetel Ltd.           | UAS  | 5-Dec-2006  |
| 75 | Himachal Pradesh                            | Essar Spacetel Ltd.           | UAS  | 5-Dec-2006  |
| 76 | Jammu and Kashmir                           | Essar Spacetel Ltd.           | UAS  | 5-Dec-2006  |
| 77 | North East                                  | Essar Spacetel Ltd.           | UAS  | 5-Dec-2006  |
| 78 | Orissa                                      | Essar Spacetel Ltd.           | UAS  | 5-Dec-2006  |
| 79 | Gujarat                                     | Fascel Ltd.                   | CMTS | 19-Dec-1995 |
| 80 | Kolkata                                     | Hutchinson Telecom East Ltd.  | CMTS | 29-Nov-1994 |
| 81 | Kerala                                      | Hutchison Essar Cellular Ltd. | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |

| 1   | 2   | 3                                    | 4    | 5           |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|
| 82  | Maharashtra                                       | Hutchison Essar Cellular Ltd.        | CMTS | 19-Dec-1995 |
| 83  | Tamil Nadu<br>(excluding Chennai<br>Service Area) | Hutchison Essar Cellular Ltd.        | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 84  | Mumbai  | Hutchison Essar Ltd.                 | CMTS | 29-Nov-1994 |
| 85  | Delhi   | Hutchison Essar Mobile Services Ltd. | CMTS | 29-Nov-1994 |
| 86  | Andhra Pradesh                                    | Hutchison Essar South Ltd.           | CMTS | 29-Sep-2001 |
| 87  | Chennai   | Hutchison Essar South Ltd.           | CMTS | 26-Sep-2001 |
| 88  | Karnataka   | Hutchison Essar South Ltd.           | CMTS | 26-Sep-2001 |
| 89  | Punjab  | Hutchison Essar South Ltd.           | CMTS | 5-Oct-2001  |
| 90  | Uttar Pradesh (West)                              | Hutchison Essar South Ltd.           | UAS  | 13-Feb-2004 |
| 91  | West Bengal                                       | Hutchison Essar South Ltd.           | UAS  | 23-Mar-2004 |
| 92  | Bihar   | Aditya Birla Telecom Ltd.            | UAS  | 6-Dec-2006  |
| 93  | Madhya Pradesh                                    | BTA Cellcom Ltd.                     | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 94  | Andhra Pradesh                                    | Idea Cellular Ltd.                   | CMTS | 19-Dec-1995 |
| 95  | Delhi   | Idea Cellular Ltd.                   | CMTS | 5-Oct-2001  |
| 96  | Gujarat   | Idea Cellular Ltd.                   | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 97  | Maharashtra                                       | Idea Cellular Ltd.                   | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 98  | Mumbai  | Idea Cellular Ltd.                   | UAS  | 5-Dec-2006  |
| 99  | Haryana   | Idea Mobile Communications Ltd.      | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 100 | Kerala  | Idea Mobile Communications Ltd.      | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 101 | Uttar Pradesh (West)                              | Idea Mobile Communications Ltd.      | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 102 | Himachal Pradesh                                  | Idea Telecommunications Ltd.         | CMTS | 5-Oct-2001  |
| 103 | Rajasthan   | Idea Telecommunications Ltd.         | CMTS | 5-Oct-2001  |
| 104 | Uttar Pradesh (East)                              | Idea Telecommunications Ltd.         | CMTS | 5-Oct-2001  |
| 105 | Delhi   | Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.       | CMTS | 10-Oct-1997 |
| 106 | Mumbai  | Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.       | CMTS | 10-Oct-1997 |
| 107 | Andhra Pradesh                                    | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 108 | Bihar   | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 109 | Delhi   | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 110 | Gujarat   | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 30-Sep-1997 |
| 111 | Haryana   | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 112 | Himachal Pradesh                                  | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 113 | Jammu and Kashmir                                 | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 6-Sep-2004  |

| 1   | 2   | 3                                    | 4    | 5           |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|
| 114 | Karnataka   | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 115 | Kerala  | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 116 | Kolkata   | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 117 | Madhya Pradesh                                    | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 118 | Maharashtra                                       | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 119 | Mumbai  | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 120 | Orissa  | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 121 | Punjab  | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 122 | Rajasthan   | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 123 | Tamil Nadu<br>(including Chennai<br>service area) | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 26-Sep-2001 |
| 124 | Uttar Pradesh (East)                              | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 125 | Uttar Pradesh (West)                              | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 126 | West Bengal                                       | Reliance Communications Ltd.         | UAS  | 20-Jul-2001 |
| 127 | Kolkata   | Reliable Internet Services Ltd.      | CMTS | 27-Sep-2001 |
| 128 | Bihar   | Reliance Telecom Ltd.                | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 129 | Himachal Pradesh                                  | Reliance Telecom Ltd.                | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 130 | Madhya Pradesh                                    | Reliance Telecom Ltd.                | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 131 | North East  | Reliance Telecom Ltd.                | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 132 | Orissa  | Reliance Telecom Ltd.                | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 133 | West Bengal                                       | Reliance Telecom Ltd.                | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 134 | Assam   | Reliance Telecom Ltd.                | CMTS | 12-Dec-1995 |
| 135 | Karnataka   | Spice Communications Ltd.            | UAS  | 9-Apr-1996  |
| 136 | Punjab  | Spice Communications Ltd.            | UAS  | 9-Apr-1996  |
| 137 | Maharashtra                                       | Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. | UAS  | 30-Sep-1997 |
| 138 | Mumbai  | Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. | UAS  | 30-Sep-1997 |
| 139 | Andhra Pradesh                                    | Tata Teleservices Ltd.               | UAS  | 30-Sep-1997 |
| 140 | Bihar   | Tata Teleservices Ltd.               | UAS  | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 141 | Chennai   | Tata Teleservices Ltd.               | UAS  | 31-Aug-2001 |
| 142 | Delhi   | Tata Teleservices Ltd.               | UAS  | 31-Aug-2001 |
| 143 | Gujarat   | Tata Teleservices Ltd.               | UAS  | 31-Aug-2001 |
| 144 | Haryana   | Tata Teleservices Ltd.               | UAS  | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 145 | Himachal Pradesh                                  | Tata Teleservices Ltd.               | UAS  | 30-Jan-2004 |

| 1   | 2   | 3                      | 4   | 5           |
|-----|---|------------------------|-----|-------------|
| 146 | Karnataka   | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 31-Aug-2001 |
| 147 | Kerala  | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 148 | Kolkata   | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 149 | Madhya Pradesh                                    | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 12-Feb-2004 |
| 150 | Orissa  | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 151 | Punjab  | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 152 | Rajasthan   | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 153 | Tamil Nadu<br>(excluding Chennai<br>Service Area) | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 31-Aug-2001 |
| 154 | Uttar Pradesh (East)                              | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 155 | Uttar Pradesh (West)                              | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 30-Jan-2004 |
| 156 | West Bengal                                       | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | UAS | 30-Jan-2004 |

UAS: Unified Access Services

CMTS: Cellular Mobile Telephone Services

**Note:** In addition to above, one Basic Service Licence has been granted to M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for All India except Delhi & Mumbai service areas and one Basic Service Licence has been granted to M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for Delhi & Mumbai service areas

#### Summary of Licenses

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Basic Licensees | 2   |
| CMTS Licensees  | 60  |
| UAS Licensees   | 96  |
| Total Licensees | 158 |

[English]

#### Genetic Upgradation of Cattle and Buffaloes

1062. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a scheme for genetic upgradation of cattle and buffaloes in order to increase their milch productivity and their longevity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to improve productivity of cattle and buffaloes in the country through genetic up-gradation, Government initiated a major programme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" (NPCBB) in October, 2000 with an approved allocation of Rs.402.00 crore for Phase-I as cent percent grant-in-aid to the participating States/UTs. To consolidate the gains made in Phase-I, Phase-II of the NPCBB has also been initiated

from December, 2006 for further five years with an allocation of Rs.775.87 crore. Under Phase-II, major emphasis would be on improving the availability of quality bulls for breeding, quality assurance programmes for all aspects of artificial insemination, development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds. At present 28 States and one UT are participating in the project and funds to the tune of Rs.412.79 crore, including Rs.63.91 crore to 31 suicide prone districts of four States, have been released up to 2006-07.

[Translation]

#### VRS to BSNL Employees

1063. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

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

(a) whether the proposal to relieve 20,000 'C' and 'D' category employees of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited from their services through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented;

(d) the total additional fund required to implement the said proposal;

(e) whether the representatives of the employees have been taken into confidence over the said proposal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL Management has been considering Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to be applicable to its non-executive employees.

(b) Scheme currently being considered is to be applicable to non-executive employees of category Sr. TOA and TOA with 15 years of service or 40 year of age. The would be VRS optees are proposed to be paid ex-gratia equivalent to 60 days salary (Basic + Dearness Allowance) for each completed years of service or salary for number of months of service left which ever is less. They are also proposed to get other retirement benefits as applicable at the time of superannuation/retirement. VRS terms have not yet been approved.

(c) and (d) The proposal has not yet been approved.

(e) and (f) Representatives of employees Union have been consulted a number of times. However, they are opposed to VRS in BSNL.

[English]

#### Income of Rural Household

1064. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Survey has indicated that the average income of a rural household has stagnated at an abysmally low level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Co-ordination Committee of Farmers Movement has demanded a fixed monthly income for those engaged in Agriculture Sector, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) According to National Sample Survey 59 Round, the average monthly income (excluding rent, interest, dividend etc.) per farmer household in rural areas in the country was Rs. 2115 during the agricultural year 2002-03.

(c) and (d) Indian Co-ordination Committee of Farmers Movement in their letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister in March, 2007 have, inter alia, pleaded for declaring Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all agri-crops in advance and for ensuring

fair price to farmers. With a view to ensuring remunerative prices to farmers, the Government of India, on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), decides and announces MSPs of 25 agricultural commodities before commencement of sowing season and organizes purchase operations through public agencies. Views of the State Governments and Central Ministries are, inter alia, taken into account before fixing MSPs. While recommending MSPs, CACP takes into account the cost of cultivation/ production as one of the important factors. The designated public agencies intervene in the market for undertaking procurement operations with the objective that the market prices do not fall below the MSPs.

[Translation]

#### Regulation of Sugar Production

1065. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the rules regarding regulation of sugar production in the country;

(b) the production and demand of sugar in the country during the last three years alongwith the cost of production of sugar;

(c) the quantum and price of sugar imported during the said period alongwith the additional expenditure incurred on its import; and

(d) the quantum and value of sugar exported during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Sugar (Control) Order, 1966, regulates production, supply and distribution of sugar in the country.

(b) The production and sugar releases made to meet the demand of sugar in the country during the last three sugar seasons are given below:

| (In Lakh Tons) |            |                |
|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Sugar Season   | Production | Sugar Released |
| 2003-2004      | 139.58     | 175.00         |
| 2004-2005      | 136.60     | 171.44         |
| 2005-2006 (P)  | 193.21     | 183.21         |

As regards cost of production, the Central Government does not maintain such data. However, the Central Government fixes the zone-wise unit cost of production of

sugar (L-factor under the provisions of Clause 5A of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1968]. The L-factor has been last finalized for the sugar season 2003-04 (Statement-I). The L-factor for 2004-05 and 2005-06 sugar season is yet to be fixed.

(c) A statement-II showing the quantity and value of sugar imported during the last three financial years is enclosed. No import of sugar has taken place on Government account, as such, no information is available on the additional expenditure incurred on import of sugar.

(d) A statement-III showing the quantity and value of sugar exported during the last three financial years is enclosed.

#### **Statement-I**

##### **Zone Wise L-Factor for the sugar season 2003-04**

| Sl. No    | Zone                          | Unit Cost 2003-2004<br>(Rs./ Qtl.) |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.        | Punjab                        | 1386.94                            |
| 2.        | Haryana                       | 1251.46                            |
| 3.        | Rajasthan                     | 1254.62                            |
| 4.        | West UP                       | 1300.55                            |
| 5.        | Central U.P.                  | 1349.86                            |
| 6.        | East U.P.                     | 1448.45                            |
| 7.        | North Bihar                   | 1455.21                            |
| 8.        | South Gujarat                 | 1221.76                            |
| 9.        | Saurashtra                    | 1464.76                            |
| 10.       | Madhya Pradesh                | 1348.39                            |
| 11.       | Central Maharashtra           | 1521.77                            |
| 12.       | South Maharashtra             | 1497.62                            |
| 13.       | North Maharashtra             | 1438.88                            |
| 14.       | North West Karnataka          | 1486.27                            |
| 15.       | Rest of Karnataka             | 1396.18                            |
| 16.       | Andhra Pradesh                | 1413.24                            |
| 17.       | Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry      | 1438.46                            |
| 18.       | W.B., Orissa, Nagaland        | 1261.51                            |
| 19.       | Kerala, Goa CO.,<br>Karnataka | 1456.62                            |
| All India |                               | 1392.78                            |

#### **Statement-II**

##### **Quantity and value of sugar imported during the last three financial years (April- March)**

| Financial Year | Import of Sugar      |                    |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                | Quantity (Lakh M.Ts) | Value (Rs Crores ) |
| 2003-2004      | 0.74                 | 62.70              |
| 2004-2005      | 9.33                 | 976.17             |
| 2005-2006      | 5.59                 | 651.80             |

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

#### **Statement-III**

##### **Quantity and value of sugar exported during the last three financial years (April - March)**

| Financial Year | Export of Sugar           |                       |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|                | Quantity<br>(in lac M.Ts) | Value<br>(Rs Crores ) |
| 2003-2004      | 12.01                     | 1216.59               |
| 2004-2005      | 1.09                      | 149.52                |
| 2005-2006      | 3.17                      | 557.09                |

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

[English]

#### **Telecom Manufacturing Industry**

1066. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take any drastic steps to encourage indigenous telecom manufacturing units in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. CHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government has created investor friendly environment for development of indigenous telecom equipments. 100% Foreign Direct Investment under automatic route is allowed in telecom manufacturing sector. The Government has supported setting up of telecom specific SEZs in the country. Following incentives are being provided to encourage indigenous telecom manufacturing units in the country:

- No industrial licence for manufacturing of telecom equipment. Simple Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) has to be filed with SIA.



- Fully repatriable dividend income and capital invested.
- Payment of technical know-how fee of upto US\$ 2 million and royalty upto 5% on domestic sales and 8% on export sales, net of taxes, through automatic route.
- Modification of Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Special Economic Zones (SEZs) scheme to allow 100% sales in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) for the purpose of meeting export obligations.
- Import of all capital goods for manufacturing telecom equipment does not require any license.
- Government has set up 'Export Promotion Forum' for Telecom Equipment and Services.

#### **Ombudsman in Telecom Sector**

1067. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to appoint an ombudsman to settle grievances and disputes of telecom subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely jurisdiction and status of the ombudsman; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to appoint an ombudsman to settle telecom grievances/disputes.

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

#### **SMP for Sugarcane**

1068. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for sugarcane is fixed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the method adopted for calculating the SMP;

(c) whether there is no relevance between the cost of cultivation and SMP fixed;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal before the Government to revise the guidelines for fixation of SMP; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) payable by sugar factories for each sugar season (Oct.-Sept.) is fixed by the Government under Clause 3 of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 having regard to:-

(a) cost of production of sugarcane;

(b) return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities;

(c) availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price;

(d) price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers; and

(e) recovery of sugar from sugarcane.

The SMP of sugarcane is fixed on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultation with the State Governments and other organizations/associations as may be considered appropriate by the Central Government.

(c) The cost of cultivation of sugarcane is one of the important criteria considered by the Government while fixing the SMP for sugarcane.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Funds under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana**

1069. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI KIREN RIJU:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the amount of loan provided under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds sanctioned, released and utilized during each of the last three years under PMRY, State-wise;

(d) the number of educated/uneducated unemployed persons/youths benefited under PMRY during the said period, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government has proper mechanism to ensure that funds are not misused;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey for evaluating the PMRY; and

(h) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) PMRY guidelines have been revised w.e.f 2007-08. Under the revised guidelines of PMRY, the project cost in respect of business sector has been increased from Rs.1,00,000 to Rs. 2,00,000 and for industry sector from Rs. 2,00,000 to Rs. 5,00,000. The project cost for service sector remains at Rs. 2,00,000. The loan amount for the projects will thus increase correspondingly from 2007-08.

(c) The State-wise details of funds sanctioned/ released and utilized during each of the last three years under PMRY is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) The State-wise details of educated/uneducated -unemployed persons/youths benefited under PMRY during the said period is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Proper utilization of the funds

released under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is ensured by laying down clear guidelines and norms for the use of these funds, linking of fund release to the 'Utilization Certificate' for the funds already released, disbursement of loan by way of third party cheque to the supplier of goods of; rather than to the borrower directly, etc. In addition, there is a monitoring mechanism for PMRY consisting of District PMRY Committees under the chairmanship of the District Collectors and State PMRY Committees under the chairmanship of the respective Chief Secretaries. These committees review the progress of implementation of the Scheme and utilization of funds at the District/ State level.

(g) and (h) The Government has got three rounds of evaluation of PMRY conducted through Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR). The gist of findings of the different rounds of evaluation of PMRY are given in the enclosed statement-III.

#### **Statement-I**

*Statewise details of funds sanctioned/released by Govt. of India and utilised by State/UTs under PMRY during last three years*

(Amount Rs. lakh)

| Sl.No. | State/UT          | 2004-05        |                | 2005-06        |                | 2006-07        |                 |
|--------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|        |                   | Funds released | Funds utilised | Funds released | Funds utilised | Funds released | Funds utilised* |
| 1      | 2                 | 9              | 10             | 9              | 10             | 9              | 10              |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh    | 293.34         | 187.81         | 176.72         | 188.78         | 191.95         | NR              |
| 2      | Assam             | 100.71         | 87.44          | 77.80          | NR             | 1.73           | NR              |
| 3      | Arunachal Pradesh | 5.39           | 3.54           | 4.54           | 5.83           | 0.42           | NR              |
| 4      | Bihar             | 19.87          | 20.41          | 0.00           | 13.08          | 0.00           | NR              |
| 5      | Chhattisgarh      | 50.84          | 30.52          | 41.02          | 34.73          | 38.06          | NR              |
| 6      | Delhi             | 0.00           | NR             | 0.00           | NR             | 0.00           | NR              |
| 7      | Goa               | 0.00           | NR             | 0.00           | 0.12           | 0.00           | NR              |
| 8      | Gujarat           | 53.07          | 29.21          | 13.38          | 28.90          | 0.00           | NR              |
| 9      | Haryana           | 74.20          | 43.76          | 45.64          | 60.04          | 38.60          | 68.18           |
| 10     | Himachal Pradesh  | 5.12           | 14.06          | 15.03          | 10.67          | 26.77          | NR              |
| 11     | Jammu and Kashmir | 0.00           | 0.00           | 11.71          | 0.00           | 10.30          | NR              |
| 12     | Jharkhand         | 34.56          | 17.03          | 0.06           | 33.28          | 14.62          | 3.32            |
| 13     | Karnataka         | 173.19         | 163.16         | 124.08         | 139.09         | 165.91         | NR              |

| 1     | 2                      | 9       | 10      | 9       | 10      | 9       | 10     |
|-------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 14    | Kerala                 | 175.75  | 165.13  | 176.63  | 211.27  | 202.33  | 64.33  |
| 15    | Madhya Pradesh         | 265.38  | 164.66  | 226.32  | 114.15  | 209.89  | NR     |
| 16    | Maharashtra            | 173.92  | 145.05  | 128.04  | 146.74  | 112.62  | 132.67 |
| 17    | Manipur                | 4.55    | 8.82    | 1.23    | 5.11    | 8.24    | NR     |
| 18    | Meghalaya              | 8.29    | 9.58    | 8.22    | 10.61   | 5.52    | 5.78   |
| 19    | Mizoram                | 3.24    | 2.96    | 8.22    | 4.75    | 0.00    | NR     |
| 20    | Nagaland               | 17.12   | 13.44   | 22.03   | 19.51   | 6.79    | 10.12  |
| 21    | Orissa                 | 147.50  | 111.35  | 135.46  | 134.26  | 128.31  | 122.67 |
| 22    | Punjab                 | 81.45   | 20.17   | 55.67   | 52.75   | 0.00    | NR     |
| 23    | Rajasthan              | 104.30  | 103.41  | 109.97  | 126.83  | 124.90  | NR     |
| 24    | Tamil Nadu             | 136.75  | 128.27  | 155.27  | 159.27  | 156.28  | NR     |
| 25    | Tripura                | 21.24   | 19.20   | 22.70   | 20.44   | 20.39   | 20.56  |
| 26    | Uttar Pradesh          | 644.91  | 359.17  | 422.85  | 446.25  | 388.87  | NR     |
| 27    | Uttaranchal            | 92.76   | 52.58   | 64.16   | 56.63   | 83.49   | NR     |
| 28    | West Bengal            | 19.12   | 20.27   | 29.10   | 36.17   | 4.96    | NR     |
| 29    | Andaman and Nicobar    | 2.51    | 0.33    | 0.55    | 0.82    | 0.89    | 0.09   |
| 30    | Chandigarh             | 1.02    | 1.17    | 3.98    | 1.43    | 1.15    | 0.87   |
| 31    | Daman and Diu          | 0.03    | NR      | 0.03    | NR      | 0.11    | NR     |
| 32    | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.20    | NR      | 0.19    | NR      | 0.12    | NR     |
| 33    | Lakshadweep            | 0.14    | NR      | 0.05    | NR      | 0.04    | NR     |
| 34    | Pondicherry            | 4.74    | 2.08    | 0.57    | 2.22    | 3.38    | 3.51   |
| 35    | Sikkim                 | 0.25    | 0.29    | 0.89    | 0.46    | 0.52    | 0.00   |
| Total |                        | 2715.43 | 1924.86 | 2082.12 | 2064.17 | 1947.16 | 432.08 |

NR- Not Reported by State Govt

\* AS the cut off date for completion of disbursement for the year 2006-07 has been extended upto 30.06.07 therefore most of the State/Uts have not furnished the utilisation certificates of funds for the year 2006-07.

**Note 1:** Under the PMRY, funds are released for Subsidy and Entrepreneurial Development (ED) purposes. The funds for subsidy are authorised to RBI, the RBI releases these funds to the Implementing banks. Hence, the State wise detail of funds released for subsidy is not available. The funds for ED i.e. Training and Contingency etc. are released to States/UTs.

**Note 2:** Surplus/Deficit of previous years are adjusted in subsequent years

## State-wise details of educated/uneducated unemployed persons/youths benefited under a PMRY during the last three years.

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl.No.                      | State/Union Ter.  | 2004-05                |  |                                 |                        | 2005-06  |                                 |                        |  | 2006-07                         |                        |  |                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
|                             |                   | Target (Allocated) No. | Persons/youths to whom loans sanctioned by Banks | Estimated employment generated# | Target (Allocated) No. | Persons/youths to whom loans sanctioned by Banks | Estimated employment generated# | Target (Allocated) No. | Persons/youths to whom loans sanctioned by Banks | Estimated employment generated# | Target (Allocated) No. | Persons/youths to whom loans sanctioned by Banks | Estimated employment generated# |
|                             |                   | No. Amount             |  |                                 | No. Amount             |  |                                 | No. Amount             |  |                                 | No. Amount             |  |                                 |
| 1                           | 2                 | 3                      | 4  | 5                               | 6                      | 7  | 8                               | 9                      | 10   | 11                              | 12                     | 13   | 14                              |
| <b>Northern Region</b>      |                   |                        |  |                                 |                        |  |                                 |                        |  |                                 |                        |  |                                 |
| 1                           | Haryana           | 10200                  | 7755   | 4294.93                         | 11633                  | 10600  | 9565                            | 5272.34                | 14348  | 11000                           | 10254                  | 5440.24  | 15381                           |
| 2                           | Himachal Pradesh  | 3000                   | 2853   | 2285.89                         | 4280                   | 3000   | 2929                            | 2438.78                | 4394   | 4700                            | 3327                   | 2819.07  | 4990.5                          |
| 3                           | Jammu and Kashmir | 3000                   | 639  | 667.47                          | 959                    | 3000   | 544                             | 583.89                 | 816  | 3000                            | 555                    | 607.19   | 832.5                           |
| 4                           | Punjab            | 9200                   | 8372   | 5141.36                         | 12558                  | 9200   | 8043                            | 4966.79                | 12065  | 9200                            | 7312                   | 4426.97  | 10968                           |
| 5                           | Rajasthan         | 18200                  | 12919  | 7087.30                         | 19379                  | 18700  | 13868                           | 7820.82                | 20802  | 19200                           | 14149                  | 7828.97  | 21223.5                         |
| 6                           | Chandigarh        | 100                    | 206  | 123.16                          | 309                    | 100  | 72                              | 45.99                  | 108  | 100                             | 33                     | 20.82  | 49.5                            |
| 7                           | Delhi             | 4500                   | 819  | 557.12                          | 1229                   | 4500   | 682                             | 480.89                 | 1023   | 4000                            | 471                    | 314.03   | 706.5                           |
| <b>North Eastern Region</b> |                   |                        |  |                                 |                        |  |                                 |                        |  |                                 |                        |  |                                 |
| 8                           | Assam             | 15000                  | 8256   | 5724.27                         | 12384                  | 15000  | 5671                            | 3635.93                | 8507   | 10300                           | 2848                   | 2098.60  | 3972                            |
| 9                           | Manipur           | 1500                   | 387  | 304.23                          | 581                    | 1500   | 383                             | 348.96                 | 575  | 1500                            | 129                    | 101.08   | 193.5                           |
| 10                          | Meghalaya         | 1400                   | 568  | 529.40                          | 852                    | 1400   | 564                             | 515.14                 | 846  | 800                             | 181                    | 142.01   | 271.5                           |
| 11                          | Nagaland          | 1200                   | 109  | 102.45                          | 164                    | 2800   | 2379                            | 3124.97                | 3569   | 1000                            | 541                    | 586.57   | 811.5                           |
| 12                          | Tripura           | 3000                   | 1747   | 1379.65                         | 2821                   | 3000   | 2032                            | 1642.31                | 3048   | 3000                            | 1196                   | 1004.22  | 1794                            |
| 13                          | Arunachal Pradesh | 850                    | 440  | 434.80                          | 660                    | 1050   | 447                             | 397.55                 | 671  | 400                             | 213                    | 166.46   | 319.5                           |
| 14                          | Mizoram           | 200                    | 142  | 133.20                          | 213                    | 1000   | 472                             | 439.52                 | 708  | 1000                            | 55                     | 36.64  | 82.5                            |
| 15                          | Sikkim            | 100                    | 32   | 22.80                           | 48                     | 100  | 31                              | 19.02                  | 47   | 40                              | 32                     | 19.90  | 48                              |

| 1                      | 2                      | 3      | 4      | 5         | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9         | 10     | 11     | 12     | 13        | 14      |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
| <b>Eastern Region</b>  |                        |        |        |           |        |        |        |           |        |        |        |           |         |
| 16                     | Bihar                  | 16000  | 10396  | 8887.83   | 15594  | 25000  | 12072  | 9359.65   | 18108  | 11400  | 7490   | 6178.53   | 11235   |
| 17                     | Jharkhand              | 9000   | 4804   | 3783.49   | 7206   | 9000   | 4566   | 3560.68   | 6849   | 9000   | 4541   | 3615.23   | 6811.5  |
| 18                     | Orissa                 | 18000  | 11339  | 6819.02   | 17009  | 18000  | 12823  | 7981.59   | 19235  | 15600  | 12459  | 7018.87   | 18688.5 |
| 19                     | West Bengal            | 24000  | 3796   | 2534.39   | 5694   | 24500  | 4616   | 3245.55   | 6824   | 4600   | 3118   | 2425.16   | 4677    |
| 20                     | Andaman and Nicobar    | 400    | 142    | 109.21    | 213    | 200    | 150    | 109.28    | 225    | 200    | 107    | 83.31     | 160.5   |
| <b>Central Region</b>  |                        |        |        |           |        |        |        |           |        |        |        |           |         |
| 21                     | Madhya Pradesh         | 28000  | 20642  | 12738.88  | 30963  | 32000  | 20909  | 12599.51  | 31364  | 32000  | 16519  | 9933.84   | 24778.5 |
| 22                     | Chhattisgarh           | 6000   | 3276   | 1987.65   | 4914   | 6800   | 3463   | 2130.18   | 5195   | 8400   | 3658   | 2271.35   | 5487    |
| 23                     | Uttar Pradesh          | 52000  | 42534  | 29211.20  | 63801  | 52500  | 40040  | 29746.62  | 60060  | 53600  | 40784  | 28338.13  | 61176   |
| 24                     | Uttaranchal            | 7000   | 6637   | 4468.32   | 9956   | 8000   | 7404   | 5208.67   | 11106  | 8000   | 6069   | 4431.23   | 9103.5  |
| <b>Western Region</b>  |                        |        |        |           |        |        |        |           |        |        |        |           |         |
| 25                     | Gujarat                | 12500  | 6406   | 3058.89   | 9609   | 9600   | 6347   | 3196.81   | 9521   | 9600   | 5729   | 2467.61   | 8593.5  |
| 26                     | Maharashtra            | 36000  | 21819  | 11953.16  | 32729  | 36000  | 23817  | 13036.36  | 35726  | 38200  | 18598  | 10778.17  | 28382   |
| 27                     | Daman and Diu          | 50     | 4      | 3.51      | 6      | 50     | 14     | 10.66     | 21     | 50     | 8      | 6.00      | 12      |
| 28                     | Goa                    | 500    | 45     | 35.20     | 68     | 500    | 43     | 36.64     | 65     | 500    | 20     | 15.39     | 30      |
| 29                     | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 50     | 22     | 15.00     | 33     | 50     | 24     | 16.00     | 36     | 50     | 3      | 1.95      | 4.5     |
| <b>Southern Region</b> |                        |        |        |           |        |        |        |           |        |        |        |           |         |
| 30                     | Andhra Pradesh         | 43000  | 22542  | 14718.59  | 33813  | 43000  | 21334  | 12604.92  | 32001  | 43000  | 11688  | 7298.42   | 17502   |
| 31                     | Karnataka              | 24000  | 13631  | 8866.82   | 20697  | 24000  | 19246  | 11756.60  | 28969  | 24000  | 15398  | 8990.13   | 2309.4  |
| 32                     | Kerala                 | 25500  | 16553  | 8467.30   | 24630  | 28000  | 21447  | 10249.66  | 32171  | 28000  | 19190  | 8615.01   | 26785   |
| 33                     | Tamil Nadu             | 25000  | 16902  | 6752.80   | 25353  | 27000  | 19534  | 7531.31   | 28301  | 27000  | 20282  | 7966.63   | 30423   |
| 34                     | Lakshadweep            | 50     | 4      | 2.72      | 6      | 50     | 5      | 3.90      | 8      | 50     | 0      | 0.00      | 0       |
| 35                     | Pondicherry            | 650    | 328    | 138.31    | 494    | 650    | 348    | 154.07    | 522    | 750    | 297    | 129.82    | 445.5   |
|                        | Not Specified          |        | 897    | 918.19    | 1346   |        | 1397   | 1064.47   | 2096   |        | 886    | 1009.31   | 132.9   |
|                        | All India              | 402150 | 248284 | 154278.51 | 372396 | 419850 | 267261 | 165374.01 | 400922 | 383840 | 228908 | 138407.86 | 343382  |

**Statement-III****Findings of the different evaluation studies under PMRY.****1st Round**

1st round of evaluation on Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) was conducted in the year 1996-1997 for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95. 48 Districts of 21 States/UTs are included in the 1st round.

The Important findings of the 1st round evaluation on PMRY are given below:-

- i) 61.3% of beneficiaries were from general category, 25.6% from OBCs, 11.0% from SCs & 2.1% from STs, Proportion of women was 14%.
- ii) Sanction was 81.6% of target and in 74.7% of sanctioned loans cases were disbursed.
- iii) Average amount of loan disbursed was Rs.57,403/- per beneficiary,
- iv) Employment generated was 1.94 persons per functional unit.
- v) The distribution of the beneficiaries in rural and urban areas was 49.9% & 50.1% respectively.
- vi) Assets have been created in 89.7% of the cases disbursed.
- vii) About 36.4% of the beneficiaries were repaying the loan installment on time.
- viii) Proportion of willful defaulters was 16% of the default cases.

**2nd Round**

2nd round of evaluation on PMRY conducted in 2000-2001, cover the reference period of the years 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98. This study is confined to selected 16 Districts of 6 States. The important findings of the IIrd round evaluation on PMRY are given below:-

- i) 61.3% of beneficiaries were from general category, 25.6% from OBCs, 11.0% from SCs & 2.1% from STs, Proportion of women was 14%.
- ii) Sanction was 81.6% of target and in 74.7% of sanctioned loans cases were disbursed.
- iii) Average amount of loan disbursed was Rs.57,403/- per beneficiary.
- iv) Employment generated was 1.94 persons per functional unit.
- v) The distribution of the beneficiaries in rural and urban areas was 49.9% & 50.1% respectively.
- vi) Assets have been created in 89.7% of the cases disbursed.
- vii) About 36.4% of the beneficiaries were repaying the loan installment on time.

- viii) Proportion of willful defaulters was 16% of the default cases.

**3rd Round**

The 3rd round Evaluation on PMRY conducted for the programme years 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 in 6 States and covered 14 Districts. The important findings of the IIIrd round evaluation on PMRY are given below: -

- i) 53.0 percent of beneficiaries belong to General category, 26.0 percent to OBCs, 11.7 percent to SCs and 9.3 percent to STs. The proportion of women is 13 percent.
- ii) Sanction was 39.8 percent of target and 99.6 percent of sanctioned cases were disbursed.
- iii) Average amount of loan disbursed was Rs. 64,420 per beneficiary.
- iv) Employment generated is 1.95 percent functional unit.
- v) The distribution of beneficiaries in rural/urban areas are 39.1 percent and 61.5 percent respectively.
- vi) Assets have been created in 74.9 percent of the cases disbursed.
- vii) About 42% of beneficiaries were repaying the loan installment on time.

**Acquisition of Aircraft Carrier  
Admiral Gorshkov**

1070. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are problems in acquiring Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) Construction or repair and re-equipping of an aircraft carrier is a complex exercise. It not only involves construction/repair of the platform but also fitting of a large number of systems, assemblies, and subassemblies. In any project of such nature, coordination with a large number of agencies is involved. At times problems arise due to various reasons which are resolved through interactions between the agencies concerned. It is apprehended that some delay may take place in the project due to unforeseen problems.

For supervising the project for repair and re-equipping of the aircraft carrier Vikramaditya (earlier called Admiral Gorshkov), an apex level committee under Defence Secretary and a Steering Committee under a Vice Admiral have been set up. A team has also been stationed at the shipyard where the repair and re-equipping work is going on. From time to time, teams comprising senior officers are also sent to monitor progress of the project. At present, the Russian authorities are seized of the issue of timely delivery of the ship.

#### Agricultural Growth

1071. PROF. M RAMADASS:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of sowing area of rabi crops particularly wheat and rice in the country;

(b) the comparative figures during the last years;

(c) whether the expert group in the Ministry reviewed the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken thereon;

(e) whether agricultural growth in the country has resulted in shrinking of areas under nutritionally rich crops like millets, grain legumes and oilseeds;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the growth rate in case of sugar, egg, milk, vegetables and fruits has been less than spectacular than in China; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Following table gives the area coverage under different kharif crops as reported on 10.08.2007 in the weekly meeting of the Crop Weather Watch Group in the Ministry:

| Crop           | Area Sown (Lakh Hectares)     |                                   |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                | 2007-08<br>(As on 10.08.2007) | 2006-07<br>(Corresponding period) |
| Rice           | 260.77                        | 261.74                            |
| Coarse Cereals | 193.26                        | 177.75                            |
| Pulses         | 104.34                        | 95.45                             |
| Oilseeds       | 159.30                        | 148.78                            |
| Cotton         | 86.24                         | 81.74                             |
| Sugarcane      | 51.16                         | 48.32                             |
| Jute           | 7.89                          | 8.18                              |
| All Crops      | 864.43                        | 823.48                            |

Wheat is a Rabi crop and its sowing will start in October 2007. The Crop Weather Watch Group reviews, besides sowing position of crops, the weather and inputs supply position on a weekly basis. It has found that the progress of sowing under different crops is satisfactory.

(e) and (f) Following table gives the area under jowar, bajra, small millets, pulses and oilseeds during 2005-06 and 2006-07:

| (Lakh Hectares) |       |       |               |        |          |
|-----------------|-------|-------|---------------|--------|----------|
| Year            | Jowar | Bajra | Small Millets | Pulses | Oilseeds |
| 2005-06         | 86.67 | 95.81 | 10.64         | 223.91 | 278.63   |
| 2006-07*        | 84.51 | 95.24 | 10.05         | 231.13 | 260.53   |

\* 4th advance estimates as on 19.07.2007

Area coverage under oilseeds has come down but has increased significantly under pulses.

(g) and (h) Following table gives the production of Eggs,

Milk, Fruits, Vegetables and sugar in India and in China during the years 2004 and 2005 and the growth rate during this period:

| Commodity/Country | Unit       | Production |           | Growth Rate<br>(%) |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|
|                   |            | 2004       | 2005      |                    |
| 1                 | 2          | 3          | 4         | 5                  |
| <b>Eggs</b>       |            |            |           |                    |
| India             | 000 Tonnes | 2,486.00   | 2,539.00  | 2.1                |
| China             | 000 Tonnes | 27,612.49  | 28,645.29 | 3.7                |

| 1                 | 2          | 3          | 4          | 5    |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------|
| <b>Milk</b>       |            |            |            |      |
| India             | 000 Tonnes | 91,059.00  | 95,619.00  | 5.0  |
| China             | 000 Tonnes | 24,273.07  | 29,402.98  | 21.1 |
| <b>Fruits</b>     |            |            |            |      |
| India             | 000 Tonnes | 30,474.94  | 31,239.76  | 2.5  |
| China             | 000 Tonnes | 44,126.77  | 46,334.53  | 5.0  |
| <b>Vegetables</b> |            |            |            |      |
| India             | 000 Tonnes | 48,593.72  | 50,635.04  | 4.2  |
| China             | 000 Tonnes | 161,075.89 | 166,378.54 | 3.3  |
| <b>Sugar</b>      |            |            |            |      |
| India             | 000 Tonnes | 15,150.00  | 14,170.00  | -6.5 |
| China             | 000 Tonnes | 9,317.00   | 10,371.001 | 11.3 |

Source: FAO website accessed on 17.08.2007.

Note: Fruits include apple, banana, citrus fruits, figs, grapes, guava, mango, orange, papaya and pineapple. Vegetables include cabbage, cauliflower, onion, potato and tomato.

The growth rates of all the above commodities except vegetables are more in China than India. Several schemes are under implementation to increase the production of these commodities. The production in the country has shown positive growth rate during this period in all the commodities except sugar. Sugar production has shown significant growth in recent years.

#### Check on Illegal Routing of International Calls

1072. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has taken any measures to control illegal routing of international calls through local lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of revenue loss during the last two years due to illegal routing of international calls through local lines, year-wise and category-wise;

(d) the number of firm/company/infocom which indulged in the illegal routing during the last two years, year-wise and category-wise;

(e) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has issued the following instructions to control illegal routing of international calls through local lines:-

- To monitor periodically the incoming traffic to BSNL from private operators.
- To prevent unauthorized diversion in routing of ILD (International Long Distance) calls.
- To prevent operation of clandestine/illegal Telecom Centres Telephone Exchanges.
- Continuous monitoring of Bulk Connections, CDR Analysis, Inspection of Leased Line Customers and to obtain periodical reports from the field units.

(c) the details of notional revenue loss to BSNL during the last two years due to illegal routing of international calls through local lines, year-wise and category-wise is given below:-

| Sl.No. | Financial Year | Total Notional Revenue Loss to BSNL for each Category of Connectivity used (Rs.) |           |      | Total (Rs.) |
|--------|----------------|--|-----------|------|-------------|
|        |                | ILL/ISP/IPLC/ISDN  | Broadband | VSAT |             |
| 1      | 2005-06        | 19048400   | 9446000   | Nil  | 28494400    |
| 2      | 2006-07        | 119620000  | 10598400  | Nil  | 130218400   |
|        | Total          | 138668400  | 20044400  | Nil  | 158712800   |



(d) The total number of firm/company/Infocomm which indulged in the illegal routing during the last two years, year-wise and category-wise is given below:-

| Sl.No. | Financial Year | Total No. of firm/ Company/ Infocom | Category of Connectivity used |           |      |
|--------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------|
|        |                |                                     | ILL/ISP/ IPLC/ISDN            | Broadband | VSAT |
| 1      | 2005-06        | 132                                 | 122                           | 7         | 3    |
| 2      | 2006-07        | 46                                  | 42                            | 4         | Nil  |
| Total  |                | 178                                 | 164                           | 11        | 3    |

(e) and (f) Preventive and Stringent action taken by Government:

- 34 Vigilance and Telecom Monitoring Cell have been created by Department of Telecom (DOT) in all 24 telecom circles and 10 Metros in the country, for curbing such illegal Telephone Exchanges.
- Toll free public number-1800-110-420 has been opened, so that general public can help the department, in detection of such cases. Advertisement given in leading news papers and SMS's are sent by mobile operators to their customers, for creating awareness among public.
- All the High Tech Equipment used in the illegal setup is seized by the security agency and cases have been registered against the offenders. Further investigation in such cases is in progress.
- Surveillance has been increased to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic.
- Department of Telecom has issued instructions/ Guidelines to all service providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set ups/fraud.
- Training and presentations are being given to the senior

Telecom officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal set ups.

[Translation]

#### Underground Cables in Gram Panchayats

1073. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- the location-wise number of Gram Panchayats which are connected by underground cables particularly in the backward and rural areas of the country, as on date;
- the number of the complaints received regarding laying of cable lines;
- the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the Gram Panchayats despite laying cable alongwith the number of such Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There were 66,822 uncovered villages, excluding villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas. Out of the same, 48,704 villages including Gram Panchayats, have been covered as on 30.06.2007. The statement is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Complaints regarding laying of cable lines are addressed at local levels. From January, 2006 onward, three complaints have been received in Department of Telecommunications and sent to BSNL for investigation and necessary action.

(d) The uncovered 18,118 villages will be covered progressively by November, 2007.

#### Statement

##### Summary of uncovered villages as on 30.06.2007 by BSNL

| Sl.No. | Name of the Service Area | Total No. of uncovered Villages | On DSPT | On other technologies | VPTs provided | Balance remaining uncovered |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1      | 2                        | 3                               | 4       | 5                     | 6             | 7                           |
| 1      | Andaman and Nicobar      | 0                               | 0       | 0                     | 0             | 0                           |
| 2      | Andhra Pradesh           | 1074                            | 115     | 959                   | 605           | 469                         |
| 3      | Assam                    | 8931                            | 279     | 8652                  | 8504          | 427                         |

| 1   | 2                 | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     |
|-----|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 4   | Bihar             | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 5   | Jharkhand         | 1694  | 1694  | 0     | 800   | 894   |
| 6   | Gujarat           | 4144  | 0     | 4144  | 3588  | 556   |
| 7   | Haryana           | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 8   | Himachal Pradesh  | 1002  | 275   | 727   | 828   | 174   |
| 9   | Jammu and Kashmir | 1755  | 465   | 1290  | 1142  | 613   |
| 10  | Karnataka         | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 11  | Kerala            | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 12  | Madhya Pradesh    | 11894 | 443   | 11451 | 11604 | 290   |
| 13  | Chhattisgarh      | 5043  | 88    | 4955  | 2885  | 2158  |
| 14  | Maharashtra       | 6441  | 496   | 5945  | 5545  | 896   |
| 15  | North East-I      | 2128  | 578   | 1550  | 261   | 1867  |
| 15A | Meghalaya         | 1957  | 500   | 1457  | 182   | 1775  |
|     | (NE-I)            |       |       |       |       |       |
| 15B | Mizoram (NE-I)    | 96    | 20    | 76    | 10    | 86    |
| 15C | Tripura (NE-I)    | 75    | 58    | 17    | 69    | 6     |
| 16  | North East-II     | 1550  | 1289  | 261   | 633   | 917   |
| 16A | Arunachal Pradesh | 646   | 543   | 103   | 170   | 476   |
|     | (NE-II)           |       |       |       |       |       |
| 16B | Manipur (NE-II)   | 876   | 730   | 146   | 446   | 430   |
| 16C | Nagaland (NE-II)  | 28    | 16    | 12    | 17    | 11    |
| 17  | Orissa            | 4899  | 4899  | 0     | 560   | 4339  |
| 18  | Punjab            | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 19  | Rajasthan         | 12386 | 18    | 12368 | 10184 | 2202  |
| 20  | Tamil Nadu        | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 21  | Uttar Pradesh     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
|     | (East)            |       |       |       |       |       |
| 22  | Uttar Pradesh     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
|     | (West)            |       |       |       |       |       |
| 23  | Uttaranchal       | 3881  | 3544  | 337   | 1565  | 2316  |
| 24  | West Bengal       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
|     | Total             | 66822 | 14183 | 52639 | 48704 | 18118 |

**Agro Forestry Projects**

1074. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Agro Forestry project implemented in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated, released and utilised under the said project, State-wise;
- (c) whether the progress of such projects has been assessed by the Union Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the future plan the Government to boost the Agro Forestry Sector during Eleventh Plan; and
- (f) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is no specific Agro Forestry Project being implemented in the country. However, Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA) (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of lands in the country. The Agro-Forestry is one of the components under these programmes. During Tenth Five Year Plan, an area of 22.06 million ha. have been developed with an expenditure of Rs 8810.20 crore under these programmes as per scheme-wise details given in the enclosed statement-I.

The Ministry of Environment & Forest is also implementing a National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forest lands and adjoining lands. The scheme is being implemented through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division Level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. The project area is treated as per the Micro Plan formulated for the JFMCs area. As on 31-3-2007, 729 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States to cover project area of 9.36 lakh ha. through 24,215 JFMCs. The State-wise funds released under this programme, during last five years (2002-03 to 2006-07) are given in the enclosed statement-II.

In addition to above, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing an All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Agro-Forestry with Project Coordinator (PC) unit at National Research Centre on Agro Forestry (NRCAF), Jhansi along with Coordinating Centres located in different State Agricultural Universities (SAUs); and different Institutes of ICAR in the country. The detailed list and funds allocated to different coordinating centres during last five years is given in the enclosed statement-III.

(c) and (d) All the different schemes/ programmes mentioned above have their own system of regular monitoring and assessment. All the watershed programmes are reviewed for their performance on a quarterly basis. The progress of the AICRP on agro forestry is assessed and monitored during annual review meetings held as annual workshop or group meeting of the project. The review of progress is also done through Quinquennial Review Team constituted by ICAR.

(e) and (f) As per Working Group of the Sub Committee of National Development Council (NDC) on Agriculture and related Issues on Dryland/Rainfed Farming System including regeneration of Degraded/Wasteland, about 38 million ha. area has been proposed under different watershed development programme with an estimated cost of Rs.32095.00 crore during XI Five Year Plan. The Project-wise target and outlay for different Watershed Development Programmes for XI Five Year Plan are as under:-

| Implementing Deptt./Ministry | Name of Scheme/ Programme | Physical Target (million ha.) | Financial Requirement (Rs. in crore) |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1                            | 2                         | 3                             | 4                                    |
| Department of                | NWDPA                     | 4.00                          | 4000                                 |
| Agriculture &                | RVP&FPR                   | 2.00                          | 2400                                 |
| Cooperation, MoA             | WDPSA                     | 0.20                          | 240                                  |
|                              | RAS                       | 0.50                          | 1455                                 |

| 1                                  | 2                               | 3     | 4     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|
|                                    | WDF                             | 0.40  | 300   |
|                                    | EAPs                            | 0.50  | 750   |
|                                    | New Schemes                     | 2.40  | 2500  |
|                                    | Sub total                       | 10.00 | 11645 |
| Department of land Resources, MoRD | IWDP                            | 10.0  | 5200  |
|                                    | DPAP                            | 10.0  | 5200  |
|                                    | DDP                             | 5.0   | 2600  |
|                                    | Total for XI Plan               | 0.00  | 13000 |
|                                    | Committed liabilities of X Plan | 0.00  | 5200  |
|                                    | Sub total                       | 25.00 | 18200 |
| Planning Commission                | HADP & WGDP                     | 1.00  | 750   |
| Public Private Partnership         |                                 | 2.00  | 1500  |
|                                    | Total                           | 38.00 | 32095 |

The NRCAF, Jhansi and AICRP on agro-forestry is proposed for future strengthening during XI Five Year Plan

and proposed outlay for XI plan is Rs. 26.22 crore for NRCAF and Rs. 29.70 crore for AICRP on agro-forestry.

**Statement-I**

*Lands Developed under various Watershed Development Programmes, during Tenth Five Year Plan*

(Area in Lakh ha. and Expenditure in Rs. Crore)

| S.No. | Ministry/Scheme and year of start | Progress during X Plan* |             |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|       |                                   | (2002-07)               |             |
|       |                                   | Area                    | Expenditure |
| 1     | 2                                 | 3                       | 4           |
| 1.    | NWDPRA<br>(1990-91)               | 23.30                   | 1147.82     |
| 2.    | RVP & FPR<br>(1962 & 81)          | 9.98                    | 727.98      |
| 3.    | WDPSA<br>(1974-75)                | 1.35                    | 129.31      |
| 4.    | RAS<br>(1985-86)                  | 1.30                    | 45.35       |
| 5.    | WDF<br>(1999-00)                  | 0.59                    | 26.02       |
| 6.    | EAPs                              | 4.80                    | 1927.54     |
|       | Sub Total                         | 41.32                   | 4004.02     |

| 1           | 2              | 3      | 4       |
|-------------|----------------|--------|---------|
| 1.          | DPAP (1973-74) | 68.32  | 1557.76 |
| 2.          | DDP (1977-78)  | 45.17  | 1152.50 |
| 3.          | IWDP (1988-89) | 62.22  | 1821.64 |
| 4.          | EAPs           | 3.60   | 274.28  |
| Sub Total   |                | 179.31 | 4806.18 |
| Total (A+B) |                | 220.63 | 8810.20 |

\* Includes tentative achievement of 2006-07.

**Abbreviations:**

|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| NWDPRA    | - | National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area     |
| RVP & FPR | - | River Valley Project & Flood Prone River                    |
| WDPSA     | - | Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Area |
| RAS       | - | Reclamation of Alkali Soil                                  |
| WDF       | - | Watershed Development Fund                                  |
| EAPs      | - | Externally Aided Projects                                   |
| DPAP      | - | Drought Prone Area Programme                                |
| DDP       | - | Desert Development Programme                                |
| IWDP      | - | Integrated Wasteland Development Project                    |

Source: Working Group Report of Natural Resource Management for Eleventh Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission, New Delhi, February, 2007.

**Statement-II**

**Release of Funds under National Afforestation Programme Scheme during 10th Plan Scheme**

|       |                   |               |               |               |               |               | (Rs. in Crores) |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| S.No. | State             | 2002-03       | 2003-04       | 2004-05       | 2005-06       | 2006-07       | Grand           |
|       |                   | Total<br>Rel. | Total<br>Rel. | Total<br>Rel. | Total<br>Rel. | Total<br>Rel. | Total           |
| 1     | 2                 | 3             | 4             | 5             | 6             | 7             | 8               |
| 1.    | Andhra Pradesh    | 8.56          | 12.15,        | 14.33         | 7.08          | 11.06         | 53.18           |
| 2.    | Chhattisgarh      | 6.16          | 10.75         | 17.63         | 17.63         | 13.05         | 65.22           |
| 3.    | Gujarat           | 4.60          | 5.32          | 9.01          | 12.34         | 17.53         | 48.80           |
| 4.    | Haryana           | 11.63         | 8.35          | 7.46          | 4.35          | 9.20          | 40.99           |
| 5.    | Himachal Pradesh  | 0.70          | 6.95          | 10.60         | 9.08          | 11.56         | 38.89           |
| 6.    | Jammu and Kashmir | 7.42          | 8.28          | 4.09          | 5.39          | 5.83          | 31.01           |
| 7.    | Karnataka         | 16.43         | 17.11         | 21.49         | 23.05         | 23.54         | 101.62          |
| 8.    | Madhya Pradesh    | 13.95         | 11.76         | 17.38         | 12.61         | 15.83         | 71.53           |
| 9.    | Maharashtra       | 5.42          | 12.37         | 13.32         | 14.89         | 15.93         | 61.93           |
| 10.   | Orissa            | 20.06         | 9.39          | 11.97         | 12.05         | 14.07         | 67.54           |
| 11.   | Punjab            | 0.95          | 1.74          | 0.14          | 3.97          | 3.37          | 10.17           |
| 12.   | Rajasthan         | 4.45          | 5.56          | 4.80          | 7.26          | 5.62          | 27.69           |

| 1                    | 2                 | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8       |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 13.                  | Tamil Nadu        | 8.25   | 15.66  | 14.48  | 20.92  | 17.22  | 76.53   |
| 14.                  | Uttar Pradesh     | 20.01  | 21.54  | 18.54  | 17.04  | 11.88  | 89.01   |
| 15.                  | Uttarakhand       | 2.86   | 5.81   | 10.88  | 13.35  | 11.51  | 44.41   |
| 16.                  | Goa               | 0.00   | 0.64   | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.64    |
| 17.                  | Jharkhand         | 1.34   | 9.27   | 8.66   | 7.85   | 19.03  | 46.15   |
| 18.                  | Bihar             | 0.00   | 1.88   | 2.74   | 3.42   | 4.94   | 12.98   |
| 19.                  | Kerala            | 1.22   | 4.60   | 1.48   | 5.04   | 12.75  | 25.09   |
| 20.                  | West Bengal       | 2.89   | 5.95   | 6.03   | 5.92   | 7.00   | 27.79   |
| Total (Other States) |                   | 136.90 | 175.08 | 195.03 | 203.24 | 230.92 | 941.17  |
| 21.                  | Arunachal Pradesh | 2.76   | 4.84   | 0.76   | 2.89   | 2.93   | 14.18   |
| 22.                  | Assam             | 0.17   | 5.77   | 8.03   | 5.50   | 13.60  | 33.07   |
| 23.                  | Manipur           | 2.40   | 5.08   | 5.43   | 6.30   | 7.78   | 26.99   |
| 24.                  | Nagaland          | 8.51   | 8.94   | 5.60   | 5.37   | 7.22   | 35.64   |
| 25.                  | Sikkim            | 4.88   | 4.71   | 4.37   | 6.43   | 7.41   | 27.80   |
| 26.                  | Tripura           | 3.80   | 4.16   | 4.66   | 4.27   | 4.37   | 21.26   |
| 27.                  | Mizoram           | 10.63  | 16.99  | 11.70  | 10.06  | 13.09  | 62.47   |
| 28.                  | Meghalaya         | 0.33   | 0.05   | 2.45   | 5.18   | 5.44   | 13.45   |
| Total (NE States)    |                   | 33.48  | 50.54  | 43.00  | 46.00  | 61.84  | 234.86  |
| Grand Total          |                   | 170.38 | 225.62 | 238.03 | 249.24 | 292.76 | 1176.03 |

**Statement-III***Name of Centres & Funds Allocated during last Five years*

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | State         | Centre                  | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05                | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Total  |
|---------|---------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1       | 2             | 3                       | 4       | 5       | 6                      | 7       | 8       | 9      |
| 1       | Orissa        | OUAT, Bhubneshwar       | 11.00   | 13.50   | 17.00                  | 20.00   | 22.75   | 84.25  |
| 2       | Tamil Nadu    | TNV & ASU, Kattaupakkam | 12.00   | 6.50    | 9.50                   | 10.50   | 10.00   | 48.50  |
|         |               | TNAU, Coimbatore        | 14.00   | 9.50    | 18.00                  | 23.50   | 22.00   | 87.00  |
|         |               | Sub Total               | 26.00   | 16.00   | 27.50                  | 34.00   | 32.00   | 135.50 |
| 3       | Karnataka     | UAS, Banglore           | 0.45    | 0.75    | 4.05                   | 14.50   | 10.00   | 29.75  |
|         |               | UAS, Dharwad            | 17.00   | 21.00   | 16.00                  | 27.21   | 24.00   | 105.21 |
|         |               | Sub Total               | 17.45   | 21.75   | 20.05                  | 41.71   | 34.00   | 134.96 |
| 4       | Uttar Pradesh | CSAUA & T, Kanpur       | 13.33   | 12.00   | Closed w.e.f 1-04-2004 |         |         | 25.33  |
|         |               | NDUA & T, Faizabad      | 7.00    | 12.50   | 13.00                  | 16.50   | 21.00   | 70.00  |

| 1  | 2                 | 3                    | 4      | 5      | 6                       | 7      | 8      | 9       |
|----|-------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
|    |                   | NRCFA, Jhansi        | 125.98 | 130.00 | 178.50                  | 175.00 | 220.00 | 829.48  |
|    |                   | Sub Total            | 146.31 | 154.50 | 191.50                  | 191.50 | 241.00 | 924.81  |
| 5  | Rajasthan         | RAU, Fatehpur-Sh.    | 5.47   | 12.00  | 15.00                   | 17.00  | 15.00  | 64.47   |
| 6  | Haryana           | CCSHAU, Hisar        | 17.24  | 13.50  | 20.00                   | 17.00  | 24.00  | 91.74   |
| 7  | Andhra Pradesh    | ANGRAU, Hyderabad    | 17.00  | 14.58  | 15.25                   | 19.50  | 19.00  | 85.33   |
| 8  | Madhya Pradesh    | JNKV, Jabalpur       | 18.64  | 12.50  | 13.00                   | 13.00  | 19.00  | 76.14   |
| 9  | Punjab            | PAD, Ludhiana        | 15.50  | 16.00  | 16.00                   | 20.00  | 25.00  | 92.50   |
| 10 | Assam             | AAU, Kahikuchi       | 7.00   | 12.50  | 15.00                   | 20.00  | 21.00  | 75.50   |
| 11 | Uttarakhand       | GBPUA & T, Pantnagar | 9.72   | 12.50  | 11.00                   | 22.00  | 19.75  | 74.97   |
| 12 | Bihar             | RAU, Pusa            | 2.00   | 10.20  | 10.00                   | 12.86  | 12.00  | 47.06   |
| 13 | Maharashtra       | BSKKV, Dapoli        | 13.51  | 11.50  | 15.00                   | 16.50  | 19.63  | 76.14   |
|    |                   | PDKV, Nagpur         | 21.00  | 15.50  | 17.00                   | 16.50  | 22.00  | 92.00   |
|    |                   | MAD, Parbhair        | 15.78  | 6.00   | Closed w.e.f. 1-04-2004 |        |        | 21.78   |
|    |                   | MPKV Rahuri          | 16.84  | 10.50  | 16.00                   | 14.00  | 20.00  | 77.34   |
|    |                   | Sub Total            | 67.13  | 43.50  | 48.00                   | 47.00  | 61.63  | 267.26  |
| 14 | Chhattisgarh      | IGKV, Raipur         | 8.00   | 4.00   | 8.75                    | 13.50  | 13.00  | 47.25   |
| 15 | Jharkhand         | BAU, Ranchi          | 5.00   | 13.50  | 19.00                   | 19.50  | 20.00  | 77.00   |
| 16 | Gujarat           | SDAU, S.K. Nagar     | 19.69  | 9.50   | 15.00                   | 23.50  | 22.00  | 89.69   |
| 17 | Himachal Pradesh  | CSKHVKV, Palampur    | 0.75   | 0.75   | 4.00                    | 14.00  | 10.50  | 30.00   |
|    |                   | YSPUH & F, Solan     | 17.30  | 13.50  | 14.00                   | 25.50  | 25.00  | 95.30   |
|    |                   | Sub Total            | 18.05  | 14.25  | 18.00                   | 39.50  | 35.50  | 125.30  |
| 18 | Jammu and Kashmir | SKUAT, Srinagar      | 12.00  | 9.50   | 13.00                   | 19.00  | 21.00  | 74.50   |
| 19 | Kerala            | KAU, Thrissur        | 4.00   | 9.00   | 14.00                   | 18.50  | 16.00  | 61.50   |
| 20 | West Bengal       | BCKVW, West Bengal   | 16.09  | 14.50  | 13.00                   | 18.00  | 20.00  | 81.59   |
|    |                   | Grand Total          | 443.29 | 427.28 | 520.05                  | 627.07 | 693.63 | 2711.32 |

*List of ICAR Institutes Working as Cooperative Centres with their own Institute budgetary support*

- 21 CSWCR & TI, Dehradun, (Uttarkhand)
- 22 ICAR NEH, Regional Complex, Barapani (Meghalaya)
- 23 ICAR NEH, Regional Complex, Imphal (Manipur)
- 24 ICAR NEH, Regional Complex, Gangtok (Sikkim)
- 25 CSSRI, Kamal (Haryana)
- 26 ICAR NEH, Regional Complex, Agartala (Tripura)
- 27 CAZRI, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
- 28 IGFRl, Jhansi (U. P.)
- 29 CRIDA, Hyderabad (A.P.)
- 30 CARI, Port Blair (A & N Islands)
- 31 ICAR, Research Complex for Eastern Region, Plandu, Ranchi (Jharkhand)

*[English]***Kalaikunda Air Force Base**

1075. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to upgrade Kalaikunda Air Force base;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any request to operate civil flights of Indian Airlines from Kalaikunda to other airports in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) Kalaikunda Air Force base has all the facilities required for the operation of military aircraft. Upgradation of a Defence airfield is undertaken keeping in view the operational requirement of the Services.

(c) and (d) The Indian Air Force has not received any such proposal.

*[Translation]*

**Excessive Use of Pesticides and  
Fertilizers in Fruits**

1076. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has recently made any arrangement for the detection and study on excessive use of pesticides, fertilizers and other harmful elements in fruits and vegetables in the country in consultation with State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the name of the States using excessive pesticides and fertilizers and effect on the production;
- (d) the percentage of various harmful elements found in fruits and vegetables during the course of such inspection and study; and
- (e) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Scheme "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues" in agricultural, animal and food commodities at the national level was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2005, as a Central Sector Scheme,

An amount of Rs.10 crore has been provided for the scheme, during 2007-08. The objective of the scheme is to collect, collate and analyze data of pesticide residues in agriculture, animal produce and food commodities at the national level. The scheme provides for strengthening the identified pesticide residue testing laboratories and getting the samples of selected commodities analyzed for pesticide residues and other harmful elements.

(c) Use of pesticides and fertilizers are recommended at optimal dosages for higher productivity of crops on the basis of requirements and agro-climatic conditions. States use pesticides and fertilizers depending on the incidence of disease on the crop and agro-climatic conditions. The average consumption of fertilizers in the country was 104.50 Kg/ha, during 2005-06. This level of consumption is not considered to have any ill-effect on the fertility of the land. Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures like farm yard manure, compost, vermicompost green manures and bio-fertilizers for sustainable soil health and productivity.

(d) Vegetable samples collected in Delhi have not been detected with pesticide residues above the tolerance limit. In samples collected in the rest of the country, residues have been detected above tolerance limit in 3.8 % of the samples (1117).

(e) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation follows the policy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for managing pest problems which is an environment and ecology friendly. It combines cultural, mechanical and biological pest control techniques with minimum dependence on chemical pesticides. Promotion of IPM will reduce the problems of pesticide residues.

*[English]***Incentives to Sugar Industry**

1077. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has announced some non-cash incentives to sugar industry to encourage exports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the period for which the incentives have been extended; and
- (d) the manner in which sugar industry is likely to be benefited by such incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY



OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Government vide Press Note dated 8th February, 2007, decided to give the following non-cash incentives to sugar factories undertaking export of sugar:-

(i) the sugar meant for export will be exempted from the levy obligation; and

(ii) the quantity of sugar released for export would be treated as advance non-levy (free sale) releases to be adjusted in the free sale stocks of sugar factories after a period of 12 months.

The above non-cash incentives were allowed on export of sugar made during the period 03.01.2007 to 02.07.2007 under Advance Authorization Scheme and 23.01.2007 to 22.07.2007 for export under Open General License. In June, 2007, the Central Government decided to extend the period of above incentives by another 6 months or till further orders, whichever is earlier. Accordingly, the period of incentive has been extended from 03.07.2007 to 02.01.2008 for exports under Advance Authorization Scheme and 23.07.2007 to 22.01.2008 under Open General License Scheme or till further orders, whichever is earlier. The above incentives are not available to exports under preferential quota.

(d) By way of exemption from levy obligation, the concerned sugar factory would not be required to deliver levy sugar on the quantity of sugar exported to the Government at levy prices. As regards deferment of adjustment of quantity of sugar exported, the concerned sugar factory would get higher non-levy (free sale) sugar releases for sale in the domestic market which would save their carrying cost on such higher non-levy releases.

#### **World Bank Loan for Modernization of Irrigation System**

1078. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has offered to fund the modernization of irrigation system in India as reported in the Hindu dated June 8, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of proposals sent to World Bank for consideration and approval during the last one year, State-wise; and

(c) the number of proposals approved by the World Bank, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV): (a) The World Bank is currently financing a number of projects aimed at modernizing irrigation system in India. However, with regard to the news item published in "The Hindu" dated June 8, 2007, the World Bank has informed that World Bank has neither committed nor received any official proposal to modernize any further irrigation systems in Tamil Nadu besides the recently approved Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water-bodies Restoration and Management (TNIAMWARM) Project.

(b) The following projects have been approved by the World Bank during the last one year:

- (i) Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water-bodies Restoration and Management-(TNIAMWARM Project).
- (ii) Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project.

Further, the following projects have been posed to World Bank for consideration:

- (i) Orissa Community Tanks Management Project.
- (ii) Additional financing for Karnataka Tanks project.
- (iii) Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project.
- (iv) West Bengal-Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation.
- (v) Mahanadi Basin Development Project.
- (c) The following irrigation/water resources projects are ongoing with assistance of World Bank
  - (i) Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project . (Rajasthan)
  - (ii) Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project. (Uttar Pradesh)
  - (iii) Karnataka Community based Tank Management Project. (Karnataka)
  - (iv) Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project. (Madhya Pradesh)
  - (v) Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project. (Maharashtra)
  - (vi) Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration Project. (Tamil Nadu)
  - (vii) Andhra Pradesh Community based Tank Management Project. (Andhra Pradesh)

[Translation]

#### **Depots of FCI**

1079. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of depots being operated by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the country particularly Andhra Pradesh, State-wise;

(b) the number of depots closed down during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the review of such depots was done before their closure;

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

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to revive the closed depots;

(f) if so, the time by which the said depots are likely to be revived;

(g) whether the present storage capacity of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in various States particularly Andhra Pradesh is adequate; and

(h) if not, the steps taken for creation of more storage space?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The total number of depots being operated by Food Corporation of India in the country is 1450 (Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP) as on 30.06.2007. Out of this, 133 depots are being operated in Andhra Pradesh, State-wise break-up of depots is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) No FCI Owned depot has been closed during the last three years. However, FCI has been de-hiring the hired godowns which are considered surplus and uneconomical.

(c) Yes, Sir. Hiring and de-hiring of godowns by the FCI is a continuous process. A review in this regard is done every month and those godowns which are found surplus

and uneconomical are de-hired and if the storage capacity is found inadequate at any place, then additional capacity is hired from CWC/SWC/State Government/ the private parties, with the approval of the CMD of FCI.

(d) As an outcome of periodic reviews, FCI had de-hired/hired the godowns-whenever required. A detailed statement of de-hiring/hiring of the godowns state-wise during the last three years is enclosed as Statement-II.

(e) and (f) As stated above, hiring and de-hiring of godowns by the FCI is a continuous process, FCI will have no reservations in re-hiring the de-hired godowns if the need for having such godowns arises again.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. The overall storage capacity available with the FCI at present is quite adequate at macro level. Against capacity of 247.54 lakh tones held by FCI, 93.22 lakh tones capacity is lying vacant as on 30.6.07. As on 30.06.2007, Andhra Pradesh has total capacity of 33.68 lakh tonnes out of which 7.46 lakh tonnes capacity is lying vacant. State-wise vacant space position is given in the enclosed Statement-III. In order to overcome the gap in storage capacity at micro level, following steps have been taken:

i) A proposal has been taken up with the Planning Commission for sanctioning of an amount of Rs.170 crores for construction of storage godowns during the XIth Five Year Plan. FCI has proposed to construct 4.04 lakh tonnes capacity during the XIth Five Year Plan in various States.

ii) Under the National Policy Of Bulk Handling, Storage and Transportation of foodgrains, a capacity of 5.5 lakh MTs is being created both in Procuring and Deficit States on Build, Own & Operate (BOO) basis.

iii) In addition, full powers have been vested with the General Managers (Region)/ Executive Directors (Zone) to hire additional capacity from CWC/SWC /State Govt. at the micro level for meeting the emergent requirement. However, approval of the CMD, FCI is required for hiring godowns of Private Parties.

#### Statement-I

*The State-Wise Number of Depot (Owned & Hired/Covered & (Cap) Available with Food Corporation of India as on 30.06.2007.*

| Region/U.T. |           |             |                           |       |                 | (Provisional) |               |           |              |       |             |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-------|-------------|
|             | FCI Owned | State Govt. | Covered Hired From C.W.C. | S.W.C | Private Parties | Total Hired   | Total Covered | Cap Owned | (Open) Hired | Total | Grand Total |
| 1           | 2         | 3           | 4                         | 5     | 6               | 7             | 8             | 9         | 10           | 11    | 12          |
| Bihar       | 14        | 1           | 8                         | 15    | 10              | 34            | 48            | 0         | 0            | 0     | 48          |
| Jharkhand   | 6         | 1           | 2                         | 9     | 2               | 14            | 20            | 0         | 0            | 0     | 20          |
| Orissa      | 23        | 0           | 10                        | 40    | 1               | 51            | 74            | 0         | 0            | 0     | 74          |

| 1                   | 2    | 3  | 4  | 5   | 6  | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10 | 11  | 12  |
|---------------------|------|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| West Bengal         | 26   | 2  | 7  | 0   | 6  | 15  | 41  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 41  |
| Sikkim              | 1.00 | 1  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 2   |
| Total               | 70   | 5  | 27 | 64  | 19 | 115 | 185 | 0   | 0  | 0   | 185 |
| Assam               | 17   | 1  | 2  | 2   | 10 | 15  | 32  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 32  |
| Arunachal Pradesh   | 4    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 4   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 4   |
| Meghalaya           | 3    | 0  | 1  | 2   | 0  | 3   | 6   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 6   |
| Mizoram             | 4    | 1  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 1   | 5   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 5   |
| Tripura             | 3    | 2  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 3   | 6   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 6   |
| Manipur             | 3    | 1  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 1   | 4   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 4   |
| Nagaland            | 4    | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 1   | 5   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 5   |
| Total               | 38   | 5  | 5  | 4   | 10 | 24  | 62  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 62  |
| Delhi               | 6    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 6   | 4   | 0  | 4   | 10  |
| Haryana             | 36   | 22 | 9  | 26  | 8  | 65  | 101 | 25  | 1  | 26  | 127 |
| Himachal Pradesh    | 6    | 8  | 3  | 0   | 0  | 11  | 17  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 17  |
| Jammu and Kashmir   | 14   | 3  | 0  | 0   | 7  | 10  | 24  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 24  |
| Punjab              | 111  | 2  | 7  | 73  | 23 | 115 | 226 | 93  | 0  | 93  | 319 |
| Chandigarh          | 4    | 0  | 4  | 3   | 0  | 7   | 11  | 4   | 0  | 4   | 15  |
| Rajasthan           | 35   | 0  | 3  | 6   | 3  | 12  | 47  | 15  | 18 | 33  | 80  |
| Uttar Pradesh       | 52   | 2  | 20 | 20  | 3  | 45  | 97  | 28  | 0  | 28  | 125 |
| Uttaranchal         | 54   | 4  | 4  | 1   | 16 | 21  | 2   | 0   | 2  | 23  |     |
| Total               | 269  | 41 | 50 | 145 | 45 | 281 | 550 | 171 | 19 | 190 | 740 |
| Andhra Pradesh      | 35   | 0  | 17 | 4   | 2  | 93  | 128 | 5   | 0  | 5   | 133 |
| Andaman and Nicobar | 1    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 1   |
| Kerala              | 23   | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 23  | 6   | 0  | 6   | 29  |
| Karnataka           | 21   | 0  | 6  | 10  | 0  | 16  | 37  | 9   | 0  | 9   | 46  |
| Tamil Nadu          | 13   | 0  | 5  | 7   | 0  | 12  | 25  | 6   | 0  | 6   | 31  |
| Pondicherry         | 3    | 0  | 0  | 1   | 0  | 1   | 4   | 1   | 0  | 1   | 5   |
| Total               | 96   | 0  | 28 | 92  | 2  | 122 | 218 | 27  | 0  | 27  | 245 |
| Gujarat             | 15   | 2  | 5  | 0   | 0  | 7   | 22  | 10  | 0  | 10  | 32  |
| Maharashtra         | 17   | 2  | 14 | 20  | 6  | 42  | 59  | 5   | 0  | 5   | 64  |

| 1              | 2   | 3  | 4   | 5   | 6  | 7   | 8    | 9   | 10 | 11  | 12   |
|----------------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|------|
| Goa            | 1   | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 1    | 0   | 0  | 0   | 1    |
| Madhya Pradesh | 23  | 1  | 9   | 22  | 4  | 36  | 59   | 6   | 0  | 6   | 65   |
| Chhattisgarh   | 18  | 0  | 5   | 19  | 1  | 25  | 43   | 2   | 11 | 13  | 56   |
| Total          | 74  | 5  | 33  | 61  | 11 | 110 | 184  | 23  | 11 | 34  | 218  |
| Grand Total    | 547 | 56 | 143 | 366 | 87 | 652 | 1199 | 221 | 30 | 251 | 1450 |

**Statement-II**

*The Number of Depots Closed/Hired and Dehired during the Last Three Years*

| Region/U.T.       | During 2004-05 | During 2005-06 | During 2006-07 |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1                 | 2              | 3              | 4              |
| Bihar             | (+2)           | (+4)           | (+3)           |
| Jharkhand         | (+2)           | (+6)           | (-2)           |
| Orissa            | (-3)           | (-4)           | (+9)           |
| West Bengal       | 0              | (-4)           | 0              |
| Sikkim            | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| Total             | (+1)           | (+2)           | (+10)          |
| Assam             | (-3)           | (+1)           | (-2)           |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| Meghalaya         | 0              | (+1)           | 0              |
| Mizoram           | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| Tripura           | (-1)           | 0              | 0              |
| Manipur           | 0              | 0              | (+2)           |
| Nagaland          | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| Total             | (-) 4          | (+2)           | 0              |
| Delhi             | (-1)           | 0              | 0              |
| Haryana           | (-7)           | (+1)           | (-6)           |
| Himachal Pradesh  | 0              | 0              | (+1)           |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 0              | (-1)           | (+8)           |
| Punjab            | (-81)          | (-55)          | (-10)          |
| Chandigarh        | (-3)           | 0              | 0              |
| Rajasthan         | (+2)           | (-2)           | (-2)           |
| Uttar Pradesh     | (-12)          | (-5)           | (-1)           |

| 1                  | 2     | 3     | 4      |
|--------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Uttaranchal        | (+)1  | 0     | (-)5   |
| Total              | (-)81 | (-)62 | (-) 15 |
| Andhra Pradesh     | (+)2  | (-)1  | (+)8   |
| Andman and Nicobar | 0     | 0     | 0      |
| Kerala             | 0     | 0     | 0      |
| Karnataka          | (+)11 | (+)2  | (-)10  |
| Tamil Nadu         | (+)5  | (+)2  | 0      |
| Pondicherry        | (+)2  | 0     | 0      |
| Total              | (+)20 | (+)3  | (-)2   |
| Gujarat            | (+)5  | (-)1  | (+)4   |
| Maharashtra        | (+)8  | 0     | (+)4   |
| Goa                | 0     | 0     | 0      |
| Madhya Pradesh     | (-)15 | (+)4  | (+)6   |
| Chhattisgarh       | (+)13 | (+)19 | (-)11  |
| Total              | (+)11 | (+)22 | (+)3   |
| Grand Total        | (-)53 | (-)33 | (-)4   |

Note: (+) = Hiring  
(-) = Dehiring

**Statement-III**

*The State-wise Storage Capacity and Vacant Space with FCI as on 30.6.2007*

(Fig in Lakh Mts)

| Zone          | Sl. No. | Region/U.T. | Total Capacity | Stocks Held | Vacant Space |
|---------------|---------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Covered & Cap |         |             |                |             |              |
| 1             | 2       | 3           | 4              | 5           | 6            |
| East          | 1       | Bihar       | 5.30           | 2.69        | 2.61         |
|               | 2       | Jharkhand   | 1.20           | 0.66        | 0.54         |

| 1     | 2               | 3                   | 4      | 5     | 6     |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------|--------|-------|-------|
|       | 3               | Orissa              | 6.73   | 4.88  | 1.85  |
|       | 4               | West Bengal         | 10.01  | 5.43  | 4.58  |
|       | 5               | Sikkim              | 0.11   | 0.10  | 0.01  |
|       | Total (E. Zone) |                     | 23.35  | 13.76 | 9.59  |
| N.E.  | 6               | Assam               | 2.61   | 2.11  | 0.50  |
|       | 7               | Arunachal Pradesh   | 0.18   | 0.12  | 0.06  |
|       | 8               | Meghalaya           | 0.29   | 0.28  | 0.03  |
|       | 9               | Mizoram             | 0.18   | 0.06  | 0.12  |
|       | 10              | Tripura             | 0.40   | 0.30  | 0.10  |
|       | 11              | Manipur             | 0.22   | 0.18  | 0.04  |
|       | 12              | Nagaland            | 0.34   | 0.30  | 0.04  |
|       | Total (N.E.Z)   |                     | 4.22   | 3.33  | 0.89  |
| North | 13              | Delhi               | 3.70   | 2.07  | 1.63  |
|       | 14              | Haryana             | 22.02  | 18.71 | 3.31  |
|       | 15              | Himachal Pradesh    | 0.27   | 0.19  | 0.08  |
|       | 16              | Jammu & Kashmir     | 1.25   | 0.88  | 0.37  |
|       | 17              | Punjab              | 64.97  | 38.30 | 26.67 |
|       | 18              | Chandigarh          | 1.10   | 0.76  | 0.34  |
|       | 19              | Rajasthan           | 10.91  | 5.31  | 5.60  |
|       | 20              | Uttar Pradesh       | 26.06  | 12.10 | 13.96 |
|       | 21              | Uttaranchal         | 1.61   | 1.12  | 0.49  |
|       | Total (N.Z.)    |                     | 131.89 | 79.44 | 52.45 |
| South | 22              | Andhra Pradesh      | 33.68  | 26.22 | 7.46  |
|       | 23              | Andaman and Nicobar | 0.07   | 0.04  | 0.03  |
|       | 23              | Kerala              | 5.33   | 2.68  | 2.65  |
|       | 24              | Karnataka           | 5.83   | 3.18  | 2.65  |
|       | 25              | Tamil Nadu          | 7.33   | 4.94  | 2.39  |
|       | 26              | Pondicherry         | 0.53   | 0.27  | 0.26  |
|       | Total (S.Z.)    |                     | 52.77  | 37.33 | 15.44 |
| West  | 27              | Gujarat             | 6.24   | 3.97  | 2.27  |
|       | 28              | Maharashtra         | 16.19  | 6.87  | 9.32  |
|       | 29              | Goa                 | 0.15   | 0.14  | 0.01  |

| 1 | 2            | 3              | 4      | 5      | 6     |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------|--------|-------|
|   | 30           | Madhya Pradesh | 5.55   | 3.77   | 1.78  |
|   | 31           | Chhatisgarh    | 7.18   | 5.71   | 1.47  |
|   | Total (W.Z.) |                | 35.31  | 20.46  | 14.85 |
|   | Grand Total  |                | 247.54 | 154.32 | 93.22 |

[English]

### Agricultural Policy

1080. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive Agriculture Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to prepare a special economic package for farmers;

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

(e) whether Central team is expected to tour six States in order to make an assessment of the working of policies at the grassroot level; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India had formulated a National Agriculture Policy in 2000. To realize the objectives pronounced in the Policy, the Government have taken a number of initiatives to improve the agriculture sector and its growth. These, inter-alia, include the announcement of credit policy which envisaged doubling of the credit to the agriculture sector by 2007. Further, from Kharif 2006-07, farmers are being provided crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh at 7% rate of interest. The Government has worked out and announced a package for revival of cooperative credit structure. A major effort has been initiated for diversification of agriculture. National Horticulture Mission has been put in place for ensuring end-to-end approach with backward and forward linkages, covering research, post harvest management, processing and marketing. Other initiatives taken by Government include expanding the area under irrigation, unproved water management with watershed development and rain water harvesting and establishment of National Rain-fed Area Authority.

(c) to (f) In pursuance of the resolutions adopted in the 53rd meeting of the National Development Council on agriculture and related issues, the Government of India has

approved two schemes for implementation, namely (i) National Food Security Mission (ii) Additional Central Assistance for growth and development of agriculture sector. Presently there is no proposal under consideration of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to depute any Central team to make an assessment of Policies at the grassroots level.

[Translation]

### Checks on SMS Manipulation

1081. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Enquiry Committee to keep a check on the manipulation being done in the SMS's;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Enquiry Committee has recommended any penal action against those misusing the techniques of SMSs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was brought to the notice of the Department of Telecommunications that in case of SMS the telephone number of a person was displayed who had not sent the message. The Government had constituted a Committee which examined the following issues:

- (i) To determine how such misuse of technology is possible.
- (ii) Measures to prevent misuse of technology while allowing normal SMS service.
- (iii) Role of telecom service provider.
- (iv) Any other issues the members of the Committee may consider necessary to be considered by the Committee.

The Report has been finalized and approved by the competent authority. The salient points of the recommendations contained in the report are as follows:

- (i) Blocking of level +91 i.e. the SMSs received from foreign networks do not have 'A' party address starting with +91.
- (ii) Access Control Mechanism i.e. the access to applications/content providers to the Short Message Service

Center (SMSC) of the service providers, if provided over the internet, to be given using strict access control mechanism.

(iii) Service providers/DoT to be vigilant in responding to such complaints.

(iv) Blocking of internet sites.

(c) to (e) Using of somebody else's identity, such as telephone number while communicating, amounts to impersonification and forgery, which is a criminal offence and the person is liable for penal action. The concerned internet sites have been blocked.

### Promotion of Rural Industry Products

1082. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for promoting the sales of products from Rural Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether subsidy is being given by the Government on products of Rural Industries;

(d) if so, the percentage of sales promotion achieved as a result thereof, State-wise/product-wise;

(e) whether any scheme/plan has been developed for promoting competitiveness of Cottage and Rural Industries in the International market; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) continues its sales promotion endeavour for village industry products under its ambit through its departmentally run 12 sales outlets and by conducting exhibitions/fairs. It provides financial assistance for organizing District/State/Zonal and National level exhibitions, besides financing special exhibitions/events being organized on various special occasions. During 2006-07, 106 such exhibitions were organized in various parts of the country. The pattern of financial assistance for organizing exhibitions is given below:

| Type of Exhibitions        | Maximum financial assistance provided per exhibition (Rs. lakh) |
|----------------------------|---|
| National level Exhibitions | 40.00   |
| Zonal level Exhibitions    | 25.00   |
| State Level Exhibitions    | 10.00   |
| District level Exhibitions | 2.50  |

Details of the exhibitions organized as well as sales generated during 2006-07 are as under:

| Nature of Exhibitions      | Number of Exhibitions | Sales (Rs. lakh) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| National level Exhibitions | 3                     | 1,274.93         |
| State level Exhibitions    | 18                    | 1,770.68         |
| District level Exhibitions | 80                    | 1,521.10         |
| Special Exhibitions/Events | 5                     | 48.31            |
| Total                      | 106                   | 4, 615.02        |

(c) No, Sir. Subsidy is not given on village industry products promoted by KVIC.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, to strengthen the Khadi and Village industries (KVI) and to make them competitive in the global economy, Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been implementing schemes like Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) providing subsidised rates of interest on bank loans, Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improving designs and packaging of KVI products, and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through KVIC for setting up village industries by providing subsidy in the form of margin money. Assistance is also provided to KVI units to participate in exhibitions at the national, sub-national levels to assist marketing of KVI products. These facilities are available to all eligible cottage and rural industries. Further, the Government has launched the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) in 34 khadi, 62 village and 26 coir industry clusters for five years beginning 2005-06. SFURTI envisages assistance for setting up of common facility centres, quality improvement, training and capacity building, development of new products, improved packaging, new design, market promotion, etc.

#### **Vermicompost and Organic Manure**

1083. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the waste material generated in urban and rural areas is used for preparing vermicompost and other organic manure;

(b) whether the waste material generated in urban and rural areas of Bihar and Jharkhand is also being used for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to encourage this so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Authentic data is not available on percentage of the waste material generated in urban and rural areas being used for preparing vermicompost and other organic manure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For encouraging use of vermicompost and other organic manure, financial assistance is being provided under "National Project on Organic Farming" and "National Horticulture Mission" in all States including Bihar and Jharkhand.

[English]

#### **Poultry Industry**

1084. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Poultry Industry has requested the Government to take immediate precautions so that the exports are not affected due to a single stray incidence of avian flu in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government proposes to create zones within the national boundaries on the lines of China and Malaysia;

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

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to save the Poultry Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) All India Poultry Breeders Association has requested the Government for a joint meeting of different stakeholders to evolve a strategy for the remedial measures to be adopted by the industry and trade to meet the emergencies in the event of a single stray incidence of Avian Influenza in the country. The Government has constituted an Expert Committee involving the State Governments, technical experts and representatives of the poultry industry to examine this request.

(e) The remedial steps taken by the Government are as follows:

1. Compensation: The Government of India shares cost of compensation for culled birds and destruction of feed and feed materials. In the 2006 outbreaks, an expenditure of Rs.785.12 lakhs has been indicated by

the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on compensation for poultry and feed of which 50% is central share. During the recent outbreak in Manipur more than Rs.94.00 lakhs was paid as compensation for culled poultry.

2. Package for poultry industry after the 2006 outbreaks is given in the enclosed statement.
3. Control and containment was initiated in Manipur immediately so that country can claim freedom from Avian Influenza at the earliest.

#### **Statement**

##### **Relief measures taken by the Government**

The following relief measures are taken by the Government to save the poultry industry:

##### **1. Financial relief extended by the Government to poultry industry:**

(A) In the wake of the distress caused to the poultry sector due to loss in income resulting from reduced demand and prices of poultry products spurned by isolated incidences of bird flu in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in 2006, the Government announced a number of financial measures for poultry units, which are as follows:

- (i) A moratorium of one year on repayment of existing principal and interest for term loans and working capital due to all scheduled banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks.
- (ii) Conversion of working capital into term loan. The first year of repayment would be after the expiry of moratorium period.
- (iii) Re-scheduling of term loans availed by poultry units over an additional period of two years from the agreed tenor of the term loan.
- (iv) After conversion of working capital into term loan, poultry units may be permitted to draw additional working capital depending on the commercial viability of each unit.
- (v) Barring willful defaulters, RBI is requested not to treat defaulted accounts as NPAS.
- (vi) Grant of one time interest subvention of 4% for a period of one year on the outstanding principal amount as on 31.03.2006 (not including any part of the principal amount that has become overdue).

(B) The Reserve Bank of India issued necessary instructions in this regard to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks on 4th April 2006. So far as

the Cooperative Banks, State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks and Regional Rural Banks are concerned, necessary guidelines towards implementation of the aforesaid relief measures were issued by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development on 5th April 2006.

(C) The Government has also given an amount of Rs. 107.00 crores so far to the Reserve Bank of India for implementation of interest subvention granted to all poultry units.

##### **2. Other relief measures taken by the Government:**

- i) In order to provide further relief to the poultry industry due to inadequate availability/ availability at a high price of maize in the market, the Govt. released 41 lakh quintals of maize at the subsidized rate of Rs.450 per quintal from the stock held with the FCI to Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for distribution to poultry farmers between August 2006 to March 2007.
- ii) The Govt. has permitted import of maize under OGL at zero duty upto 31.12.2007.

##### **Kabini Project of Karnataka**

1085. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka is persistently demanding to the Union Government of early completion of Kabini Project; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No such demand has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

##### **Investment by Vodaphone Company**

1086. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether Vodaphone, a British Telecom Company has any proposal to invest Rs. 200 crores in India to establish



itself in the Indian market by introducing cheap mobile handsets; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no information with the Government in this regard.

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

[English]

#### **Sale of Tickets by Postal Department**

1087. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has any proposal to sell the tickets of some private and Government owned airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the revenue likely to be generated through this project;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extended the scheme; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts is selling the air tickets of Deccan Aviation Limited in Karnataka Postal Circle.

(b) The scheme of selling air tickets of Deccan Aviation Limited through 511 e-enabled post offices in Karnataka Postal Circle has been started with effect from 2nd July, 2007. This is a pilot project which has been implemented in select post offices of Karnataka Circle. As such it would be too early to assess lie revenue likely to be generated through the initiative.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to extend the scheme at present.

#### **Building of Overseas Foodgrain Stocks**

1088. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to build up foodgrain stocks abroad on the lines of oil acreages held abroad by Indian Oil Companies; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRI-BUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir, the Government has not taken any decision to build foodgrain stocks abroad.

#### **Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee**

1089. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) requesting for the amendment of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 in connection with the farm products;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which these amendments are likely to take place;

(e) whether FICCI has also given suggestions with regard to private markets, contract farming and proper taxation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRI-BUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Agricultural produce Marketing Committee (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 is not a statute and it is only a Model Act formulated by this Department for giving guidance to the State Governments for amending their Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) Acts to implement reforms in the agricultural marketing sector. The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has not made any proposal to amend the above said Model Act.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

(e) and (f) FICCI has, in their Task Force Report entitled "Indian Agriculture Unbound: Making Indian Agriculture Globally Competitive", recommended for facilitating and encouraging setting up of private agricultural markets, contract farming and rationalization of various kinds of taxes relating to the agricultural marketing. Based on the Report of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agricultural Marketing Reforms, the Central Government has already formulated a Model APMC Act and circulated to the States in 2003 for making amendments in States' APMC Acts for permitting setting up of private markets, facilitating contract farming and making provisions for exemption of market fee in relevant cases. Many

State Governments have already made suitable amendments in their APMC Acts in this regard.

### **Persons Registered in Employment Exchanges**

1090. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employment exchanges functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the name of trades and the number of educated/uneducated persons/youth including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes registered thereunder with each exchange during each of the last three years and thereafter till date, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) the total number of persons/youth benefited therefrom during the said period, employment exchange-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(d) the reasons for the unemployed youths not getting

jobs despite registering themselves with the employment exchange long back; and

(e) the time on an average by which a person registered with the employment exchange is likely to get a job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) State wise number of Employment Exchanges including University Information and Guidance Bureau functioning in the country as on 31st July 2007 and number of job-seekers registered with Employment Exchanges for the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) State-wise placement of persons/youth effected through the Employment Exchanges for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) and (e) Employment Exchanges perform the role of a facilitator between the employers and registered job seekers and do not create any job opportunities. The Employment Exchanges, however, make submissions of registered job seekers against the vacancies notified to them by the employers. It is, therefore, not feasible to prescribe time limit for placement of registered job seekers, by the Employment Exchanges.

### **Statement-I**

#### **State-wise number of Employment Exchanges and jobseekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges**

(In thousand)

| Sl.No. | State/UT          | Employment Exchanges/<br>UEIGBS as on 1st July 2007<br>(In Actual Numbers) | 2004   | 2005   | 2006   |
|--------|-------------------|--|--------|--------|--------|
| 1      | 2                 | 3  | 4      | 5      | 6      |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh    | 31   | 2531.8 | 2427.6 | 2418.6 |
| 2      | Arunachal Pradesh | 11   | 22.6   | 25.1   | 30.2   |
| 3      | Assam             | 52   | 1632.0 | 1760.8 | 1843.2 |
| 4      | Bihar             | 37   | 1567.3 | 1461.8 | 1747.1 |
| 5      | Chhattisgarh      | 17   | 901.9  | 988.5  | 1050.9 |
| 6      | Delhi             | 14   | 636.2  | 671.4  | 556.9  |
| 7      | Goa               | 01   | 100.7  | 100.8  | 101.8  |
| 8      | Gujarat           | 44   | 926.8  | 854.6  | 801.5  |
| 9      | Haryana           | 61   | 932.4  | 1064.7 | 1120.4 |
| 10     | Himachal Pradesh  | 15   | 869.8  | 911.3  | 766.0  |
| 11     | Jammu and Kashmir | 14   | 112.4  | 116.0  | 105.6  |
| 12     | Jharkhand         | 39   | 1393.8 | 1208.9 | 1254.2 |
| 13     | Karnataka         | 37   | 1568.0 | 1318.3 | 1143.5 |

| 1                            | 2                           | 3          | 4              | 5              | 6              |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 14                           | Kerala                      | 89         | 3752.4         | 3628.6         | 3777.3         |
| 15                           | Madhya Pradesh              | 58         | 2030.8         | 2160.9         | 2006.1         |
| 16                           | Maharashtra                 | 47         | 4391.1         | 3991.8         | 3652.2         |
| 17                           | Manipur                     | 11         | 457.7          | 532.3          | 579.9          |
| 18                           | Meghalaya                   | 12         | 37.3           | 38.0           | 32.1           |
| 19                           | Mizoram                     | 03         | 34.9           | 34.4           | 44.9           |
| 20                           | Nagaland                    | 08         | 44.0           | 44.3           | 42.6           |
| 21                           | Orissa                      | 40         | 857.0          | 833.2          | 891.3          |
| 22                           | Punjab                      | 46         | 477.3          | 463.1          | 454.3          |
| 23                           | Rajasthan                   | 42         | 794.1          | 793.6          | 779.6          |
| 24                           | Sikkim*                     |            |                |                |                |
| 25                           | Tamil Nadu                  | 34         | 4506.5         | 3681.2         | 4258.8         |
| 26                           | Tripura                     | 05         | 377.9          | 399.7          | 427.2          |
| 27                           | Uttaranchal                 | 24         | 312.7          | 378.9          | 484.1          |
| 28                           | Uttar Pradesh               | 90         | 1897.7         | 1871.3         | 3110.6         |
| 29                           | West Bengal                 | 75         | 6996.2         | 7291.9         | 7702.3         |
| <b>(B) Union Territories</b> |                             |            |                |                |                |
| 30                           | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 01         | 38.6           | 39.0           | 40.0           |
| 31                           | Chandigarh                  | 02         | 64.6           | 56.0           | 52.0           |
| 32                           | Dadar and Nagar Haveli      | 01         | 6.5            | 6.5            | 6.5            |
| 33                           | Daman and Diu               | 02         | 9.9            | 10.6           | 10.9           |
| 34                           | Lakshadweep                 | 01         | 11.1           | 11.2           | 11.2           |
| 35                           | Pondicherry                 | 01         | 163.7          | 171.4          | 182.2          |
| <b>Total</b>                 |                             | <b>965</b> | <b>40457.6</b> | <b>39347.8</b> | <b>41466.0</b> |

**Note:**

\* No Employment Exchange is Functioning in this State.

Total May not tally due to rounding off.

**Statement-II****State-wise Number of Placement effected during**

(In thousand)

| State/UT          | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|
| 1                 | 2    | 3    | 4    |
| Andhra Pradesh    | 2.4  | 1.7  | 0.9  |
| Arunachal Pradesh | @    | @    | @    |

| 1            | 2    | 3    | 4    |
|--------------|------|------|------|
| Assam        | 0.2  | 0.4  | 1.1  |
| Bihar        | 0.1  | @    | 0.1  |
| Chhattisgarh | 0.9  | 2.2  | 2.5  |
| Delhi        | 0.3  | 0.1  | 0.2  |
| Goa          | 0.2  | 0.3  | 0.6  |
| Gujarat      | 64.9 | 92.9 | 99.0 |
| Haryana      | 3.4  | 3.5  | 3.1  |

| 1                           | 2     | 3     | 4     |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Himachal Pradesh            | 1.0   | 1.7   | 1.8   |
| Jammu and Kashmir           | -     | @     | -     |
| Jharkhand                   | 0.7   | 2.7   | 1.6   |
| Karnataka                   | 1.6   | 1.7   | 2.3   |
| Kerala                      | 7.5   | 9.7   | 10.0  |
| Madhya Pradesh              | 1.6   | 1.7   | 1.9   |
| Maharashtra                 | 12.8  | 15.0  | 13.9  |
| Manipur                     | -     | 0.3   | 0.1   |
| Meghalaya                   | @     | @     | @     |
| Mizoram                     | @     | -     | @     |
| Nagaland                    | @     | @     | @     |
| Orissa                      | 1.3   | 2.0   | 1.0   |
| Punjab                      | 2.7   | 2.1   | 3.3   |
| Rajasthan                   | 3.4   | 7.7   | 4.1   |
| Sikkim *                    |       |       |       |
| Tamil Nadu                  | 13.2  | 15.3  | 9.7   |
| Tripura                     | 0.3   | 0.2   | 0.4   |
| Uttaranchal                 | 1.5   | 2.1   | 3.1   |
| Uttar Pradesh               | 1.7   | 1.6   | 1.7   |
| West Bengal                 | 10.1  | 7.3   | 13.1  |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0.1   | 0.1   | 0.3   |
| Chandigarh                  | 0.3   | 0.2   | 0.3   |
| Dadar and Nagar Haveli      | @     | -     | -     |
| Daman and Diu               | @     | @     | @     |
| Lakshadweep                 | @     | -     | -     |
| Pondicherry                 | 0.3   | 0.7   | 0.7   |
| Total                       | 132.6 | 173.2 | 177.0 |

Note: @ Figures less than 50.

\* No exchange is working in the State.

Total may not tally due to rounding off.

#### Representation of Armed Forces in Sixth Pay Commission

1091. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no nominee representing the Armed Forces in the Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons for denying representation to the Armed Forces in the Pay Commission; and

(c) the steps taken to assimilate the views and experiences of the Armed Forces in the said Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Defence had made a request to the Ministry of Finance and Sixth Central Pay Commission to appoint a person with Service background in the Sixth Central Pay Commission. Ministry of Finance observed that the Members of the Pay Commission do not represent any particular service or organisation but would be working on various issues concerning the overall service conditions of the Central Government employees. The Sixth Central Pay Commission also felt that Armed Forces would be given full opportunity to place their views before the Commission and therefore, it will not be necessary to have a representative of the Armed Forces in the Commission.

(c) The three Services have been permitted to have direct interaction with the Pay Commission. The three Service Chiefs and representatives of Ministry of Defence also had a discussion with the Sixth Central Pay Commission on 19.04.2007 wherein the issues concerning the Services were also raised. The Services have submitted a Joint Memorandum to the Commission projecting their demands and aspirations. The representatives of the Services and Ministry of Defence are regularly interacting with the Pay Commission on specific issues.

[Translation]

#### Optimum Utilisation of Godowns

1092. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns under Food Corporation of India (FCI) alongwith their capacity as on date;

(b) the total quantity and value of foodgrains transacted from the said godowns during the last year;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains stored in open godowns during the said period;

(d) the amount of foodgrains out of the above that perished during last three years;

(e) whether Food Corporation of India has failed to make optimum utilisation of its godowns;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken for optimum utilisation of the godowns by FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 1st July, 2007, the Food Corporation of India is operating 1450 godowns (owned & hired /covered/CAP) with a total storage capacity of 247.54 lakh MTs.

(b) The total quantity and value of foodgrains transacted by FCI during the year 2005-06 are as under:-

|           | Quantity in millions tonnes |           |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
|           | Value in Rs. Crore          |           |
|           | Quantity                    | Value     |
| Purchases | 35.29                       | 34,452.33 |
| Sale      | 36.04                       | 22,740.92 |

Note: Value of Purchases & Sales are at actual rates paid/realised.

(c) A total quantity of 5.71 lakh tonnes is stored in Covered and Plinth (CAP) storage against the CAP capacity of 25.20 lakh tonnes as on 30.06.2007.

(d) The details of the foodgrains damaged during the last three years are as under:-

| Figures in Lakh Tonnes |                  |      |       |
|------------------------|------------------|------|-------|
| Year                   | Quantity Damaged |      | Total |
|                        | Wheat            | Rice |       |
| 2004-05                | 0.12             | 0.85 | 0.97  |
| 2005-06                | 0.15             | 0.80 | 0.95  |
| 2006-07                | 0.01             | 0.24 | 0.25  |

(Wheat is stored in Open also and Rice is stored in covered godowns only)

(e) and (f) The optimum utilization of FCI godowns depends upon the pace of procurement and offtake of foodgrains under the TPDS and other Welfare Schemes of the Government.

Due to heavy procurement of wheat in the years 1998-99 to 2005-06, FCI started facing problem of shortage of storage capacity. In order to ensure smooth procurement and safe storage of foodgrains, FCI had to hire additional storage capacity. The total capacity went up from 25.5 million tonnes during 1999-2000 to 35.9 million tonnes in 2001-02.

However, owing to drop in procurement of wheat in RMS 2006-07 and increased offtake in TPDS and other Welfare Schemes from 2002-03 onwards, stock level of Central Pool have depleted causing under-utilization of the storage capacity held by FCI. On periodic review, the capacity considered surplus has been de-hired by FCI. The total storage capacity with the FCI has been reduced from 314.26 lakh MTs on 31.3.2001 to 247.54 lakh MTs as on 30.6.2007.

(g) The following steps have been taken for optimum utilization of capacity:-

- Monthly review is taken by Executive Director (Zones) of FCI and the capacity found surplus is de-hired;
- Surplus storage capacity with FCI is being rented out to prospective users.

#### Water Level in Rivers

1093. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Water level of the rivers is gradually decreasing;

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

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to tackle the problems created as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The analysis of average annual flow data does not indicate falling trend in the water level of the rivers.

[English]

#### Schemes for Small Scale Sector

1094. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major schemes and programmes which have been implemented for the welfare and development of Small Scale Sector;

(b) the funds allocated, released and utilized under the said schemes and programmes during each of the last three years, State-wise, schemes and programmes-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made any study regarding problems faced by the women and child associated with Small Scale Sector; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises implements several schemes for the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises including khadi, village and coir industries. The schemes/ programmes implemented by Ministry of Small Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries during the X Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07), which have been recommended for continuation during the XI Plan period are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The details of some of the major schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) The details of the funds allocated, released and utilized under the scheme and programmes during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-III. The Ministry Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises does not allocate funds State-wise for most of the schemes/programmes, which are demand-driven.

(c) and (d) Although, it is difficult to empirically assess the specific issues concerning the problems faced by women and children that may be associated directly or indirectly with the MSME sector, yet appreciating the requirement for promoting the cause of women entrepreneurs, the Government has announced a slew of measures for supporting enterprises owned or managed by women in the Package for promotion of micro and small enterprises in February/ March, 2007. These measures include, inter alia, commencing exclusive EDPs/ESDPs, offering Government of India assistance upto 90% of the project cost for setting up of clusters developed exclusively for women owned enterprises, establishing exhibition centers, offering 80% guarantee over for all eligible loans sought by women owned micro and small enterprises, 50% concession in fee for management development programmes and facilitating their participation in 25 international exhibitions for marketing facilitation, etc.

#### **Statement-I**

S.No. Schemes/Programmes implemented in X Plan and proposed for continuation during the XI Plan

| 1          | 2                                |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>(A)</b> |                                  |
| <b>I</b>   | <b>Small Scale Industries</b>    |
| 1.         | SISIs                            |
| 2.         | Upgradation of Workshops to MTRs |
| 3.         | Advertising & Publicity          |
| 4.         | Laghu Udyog Samachar             |
| 5.         | SENET Project                    |

| 1          | 2   |
|------------|---|
| <b>II</b>  | <b>Research Institutions</b>                          |
| 1.         | ESTC, Ram Nagar.                                      |
| 2.         | NGTC, Firozabad.                                      |
| 3.         | PPDC, Meerut  |
| 4.         | PPDC, Agra  |
| 5.         | PPDC, Kannauj   |
| 6.         | IDEMI, Mumbai   |
| 7.         | CITD, Hyderabad                                       |
| <b>III</b> | <b>Training Institutions &amp; Training Programme</b> |
| 1.         | CFTI, Chennai   |
| 2.         | CFTI, Agra  |
| 3.         | MDP   |
| 4.         | SIDO Officers Trg. Prog                               |
| 5.         | EDP   |
| 6.         | WTO   |
| 7.         | IPR   |
| 8.         | National Award (EDP)                                  |
| 9.         | TREAD   |
| <b>IV</b>  | <b>Ancillary Development</b>                          |
| 1.         | Vendor Development Programme for Ancillarisation      |
| <b>V</b>   | <b>Tool Rooms</b>                                     |
| 1.         | CTR & TC, Kolkatta                                    |
| 2.         | CTR, Ludhiana   |
| 3.         | IGTR, Ahmedabad                                       |
| 4.         | IGTR, Aurangabad                                      |
| 5.         | IGTR, Indore  |
| 6.         | CTR & TC, Bhubneshwar                                 |
| 7.         | IDTR, Jamshedpur                                      |
| 8.         | HTI, Jalandhar  |
| 9.         | HTI, Nagaur   |
| 10.        | Technical Trg. Centre, Guwahati                       |
| <b>VI</b>  | <b>Marketing Assistance &amp; E P</b>                 |
| 1.         | Publicity & Exhibition                                |
| 2.         | Export Promotion                                      |

| 1                    | 2  |
|----------------------|--|
| 3.                   | National Awards (Quality)  |
| 4.                   | MDA Scheme   |
| <b>VII</b>           | <b>Testing Centres</b>   |
| 1.                   | RTCs   |
| 2.                   | FTSs   |
| <b>VIII</b>          | <b>Technology Upgradation</b>  |
| 1.                   | Small Industry Cluster Development Programme   |
| 2.                   | ISO 9000 Reimbursement   |
| 3.                   | Modn. of SIDO Workshops  |
| 4.                   | Energy Conservation Programme  |
| <b>IX</b>            | <b>IID Scheme (subsumed in Small Industry Cluster Development Programme now known as Micro &amp; Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSECDP))</b> |
| <b>X</b>             | <b>Collection of Statistics</b>  |
| <b>XI</b>            | <b>Credit Guarantee Scheme for SSI Sector</b>  |
| <b>XII</b>           | <b>Credit Linked Cap. Subsidy Scheme</b>   |
| <b>XIII</b>          | <b>Package for promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises</b>  |
| <b>NSIC</b>          |  |
| I                    | Other Grants   |
| II                   | Marketing Assistance Scheme  |
| <b>Other Schemes</b> |  |
| I                    | Surveys, Studies & Policy Research   |
| II                   | International Cooperation  |
| <b>III</b>           | <b>Training Institutions</b>   |
| 1.                   | NISIET, Hyderabad  |
| 2.                   | NIESBUD, Noida   |
| 3.                   | Assistance to EDIs   |
| 4.                   | IIE, Guwahati (NE Region)  |
| 5.                   | NCEUS  |
| <b>I</b>             | <b>National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganised sector</b>  |
| <b>(B)</b>           | <b>I KVIC</b>  |
| <b>A</b>             | <b>Khadi</b>   |
| 1.                   | Khadi Grant including MDA for Khadi (Rs.10.00 crore)   |
| 2.                   | Khadi (S&T)  |

| 1          | 2   |
|------------|---|
| 3.         | Interest Subsidy (Khadi)  |
| 4.         | Khadi Loan  |
| <b>B</b>   | <b>Village Industries</b>   |
| 1.         | VI Grant  |
| 2.         | VI Grant (S&T)  |
| 3.         | VI Loan   |
| 4.         | Interest Subsidy (VI)   |
| 5.         | REGP  |
| <b>II</b>  | <b>Coir Board</b>   |
| 1.         | Plan (S&T)  |
| 2.         | Plan (General)  |
| 3.         | Training Extension, Quality Improvement                                   |
| 4.         | Mahila Coir Yojana* & Welfare Measures                                    |
| <b>III</b> | <b>PMRY Division, PMRY (Modified)</b>                                     |
| 1.         | PMRY subsidy  |
| 2.         | Subsidy EDP   |
| <b>IV</b>  | <b>Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)</b> |

#### **Statement-II**

*The details of some of the Major Plan Schemes/ Programmes implementation by M/O MSME*

- Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme**  
 This scheme provides guarantee cover upto 75% of the collateral free credit (term-loan and working capital loan) extended by banks and financial institutions to new and existing Micro and Small Enterprises on loans upto Rs.50 lakh. The scheme is administered by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSECDP)**  
 This programme aims at holistic development of industrial clusters, i.e., agglomerations of Micro and Small Enterprises producing the same or similar types' of products in a specific geographical area. The development needs of such clusters are identified through a diagnostic study. Action plan is prepared for development of the cluster in respect of the felt needs in areas like technological upgradation, marketing and export promotion, skill development, establishment of common facility centre, etc.

**3. Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation**

Under the Scheme, 15 per cent capital subsidy is granted on loans upto Rs.1 crore for technology upgradation.. The scheme is meant for technology upgradation of micro and small enterprises including khadi, village and coir enterprises.

**4. Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)**

Under the REGP, entrepreneurs can establish village industries in rural areas and small towns with a population upto 20,000 by availing of margin money from KVIC and loan from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, co-operative banks, etc. for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

**5. Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)**

Under PMRY, assistance is provided to educated unemployed youth in setting-up their ventures all over the country. Under PMRY, all economically viable activities are permissible including agriculture and allied activities, but excluding direct agricultural operations like raising crops, purchase of manure, etc.

**6. ISO 9000/ISO 14001 Certification Reimbursement Scheme**

Cost of obtaining ISO 9000 Certification by of micro and small enterprises is reimbursed to the extent of 75% or Rs.75,000, whichever is lower. The objective of the scheme is to improve the marketability of the SSI products by enhancing their quality.

**7. Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme**

EDPs/MDPs are conducted with a view to enable the unemployed youth to acquire requisite skills so as to be self-employed. 22.5% of the seats in the courses are reserved in favour of the weaker sections of the society.

**8. Mahila Coir Yojana**

Under the Mahila Coir Yojana Scheme of the Coir Board, rural women in the State are provided training on spinning coir yarn with stipend. On completion of training, financial assistance is given to successful trainees for procurement of spinning rats. The training is provided through self-help groups, non-governmental organizations and State Government agencies.

**Statement-III**

*The Allocation, Release and Utilisation of Funds of M/o MSME Plan Schemes during the year 2004-05; 2005-06 and 2006-07*

(Rs. Crore)

| S.No. | Name of Schemes/<br>Programmes                    | BE<br>2004-05 | Released /Utilised<br>2004-05 | BE<br>2005-06 | Released /Utilised<br>2005-06 | BE<br>2006-07 | Released /Utilised<br>2006-07 |
|-------|---|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1     | 2   | 3             | 4                             | 5             | 6                             | 7             | 8                             |
| I     | Promotion of Small Scale Industries               | 14.73         | 13.64                         | 14.66         | 13.09                         | 15.09         | 11.95                         |
| II    | Science, Technology Research & Development        | 10.43         | 10.39                         | 11.20         | 9.70                          | 16.85         | 16.08                         |
| III   | 1 Training & Manpower Development                 | 6.34          | 4.84                          | 6.76          | 6.09                          | 8.58          | 6.94                          |
|       | 2 TREAD Scheme                                    | 0.50          | 0.26                          | 0.50          | 0.43                          | 1.11          | 0.45                          |
| IV    | Subcontracting Exchange for Ancillary Development | 1.00          | 0.81                          | 1.10          | 1.03                          | 1.20          | 0.91                          |
| V     | Scheme for Tool Rooms                             | 26.85         | 27.24                         | 30.00         | 29.96                         | 29.34         | 28.84                         |
| VI    | Marketing Assistance & E P Scheme                 | 2.32          | 2.02                          | 2.32          | 2.46                          | 2.62          | 2.99                          |



| 1     | 2   | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7     | 8      |
|-------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| VII   | Regional Testing Centres & Field Testing Stations     | 3.55   | 2.40   | 4.05   | 2.54   | 4.05  | 298    |
| VIII  | Technology Upgradation                                | 25.49  | 22.30  | 30.00  | 27.80  | 62.93 | 33.05  |
| IX    | CAD/CAM Centre, Chennai                               | 0.10   | 0.00   | 0.10   | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.00   |
| X     | Integrated Infrastructural Dev. Scheme                | 15.45  | 16.24  | 30.00  | 20.68  | 19.00 | 19.67  |
| XI    | Collection of Statistics                              | 4.40   | 3.24   | 5.00   | 4.38   | 8.75  | 4.73   |
| XII   | 1 Credit Guarantee Scheme for SSI Sector              | 196.29 | 196.29 | 200.00 | 205.90 | 118.1 | 126.10 |
|       | 2 Micro Finance Programme                             | 2.00   | 2.00   | 5.00   | 2.75   | 32.28 | 10.00  |
| XIII  | Credit Linked Cap. Subsidy Scheme                     | 6.10   | 5.40   | 20.00  | 25.88  | 61.81 | 73.64  |
| XIV   | Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises  | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.01   |
| XV    | Investment (Equity Share Capital)                     | 15.00  | 15.00  | 15.00  | 15.00  | 15.00 | 15.00  |
| XVI   | Other grants  | 6.00   | 1.73   | 11.00  | 12.97  | 18.45 | 17.67  |
| XVII  | Marketing Assistance Scheme                           | 9.00   | 7.75   | 11.50  | 9.83   | 9.50  | 10.28  |
| XVIII | Reimbursement of Expenditure of NTSCs- Grants in aids | 10.00  | 9.39   | 4.50   | 4.00   | 2.00  | 2.00   |
| XIX   | Surveys & Studies & Policy research                   | 2.00   | 0.32   | 0.50   | 0.23   | 2.00  | 0.18   |
| XX    | International Cooperation                             | 2.50   | 1.30   | 1.00   | 1.20   | 1.75  | 1.75   |
| XXI   | National Entrepreneurship Development Board (NEDB)    | 0.50   | 0.68   | 0.50   | 0.59   | 1.00  | 1.00   |
| XXII  | Training Institutes (NISNET, NIESBUD, EDI, IIE)       | 5.45   | 6.24   | 4.57   | 4.85   | 5.65  | 5.10   |

| 1                   | 2  | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       |
|---------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| XXIII               | National Commission on Enterprises in the unorganised sector | 0.00    | 1.44    | 3.00    | 2.96    | 32.87   | 5.60    |
| XXIV                | KVIC   | 437.00  | 460.99  | 587.00  | 558.56  | 592.93  | 589.82  |
| XXV                 | Coir Board   | 18.00   | 16.80   | 23.00   | 35.43   | 23.00   | 21.90   |
| XXVI                | PMRY*  | 219.00  | 218.19  | 219.00  | 272.54  | 325.10  | 248.51  |
| XXVII               | SFURTI   | 100.00  | —       | 30.00   | 1.50    | 25.97   | 25.53   |
| G. Total (M/o MSME) |  | 1140.00 | 1046.90 | 1271.26 | 1272.35 | 1436.93 | 1282.68 |

\* It includes NPRI

[Translation]

#### Facilities to Ex-Servicemen

1095. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities provided by the Central Government to the Ex-servicemen have parity but there are disparities in the facilities provided by the different State Governments; and

(b) if so, the detail thereof and the efforts made by the Department of Ex-servicemen in the Ministry of Defence to bring uniformity in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the ex-servicemen, the State Governments have provided different percentages of reservation in re-employment, allotment of house sites and industrial sheds and admission of their wards to educational institutions. Further, old age pension, cash grants to gallantry award winners, financial assistance and War Jāgir Allowance to ex-servicemen also vary from State to State. The Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare has circulated a model welfare package to all state governments requesting them to bring about uniformity in this regard.

[English]

#### More Power to Forward Commission

1096. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has sought more power and autonomy to regulate the commodity futures market;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend Forward Contracts Act of 1952;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of powers and autonomy proposed to be delegated to FMC, for regulating commodity futures market, through proposed amendments; and

(e) the extent to which commodity market is likely to be benefited by such amendments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) In order to strengthen and restructure Forward Markets Commission (FMC), the Government has introduced Forward Contracts (Regulation) Bill, 2006 in Lok Sabha on 21.03.2006. The Bill, inter alia, provides for (i) increase in the number of Members of FMC from four to nine with up to three whole-time Members and a Chairman; (ii) enhancement of the powers of FMC; (iii) conferring power upon FMC to recruit its officers and employees; (iv) conferring power upon FMC to levy fee; (v) creation of FMC General Fund to which all receivables will be credited and (vi) registration of intermediaries with FMC.

(e) The amendments to Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 would strengthen FMC and enable it to regulate the commodity futures market more effectively.

[Translation]

#### Recovery of Loans and Suicide by Farmers

1097. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether these farmers who are unable to repay their agriculture loan have been brought within the ambit of SARFAESI Act;

(b) if so, the time since when they have been covered under the said Act alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Rural Development Banks have also been brought under the ambit of the said Act; and

(d) if so, since when and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the provision of Section 31 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, loans upto Rs. 1 lakh and also the loan where agriculture land is the security have not been brought within the ambit of the SARFAESI Act.

(c) Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) have not been brought within the ambit of SARFAESI Act.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **FDI in Telecom Sector**

1098. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI P.S.GADHAVI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to create a secure network for defence and official requirement while allowing the FDI hike in communications sector as reported in the Financial Express dated July 28, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a High Level Group of Ministers to examine Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Telecommunications Sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which a final decision on investment in Telecom Sector is likely to be taken; and

(f) the extent to which the issue of external and internal security will be addressed by the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A dedicated and secured network is proposed for defence and security related requirement.

(b) The network is for inter-department classified communication. The architecture of the network shall be modular and primarily for voice communication.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

#### **Logistic Post**

1099. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts proposes to tie up with major transport and logistic service providers as reported in the Financial Express dated July 28, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the names of the agency so far consulted in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts proposes to tie up with major transport and logistics service providers as a part of providing end-to-end logistics solutions under Logistics Post. In this regard, Department has called for Expression of Interest. No agency has been consulted for calling the EOI. The last date of receipt of EOI has been fixed as 29th August 2007.

[Translation]

#### **Assistance from World Bank**

1100. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought assistance from the World Bank in order to check the incidents of suicides being committed by the farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Registered/Unregistered SSI Units**

1101. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered and unregistered industrial units which are operating in Small Scale Industries (SSI) sectors in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating any scheme to make registration mandatory for all the Small Scale Industries operating in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) State-wise estimated number of registered and unregistered small scale industrial units operating in the country as on 31st March, 2007 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The erstwhile scheme of SSI Registration, which was non-statutory, has been replaced with Filing of Entrepreneur's Memorandum (EM), as provided in Section 8 of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006. Filing of EM is optional for micro and small enterprises and also for medium service enterprises while it is mandatory for medium manufacturing enterprises. There is no proposal under consideration to make filing of EM by micro and small enterprises compulsory.

**Statement**

*Estimated State-wise Distribution of Small Scale Industries (Both Registered and Unregistered) Functioning as on 31st March, 2007.*

| Sl.No. | Name of State/Union Territory | No. of SSI Units Functioning |              |           |
|--------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
|        |                               | Registered                   | Unregistered | Total     |
| 1      | 2                             | 3                            | 4            | 5         |
| 01.    | Jammu and Kashmir             | 20,782                       | 68,944       | 89,726    |
| 02.    | Himachal Pradesh              | 18,139                       | 77,433       | 95,572    |
| 03.    | Punjab                        | 69,604                       | 372,193      | 441,797   |
| 04.    | Chandigarh                    | 1,536                        | 25,076       | 26,612    |
| 05.    | Uttarakhand                   | 30,268                       | 107,350      | 137,618   |
| 06.    | Haryana                       | 43,945                       | 219,363      | 263,308   |
| 07.    | Delhi                         | 7,676                        | 203,229      | 210,905   |
| 08.    | Rajasthan                     | 65,967                       | 472,761      | 538,728   |
| 09.    | Uttar Pradesh                 | 287,627                      | 1,829,164    | 2,116,791 |
| 10.    | Bihar                         | 74,868                       | 554,641      | 629,509   |
| 11.    | Sikkim                        | 244                          | 230          | 474       |
| 12.    | Arunachal Pradesh             | 469                          | 1,109        | 1,578     |
| 13.    | Nagaland                      | 3,479                        | 15,545       | 19,024    |
| 14.    | Manipur                       | 5,294                        | 51,877       | 57,171    |
| 15.    | Mizoram                       | 4,458                        | 9,877        | 14,335    |
| 16.    | Tripura                       | 1,146                        | 27,995       | 29,141    |
| 17.    | Meghalaya                     | 4,257                        | 24,334       | 28,591    |
| 18.    | Assam                         | 21,837                       | 213,739      | 235,576   |
| 19.    | West Bengal                   | 49,249                       | 871,972      | 921,221   |
| 20.    | Jharkhand                     | 28,468                       | 134,752      | 163,220   |
| 21.    | Orissa                        | 19,815                       | 448,653      | 468,468   |

| 1   | 2                      | 3                | 4                 | 5                 |
|-----|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 22. | Chhattisgarh           | 41,209           | 273,909           | 315,118           |
| 23. | Madhya Pradesh         | 154,439          | 822,542           | 976,981           |
| 24. | Gujarat                | 186,106          | 460,273           | 646,379           |
| 25. | Daman and Diu          | 1,924            | 1,112             | 4,579             |
| 26. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1,543            |                   |                   |
| 27. | Maharashtra            | 134,212          | 855,042           | 989,254           |
| 28. | Andhra Pradesh         | 72,107           | 971,405           | 1,043,512         |
| 29. | Karnataka              | 159,882          | 644,929           | 804,811           |
| 30. | Goa                    | 3,089            | 5,565             | 8,654             |
| 31. | Lakshadweep            | 126              | 549               | 675               |
| 32. | Kerala                 | 197,842          | 344,768           | 542,610           |
| 33. | Tamil Nadu             | 316,518          | 690,166           | 1,006,684         |
| 34. | Pondicherry            | 2,722            | 8,398             | 11,120            |
| 35. | Andaman and Nicobar    | 1,063            | 2,969             | 4,032             |
|     | <b>Total</b>           | <b>2,031,910</b> | <b>10,811,864</b> | <b>12,843,774</b> |

*[Translation]*

**Confrontation between Jawans and  
Civilians during Rail Travel**

1102. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of confrontation between Army jawans and railway passengers during rail travel as well as throwing the passengers out of the trains are taking place;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported to the Government during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) There have been a few isolated incidents of alleged confrontation between Army jawans and railway passengers while traveling in trains. However, there has been no incident of throwing the passengers out of trains by Army jawans.

(b) There have been four, seven and ten incidents of alleged confrontation between Army jawans and other passengers reported during 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

(c) Each and every incident brought to the notice of

the military authorities is investigated expeditiously and exemplary punishment awarded to those found guilty. The following steps have been taken to prevent such incidents:

- (i) Educating troops to plan their movement on leave/ temporary duty well in advance.
- (ii) Optimum utilization of defence departmental quota and military compartments for ensuring travel on reserved berths.
- (iii) Educating troops on Do's and Don'ts during rail travel to maintain proper discipline.
- (iv) Projection of additional defence departmental quota and military compartments and restoration of those discontinued, to the Ministry of Railways.
- (v) Regular monitoring of defence personnel in transit by Military Police.

*[English]*

**Second Report of National Commission  
on Farmers**

1103. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission on Farmers has called for conducting a census on farmers' suicides and in-depth research into its causes and possible remedies in its second report;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith other recommendations made therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Commission on Farmers, in its Second Report, recommended a census of suicides for a proper understanding, assessment of reasons and count of suicides. The Commission made some recommendations needed to prevent farmers' suicides including, inter alia, a corpus for assisting farmers affected by crop losses, reduction of rate of interest on loans, waiver of interest on loans in areas hit by drought and floods, moratorium on debt recovery or staggering the same in easy installments, crop insurance to cover the entire country and all crops, farmers' livelihood security etc.

(c) A Special Rehabilitation Package has already been launched by Government of India for 31 Districts in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala from where high number of farmers' suicides was reported. The package is being implemented over a period of 3 years and includes both immediate and medium term measures and involves a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore. Besides, the Government has taken a number of initiatives to alleviate the problems of the farmers including small and marginal farmers. These, inter alia, include the announcement of a credit policy in the year 2004 to increase the flow of institutional credit to the Agriculture Sector. From Kharif 2006-07, farmers are being provided crop loan up to Rs.3 lakh at reduced rate of 7% per annum. For the smaller borrowers who may not have the necessary assets as collateral, the banks have been advised to waive margin/security requirements for agricultural loans upto Rs.50000/-. The Government has also announced a package for revival of cooperative credit structure. A major effort has been initiated for diversification of agriculture. National Horticulture Mission has been launched since the year 2005 for ensuring end-to-end approach with backward and forward linkages covering research, post harvest management, processing and marketing. Other initiatives taken by Government include expanding the area under irrigation, improved water management with watershed development and rain water harvesting and establishment of National Rain-fed Area Authority.

#### **Investment in Agriculture**

1104. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes an investment plan for the development of Agri-Biotech Sector through Public Private Partnership;

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

(c) the name of the Departments likely to be involved jointly for the development of Agri-Biotech Sector; and

(d) the manner in which farmers will be benefited by such investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A scheme "Small Business Innovation & Research Initiative (SBIRI)" to promote public private participation in various sectors of Biotechnology including agriculture biotechnology for product development and to stimulate technological innovation, has been initiated by the Department of Biotechnology during September, 2005. The development of technologies for agriculture like improved plant varieties is intended to help farmers.

#### **Change in Quality Standards**

1105. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) charges any fees for using its quality standard marks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed for fixing such charges;

(c) whether some amendments have been made by the Government in criteria for fixing and collecting charges for using standard marks by tyre manufacturers;

(d) if so, the details and the reasons for delay in implementation of such amendments;

(e) the amount of loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against the officials responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is operating the Certification Marks Scheme. The fee is levied on a product to meet administrative and the related developmental and surveillance expenses incurred by BIS for rendering the necessary services in relation to certification of product. The criteria for fixing such charges includes cost of market samples, cost of testing and overhead expenses.

(c) No amendment has been made in the said criteria. However, the marking fee for tyre was revised by BIS on 15th June, 1994 which was notified on 27th June, 2005.

(d) The marking Fees revised on 15 June 1994 was informed to all the licensees. Though the revised Marking Fees should have been gazetted as per the BIS Regulations, the same could not be done. The matter remained under deliberation in BIS and a final decision in the matter could only be reached in June 2005 when the rates were finalized and gazetted.

(e) Amount of Rs 1.63 crores mentioned in Para no 4.1 of Report No. 3 of 2007 of CAG is only a notional amount of loss as the revised marking fees was not gazetted and it was not legally possible to recover the dues.

(f) The issue of fixing responsibility was investigated within BIS. It was determined that the collective responsibility rested with the then Head of Central Marks Department-I, the dealing officer and the Section Officer. However, all the delinquent officers have since retired and hence even though the responsibility stands fixed on them, no disciplinary action can be initiated against any of them due to time bar as per CCS (CCA) Rules.

#### Violation of National Emblem

1106. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Jhansi): Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints from Members of Parliament for violation of National Emblem (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1950 against some private educational institutes in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of complaints and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir. The Government has not received any complaint from Members of Parliament for violation of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 against any private educational Institute in Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Violation of Labour Law

1107. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers employed in private sector in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of complaints received and cases registered with Government for violation of Labour Laws by the companies/factories during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such companies/factories during the above period;

(d) whether Labour Inspectors carry out regular inspections of the companies/factories to ensure compliance of Labour Laws;

(e) If not, the number of cases registered and action taken against the errant labour inspectors;

(f) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Tripartite Committee for ensuring proper implementation of Labour Laws;

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating the composition and terms of reference of the said committee; and

(h) the further steps taken by the Government for proper implementation of labour Laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. There is no proposal to constitute a Tripartite Committee for ensuring proper implementation of labour laws.

(h) Whenever violations of labour laws come to notice, either on the basis of complaints or at the time of periodical inspections made by the enforcement officers of the appropriate Government in the State sphere as well as in the Central sphere, action is taken by the appropriate Government concerned as per provisions of the respective enactments.

#### Statement

##### State wise Employment in the Private Organised Sector as on 31.3.2004 and 31.3.2005

| Sl. No. | State/Union Territory | Employment (In thousands)         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|         |                       | As on 31.3.2004<br>Private Sector | As on 31.3.2005<br>Private Sector |
| 1       | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                                 |
| 1.      | Haryana               | 255.5                             | 258.0                             |
| 2.      | Punjab                | 261.4                             | 253.1                             |
| 3.      | Himachal Pradesh      | 49.5                              | 58.9                              |

| 1     | 2                   | 3      | 4      |
|-------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| 4.    | Chandigarh          | 29.1   | 28.5   |
| 5.    | Delhi               | 219.2  | 216.2  |
| 6.    | Rajasthan           | 243.0  | 247.7  |
| 7.    | Jammu and Kashmir   | 10.5   | 10.5   |
| 8.    | Madhya Pradesh      | 158.8  | 155.7  |
| 9.    | Chhattisgarh        | 29.6   | 31.7   |
| 10.   | Uttar Pradesh       | 444.5  | 437.5  |
| 11.   | Uttaranchal         | 36.8   | 37.3   |
| 12.   | Assam               | 572.1  | 580.6  |
| 13.   | Meghalaya           | 9.3    | 9.3    |
| 14.   | Manipur             | 2.7    | 2.7    |
| 15.   | Mizoram             | 1.4    | 1.4    |
| 16.   | Nagaland            | 3.5    | 4.1    |
| 17.   | Tripura             | 12.9   | 12.9   |
| 18.   | Bihar               | 32.5   | 32.5   |
| 19.   | Jharkhand           | 150.3  | 150.3  |
| 20.   | Orissa              | 86.1   | 90.2   |
| 21.   | West Bengal         | 680.7  | 752.4  |
| 22.   | Gujarat             | 803.3  | 861.4  |
| 23.   | Maharashtra         | 1392.3 | 1403.3 |
| 24.   | Goa                 | 24.8   | 41.9   |
| 25.   | Daman and Diu       | 12.5   | 12.5   |
| 26.   | Andhra Pradesh      | 620.7  | 647.0  |
| 27.   | Karnataka           | 753.2  | 802.8  |
| 28.   | Kerala              | 589.6  | 524.9  |
| 29.   | Pondicherry         | 16.2   | 17.6   |
| 30.   | Tamil Nadu          | 741.3  | 765.9  |
| 31.   | Andaman and Nicobar | 2.7    | 2.7    |
| Total |                     | 8246.0 | 8451.8 |

12.00 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we come to Papers to be laid on the Table. Shri Sharad Pawar.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6719/07]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6719A/07]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6720/07]

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6721/07]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:-
- The Apprenticeship (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 430(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2007.
  - The Apprenticeship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 467(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2007.



- (iii) The Apprenticeship (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 488(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6722/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Information Technology (Conditions of Service of the Controller) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 619(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2006, under sub-section (3) of section 87 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6723/07]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Seeds Corporation Limited and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6724/07]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the State Farms Corporation of India and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6725/07]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

- (i) G.S.R.401(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May 2007 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R.112(E)/Ess. Com./Sugarcane dated the 12th February, 2004.

- (ii) G.S.R.402(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May 2007 containing Order regarding fixation of minimum price payable by the owners of the vacuum pan process sugar factory mentioned therein or their agents for the sugar year 2004-2005.

- (iii) G.S.R.403(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May 2007 containing Order regarding fixation of minimum price payable by the owners of the vacuum pan process sugar factory mentioned therein or their agents for the sugar year 2005-2006.

- (iv) G.S.R.404(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May 2007 containing Order regarding fixation of minimum price payable by the owners of the vacuum pan process sugar factory mentioned therein or their agents for the sugar year 2006-2007.

- (v) S.O.1310(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2007 containing Order dispensing with the requirement of obtaining export release order with effect from 31.07.2007, for export of sugar in 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar seasons, that is, upto 30 September, 2008 or till further orders, whichever is earlier, except for export to member countries of European Union and United States.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6726/07]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Food Corporation of India and the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6727/07]

12.02 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

### Thirty-second Report

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Thirty-second Report (Hindi

and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 'The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2006'.

12.2½ hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

### Eighty-third Report

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): I beg to lay on the Table the 83rd Report\* on the Functioning of Special Economic Zones (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce.

12.03 hrs.

### \*\*STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in Eighteenth Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2006-07)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, as per the Direction issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, on 1st September, 2004.

The Eighteenth Report of the Committee concern the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which was laid on the Table of the House on 12.12.2006. I would like to mention that the Ministry had submitted to the Committee, the Action Taken Report on this Report on 29.03.2007, which has been taken note of by the Committee.

The Status of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, contained in the Eighteenth Report, is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, circulated among the hon. Members and also placed in Library. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure.

I would request that this might be considered as read.

\* The report was presented to hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 20th June, 2007, when Rajya Sabha was not in Session and was forwarded to hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha on the same day.

\*\* Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6728/07

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Before I come to Item No. 12, Calling Attention, I have got a request from the hon. Minister, Mr. S. Jaipal Reddy. He requested for postponement of Item No. 20. Shri Suman has got his Statutory Resolution at Item No. 19.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir it is about the farmers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to it. The only thing is that he wants postponement. I am only saying that he may move for a request; he may make a request for postponement so that, if the House agrees, we can give it for a week.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir the Bill – listed at Serial No. 20 – to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a further period of one year and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, may be postponed.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suman, you can also agree to postpone your Statutory Resolution for disapproval.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, I agree.

MR. SPEAKER: Both these matters will be taken up after a week.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the farmers. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know the rule. The Calling Attention will take twenty minutes more.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the procedure.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter concerned with the farmers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Calling Attention will be over in 20 minutes. Thereafter you will be given opportunity to speak.

I promise. I am bound to come to that issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity after the Calling Attention is over.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that I will give you opportunity to expose your views.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have formulated the rule and if you donot follow it how will it work?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you later. You can do full justice to your very important issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I sympathise with them. Their issues are very important.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, please allow him. They have to go for the rally. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He will go to the rally after 20 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow everybody. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We would have taken up calling attention by this time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a request from Shri S. Ajaya Kumar to permit Shri N.N. Krishnadas, whose name has figured at number five, to call the attention of the hon. Minister.

Now, Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

...(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

## \*CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of proposed formation of Salem Railway Division by bifurcating Palghat Railway Division**

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon.

"The situation arising out of the proposed formation of Salem Railway Division by bifurcating Palghat Railway Division and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, Salem Railway Division should be started immediately. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Sir, Salem Division should be started immediately. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow one hon. Member from Tamil Nadu to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that. It is very unfortunate that you are interrupting.

[Translation]

What is going on?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice. Shri Krishnaswamy, I have committed that I would allow one hon. Member from Tamil Nadu to speak. Let the hon. Minister make the Statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice, what action will you take in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: I will tell you about the action at appropriate time. You were also a Speaker and you know the responsibility of this office. You should be a role model.

\* Also place in Library, See No. L.T. 6729/07]

[English]

Do not mislead them.

[Translation]

You please come. I will tell you everything and we will have tea.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, the demand of Selam Division is very old.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence. It is a very important matter. You are all agitated. Let us now hear what the Minister says.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, the demand of Selam Division is very old. The hon'ble Members from Tamil Nadu had reiterated this demand in December 2005. I had also discussed with the hon. Members from Kerala in this regard. ... (Interruptions) Now when I am replying, the Members should carefully listen to it. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you disturb like this, I will postpone the Calling Attention. You have allowed Shri N.N. Krishnadas to call the attention of the hon. Minister. Now you are interrupting him. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I had also discussed with the hon. Members from Kerala in this regard. Thereafter while replying on the Supplementary Demands for the year 2005-06. I had theoretically announced on 12-12-2005 for the creation of proposed Salem Division. A Special Executive Officer has also been appointed for this new Division. In the light of proposal received from the Southern Railway, the area of operation of Salem Division is proposed as follow:

| Section   | Route K.m. | From Division |
|---|------------|---------------|
| 1   | 2          | 3             |
| Utakmandalam-Coimbtore North Junction                                   | 79         | Palghat       |
| Coimbtore North Junction-Erode Junction-Jolarpetti Junction (excluding) | 277        | Palghat       |

| 1   | 2   | 3              |
|---|-----|----------------|
| Erugar-Podanur (including) Coimbtore North junction | 19  | Palghat        |
| Salem junction-Karur Junction                       | 85  | New Line       |
| Karur-Dindigul junction (excluding)                 | 74  | Palghat        |
| Salem junction-Viridhachalam junction (excluding)   | 135 | Tirichurapalli |
| Salem junction-Mettur Dam (excluding)               | 37  | Palghat        |
| Erode junction-Tirichurapalli                       | 137 | Palghat        |

Thus 623 route km. from Palghat, 135 route km. of Tirichurapalli and 85 route km. of under construction new line have been taken for setting up of proposed Salem Division. After the creation of proposed division 509 route km. of existing line and 36 route km. of line under construction will remain in Palghat Division. Till now no notification regarding the final area of operation of proposed Salem Division has yet been published in the Gazette.

The maximum operational area of the proposed Salem Division was taken from Palghat Division and the area of Palghat Division has become smaller than the proposed Salem Division and it is one of the reasons of opposition of the hon. Members from Kerala. The hon. Members of Parliament from Kerala have also raised an objection that Palghat Division has been unscientifically divided and it is on account of its small size that Palghat Division is no longer an economically viable Division. The Chief Minister of Kerala and several hon. Members of both the Houses have registered their objections in this regard by way of meeting me and writing letters to me.

The Chief Minister of Kerala had registered his protest in this regard by writing letter to the hon. Prime Minister. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, through his letter dated 24 July, 2007 has asked me to find out mutually acceptable solution to this problem by way of holding discussions with the Chief Ministers of both the States. I have written letter to the Chief Ministers of both the States requesting them to hold discussion with each other and find out the solution to this problem by mutual consent. However, the meeting has not yet been held with the Chief Ministers of both the States. I would once again like to request the Chief Ministers of both the States that they should find out a mutually accepted solution to this problem by way of fixing convenient date for meeting at the earliest.

It has also been mentioned in the Calling Attention Motion that inordinate delay is being done in the formation of new West-Coast Zone for Kerala. I would like to inform the House in this regard that the division of vast network of Indian

Railways into various Zones and Divisions is made on the basis of criteria like work load, geographical expansion, pattern of traffic flow, economic viability and other operational and administrative requirements/facilities. On this basis no proposal is under consideration for the formation of new West Coast Zone for Kerala. The information in this regard has been given to the hon. Members from Kerala through letter. I have already informed the House on 2.12.2004 regarding the unviability of this new zone. Since there is no proposal under consideration for the formation of new zone in Kerala so the question of delay in this regard does not arise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Krishnadas.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling one by one. Everybody is violating the rule; nobody is following the rule.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, as all the hon. Members and you also know well that the Indian Railways is not only the transport carrier, it is also a great symbol of the unity and integrity of our country. That is why while taking up to set up any new division or a zone, it should not be done in a linguistic manner. As I told earlier, it should be our concern to uphold the unity and integrity of our country. ...(Interruptions)

We have a case. It is not against our friends from Tamil Nadu or for that matter any other State. ...(Interruptions) We are taking up the matter with the Indian Railways. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, there is not a single word I am talking against our friends from Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would call one of the hon. Members from Tamil Nadu also to make a submission. I have already said that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You are all very senior and responsible Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): We are also not against any national interest. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We know that. He is also an hon. Member and you are also an hon. Member of the House.

Mr. Krishnadas, make your submission and please be brief.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, we are taking up the matter with the Union Ministry and the Railway Minister only.

Sir, in the reply of the hon. Railway Minister, it has been wrongly quoted that 'the hon. Members of Parliament of Kerala were also consulted in this matter.' It is quite unfair. It is totally wrong that we were consulted. ...(Interruptions) This is my first point.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is so painful. We do not think of us as Indians.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry that the hon. Members of Parliament do not consider themselves as Indians first. We are Indians first. I would not like this thing to go on like this.

Are we not the Indians first? Is this an Assembly of Kerala or Tamil Nadu? You are all Indians first but you are not behaving like Indians.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this 'no, no'? You are saying: 'no, no'. We will do that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I would call one of the hon. Members from Tamil Nadu also to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record even one word from any other Member except the submission of Mr. Krishnadas. Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: Then you fight it out on the street! I would adjourn this matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: It is my humble request to the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lalujai that this sentence 'the hon. Members of Parliament of Kerala were also consulted in this matter' may be deleted from his Statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, all right. That is your request.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Yes, Sir.

The second point is that we agree with his statement

where he has mentioned that the major portion of the jurisdiction of the proposed Salem Division has been taken from Palghat Division.

MR. SPEAKER: He had made a request to the two hon. Chief Ministers to meet. He says that there is no question of delaying any other Division. Let the two Chief Ministers meet.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Yeah. I am welcoming rest of his statement, Sir.

He has said that 'the major portion of the jurisdiction of the proposed Salem Division has been taken from Palghat Division and the residual jurisdiction of Palghat Division has become less than that of Salem Division.'

MR. SPEAKER: He has admitted it.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: So, there was a proposal brought before the House. We never opposed it. How can we oppose it? How can we say that 'no, there is not at all any new Division or a Zone required in the country.' We cannot say like that.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: But it should be a formation. Formation means, setting up of a new Division centralized with Salem, in a justified and rationalized manner taking into account the route kilometers and the jurisdiction area from all the nearby area. It may be from Chennai Division, from Trichi Division, from Madurai Division as well as from Palghat Division. Therefore, it should be a formation and not a bifurcation.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question, please.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, formation was the proposal but instead of formation, the existing Palghat Division is being bifurcated. We have submitted that after the bifurcation, the Palghat Division would no longer remain financially viable, which is also pointed out in the Statement of the hon. Minister.

Thus, that is unjustifiable and irrational. This is my humble request. How can one mother give birth to a new baby which is bigger than the size of the mother? Definitely, the mother will be killed. That justice we are asking from the Government of India, especially, from the Union Railway Minister. That is the justice we need. So, this is my question.

MR. SPEAKER: He will answer. You give him a chance.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: What is the difficulty to make a new Salem Division formation taking from all other nearby areas also?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Sujatha.

You are only entitled to put one question.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: And the other point and that is related to the last sentence. He denied the request which was forwarded by several Members of Parliament and the Government of Kerala to set up a new Zone, South West Zone. He denied it in the text. It has also been cited in the Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER: He said, there is no decision taken.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: No, Sir. Please give me one minute. The Zones and Divisions are based on the criterion of workload, geographical spread, pattern of traffic flows, economic viability and other operating and administrative requirements.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: This is the criteria they are following. This is the convention, precedent which is followed by the Indian Railways. Then, what is the justification for denying? If you are creating a new Division at Salem with all these criteria, then what is the justification to deny this South West Zone in the country?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, your questions have already been put.

Now, Shrimati Sujatha.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: The third point which I would like to mention, through you, Sir, is this. This is a request. Now, with the consultation of both the Chief Ministers only, the territorial jurisdiction will be finalized. In writing itself, earlier itself, he assured this august House.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not persuade your Chief Minister?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: But unilaterally, the MoS has announced the inauguration of the Salem Division on 15th September. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the territorial jurisdiction has been finalized and fixed up for the inauguration of this proposed Salem Division? I would like to know this also from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: That is enough. You have made your point very, very ably.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Thank you, Sir, for giving this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sujatha. You put only question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I speak in my mother tongue?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not for the speech but only for the question.

[Translation]

\*SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): I fully endorse the opinions expressed here by my colleague Shri Krishna Das. After the formation of the Southern Railway in 1951, Kerala has been neglected time and again and the decision to destroy Palghat Division is only the latest step in a series of injustice meted out to us. Palghat Railway Division is among the oldest railway divisions in India.

We are not against the formation of Salem Division. But it should not be carved out by destroying Palghat division. The present decision is aimed at destroying Palghat Division. The Minister said that the total length of the Palghat Division will be reduced, with the formation of the Salem division.

Shri Krishna Das said that it will be like the mother giving birth to a child which is bigger than her. Sir, we heard the reply of the Minister in the House and Shri Krishna Das also quoted it here in the House.

The Minister said that the boundary of the Salem Division should be fixed only after the discussion between the Chief Ministers of the two states takes place. Respected Chief Minister of Kerala has expressed his consent for such a discussion.

But on the one hand you say in the House that discussions will be held and on the other hand you go ahead with the formation of the Salem Division. This is not a right step. This is a violation of the assurance given in the House.

The respected Minister should fulfill the assurance he has given on the floor of the House and he also mentioned about the Railway zone. There should be the formation of a Railway zone with Kerala as its centre. Where there is a will there is a way. Lalu ji, the people of Kerala have great expectations from you and you should fulfill these expectations.

Of course, the Minister of Railways Lalaji is the friend of Kerala, the people of this State have some expectations from him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more. Shri Suresh Kurup to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only a clarificatory question is to be asked. Please look at Rule 197.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for allowing this Calling Attention. The reply given by the hon. Minister is quite disappointing. I would like to again reiterate that at no point of time none of us were consulted regarding this Salem Division. I would also like to say that if consulted, we would not have objected to the formation of Salem Division. Our objection is not for the formation of the Salem Division but a major chunk of the Palghat Division, a Division which has been in existence right from the beginning of Indian Railways is being taken away.

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same point.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: It is a very profitable Division. A major chunk of that Division is being taken away. There are other Divisions which have route kilometers of 1,175 kilometers. The Madurai Division has a route kilometers of 1,451 kilometers. These two Divisions have got route kilometers which is higher than that of Palghat Division.

MR. SPEAKER: He has mentioned that. Please put your question.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, only from Palghat Division a major area is taken away. As has been rightly pointed out, Indian Railways is a symbol of our national integration. Why do you now sow the seeds of fissiparous tendencies by doing such an act?

I would like to know what is the criterion employed for this formation of this new Division by taking away all the areas from Palghat Division and by allowing other Divisions to exist without any disturbance, I want to know whether any study has been conducted regarding this. During the time of the previous Government, four new Railway zones were created. Whenever we ask for a Railway zone, suddenly the Planning Commission comes into existence and immediately all other sorts of difficulties are put forward. The other areas in other States are being given new Railway zones and Railway divisions. But, whenever we demand a Railway zone or division, which has been a long-standing Division, just like the Salem Division, we are told that it is not possible.

I would like to know that in view of all the protests in Kerala, will you take into consideration seriously the long-standing demand of a Railway zone for Kerala, a Southern Zone for Kerala. Will the inauguration of this new Railway Division be postponed till the meeting of the Chief Ministers takes place and an amicable solution is found for this?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. It was a good question.

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam

Shri P.C. Thomas — not present.

Shri Ajaya Kumar to ask a question now.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): Thank you, Sir. My colleagues have mentioned so many points. *...(Interruptions)* I am not going into the details.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not entitled to go into the details. You are only entitled to put a clarificatory question.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Sir, the demand for a Railway Division at Salem is very old. This is absolutely a very wrong statement. I may say that the Rakesh Mohan Committee Report of 1996 had decided to set up seven new Zones and eight new Divisions to increase the efficiency. However, the creation of Salem Division was not included therein. So, how has this come up and how was it created without taking the opinion of the Railway Reforms Committee? When will the Government take into account the concerns of RRC? This is my first question.

You have yielded for the demand for creation of a new Division. But, whenever Kerala's demand for a new Zone comes up, all sorts of arguments are raised against it. So, will the Government seriously consider our long-pending demand for a new Railway Zone?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kurup has mentioned that Shri Thangakabalu to speak now.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (SALEM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. In the beginning, we met you and discussed with you.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: No discussion was held with me.

*[English]*

You only came and met me.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: We came and requested you.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you the chance. Utilise that chance.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Not only me, 40 Members from Tamil Nadu want to represent their case. Kindly allow us.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bother about others. You speak for yourself.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Okay, Sir.

The request for Salem Railway Division was made by

the people of Tamil Nadu, by and large. Our Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi and leaders of all political parties and we requested the UPA leadership and everybody in total.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: They have sanctioned this. Now, our friends on this side say that there is no logic and no rationality. Rationality and logic is always there. It is due to that the long-pending and long-felt need of Tamil people and aspiration of Tamil people was met by this announcement of the Government of India, for which we are thankful to them. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you people fight like this, the whole country will be fragmented!

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, with regard to jurisdiction, I would submit that only 544 route kilometres are given to Tamil Nadu instead of *...(Interruptions)* Please listen. *...(Interruptions)* MR. SPEAKER: I will ask the Minister to reply, if you cannot sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Minister Sahab, just a minute.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, I have just started.

MR. SPEAKER: If you cannot put a question, I will go back to him.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, I will put a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Do it.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: There are two issues raised in this House.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The whole country is being divided on this.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What not? On the issues of water, railway and everything, the whole country is being divided.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, we are not linguistic and we are not talking of *...(Interruptions)* We want fair justice to be given to Tamil Nadu and the people of Tamil Nadu. We have asked this. In fact, we are not taking any area of Kerala at all.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A. Krishnaswamy.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, in fact, we want that the Salem Division, as announced, should be implemented.



MR. SPEAKER: I have understood.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: They are talking about Chief Ministers' meeting. There is no need to have a meeting of Chief Ministers in this regard. The Supreme Court has rejected it totally.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A. Krishnaswamy, if you do not begin, I will allow him to speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thangkabalu, please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thangkabalu, take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Thank you, Sir. Whatever the Minister says is right. We had a meeting two years before between the Members of Parliament of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. We had a consensus to have Salem Division.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: The Members of Kerala are denying it, but if you allow Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, he will accept it because he presided over that meeting. In that meeting, before Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan only, we agreed for Salem Division, but today, they are denying it.

Today, the formation of Salem Division has been passed in the Budget and Rs. 20 crore have been allocated; Rs. 3 crore have been released; and Rs. 1.5 crore have been spent in this regard.

They had filed a case before the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has denied and dismissed their complaint.

Now, we have fixed 14th September to inaugurate the Salem Division. *...(Interruptions)* The Railway Department has fixed this date. It should not be delayed; it should be inaugurated as early as possible. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please reply to it.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Only hon. Minister's statement will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: You have very ably put your case, hon. Members from Kerala. I had given the opportunity to some hon. Members from Tamil Nadu. The whole country knows what the problem is. Let the hon. Minister give his reply.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a market place; this is Parliament of India. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It seems we are making all efforts to divide the country as much as possible! Irrespective of whether it is railway, water or anything else, let us not divide the country. You are talking of patriotism of the soldiers; and do Members not have to show patriotism?

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You continue to reply.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, *...(Interruptions)*

Let me speak. Let me speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You go on speaking

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, he is creating the same confusion.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly address the Chair, and finish your reply.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I may be allowed to explain the position with regard to this issue. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Radhakrishnanji, you may speak later.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may continue.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Both the States belong to our

country, we love both of them and it is not so that we had announced it all of a sudden just to end any dispute. Meeting was held for two days and I am thankful for that, Radhakrishnanji is a senior Member, he himself and hon. Members from Kerala will tell us that you. ...*(Interruptions)* you go and form it, we will speak nothing about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Therefore, he may be allowed to speak on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. You had given a notice for a Calling Attention, and I allowed the notice. I invited you to give a notice for a Call Attention, and the Minister had made a statement. Thereafter, you have made your points with regard to this issue. Will you not allow the hon. Minister to reply? What is this Calling Attention for then?

[Translation]

You please be seated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Now, you know Hindi very well.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I may be permitted to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow you to speak. Everybody cannot be allowed to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: This is a wrong thing. ...*(Interruptions)* You are right and are we wrong. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a wrong thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may continue.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, meeting was held for two days and I have already stated here in the Budget speech that a new Division would be created. Whenever, a new division is created, bifurcation is necessitated. You can see the whole country. Dispute is that the length of the Railway line proposed is more for Tamil Nadu. As far as the State of Kerala is concerned, not even a single inch of land in the State has been acquired for Salem Division, while, on

contrary, the route kilometers of 24 kilometres of Tamil Nadu are still in Palghat-Division. Even then the people have resentment. You all may tell us on what level the people of Kerala have met. The people from this side, from ruling and the opposition, have met Shrimati Soniaji, the prime Minister — we have made efforts to avoid dispute in any event. This is not a very serious problem for which we should nurse any ill-will among us. This is not fair. So, we maintain the status which is already there. I would like to tell the hon. Members about the Divisions which are already created all over the country that Mumbai Central Railways have the route kilometers of 524 kilometres, Pune have 505 kilometres, Mughalsarai have 317 kilometres, Sonapur, which is in our constituency, have 473 kilometres, Maldah have 438 kilometres. Tinsukia have 511 kilometres, Raipur have 355 kilometres and Ranchi have 442 kilometres. I would like to say here in brief that in the wake of bifurcation, this is the fact and I also admit it and even the people have seen it that the major part has gone to Salem Division. While the Palghat Division was big one earlier and its major part is taken away. We have said this thing even in reply. So, now we have to see how to settle the matter amicably. We simply say that we will follow the mandate of chief Ministers of both the States, we have written two letters to both the Chief Ministers. We are in constant touch and consistent efforts are made to resolve the disputes. If the two sides take initiatives positively, the matter can be settled amicably.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the process of estimated division of Railways employees, 8817 employees remain in Palghat Division where 8245 employees in the proposed Salem Division. The total earning is estimated to be Rs.260 crores in Palghat Division. All the industries including cement factories are also in the jurisdiction of Palghat Division and the earning of Rs.200 crores is estimated from the proposed Salem Division. The earning of Palghat Division will be Rs.260 crore after its bifurcation. After all, the bifurcation is followed by creation of new Division. We do not want any dispute in the country.

[English]

You have wrongly quoted in your Calling Attention Notice that the unnecessary delay in the creation of the Zone is going to create unrest.

[Translation]

You have wrongly stated. There is no such proposal with the Railways in which delay takes place. You, take your seat. I have said there is no gazette notification till now and someone is creating rumour among the people. Soniaji and I myself had recently visited Setwa-Rameshwaram, and someone may create rumour by saying that the Setu is being inaugurated. I am the Minister and I do not know and they are fighting there.

...(Interruptions)

So my humble request to you is that the situation is already tense here. ...(Interruptions) You first listen. Radhakrishnanji, please, listen ...(Interruptions) We will listen. You are our senior leader. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You, address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record the interruptions.

(Interruptions)\*...

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You please tell me whether you had given us the clearance to go ahead or not. ...(Interruptions) Yes, your complaints regarding the bifurcation issue are legitimate. We will look into it. ...(Interruptions) On that day no date was fixed. ...(Interruptions) no date for inauguration was then fixed and now also no date is fixed and till this issue is settled, no date will be fixed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is OK, done.

[English]

No more reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Railway Minister has said that no date has been fixed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I am going to request the Prime Minister of the nation.

[Translation]

Mr. Prime Minister, please invite the Chief Ministers of both the States and invite me also and also invite senior members from both the sides and get it cleared. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: is OK.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record even a single word of anybody, except what Dr. Jatiya is saying.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. The Minister is extremely fair. He has appealed to everybody in the House and he said that he is going to request the Prime Minister of the country to call the Chief Ministers and then it will be decided. No date has been fixed yet. On the basis of imaginary dates, you are raising this. Dr. Manoj, please go back to your seat. Nothing will be allowed, and only Dr. Jatiya's submission will go on record. It is very, very unfortunate that when I am trying my best to accommodate everybody, you are creating trouble.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When not one word is being recorded, why are you shouting?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 13, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

12.42 hrs.

#### MOTION RE: THIRTY-NINTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI  
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 2007."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 2007."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 14, we will take it up later. Now, we will take up matters of urgent public importance. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jatiya, I am told that a large number of farmers have come to Delhi. In view of that, I am allowing you to mention it, although there was a full-fledged discussion on the farmers' issue. Therefore, mention only the important thing. You will have ample time to discuss the issue, and that is my earnest request to you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the leadership of Rajnath Singh ji, farmers from all parts of the country have come today to Ramila ground to draw the attention of the Union Government towards their issues.

Lakhs of farmers have gathered and the Government should pay attention towards their issue? It is difficult for the farmers to keep their pots boiling with the support price fixed by the Government for them. The Government should give the farmers remunerative price. The Government should take definite measures in this regard. Recently, crops of the farmers got destroyed due to flood, heavy rain. The Government should declare grants for them. Today thousands of farmers are committing suicide as a result of their helplessness caused by their inability to repay the loans. In view of this distressing situation, the Government should come forward in a firm way and on the lines of the interest free loans provided to the minorities and other people under various schemes, farmers also should be given this facility and in the event of unemployment, relief allowances should also be given to the agricultural labourers. My demand is that interest free loans be made available to the farmers. Today, farmers have come to the Ramila ground. The Government should pay attention towards their problems. 'Koun Banata Hindustan, Bharat ka mazdoor kisan' (who builds India, India's labourers, farmers). Seventy per cent of the people of the country are dependent on agriculture. In order to increase the GDP in agricultural sector, it is necessary for the Government to pay attention towards the farmers of our country and towards their problems.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised this matter in a very good manner.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Dr. Jatiya has said, lakhs of farmers have come to Delhi from all the parts of the country but it is an unfortunate that the incidents of suicides by the farmers are on the rise. During the last eight years, one and a half lakh farmers have committed suicide but the Government are paying no attention towards it. Today itself, during the Question Hour, the hon. Minister in a reply to a question stated that the Government are importing wheat which will cost us Rs.1400 per quintal and it would be a gift if the farmers get Rs.850-900-1000 for the wheat. Besides, the Minister has admitted that Rs.4.5 thousand crore are the due payable to the sugarcane growers. In addition, if the farmer defaults two instalments of the loan taken from the bank, he has to undergo imprisonment. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will have a full discussion on this.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Today, the Government are paying attention toward corporate farming. The Government had promised that agricultural growth rate would be raised to 4 per cent but as on date it stands at 1.2 per cent. Today the Minister of Agriculture has admitted that 82 per cent of the farmers of the country have got less than 25 acres of land. It seems that the Government have decided to wipe out the entire farmer community and through corporate farming they are providing opportunities to the mere 4 to 6 per cent people to flourish in the country. ... (Interruptions) The Government have identified only 31 districts of the various States for giving packages to the farmers. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please, cooperate. If you have given notice, it is okay, but you give notice on one matter and talk on other matters, I have admitted your notice but will you speak from that place?

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Only 31 district have been identified for giving packages to the farmers while number of such districts in the country is 167. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not exhaust all your points now.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Whether farmers of 31 districts only are poor, the Government have no concern for the remaining districts. My request is that people are dependent on the farmers and their agriculture. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER There are many other matters to be taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Whether the Government are trying to do away with the farmers of the country? Today, lakhs of farmers have come here. The Government should decide about the agricultural policy and the direction which it should adopt to make a successful headway in the villages.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I would like to associate myself with these issues raised by Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and Shri Santosh Gangwar.

12.50 hrs.

RE: NEED TO TAKE ACTION FOR THE  
EXTRADITION OF MR. OTTAVIO  
QUATTROCCHI FROM ARGENTINA*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 15th August, the 60th anniversary of our independence, the key accused of Bofors Scam Quattrocchi got off scot free. This is the vital example of corruption in the Government. Thousands of martyrs had not sacrificed their lives and faced gallows for independence only because that some one should get scot free by looting the country and the Government be fully responsible for it. *...(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): How do you relate the martyrs' sacrifices with Quattrocchi? *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the way by which the key accused Quattrocchi was allowed to flee from the country and his accounts were defreezed. He withdrew the amount of Rs.34 crore from these accounts and when the case was to be registered in the Supreme Court of Argentina, our advocate did nothing but just waited and in the meantime, the news came in the newspapers that our Law Minister wanted that the case should be withdrawn. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the withdrawal of case only because ....

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do that. Do not make partial reference. That will not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\***[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the UPA Government, CBI and ....\* We would like to condemn that and the way it has been committed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir the acquittal of Quattrocchi became possible only with the connivance of UPA Government and CBI. The Prime Minister has been in the dock. The Prime Minister tried to save him, our Law Minister also followed the suit and both of them together saved him. We strongly condemn it. *...(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: When you were in power, what action did you take?

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, just associate.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I have certain questions to put. Italian fugitive and Bofors case prime accused Mr. Ottavio Quattrocchi has again shown his heels to the CBI. The accused has walked free after a plea for his extradition in Argentina was not pursued in the Supreme Court. My question to the Government is: Whether the Government of India decided not to go ahead with the appeal? Argentinian Foreign Office was asked to withdraw the Supreme Court appeal and the extradition case was over last week itself. What led to this situation, nobody knows. The Government should come out with an explanation. The question today therefore is: Whether the Government of India wishes to pursue the investigation against Mr. Quattrocchi any further? Whether the Interpol's Red Corner Notice (RCN) against Mr. Quattrocchi is still valid? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate, Shri Mahtab.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: These are the questions before the nation.

Is it true that the Indian Embassy informed New Delhi officially late on Tuesday night last when the fugitive had actually left Argentina? Why no action was taken by the CBI to obstruct Mr. Quattrocchi in Argentina though he stayed there for four days after his passport was returned? Was the CBI not aware about it? Is it true that the Government of India lost its case against Mr. Quattrocchi because it did not get a 'fresh arrest warrant' issued against him immediately after Delhi High Court's February 2004 and May 2005 judgements which had quashed the proceedings against public servants and certain other accused?

Is it true that the El Dorado court questioned the very basis of Mr. Quattrocchi's detention under the Interpol's Red Corner Notice which had been in force without any valid arrest warrant. Whether El Dorado court has observed that the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Delhi issuing fresh arrest warrant against Mr. Quattrocchi on February 24 this year, did not explain why his arrest was being sought?

Does all this show the seriousness of the Government to pursue the case against Mr. Quattrocchi?

MR. SPEAKER: Please mention the matter only.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): This country is agitating for the last 22 years on the issue of Bofors scandal. We have witnessed a lot of developments during this period and I do not want to repeat all those things. The entire bank account was allowed to defreeze and he has been allowed to take the entire pay-off money of Rs. 34 crore.

\* Not recorded

Now, the country is further shocked with the news that the Bofors accused Mr. Quattrocchi has got freed from Argentina and the CBI has failed to appeal in the apex court of that country against the lower court order not to extradite him to India. This is most unfortunate - when the entire country is agitated for the last 22 years on a particular issue, a particular political party, whether in Opposition or in Government, was instrumental in making him free and making the case completely weak. The CBI is always suspected to be under pressure in this politically sensitive case. If the CBI is under pressure, how will we get justice? I want to know what will happen to the interest of the country. Now, he has gone away from the case and he has gone to Italy. It is now not possible to bring him back to the country. What will be the fate of this case, I want to know. Why are they neglecting this case? What is their answer? Why are they not taking this case seriously in the Argentina's Supreme Court? Why was CBI advised so by the Government? I charge this Government that it advised the CBI not to take this case seriously. That is why, the bank account was allowed to defreeze. Now, the case has gone and we will not get justice. Twenty-two years' of agitation of the countrymen has gone in vain. They will not get any justice.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a 22 years old issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not repeat the 22 year old history now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the issue which resulted in the change of power in the country and this has also been established that Italy's Bhagoura accepted the money of the country as commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What does it mean by Bhagaura?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It means absconder. This is pure Bhojpuri term. It is also colloquial in Hindi. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise simply two-three points that despite so much information with the CBI, which is considered to be a very strong investigating agency of India, he managed to escape from here. Even when he was arrested, he succeeded in getting bail. Even on bail, CBI do not remain silent, until and unless someone enjoys the protection of influential people holding high offices. So, there was protection from somewhere, due to which he succeeded in getting bail. He was given opportunity to withdraw the money and then allowed to escape to Italy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we request simply one thing that if the intention of the Government is clear and Munshiji, if your intention is clear, then pressure on CBI should end and they

should be given authority to arrest him again and bring him back to India so that he could be punished by initiating prosecution against him in the Indian Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very pertinent question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members are saying that he is helpless and can do nothing. He is the Minister in the Government, he is not helpless and it seems to us that people may be building pressure, but he is the Minister. If he listens to his conscience, he will oppose those ones who are exerting pressure and he will be arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me first call those hon. Members who have given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are permitted to associate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, you will be allowed to associate.

[Translation]

Kharabelaji, you know, it has been made delicate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): This Government has brought shame on this country by allowing Mr. Ottavio Quattrocchi to leave Argentina and go to Italy.

13.00 hrs.

Sir, it again proves that this Government is hand-in-glove with this culprit who has cheated this country crores of rupees. Sometime back, the Government of India suddenly filed an application before a London court and allowed this man to defreeze his account. He took away all the money which was plundered from this country. Now this Government did not appeal deliberately before the Supreme Court of Argentina against the order of the lower court.

So, we would like to know as to why this Government did not appeal? Why did they allow this man to go from Argentina to Italy? What steps this Government is taking to arrest him? The Prime Minister himself should come before this House and make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice. I cannot make it a debate. You associate yourself. I am permitting you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not given notice but I want to conclude in a minute. Govt. of India have already declared him an absconder. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I cannot allow. You can associate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fun I have given opportunity to speak only on one subject to all those hon'ble Members who have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not permit this. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, you are the Deputy Leader of the Party. Please control him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only thing is that I am not understanding what is being said.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Do not record anything.

(Interruptions)\*...

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the why the Government of India have proceeded in the matter of Ottavio Quattrocchi and he was allowed to flee from the country. ...(Interruptions)\*... due to that we walkout. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Prof. Saheb, listen to me before walking out. ...(Interruptions) Malhotraji, listen to me before you walk out. ...(Interruptions)

\* Not recorded

13.03 hrs.

(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Just bring it to me. I will look into it myself.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Mr. Sachin Pilot will be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, India completed its 60 years of independence only five days back, however, through you I would like to refer to the conditions prevailing in free India even after 60 years.

Sir, everyone knows that the Gujjars took to streets on 29th may 2007 for their reservation demand. Since 29th, the police opened fire on them six times for three days together which killed 24 people. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to the State matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may ask me to be quiet if I am not telling the truth. Sir, I am bringing this fact to the cognizance of the House through you. It is requested that judicial inquiry of the incidents where people get killed in the police firing is held be it the incident of Nandigram or that of Khammam. It happens every where in the country, but ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have given notice to speak on the "Need to send Central Team" to study the socio-economic conditions there please stick to it.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring this fact to the notice of the House that the police opened fire on three people inside the temple by getting on to the first floor. If the Government of Rajasthan does not hold a judicial inquiry into the killing of 24 persons, then I demand the Union Government to send a team there. The veracity of the incident of Rajasthan should be brought to the fore and the people responsible for this act should be punished.

Sir, you allowed half an hour for discussion on two railway stations, whereas I wish to draw the attention towards the killing of 25 people.

Sir, a judicial inquiry is always conducted into such incidents. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The notice is not on that subject; it is on the socio-economic conditions. You have given the notice very intelligently - "on the need to send a Central team to assess the socio-economic conditions." Please refer to that.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: My submission to you is that my learned friend Shri Gurudas Dasgupta,

[Translation]

A furore was raised in the House, when workers of Honda factory were lathicharged and there 25 people have been killed yet no voice is raised. I request and appeal the entire House to stand by me on the issue of atrocities which have been committed in Rajasthan. The killing of 25 people is unprecedented in history. Central team should be sent there and guilty persons should be brought to the book. Bullets have been fired for three days. The Members from opposite benches have left but their hands are stained with the blood of innocents and we seek justice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair. I will not allow any State matter to be raised here. You have given the notice for the need to send a Central team to see the socio-economic conditions of the community.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: The community has asked for it. I would request the Central Government to send a team to investigate the issue.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to raise a very important issue with your permission. A survey was conducted for generation of 280 Megawatt from Uj river hydro electric project and 50 thousand mega-watt hydro-electric project was also proposed therein. There have been repeated discussions for this project and we have also written to the Government. A DPR was to be conducted from here. However, the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir lacks the adequate infrastructure for the DPR. Only the Government of India can do it. This issue is 80 years old. The conditions there are worsening owing to it. This tributary is of the Uj-Ravi river. It does not come under the Indus treaty. Since it does not come under the treaty, water is used comprehensively. This water would irrigate 14 thousand acres of land. The water would generate 280 mega watt of electricity. There is no project in Jammu and Kashmir for irrigation since every project is under the Indus River Water Treaty. My submission is that the Government should pay full attention towards it since it would benefit the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned it.

13.08 hrs.

## SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Delay in implementation of the recommendations of Justice Sacchar Committee Report on Minorities

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, it is now over six month that Justice Sacchar Committee has submitted its Report to the Government. It was as long back as in November, 2006.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed a discussion, but that is pending owing to constraint of time.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Government has not come out with the ATR yet. The Report has revealed startling facts about the status of the minorities and even then the Government is sitting over it. Although that Report is available with the House, the Action Taken Report has not been submitted.

MR. SPEAKER: Members also are sitting over it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We had demanded a full-fledged discussion on the issue and simultaneously we had also demanded that the Government should come out with the ATR. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Bellarmin and Shri Salim you can associate with him.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East): Sir, it is a question of justice to be given to the Muslims of this country.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Justice Sacchar has already submitted its Report to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed a discussion on this subject but that could not be taken up in the last Session.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I would like to enlighten the hon. Members who have raised the issue that ATR is prepared when there is a Commission of Inquiry Report. Sacchar Committee was not a Commission of Inquiry. It was an academic study report which was set up by the UPA Government. I would like to say with full responsibility that the observations made in the Report have been given due cognizance by the Cabinet in the respective spheres. ...*(Interruptions)* We will inform about it when the debate on the issue starts. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed a discussion on this issue and it is pending.



[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

We have celebrated 60th anniversary of our Independence. And we are also celebrating the 150th anniversary of 1857 uprising. Sir, as part of our Independence struggle, there were several regional struggles also for our freedom and Punnapra Vayalar was one among them. Even though the survivors of the Punnapra Vayalar struggle are recognized as freedom fighters by the State Government, they are not recognized as freedom fighters by the Central Government. They are not getting pension and other recognition as freedom fighters. The guidelines put forward by the Central Government in this regard are different from those of the State Government. Even though they are getting pension and other support from the State Government, they are not recognized by the Central Government.

In this matter, I would request the Central Government to consider giving Sainik Samman Pension to those who are getting State pensions also.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. Shri Karunakaran may associate with Dr. Manoj on the same matter.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, it is not only the case of Punnapra Vayalar but there are many other freedom struggles in various parts of the State. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It would be for all freedom fighters.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue. I have raised the issue of imprisonment of youths in foreign jails even in the past and I would like to thank the Government that it has paid attention towards it. These days 12 people from Punjab, most of whom belong to my constituency are jailed in Sri Lanka without conviction. The mafia. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The process of release has started.

[Translation]

You have raised an important matter. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: I want that they should be released at the earliest. They have been imprisoned without conviction. I hope that the Government would take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka and get them released.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the House will join you in supporting your cause.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, we are all familiar with diseases named after mad cow, foot and mouth disease, avian flu, etc. But anthrax is a little known disease to us. However, it is a very serious disease. The meat which we eat is not protected from viruses by any preventive measure which may create havoc among the population of our country.

Anthrax originated from bovine population. The sequence of the disease is such that first, the cattle get infected and after consuming the meat of the infected cattle, human beings also get infected causing even death. In the district of Murshidabad of West Bengal, more often than not, incidents of anthrax have been coming to our notice but the veterinary and medical infrastructure are ill-equipped to deal with the growing problem which has been noticed by us. Already a number of persons have been reported to be dead. Those poor and vulnerable people used to consume infected meat and therefore, they are facing death without knowing anything of the implications of consuming such meat. The Department of Food is also not aware of the quality of meat that is being consumed by the poor and vulnerable populace of the district.

I would urge upon the Government that, in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal, they should take very effective measures so as to prevent the prevalence of anthrax any more in West Bengal and other parts of the country.

13.15 hrs.

## GOVERNMENT BILLS—INTRODUCED

- (I) **All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956 and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences Act,

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II — Section 2, dated 20.08.2007

1956 and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I introduce the Bill.

13.15 hrs.

- (ii) **Cigarettes and other tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2007\***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up item no. 15.

Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

13.16 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.18 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at eighteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN in the Chair]

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up Item No. 16 – Matters under Rule 377.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II - Section 2, dated 20.08.2007

Shri D. Narbula – not present.

Shri J.M. Rasheed Aaron – not present.

- (i) **Need to build a monument at Virupakshi in honour of Shri Gopal Naicker, a great warrior and freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu**

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): A Merchant British Company that came from London for trade gained political authority and started collection of taxes from the native rulers of South India from 1750. First native ruler who waged war against Britishers in Tamil Nadu was Pooli Thevar by refusing to pay taxes in the year 1755. So many leaders, viz., Muthuvaduganatha Thevar (1772), Smt. Velu Nachiar (1772), Muthuramalinga Sethupathy (1795), Veerapandiya Kattabomman (1799), Virupakshi Gopal Naicker (1800), Oomathurai (1801), and Maruthupandiar (1801) had fought against Britishers and sacrificed their lives for the independence of this country. After that only Vellore Revolution was held in 1806 and Sipoy Mutiny held in North in the year 1857. Here I want to bring forth certain facts about Virupakshi Gopal Naicker of my Constituency. Shri Gopal Naicker ruled Virupakshi Zameen during 1800.

Veerapandiya Kattabomman was arrested on 24.9.1799 and hanged to death on 17.10.1799. After his death, his brother Oomathurai reached Dindigul Valley and collected 4,000 youths and fought against the Britishers with the help of Virupakshi Gopal Naicker. Revolutionaries organized a meeting on 29.4.1800 at Palani Hills under the leadership of Gopal Naicker and planned to attack the Britishers' Coimbatore Fort on 3.6.1800. It was called the Palani Conspiracy. The revolutionaries reached Virupakshi from far off places like Maharashtra on 28.4.1800 itself to attend the above meeting.

Even though their attempt was foiled, this was the first war staged against the Britishers by Gopal Naicker and the native Indians. After that, the Revolutionaries went into hiding in the Palani forests and continuously fought against the Britishers. After a long fight, Virupakshi Zameen was captured by Britishers on 16-10-1801 and Revolutionaries were arrested. Important leaders including Shri Gopal Naicker were hanged to death on 24-10-1801 and remaining 73 others were sent to exile on 11-2-1802. The great freedom fighter, Dheeran Chinnamalai also joined the stream with Shri Gopal Naicker and lived in Palani Hills. Even now, the Old Fort and other monuments of Shri Gopal Naicker are available in Palani area, Dindigul District.

Hence, I request the hon. Prime Minister to take steps to erect a monument to honour the great warrior Shri Gopal Naicker at Virupakshi in my Palani Parliamentary Constituency.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Harisinh Chavda – not present; Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana – not present; Dr. Karan Singh Yadav – not present; Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya – not present; Shri Dushyant Singh – not present; Shri Yogi Aditya Nath – not present; Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain – not present.

Shri Thawar Chand Ghelot.

**(ii) Need to sanction four-laning of National Highway No. 3 between Gwalior and Dewas in Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Madam Chairman, the National Highway No-3 (Agra-Mumbai) passing through Madhya Pradesh needs to be converted soon into a four-laning road between Gwalior and Dewas. The Union Government has also approved it theoretically. Besides, there is an urgent need to construct a bye-pass road for Shajapur city and a major bridge on places like Lakhunder river between Shajapur-Maxi. The case has been pending with the Government for the last eight-ten years for clearance. Everyday, serious accidents take place for want of the above said work. It causes huge loss of life & property.

I demand from the Government to accord early approval for carrying out the said works for solution of said problems.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Raigarh): Madam Chairman, I also support it as it is my Parliamentary constituency.

**(iii) Need to provide rail link between Tellicherry and Mysore**

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): At the time of presentation of the Railway Budget 2007-08, the survey work of Tellicherry-Mysore Railway line was declared by the Railway Minister. But, so far, no steps have been taken to begin the survey work. The Railway connectivity from Tellicherry to Mysore is highly essential as Malabar is the important trade centre of Kerala. A good number of students, merchants and officials are regularly traveling from this area to Mysore everyday. The functioning of Tellicherry Fishing Harbour, Kannur Airport and Naval Academy are depending on the development of Railway.

Hence, I urge upon the Railway Minister to take immediate steps to implement the same.

**(iv) Need to accord the status of a Central University to Gandhigram Rural University, Tamil Nadu**

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): The present

Gandhigram Rural University in Tamil Nadu started its sojourn in 1956 in the name of Gandhigram Rural Institute. But its role in the history of India's National Education Movement is scintillating.

It was the first step to bid farewell to Macaulay's pattern of Education which was involved in manufacturing clerks and accountants to the need of the alien Rule. It adopted a practice-based, life-oriented and value-based educational framework through a synthesis of internationally-known experiments due to Gandhi, Tagore and similar luminaries in the field of Education and human development from other Nations in the world. It is pertinent to bring it to the attention of the Government that this is the only University surviving today out of the fourteen established across the country on the basis of Dr. Radhakrishnan's Report on Rural University.

Today, in the changing scenario that warrants empowerment and enlightenment to the people of Rural India, patronizing this Rural University has become an imperative need. While other States are having one or the other Central Universities under various names and styles, there is no Central University in Tamil Nadu. The Gandhigram Rural University in Tamil Nadu should, therefore, be transformed into a Central University. If transformed into a Central University, it will serve a long way in building a knowledge centre supporting the Government in evolving models, projects, in activating Panchayatraj, World Bank Projects on poverty alleviation, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, NREGS. Needless to mention that Gandhigram Rural University have at present project links with UN (UNDP-UNESCO, UNICEF) WHO, ILO and with some other world Institutions like CARC, FORD Foundation. As such, elevation of Gandhigram Rural University into a Central University will be a befitting bouquet to it to facilitate it in its Golden Jubilee Year.

**(v) Need to improve primary education in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Madam, regarding the primary education, it was reported through the UNESCO, an institution, that India exceeds only Uganda in the field of primary education. Many reasons were cited for this in which the main reason is that nearly 25 per cent teachers do not even attend the school to teach students and withdraw their full salary by fulfilling paper-formalities.

What is worst is that on one hand we claim to be a super power within the next ten years while on the other, we are sitting idle over the miserable condition of the primary education which strengthen the foundation of the country. The reasons for absence of teachers reported in the said report are not new. Be it a matter of low salary or lack of

incentives or ineffective system of monitoring, all these reasons are well-known and prevail the same way for years. How India would be able to attain the status of a super power within the next ten years with this casual approach of strengthening the nation through education. It's not in the interest of the country.

I urge through the House that the Government should remove the hurdles prevailing in the field of primary education and take necessary steps to ensure it to each and every poor person.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav – not present.

**(vi) Need to evolve a National Plan to help the sugarcane growers**

\* SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): Rain can affect our lives by way of raining excessively or by way of failing to show up. The agriculturists who are dependent on rain cannot have their living conditions stable. Under these circumstances, proper security must be ensured by the Government to help the farmers to contribute to the economy. Sugarcane is a cash crop and agriculturists are forced to go for risky sugarcane cultivation only to make good the loss they have had previously. This year, we have witnessed in several parts of the country, the farmers are resorting to sugarcane cultivation. In the earlier years, drought conditions disappointed the agriculturists by way of affecting the sugarcane cultivation in a big way. If there is increased sugarcane production, in the absence of proper registration and proper procurement and timely crushing farmers are put to great hardship. Uniform crushing pattern and fixed remunerative prices are not there in place and, hence, sugarcane cultivators are faced with a big loss in many places this year. In the districts of Thiruvannamalai, Vellore and Tiruppathur, which is my constituency, the sugarcane cultivators have got a good yield this year, but still they could not get timely procurement and remunerative price and hence they have been driven to their wit's end. Since sugarcane cultivation and sugar production is not restricted to a particular State, as they often turn out to be interstate agricultural production activity, the Union Government must come forward to evolve the National Plan to help the sugarcane cultivators to augment the production and get uniform remunerative price. In Tamil Nadu, the farmers who have been worst hit by the successive drought prone years got a great helping hand from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi to get cooperative loan waiver but that relief has been taken away because of the disturbances caused by the unpredictable condition in the sugarcane market this year.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Agriculture Ministry to

help the helpless farmers who are faced with great loss due to abundant sugarcane growth and drought prone conditions in some other places.

**(vii) Need to take steps for maintenance and conservation of the Shiv Mandir, a historical monument at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): I wish to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the dilapidated conditions of our monuments. Many monuments across the country are in bad conditions. The Archaeological Survey of India has imposed the condition to take a No Objection Certificate from them before repairing the historical monuments. I request the Union Government to simplify the procedure for getting NOC for repairing the historical monuments.

Sir, there are many historical monuments in the country which needs preservation/conservation. Shiv Mandir in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh is one of the ancient historical monuments which require urgent attention of the Union Government for preservation.

Sir, I request the Union Government to take steps for repairing, maintenance and conservation of the Shiv Mandir, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

MADAM CHAIRMAN:

Shri M. Shivanna – Not present

Shri Ramdas Athawale – Not present

Shri Harisinh Chavda

**(viii) Need to undertake the repair of National Highway in North Gujarat with a view to check water-logging in the areas**

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): The National Highway recently constructed by the Union Government in Palanpur Disha, Bhildi, Sihori, Thara, Raghanpur, Satalpur in North Gujarat was not constructed scientifically and there is no drainage system. Due to this, water-logging took place during the recent rains and the water entered the houses of the people there. The crops of the poor farmers were badly destroyed and National Highway was also severely damaged due to the water-logging.

I request the Government through the House that, while undertaking the repair works of the said highway, it should be kept in mind that drains are also constructed for free flow of water so that water-logging doesn't take place.

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

14.32 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF THE STATE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT)  
ORDINANCE, 2007 AND THE STATE BANK  
OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007**

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Items 17 and 18 together. Shri Ramji Lal Suman to move the Statutory Resolution.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Madam Chairman, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 5 of 2007) promulgated by the President on 21 June, 2007."

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, on behalf of my colleague Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to move \*

"That the Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

Madam, while deliberating on the issue of regulation and supervision, the Committee on Banking Sector Reforms, that is, the Narasimham Committee II, had observed that it is inconsistent with the principles of effective supervision that the regulator (even in the interim period, namely the Reserve Bank) is also an owner of the bank. This would require the RBI to divest its holding in banks and financial institutions. The Committee was of the view that, appropriately, RBI should not own the institutions it regulates. In the discussion paper prepared by RBI on 'Harmonising the Role and Operations of Development Financial Institutions and Banks (January 1999)', it suggested that in order to enable RBI to focus on its regulatory and supervisory functions, RBI should not continue with its ownership functions in both commercial banking and refinance of development finance segments. The ownership of financing institutions could ideally be delinked from RBI through the transfer of such ownership to the Government.

Madam, RBI accepted these recommendations for transfer of its shareholding in SBI to the Central Government. In its Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2001-02, RBI announced its intention to transfer the ownership of shares in SBI. On 10th October 2005, RBI furnished the details of legislative changes required for divestment of RBI's shareholding in SBI. On 10th February 2006, RBI informed the financial implications of the proposal of transfer of shares.

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President

On 1st march 2006, RBI sent draft legislation for making necessary amendments in the SBI Act, 1955 for transfer of its shareholding in SBI to the Government. In February 2007, the Government approved the proposal for transfer of ownership of shareholding of RBI, in the SBI, to the Central Government. The transaction involved transfer of the entire equity held by RBI in the SBI, that 31,43,39,200 shares comprising 59.73 per cent of the total equity shares. In the current year's budget a sum of Rs.40,000 crore was provided for this purpose.

Madam, in view of the large amount involved, it was decided to complete the transaction before 30th June 2007, that is, the date of closure of the annual account of the Reserve Bank of India. Hence, it became necessary to carry out urgently the required amendments in the SBI Act 1955.

As both the Houses of Parliament were not in Session, the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance 2007 (5 of 2007) was promulgated on 21st June, 2007 which came into force on the 29th June, 2007. The transfer of shares from the RBI to Central Government before 30th June, 2007, i.e. in the current financial year of the RBI, has enabled the RBI to transfer all its profits due to this transfer as a part of the annual transfer of surplus to the Central Government.

The said Ordinance has amended the State Bank of India Act, 1955 to enable the transfer of RBI's shareholding in State Bank of India to Central Government. The amendments are confined only to substituting the words "Central Government" or "Government" for "Reserve bank" or "Bank" at 14 places and omitting the reference of Reserve Bank at 2 places in the State Bank of India Act, 1955. This Bill seeks to replace the aforesaid Ordinance.

With these words, I commend this august House to consider the Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 5 of 2007) promulgated by the President on 21 June, 2007."

"That the Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Madam Chairperson, I fail to understand as to how this ordinance is related to the development of the country as well with the common man. The Government wants to justify its own tendency of taking loans through this. The Government wants to borrow Rs. 40 thousand crore from the market for purchasing approx. 60 per cent shares of the Reserve Bank of India for the State Bank of India. So far as I know, the Government's borrowings from the market have exceeded

the budget estimates. Every year, the burden of borrowings on the Government is escalating. Now, you would transfer 60 per cent shares from the Reserve Bank of India to the State bank of India and thereafter Government's shareholding of 51 per cent in it is sure in the name of Bank Reforms. It means that ultimately 9 per cent share would be transferred and funds would be again mobilized. Madam Chairperson, this tendency is very dangerous. Through this Ordinance the Government is doing nothing more than just justifying through various technicalities its tendency of putting burden on the country by taking loans. Therefore, I oppose it.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): I do not oppose the proposal which has been brought by hon. Minister today through this Ordinance but I would like that hon. Minister should give clarification in regard to some issues. I also want that my suggestions should also be included. It is well known fact that the Narsimhan Committee had been constituted, when deposits were decreasing and the demand for loans was increasing, whether it was State Bank of India or any other nationalized bank. I would like to know that how many recommendations and suggestions of Narsimhan Committee have been accepted by you and how many have been implemented and how many have not been accepted and the reasons for rejecting the same? The clarification about the recommendations of Narsimhan Committee should be given to us. It would have been better if it would have been brought after the submission of report of Standing Committee but you have told about your compulsions and we too understand that at basal convention some rules regarding international banking were formulated and State Bank of India is proposed to be made a Global Bank. It is a good thing and this would have been your compulsion that you had to bring the ordinance. You gave the right to convert Rs.20 crores equity into Rs.5 thousand crores through the first amendment and now you have reduced the RBI's share from 59.73% to 51% and you are going to give Rs.40 thousand crores to SBI. I would like to have one clarification from you that your Cabinet Committee has taken a decision that you are bringing Rs.900 crores through J.M. Finance India-One and Mauritius offshore Fund. What are its merits and demerits.

What is the justification of bringing money through Mauritius Offshore Fund. Please give clarification in this regard?

It is necessary to have discussion on Amendment Bill because there are not much points for discussion on this ordinance.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We have taken them together.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Madam Chairman, as it is a

relevant link to it, hence required to be discussed. It has been said in the Amendment Bill that State Bank of India is entering in the Insurance Sector also and it is investing capital in the Expansion Management Fund and Mutual Fund in international Market and it has partnership with International Companies. The State Bank of India has made a partnership deal with a foreign company cardiac S.A. in insurance sector and you have entered into partnership with a foreign company called Societe General in Mutual Fund sector. Hon. Minister, Sir, I want that you also give the details of these two foreign companies with which you have a partnership before the House Stating the Standing and reputation of these companies. In case these companies default at any time and if you are put under any pressure by them to save these foreign companies, I know you will not come under that pressure, but before it happens, it is better that you provide the details of these companies to the House.

We are going to make State Bank of India a Global Bank. It is a good thing but we should not forget this that State Bank of India has more branches in rural areas. We have to ensure that rural development programmes should not suffer while making it a global bank. The State Bank has 9 thousand branches and 60% are in rural areas. Approx. 22% of your income is from rural areas. Earlier also there had been a suggestion that the State Bank should operate in the rural areas through post offices. The State Bank Branch should open in the post office, what is being done in this regard and at what stage is it? If it happens like this then the State Bank will reach to each & every village and we will get its benefit in the rural areas.

At last, I would like to say that figures about return of assets of the State Bank of India also require to be considered.

[English]

In 2003-04, the Return on Assets in respect of State Bank of India was 0.94 per cent and it came down to 0.84 per cent in 2006-07; in the case of Punjab National Bank it was 1.08 per cent in 2003-04 and it came down to 1.03 per cent in 2006-07; in the case of Canara Bank, it was 1.34 per cent in 2003-04 and it came down to 0.98 per cent in 2006-07; in the case of Overseas Bank, it was 1.07 per cent in 2003-04 and it became 1.21 percent. यह कुछ बढ़ा है, लेकिन बहुत मार्जिनल बढ़ा है। In the case of ICICI bank, it was 1.41 per cent in 2003-04 and it came down to 1.1 per cent in 2006-07.

[Translation]

what is the reason that Return on Assts of each & every bank have not increased rather have come down. What steps you are going to take to increase the return. The State bank should function properly in rural areas also. We should not forget this though we are at no.4 in the world in terms of riches but we are at no. 126 in the Human Development

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

Report. You should move forward towards global bank but we should do our best to improve our number in the Human Development Report.

At last, I would like to say one more thing which is related to the functioning of the banking system because you are giving Rs.40 thousand crores.

But I would like to draw your attention towards a news item published in Indian Express dated 7th May and with your permission I would like to quote. Shri R.P. Singh, C.M.D., Punjab and Sindh Bank wrote a letter to Banking Secretary Shri Vinod Rai and whatever he has written in the letter requires to be taken note of:-

[English]

"The Bank has suffered in the past due to reckless lending because of political interference and an obliging management, which resulted in accumulation of the highest NPAs in the country. If the Government wants this Bank to survive, the Bank should have Directors, who are not only professionals but also men of integrity and not connected with local politics."

Now, this is a very serious matter, and I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will pay attention to this; and I wish him good luck.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Madam, Chairperson, I rise to support this Bill, the reason being having agreed for globalization, we have to keep our banks on par with the international practices.

If we were to see the capital raised by the ICICI Bank, we would find that in one year they have raised Rs. 9,600 crore. Suppose, if we were to stick to the old norms and methods of keeping Rs. 1 crore, Rs. 10 crore, Rs. 20 crore, and all that as equity, our banks would not be in a position to compete with the multinational banks, having permitted multinational banks of operating their branches in India.

Now, what I assume is that the hon. Finance Minister wants to follow the recommendations of the Narsimhan Committee, which very categorically, stated that the Reserve Bank of India must limit itself to the activity of a regulator and not as a owner, which is true.

In fact, we discussed sometime back that the keeping the Reserve Bank Director in the nationalized banks may not be right. They can suggest some independent norms, but certainly not an officer from the Reserve Bank of India on the Board because somebody may question: "You yourselves were there in the Board meeting, you had your own representative there, what have you done at that time?" So,

such questions may come. Naturally, it is better that the Reserve Bank of India must limit itself to the activity as a regulator rather than an owner.

Secondly, by transferring the entire shares to the Government of India, we are maintaining more than 51 per cent in the bank, which we wanted to keep because we do not want to allow the financial institutions or independent institutions or FDI or the multinationals to come and take more than 51 per cent in our banks. So, now, the ownership has shifted from the Reserve Bank to the Government of India. That means, there is no loss.

Moreover, this money that is transferred from the Consolidated Fund of India into the State Bank of India will enable the State Bank of India to increase its capital base, which we have also agreed, as per the Basel norms I and II that the capital adequacy ratio should not be less than 12 per cent. It can be more both Basel I and Basel II put together. This is also increase of money towards the market value of the shares held by the Reserve Bank of India, which definitely is a pride. The Reserve Bank of India is not transferring their share capital on inflated price. It is on the market price condition.

Today, if it was be sold in the market, it might touch even more. So, we are not the loser in any manner; and we are providing Rs. 40,000 crore of equity into the bank. Tomorrow, supposing, at any time, the Government or the Parliament changes its idea that 'we do not need 51 per cent of the Government money in the bank and we can reduce it to 33 per cent' then, we may be able to sell these shares at double the price of tentative price tomorrow depending upon the profits of the bank.

Therefore, under no circumstances this transaction of pumping Rs. 40,000 crore from the Consolidated Fund of India to the State Bank of India purchasing the shares owned by the RBI is a wrong thing.

It is a right thing at this moment. In this context, though it is a little outside of that, I just want to put one thing into the mind of the hon. Finance Minister once again, though he may not be favourable. The interest component in the banking sector has to come down. My opinion is, if the money were to earn money, then the importance of human efforts will come down.

Suppose in a particular company, there is a person whom we say he is the owner. We are aware, a couple of years back, it was found that the Escorts' Nanda, who is considered as a Managing Director, owner, Chairman and everything of that Escorts, was having only three per cent of equity at one time. When it has come to light, public notice that others are entering and purchasing the share at more than three per cent, immediately he came into form and tried

to prevent it, and increased his share of equity. So, my point here is that a person having three per cent of investment in a company with 97 per cent public money claims that he is the owner and he takes the entire dividend, entire benefit. That means, the entire sweat of the employees who are working there and the money invested from public sources—your money, my money and the public money which he has received and which has gone there—do not mean anything to him. That means, he is making the entire money.

So, my humble request to him is that if we were to decrease the rate of interest on the bank rate, then the human value, human input will be more. Then, the importance of the human beings will also come up and the remuneration for the human beings will go up. Otherwise, it is not the human beings that earn the money but it is the money that earns the money. Then, only rich man can earn money and the poor man can never come up in that.

Now, you have seen how many people are like this. I am happy that the hon. Minister has reduced the rate of interest for the farming community from ten to seven per cent. In fact, we requested him to reduce that even. A farmer cannot pay even that. It has to be reduced. A business man can pay 20 per cent or 30 per cent because he loads the entire thing to the consumer. But whereas we are fixing up the Minimum Support Price for the farmers. He is not getting anything beyond that in the open market and he has to pay the interest also to the bank.

You see how in some of the Gulf countries the rate of interest is almost zero or maximum three or four per cent. It is called in a different name. It may not be in the name of interest. There, the investor gets less. If the person who has got tremendous amount of money, wants to put it in a bank, he gets only two or three per cent but the man who works, who puts his brain into it, who sweats, will get more money. A person who has got idea, a person who is prepared to work round-the-clock, a person who takes up a project, plans for a project, works for it, puts into it innovative thoughts and new technology, will make money. He is genuine. It is genuine for him to make money but not the man who has just got merely money.

So, my humble request to the hon. Minister is to see whether he can come to that stage of reducing the rate of interest. It is not to that stage of putting zero interest. This is my first point.

Secondly, in this context, I wish to mention once again this point. I have already brought it to the notice of the hon. Minister. It is regarding empowerment of women, changing economies in the rural areas, increasing the purchasing capacity of the poorer sections and providing employment to the poorer sections. Madam, in this regard I must say that in Andhra Pradesh a number of Self-Help Groups constituted

by the women are working so well. We have to see their faces. We have to see the glow in their faces. When they take Rs. 10,000 loan from the bank and when they make a money of Rs.500 a month, you must see their faces and the glow and pride in their faces. Not only their income has gone up but they are also employed in a way. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has gone to the extent of giving them an opportunity to procure maize from the farmers and then supply it to the poultry and other consumers. In this process, the producer gets a better rate, the consumer is given at a lesser rate, and they also get some margin, and they are making a living on that.

So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate more money to these women Self-Help Groups societies where the Government of Andhra Pradesh has increased the lending from the Self-Help Groups alone in the last year to Rs.2,500 crore.

I want it to be made Rs. 25,000 crore in one State. That means, so long as they are repaying the loan, what is the harm in giving to them? The observation is that the self-help group are repaying the money to the extent of 97 per cent. There were days, when Shrimati Indira Gandhi nationalised the banks and when the Government wanted to lend the money to the poorer sections and not to the rich alone, then there were some officers who made the claim that the money lent to the poorer sections is not being paid back. It was a wrong thing. If that were to be so, why are the ladies paying at 97 per cent today?

The point is that if you were to put it into their mind that you increase your credibility without any efforts from Members of Parliament, or people's representatives, then the institutions themselves will be ready to lend more money to them if only they earn money and pay back their loans. In this context, I would request the hon. Minister to ask the banks to allocate more funds to the self-help groups.

Madam, right from the beginning I was also of the opinion that the role of the banks in bringing development in the country is enormous. What is required is not money but how it is lent and how many times it is recycled. If an amount of Rs. 10,000 crore in a bank was to be given to the right borrower and then the borrower makes right use of it and generates wealth, get himself benefited and then repays the money, and if it is recycled twice, thrice or four times, the economy booms. No matter what the hon. Minister allocates in the Budget, whether it is Rs. five lakh crore, Rs. ten lakh crore or Rs. two lakh crore, it is only a one-time thing and it is not being recycled. So, the concentration must be to improve the efficiency of the banking sector which can do wonders in the country.

I would request the hon. Minister, while supporting this Bill, that he must increase the control on the banking sector.



[Shri K.S. Rao]

In fact, he could have done it earlier also; but, may be, for whatever reasons he has not done it. He must reduce the rate of interest and recycle the money many a time. Thank you very much. I support this Bill.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West): Thank you Madam. While supporting the State Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2007 I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to a few points. As per the suggestion of the Standing Committee, the Reserve Bank of India, being the regulator, cannot be the owner of the State Bank. That is why the ownership should be transferred to the Central Government. This decision is absolutely correct.

But my point is that if you go through the performance of the State Bank for the last two years, we observe that it has been subtly deteriorated, reduced whereas the foreign banks have increased their turnover during this time. To increase the turnover, what I learn from the statement of the Chairman of the State Bank of India during the last Annual General Meeting is that he has expressed his desire that the State Bank will increase the activities in different sectors which includes the share market also.

My point is this. If the State Bank is going to invest money in the share market, I want to know whether that would be restricted to the Bombay Stock Exchange or it would be invested in other Stock Exchanges also. Why I am telling this is because in Kolkata we are having our oldest Stock Exchange. Our hon. Minister of Finance knows that they are suffering a lot for the last few years. It is almost on the verge of closure. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance that if the decision is taken by the State Bank to invest money in the Stock Exchange, then instead of concentrating only on Bombay Stock Exchange the other Stock Exchanges should also be looked into.

It is also learnt that the State Bank is going to increase its activities in the rural sector utilizing the infrastructure facility of post offices. Yes, it is a very good decision. We have earlier seen that to facilitate the income-tax payers the post offices have been utilized.

15.00 hrs.

In this case also, we will definitely welcome this because we feel that 70 per cent people are rural-based. Our hon. Prime Minister is insisting every time to increase the agricultural business, but what is the actual result? When we are claiming that we are going to touch the GDP growth of 10 per cent, the growth in agriculture sector is only 1.8 per cent. If you are really interested to increase the growth in agriculture sector, then poor farmers should be given facilities and they should be provided facilities. What we learn from different newspapers is that all these banks are showing the

disbursement made to poor farmers even for the purpose of marriages of their daughters as loan advanced to farmers for agricultural development. It should be looked into.

When we are talking about global branches of State Bank of India, what is the style of functioning? If we really want to increase the growth in agriculture sector and GDP growth and if we really want to help the poor farmers, then we will have to help them to produce more. At the same time, we will have to have very much the aggressive marketing, which includes global marketing as well. What is our experience? So far as perishable items are concerned, none of the banks is giving any facility to exporters of fruits, vegetables and other perishable items. The State Bank of India should take special care of those who are exporting these perishable items in the global market. We feel that the global market is very big. The only thing is that we will have to organise all these things and we will have to take the initiative to have aggressive marketing.

We will have to encourage a number of new entrepreneurs and that is what we are doing. In our Government, there is one Department called the Department of Food Processing. Hon. Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahay is trying his best and he is working seriously, but what we find from him and when we go to his Department is that he is having no funds with him. If we encourage the Department of Food Processing, it will help. When we have opened one such Department which is supported by an hon. Minister, he should have moving funds also. If he gets funds, he will encourage a number of food processing units to develop throughout the country. My request to hon. Finance Minister is that we should look into this.

While giving more credit facilities to the poor farmers or poor traders, we should also help the self-help groups. My friend was earlier talking about the self-help groups. It is our experience also in our State that when self-help groups go for any credit facility, they are being questioned in such a way - they are already poor, they are new in this trade and they do not know the A B C of banking system -that instead of providing help to them, they are creating such problems for them that they feel that they should better not go to a bank. So, the management of the bank should be very much alive to this aspect and give direction to the concerned officers in their branches as to how to help new entrepreneurs, how to encourage them and how to entertain them. I can tell you this much with our experience that the poor traders, the new entrepreneurs are good in repayment. If you go through the record of repayment, they are very good in repayment while most of the big houses never repay. These are the statistics which hon. Minister will accept.

Now when we are accepting this Bill, when we are thinking of making State Bank of India viable, then all these

things should be taken into consideration. I believe that our hon. Finance Minister will definitely consider all these aspects.

With these few words, I again support this Bill.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam Chairperson, the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill has been introduced in the House, I am not going to oppose it but I would like to give some suggestions in this regard.

Many good suggestions and views have been presented by hon. Members of ruling as well as the opposition parties in this House. It is correct that the banks have a major role to play in Development of the country. Our hon. Members have expressed their concern about the ways and means for the progress of our farmers and small traders and to make them self dependent. Some suggestions have been given in this regard. After the decision of the Cabinet, the Government have made a provision of 40 thousand crores rupees under the guidelines of SEBI for cash payment of the value of shares, holdings of shares of the State Bank and the Reserve Bank. It is a good idea. Till now RBI used to control it under an automatic policy. Now the Government has paid heed in this directions. The shares worth Rs. 40 thousand crores rupees are being given to SBI. It will not only improve the credibility of the bank in share market but will also strengthen it due to its competition with foreign banks and private banks. Though the SBI has a sound credibility, but the foreign and private banks have their credibility worldwide.

Madam Chairperson, the hon. Members have just advised that the branches of the banks should be opened in rural areas so as the small farmers and retail traders, or the people running petty business may be the benefitted directly. Rao Saheb has stated just now that there are many a Government policies over which banks have a direct influence. He has mentioned about self help groups. We have also convened a meeting of monitoring Committee wherein the Managers of all banks had participated. It was noticed that the target fixed specifically regarding assistance to self help groups have not been achieved. At some places only 10-15% of the target was achieved. I would like to suggest that all the Managers and officers of the banks should be directed that Government schemes having any bearing on banks, whether it is a matter of providing loans to farmers or concerned with any self help group, the target beneficiaries should be benefitted so as they can raise their standard of living as well as the banks may also achieve their targets. Those branches of the bank may be considered as good one where there is good customer care services. Today, we are competing with foreign banks. Therefore, we have to provide special recognition to the branches of State bank of India. We should try to upgrade the functioning of the banks.

Madam Chairperson, it is mentioned here that the loan at lower rate of interest and subsidies should be provided to farmers because the country will develop only if the farmers prosper. That is why State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill has been introduced in the House and considering the suggestions and views of the hon. Members, there is need to strengthen and upgrade the branches of the bank as lead bank and make them better than the foreign banks so that it may get worldwide recognition.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Madam Chairperson, State Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 2007 is being discussed today in the House. I am grateful to you as you have given me a chance to speak on the issue.

Madam, the management of banks have an important role in the development of a nation and society. Madam, certainly it may be a big objective behind introduction of this Bill. But, one thing which I am unable to comprehend is the fact that SBI is the biggest bank of India but its management is not trying to increase profit, on the contrary, its profit is decreasing day by day. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to explain the reasons of such a downward trend. The State Bank will certainly get the ownership of the shares obtained by the Central Government from Reserve Bank of India, but, you have to improve your management, and create a better management.

Many a members have stated that we should invest money in villages. India is basically a country of poors and until the maximum capital is not invested in the villages the position of India will not change. The question arises here who need funds? That is the question. The funds are required for development of infrastructure, National highways, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak and schools etc. It is the need of the hour in the age of globalization to maximize capital of the banks but it all depends on its proper management. They have attained ownership through this Bill. I think its needs proper management so as the poor & lower strata of the society alongwith small and marginal farmers may also get loans easily. In addition to that the depositors should also get some facilities. These objectives will certainly be fulfilled only when the above mentioned points are taken care of otherwise, frequent amendments and enactment of acts will take place and nothing worthwhile will happen. While supporting the Bill, I am going to concluding my speech with these suggestions.

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I stand here today to deliberate on the Bill to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955. We are told that the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 1st February, 2007 approved the proposal for transfer of ownership of shareholding of Reserve Bank of India in the State Bank of India to the Union Government. In a Press

[Shri B. Mahtab]

Conference, the Finance Minister, on 2nd February, had stated: "This move is intended to separate ownership from the regulatory functions of RBI." Later on, he explained: "It will be a book entry transaction as whatever is paid to RBI, I will be getting it back." The proposal was to acquire the entire equity held by the Reserve Bank of India in the State Bank of India, that is, 31,43,39,200 shares comprising 59.73 per cent of the total equity shares.

We are also told that a sum of Rs.40,000 crore was provided for this purpose in the current year's Budget. Yet, no action was initiated to move this Bill during the Budget Session of Parliament. I want to know the reason why. Why did the Government wait till the Budget Session was over? Why did the Minister rush to promulgate an Ordinance on 21st June stating that it had to be done before the closure of Annual Accounts of the RBI? He could have brought a Bill as has been introduced now. Why did he go by the backdoor? What was his apprehension? Making provisions in law, amending through Ordinance and then coming to Parliament for approval do not speak well of his respect to Parliamentary practice. Therefore, the explanation given in the Explanatory Statement does not hold water.

Two statutory changes have taken place through this Ordinance and it is reflected in the Bill. They will definitely have an impact on the future of State Bank of India. One is the transfer of ownership from the regulator - the Reserve Bank of India - to the real owner - the Government of India. On the face of it, as has been stated by the Minister, this is sound as the player and the referee should be different. But the reality in this case is complex. The State Bank of India was the first bank to be nationalised. The decision to do so was taken in response to a felt economic need, which is the absence of a delivery mechanism for developmental credit at the grass roots level, and not as a political stratagem like the mass-nationalisation of banks in 1969 and thereafter.

Over time, some healthy practices were put in place vis-a-vis the State Bank of India which made the Reserve Bank of India the de facto filter between the Bank and the Government reducing the scope for political interference. For all practical purposes, the Government has been calling the shots for SBI. So, what was de facto Government control will become de jure control now. Still, in a small way, a culture of marginal autonomy which was different and better will wither away. This is my concern. And this is at a time when SBI to be able to deliver as a national firm, needs more autonomy, not less.

Are we not aware what total Government control does? While submitting a report on fuller capital account convertibility, the Tarapore Committee has categorically stated that transfer of ownership of SBI from RBI to Government be put

on hold. But this Bill works contrary to that suggestion. I would like to know from the Government, will the autonomy exercised by SBI in its functioning in any way be adversely affected if this Bill is made into a law? Is it true that SBI presently exercises a greater degree of functional autonomy as compared to other nationalised banks?

The other statute change that is contemplated is to allow SBI to lower its stake in its associate banks to 51 per cent. The Left Front's view is well-known. They have supported this truncated Bill which is being piloted today. But what about the other portion of the Bill, as was stated, the SBI (Amendment) Bill 2006?

Today, it is common knowledge that SBI's return on assets, a key measure of performance, has now fallen for two years in a row. Sometimes, an organization consciously strives for market shares at the expense of margins but when both market share and margins show a negative trend, then the situation is somewhat serious.

Today, the SBI suffers in contrast to not just private banks but some other public sector banks. Not only Oriental Bank of Commerce, Corporation Bank, but also Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank are doing better. How do you intend to stop the decline? SBI is clearly declining even in its class and something needs to be done urgently. But bringing it under the Government directly will not help. SBI has become too unwieldy. It clearly needs to use information technology extensively to overcome the size. It must improve the quality of its intake and also the level of business per employee. None of these changes is likely to automatically follow from the proposed statute changes.

The banking sector reform process started when the Narasimhan committee submitted its report. The Government came forward and started implementing most of the suggestions. Then, the Government formed the Narasimhan Committee-II in 1998 to find out the scope for second generation reform. This Narasimhan Committee on banking sector reforms had observed that it is in consistent with the principles of effective supervision that the regulator is also an owner of a bank and had suggested that RBI should divest holding in banks and financial institutions. Accordingly, RBI had sent proposals for transfer. But the question before us Madam is: Why Tarapore Committee's suggestion was ignored? What is the position in the United States and in most of the developed nations like England, Australia? Has their regulator totally withdrawn from their main bank? If that is the case, why are we rushing through?

\* Lastly, I would say that while further banking reforms may open more avenues for foreign banks by April, 2009, my apprehension is, SBI will be handicapped by the Government as its single owner. Therefore, I would say that there is no

urgency to rush this Bill just because an Ordinance was promulgated, when a Bill is before the Standing Committee. Though Parliament was in Session for a month, the Government failed to take up the issue if they thought it to be very crucial. If it wanted to make a comprehensive amendment to the SBI Act, why are you rushing this truncated Bill through? I fail to understand this. I do not see any logic for this. I do not see any reason either. If at all there is any reason, where is the urgency? SBI was created for some specific reason and Rural Credit Survey Committee of the Fifties had a greater role in it.

Should we presume that the motive behind the Government's move in transferring ownership from RBI to itself is to benefit from the part sale of its holding to the public at a much higher market price later on? We would like to get answers.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Madam Chairperson, I must say that the scope of the Bill is very limited. It is only confined to transfer of ownership on shareholding of RBI to the Government of India. This is not a point to object and I think none of us is against it.

The reason already explained by the hon. Minister for promulgation of the Ordinance is not clear to me; it is not understandable. It is said that the Narasimham Committee observed, on the banking sector reforms, that the regulators should not be the owners of the banks.

There was a compulsion. The Government felt that there was a compulsion for transferring the ownership of shareholding of the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of India to the Central Government by 30th June. It is correctly mentioned by the hon. Members here that the Government approved the proposal of transferring the equity from the Reserve Bank of India to the Government in the month of February. There was enough time for the Government to bring forward a Bill in this august House for enactment.

The Narasimham Committee also observed the same thing with regard to the other banks like NABARD, National Housing Bank, etc. Then, why was this Ordinance confined only with regard to the State Bank of India? It is not clear to me. Why is the Government in a hurry now and why did it not bring forward this Bill during the Budget Session of Parliament? This Government must be called as 'Ordinance Raj', I must say.

When the UPA and especially the Congress was in the Opposition Benches, they used to object to each and every Ordinance. Already, it was told that the 'ordinance route' should not be accepted. It is like avoiding parliamentary democracy and coming through the backdoor. This is the one which can be debated. So, this is my first point - that is, this should have been brought before this House during the Budget Session

itself. The Narasimham Committee also observed that it applies to other banks also and that they should be brought together.

The next point is that this Bill is already confined and limited to the State Bank of India. It is apprehended by the hon. Members that when a huge money - a share of 59.73 per cent - is going to the Government of India, whether that will disturb the autonomy of the Government of India. It should be made clear. When the Government is going to be the owner of the State Bank of India, the Government should take the initiative to solve the other problems of the employees, restructuring of the credit policy, credit policy in agriculture, etc. and they should be solved.

I do agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Rao who has made a mention about the credit lending in agriculture. What is the role of the State Bank of India? Why did they not achieve the stipulation made by the Reserve Bank of India in regard to agricultural loan in rural areas and in the case of weaker sections of our society? Why did they not achieve the target so far?

As regards credit policy, I must draw the attention of the hon. Minister to what he used to say every year. It is not that only the hon. Prime Minister was already saying it but he also used to say that in agriculture the rate of interest has been reduced from nine per cent to seven per cent. But it is only confined to long term loans. If any agriculturist or poor farmer or any other farmer wants to purchase a tractor or power tiller or any other equipment for agricultural purposes, in that case there is no seven per cent interest. I demand that as has already been recommended by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee, the credit must not be at more than four per cent in agriculture sector. I think the Government is going to be the owner of the State Bank of India. So, I hope he will implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee and others also.

Lastly, I must say that restructuring of the credit policy and other matters relating to the State Bank of India, NABARD, National Housing Bank and other banks all should be taken into account and the Government should come forward to address all these problems.

With these words, I support this Bill. My observation regarding the promulgation of the Ordinance is still there. I think the Government would make it clear before us.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN (Begusarai): Madam Chairperson, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Madam, I do not oppose the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill 2007 but before I support it, I would like the hon'ble Minister of Finance to clarify certain doubts in my

[Shri Rajeev Ranjan Singh 'Lalan']

mind. Through this amendment the Government have decided to acquire 59.73% shares of the State Bank of India and it seeks to substitute 'Reserve Bank of India' with, the 'Government of India' wherever former has been placed. They have told that this decision has been taken in pursuance of the Narsimahan Committee Report. However I feel that instead of bringing an ordinance in this regard, had the Government opted for bringing a comprehensive Bill regarding banking reforms and instead of dealing with the share transfer of the State Bank during the Budget Session and conducted a comprehensive discussion on the same, it would have been far better option and would have been more beneficial for the country.

This step of their's is also in contravention of the policy of not interfering in the matters of Banks and general economic policy. On one hand they are privatizing many institutions by selling their stake, on the other hand they are acquiring ownership of 59.73% shares of the State Bank of India. This step is quite opposite to their stated economic policy. Today, they have mentioned about the ordinance but I would like to say that had the Government been keen on the issue of book transfer in regard to the State Bank of India, it could have been done later on itself. There was no need to bring an ordinance for it. Doing governance through ordinance tantamount to dictatorship and this is called as the rule of ordinance. There should be a check of this tendency in the democratic set up and this is one of the major points of doubt in my mind. The hon'ble Minister has mentioned about the transaction involving rupees 40 thousand crore and if the Government has gone for market borrowing of the same amount then it would certainly have adverse effects on the economy of the country and I would like the hon'ble Ministers to give certain clarifications in this regard.

Besides, the Government have a stated policy of not keeping more than 51% stake in the public sector banks and quite contrary to the said policy, the Government have acquired 59.73 % stake in the State Bank of India.

Madam, today the situation has come to such a passe that State Bank of India is losing its credibility in the market and people are not opting for depositing their money in the State Bank of India. There are two reasons behind it. One, the services offered by the Bank have become very much like those offered in Government offices and the employees of the Bank do not consider themselves to be the part of a commercial organization. The step of transferring the shares to the Government would further boost this tendency of the employees and reduce the credibility of the Bank.

Madam, seven hon'ble members have raised the issue of deposits. I would like to know as to what percentage of total deposits is being disbursed as loan to the farmers. I

would also like to say that not even 20% of the deposits are being provided as loan in my State. A Committee has been constituted for monitoring the performance of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various districts. During the meetings of the said monitoring Committee, when we were reviewing the performance the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in various districts, it was found to be 20%. Various loan applications pending in Banks are not being processed. On one hand, the public sector Banks are losing their credibility and are unable to attract the people, on the other the Government is taking the step of acquiring ownership of 59.73% stake of the Bank from the Reserve Bank of India. There could have been any alternate mechanism. If the hon'ble Minister is able to provide satisfactory clarifications in regard to the above mentioned doubts, I would support this Bill otherwise I oppose this Bill.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Madam, I rise to support the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007. I compliment and congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for his sincerity in taking this House into confidence after promulgating the Ordinance.

I see a lot of logic and sound reasoning in the Bill. Questions have been raised as to why the Bill was not brought forward during the Budget Session. During the Budget Session only the Government planned to give a sum of Rs. 40,000 crore and mobilization of that amount required a lot of time and straightway in the month of February, or March or April one cannot give the money and in the absence of the money the Bill could not have been brought forward. Therefore, the Government had to take some time. It was found that before the end of the financial year of the Reserve Bank of India, that is, before 30th June, 2007 the Government could mobilize that amount of money and therefore, it had to achieve this objective in deference to the decision taken by the Cabinet. But at that point of time the Parliament was not in Session and therefore, the hon. Finance Minister has clearly stated in his statement, the Ordinance route was the better option.

There is nothing undemocratic about it. It is not that the House is not taken into confidence. Therefore, I find that the hon. Finance Minister, at the earliest opportunity, has amended the State Bank of India Act as required. So, there is nothing wrong about it. Honourable Members have already spoken about the purpose of the Bill and other things.

I see two important purposes that will be served by this Act. One is, it tries to end a kind of conflict that existed in the Reserve Bank of India. As one of the hon. Members said, a player cannot be a referee because the referee cannot effectively supervise the player if he himself happens to be the player. Therefore, the regulator has to be different and

the owner has to be different and thus, this Bill tries to end this kind of a conflict that existed for a long time. Of course, it has been recommended by the Narasimhan Committee too and therefore, the Government has implemented this recommendation.

Secondly, there is not much of revenue implication as far as this move is concerned because what is given by the right hand is taken away by the left hand. Madam, the amount which the Government of India gives is not Rs. 40,000 crore. The actual amount is Rs. 35,531.33 crore which is given to the Reserve Bank of India for purchasing 59.73 per cent of the shareholdings which amounts to Rs. 43,39,200 and this amount comes from the surplus of the Reserve Bank of India to the Government of India. Therefore, there is not much of the financial implications as far as the Government is concerned. Some hon. Members have said that the Government has to borrow this amount of money and it would affect the fiscal deficit and all that. These are not the real implications attached with this Bill.

This is a very simple Bill through which they are bringing the transfer of ownership from one hand to another. That is all. It is not going to affect any of the functions of the Bank. But the little worry in that is, what the Government of India gives to the Reserve Bank of India will come in the form of capital expenditure but what the Reserve Bank of India will give to the Government of India will be in the form of a revenue account. Therefore, if the revenue expenditure and the capital expenditure are to be matched, it will be revenue neutral, so to say. It is not having any drastic implications on that.

Having said that, another advantage of this Bill is, now that the Government of India becomes the owner of the State Bank of India, Government would be able to implement many of the social policies which the Government has before it. The UPA Government has laid down a number of social objectives and it is this Government which emphasises both on economic growth and social justice. That is why, it has implemented a number of laudable schemes for which financing is required. Now when the Government becomes the owner, it would be able to direct the Bank to move in those directions where the Government of India wants to implement certain social policies. Therefore, finance will not be a constraint because the Government itself becomes the owner and policy consistency will be there. Implementation will also become greater. Therefore, I see these three distinct advantages by the action of the Government.

Having said this, I would also to submit to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister that the market share of the State Bank of India is declining and it is declining at a time when the margins of the Bank is also declining. It is quite possible that at times when the bank is moving in a strident manner to capture the market, the margins may fall. But here what is

happening is, the margin is falling as well as the market share is falling and it creates an alarming situation. And the rate of return, as people have said, is also declining. Therefore, the situation with regard to the State Bank of India has to be carefully studied and we have to put it on the right direction.

Then, today, the State Bank of India has to face a lot of competition not only from the private players in the internal market but also with the impending banking reforms, the Bank will have to face competition from foreign markets also. And if the State Bank of India has to withstand this competition, it must have larger resources to access in the equity market as well as the capital market.

Now, there is a legitimate fear whether the Government, with all its fiscal constraints, would be able to give the State Bank of India that amount of capital that would be required to meet this competition. This is another point which the Government of India will have to take into account.

Thirdly, today the State Bank of India requires more autonomy. There is a fear whether the State Bank of India will be able to enjoy this autonomy once it becomes controlled by the Government of India. So, the Government of India should frame its policy in such a way that it gives more freedom, more flexibility to the State Bank of India to design its own operations and policies.

Today the State Bank of India is one of the largest commercial banks having 100 crores of customers with 9,000 branches. The worrying factor is that it is able to do only 22 per cent of its business in the rural areas. It has to improve its business in the rural areas by lending more and more to the rural areas.

The Narasimham Committee suggested that the Government should take the shareholding of three banks, that is the State Bank of India, the NABARD, and the National Housing Bank. Now, we have done only for the State Bank of India. We would like to know when the shareholding of the NABARD and the National Housing Bank will be divested from the Reserve Bank of India.

With these few words, I fully support this Bill. There is a lot of logic and reasoning in the Bill that has been piloted by the hon. Finance Minister.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam Chairperson, I support the State Bank of India (Amendment Bill 2007) because it's a Bill concerned with economy of the country as all of us are aware that the State Bank of India is one of the largest Banks of the country having maximum number of Branches and employing maximum number of people. However, I would like to know from the hon'ble

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Minister as to what is the reason for the declining profits of the Bank having maximum number of Branches and clients? As per the figures given by the hon'ble Minister, the Bank registered a profit margin of 99.6% during the year of 1999-2000 while it has steadily declined to 35% and 21%. The profit margin of the Bank is showing continuous decline. What is the reason behind it. Whether the reason of declining profits is the addition of 474 new Branches but the declining staff strength in the name of computerization. I am of the opinion that one of the reasons of declining profit is the decreasing number of clerical staff which is affecting performance leading to the said situation.

Madam, I would also like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that the number of saving bank accounts in State Bank of India is less as compared to other nationalized banks and later are ahead of the former in this regard. I would like the hon'ble Minister to reply as to why other banks are ahead for the State Bank of India despite its huge size vis-a-vis other banks. As our colleagues have also pointed out that if this Bill had been brought during the Budget session, we could have held comprehensive discussion on it. However, it seems that somewhere down the line the dictatorial tendency and the tendency to bring ordinances on the part of the Government shows itself and the Government failed to bring this Bill during the budget Session. The Government brought the ordinance on 21st June 2007 and achieved its objective. Now it has been brought in the form of the Amendment Bill before the Parliament. Now, this Bill will be passed because we are supporting the Bill.

Certainly, we are extending support, but some are supporting with conditions and some are supporting without laying down any conditions, but ultimately, the Government should think about it. India is the largest democracy in the world. If we claim to be the largest democracy, then the democratic system should also be adopted and followed. Hon'ble Minister of Finance should contemplate over this. An agreement called Basel Agreement was entered into which pertained to adequate capital of banks and India too adopted the same in the year 1992. Accordingly, keeping in view the need to increase capital base for meeting criteria with regard to adequate capital of the State Bank of India and its subsidiary banks, you agreed to cover the State Bank of India also like other banks for issuing of shares, providing for private establishment or preferential allocation, bringing about fundamental financial reforms to the banking system and international credibility. Till now these were governed by the Reserve Bank but now they will be governed by the Central Government. This Bill has been introduced with a view to increasing capital base of the state Bank of India and its subsidiary banks and the objectives thereof themselves state that the Basel Committee on Environment has released a new adequate capital structure wherein the public sector

banks have been asked to increase their capital base and based on that, you have introduced this amendment Bill. Through this, the Union Government is purchasing equity in three banks viz-SBI, NABARD and NHB. After this, the Reserve Bank of India may completely focus on regulation of banks. Therefore, the Cabinet has decided that the capital of the Reserve Bank of India in the SBI, NABARD and NHB be handed over to the Union Government and based on that, it is an endeavour to transfer the shares of those banks to the Union Government. Perhaps, the Minister of Finance has been taking it into consideration that the regulator of the banks should not be owner of these banks, so, the Union Government would become the owner of this bank too like that of other banks.

Besides, I'd like to say one more thing that some of the nationalized banks have their satellite banking facility in villages. Many farmers and small traders have their accounts there. On one hand, you are opening new branches in the cities while on the other, you are closing the satellite branches of banks in villages. Consequently, the customers have to face difficulties. You should also pay attention as to why such a situation prevails. Sir, the banks had a social responsibility under which several provisions were made to make the farmers as well as rural people self-dependent by providing loans easily from the public sector banks. On one hand, you talked of providing loans to agriculture sector and industries and you make certain arrangement for this purpose, while on the other, you issued a new order stating loss-making banks would gradually be closed. It is irrelevant. The villagers have to make rounds of the nationalized banks for taking loan, still they are not able to get loan. It's the industry officers who determine, as to how much amount is to be given and to whom under the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. If the loan seeker belongs to the scheduled caste or backward class, he continues to make rounds of the banks. The Committee decides as to how much loan is to be provided and to whom. He gets spent and exhausted while doing the rounds of the bank, but bank does not provide him the loan. Through you, I would like to ask the Government that full care should be taken to ensure that promise made with regard to social responsibility of banks should be fulfilled before purchasing shares of banks and making amendments.

Attention should also be paid to it. If I am not wrong, ban on the foreign banks would be lifted after 2009 in our country as per the terms of the World Trade Organisation. They would also enter in the open market in India. Only the HSBC bank is such a bank in our country so far. Assets of that bank are far more than that of the State Bank of India and other nationalized banks combined together. Therefore, how our banks would be in position to compete with foreign banks. While this is the condition of only one bank, how our banks would continue to exist on World level in the era of globalisation. It should be taken into consideration.

SBI is the largest bank in our country. It has the assets work rupees 5 lac crores approximately. So far, only the public sector banks as well as private sector banks compete with each other. If World level private banks enter India and run their business here, then there would be a competition among these three types of banks. Where will our banks stand in that scenario, since the foreign banks would attract customers by introducing new schemes? Therefore, the Government should start thinking over this aspect from now onwards.

We are going to amend the Act through this Bill. There is provision therein to make the bank management flexible. Today, the employees of public sector banks frequently resort to strikes. Whether they resort to strikes after they feel that their existence is in danger due to outsourcing. They are forced to frequently resort to strikes even after the repeated assurances of the Government to them and meeting of the Prime Minister with the bank officers. The Minister of Finance may also clarify the position in his reply in this regard. Even a single day strike of banks in the country causes a loss of crores of rupees. So, the Government should rectify those policies due to which they have to frequently resort to strike. So far as granting of loan is concerned, the State Bank of India is the biggest bank, but an immediate decision requires to be taken with regard to grant of loan. Today, the public sector banks employees think that they could only be transferred to some other branch and nothing more than this. This is not the fair thinking. It's the competitive era today. So, the mindset of the public sector banks' employees regarding taking immediate decision for granting loan has to be changed. There's a need to pay attention towards it on behalf of the Government.

Speakers before me had elaborately discussed the changes you are going to make by way of this Amendment Bill. So, I do not want to go into that. At last, I'd just like to state that it's necessary to perform social responsibility and carelessness should not be shown by the nationalized banks while granting loans to the people of lower classes. With these words, I conclude. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Madam, at the outset, I would like to say that the hon. Minister himself has already spelt out the necessity, the rhyme and the reason for the promulgation of the Ordinance. An Ordinance is regarded as an *ex-post-facto* measure in our Constitution. Once the Ordinance is replaced by the Bill, then, the Disapproval Resolution becomes infructuous.

[Translation]

I'd like to remind Rasa Singh ji of the number of ordinances promulgated during the NDA Government regime,

if he takes it into consideration, he would himself find the reply of his question. In democracy, the Government has the right to promulgate ordinances.

[English]

Madam, today, we are living in the age of globalization. Financial sector is regarded as the brain of our economy. Naturally, to adapt to the global environment and to maintain the prudential norms as enunciated by the international standard, we are in the continuing process of reforming our financial sector.

16.00 hrs.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now it is 4 o'clock. We have to take up the discussion under Rule 193 on the flood situation in the country. But, I think, there are only three or four Members left who want to participate in the discussion on this Bill. So, if the House agrees, we will pass this Bill and then we will take up the discussion on flood situation.

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): Madam Chairman, there are only four Members who want to participate in this debate. We can conclude this debate by 4.30 p.m. and then we can take up the discussion on flood situation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I request the Members to be brief while speaking on this Bill.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Madam, our financial sector has been facing three most important challenges, namely, technological challenges, operational challenges and challenges to the people. In order to maintain our financial stability and to inject confidence in our financial system, our financial sector has been reforming over the years and to that end Narasimham Committee was constituted in the year 1991 and again in the year 1998, the second Narasimham Committee's recommendations were accepted by the Government and they have been implemented also and one such recommendation pertains to the objects of this Bill. This has been accepted and to that end the Government has brought forward this legislation.

16.02 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

The conduct of financial regulation and supervision by the Reserve Bank of India is directed to the end of ensuring financial stability. Our banking system has been progressively



[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

aligned with the regulatory framework of international practices. We have taken steps to implement Basel II norms which are being carried forward through the capital adequacy assessment process. Over the years, the Reserve Bank of India has been vested with the regulatory and supervisory authority over commercial banks, urban development banks, non-banking financial institutions and other financial institutions. But the Government thinks it prudent, in pursuance of the second Narasimham Committee's recommendations, that the juxtaposition of the twin functions does not behove the Reserve Bank of India and therefore we have separated the functions. Already, as per the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee the Recruitment Board system has been abolished, VRS has been implemented and managerial autonomy has also been announced.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that special emphasis has been laid in both the reports of Narasimham Committee on human resource development. But in that regard I do not know what kind of measures the Government has taken so far.

As far as the performance of our public sector banks are concerned, per employee business, per employee profit generation etc. are the most vital parameters which need to be considered when we review the performance of our banking system. Our banks have been taking several steps to adequately capitalize themselves in order to follow the Basel norms.

The transformation of the banking sector in India needs to be viewed in the light of the overall global scenario where cut throat competition has become the order of the day. So, to deal with the situation, we need to improve upon ourselves in all respects in terms of technology, in terms of operation, in terms of our services.

In so far as the SBI is concerned, I must say that still the SBI has not been able to divest itself of its conservative hangover which has been persisting over the years. Therefore, the services which are required by the people are not being given. That is why, a number of complaints have been cropping up against the SBI. In this globalised competitive scenario, I think, the delivery of the service always plays the most important role because growth of our economy is essential and in so far as financial sector is concerned, that plays a dominant role. Therefore, the delivery of service of the bank is necessary to compete ourselves globally, to put ourselves in the right position in so far as globalised scenario of financial sector is concerned.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, in the normal course, I would not have availed this opportunity to speak on the Bill. The Amendment Bill is dealing with one

aspect and that is, in the original Act, the words used 'Reserve Bank' will be substituted by the words 'Central Government' wherever it appears. That is the only provision. For that purpose, this Bill is introduced.

But my disagreement is in other aspect and it is very simple. In our Constitution, the legislative function is the prerogative of this House and no other agency is entrusted with that function. But articles 123 and 213 give emergent powers to the Governor as well as the President that whenever there is an unexpected emergent situation, the Government can resort to ordinance procedure. The moment the House reassembles, it will end its life within six weeks. This is the position. So, this is an emergent provision for dealing with an emergent situation.

Now, take this case. This Narasimham Committee Report for banking reforms is there for long. The Reserve Bank is acting as a regulator as well as the owner of the State Bank of India and that procedure is there for long. It is not a new development. The Reserve Bank is having a major share in the State Bank and that is also there for long. The Narasimham Committee Report for banking reforms is also before the Government for long. The Government was fully aware of the situation that there must be a legislation and amendment to the State Bank of India Act and it involves a sum of Rs.40,000 crore, according to the first estimates of the Government. For that purpose a provision was made in this year's Budget also. So, the Government anticipated this and it cannot be an emergent situation or an unprecedented or unexpected situation. The Government was quite aware of it that Rs.40,000 crore will be required for acquiring the shares in the State Bank of India. That is the position.

They also would admit that for that purpose in the current year's Budget Rs. 40,000 crore was the provision. All these things are there in existence for a long time. There was no emergency. By any stretch of imagination can anybody, bar any reasonable person, imagine that there is an emergency? Recommendation of the Narasimham Committee Report is there. The Government also admits that by the inclusion of the provisions in the current year's Budget also. It is not proper in Parliamentary system to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India through an Ordinance. It must be done through a due process of law. This House is kept out of it. The Government have already withdrawn money from the Consolidated Fund of India towards payment of a sum amounting to Rs. 35,000 crore. Sir, Rs. 35,531 and odd crore have already been withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India on 29th June 2007. The Ordinance was promulgated. On the same day of the same month, the amount was withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India. Why should it be done at the back of this House? The Government is aware of it. That is why there is a provision in the statute. The Government was also aware of the position that the

Narasimham Committee Report is acceptable to the Central Bank; for that decision has been taken long before. When we consider all these circumstances, it is a clear case that Article 123 is being misused.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I will answer that point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is only half an hour left.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Article 123 is being used not for emergent situation but for the convenience of the Government and making this House in a precarious situation. This is a committed legislation. We cannot make any alteration. Money has already been withdrawn. We are supporting the Government; we will have to support this Ordinance also. We cannot make any deliberation because the Ordinance has already taken effect to. We have no deliberation. We cannot make any addition and we cannot make any alteration in the situation now available in the country. Is it proper, my dear friend, Mr. Finance Minister?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will answer it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You are a very learned man. Why should you resort to Ordinance process by withdrawing money from the Consolidated Fund of India?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your point, Mr. Radhakrishnan. The hon. Minister is ready to reply your query.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Then every Government will withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India for any purpose by issuing an Ordinance. It is a very unhealthy Parliamentary practice. The House is made a rubber stamp, if I may put it. For withdrawing money from the Consolidated Fund of India, you have transformed this House into a rubber stamp of the Executive. That cannot be allowed. Kindly excuse me; I have to say all these things; let it be on record; do not create such a bad precedent. It is not good for UPA Government. I think, hereafter UPA Government will be doubly cautious. Whenever you want money, you do it through the process of law, through the sanction of this House and not through the Ordinance.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir I may be allowed to speak from this seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am not against this Bill, but it is a very peculiar situation that the Bill is to be approved in the Standing Committee on Finance after two or three days. The date has been fixed. But a part of the Bill is now being passed through the Ordinance. This is a very peculiar situation that I am facing now.

Anyway, I am one with the hon. Finance Minister that the Reserve Bank of India should not be own the institution it regulates. I agree with this. So, I support the transfer of ownership from RBI to the Government.

I would like to seek a few clarifications from the hon. Minister. If the entire equity shares of RBI in the State Bank of India is to the extent of 31,43,39,200, that is 59.73 per cent, then what is the total cost of these shares? On what basis the cost of one share of the State Bank of India is determined? I would like to know whether the market value of the shares of the State Bank of India has already been determined or it is to be determined from time to time as and when the Government makes payment in instruments. This is one of the clarifications which I would like to seek from the hon. Finance Minister.

In the Second Report of the Narasimhan Committee on Banking Sector Reforms, it had been mentioned that not only the shares of the State Bank of India but also the shares of the National Housing Bank and NABARD should be shifted from RBI to the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to when the shareholding of the National Housing Bank and NABARD is going to be shifted from RBI to the Government of India.

The State Bank of India, even though it is the biggest bank in India, is not even among the first one hundred banks in the world. Of course, there is going to be a merger of all its subsidiaries with the State Bank of India. Will the State Bank of India go in for more acquisitions? What is the necessity of having so many nationalized banks? Why can some of these smaller and weaker banks not be amalgamated with the bigger ones? I would like to seek this clarification from the hon. Finance Minister.

Do you have uniform guidelines in all the nationalized banks for disbursing the study loan? As a Member of Parliament, I always remain present in the District Consultative Committee meetings. I am really surprised to know that there is no uniform policy among the banks with regard to the sanction of study loan. Some of the banks say that the students should be having a good career. What is the meaning of 'good career'? In my district, I made a request to the State Bank of India to sanction study loan to some of the students but they refused saying that these students are not having good career but some other nationalized bank came forward automatically to sanction the study loan to them. So, I would appeal to hon. Finance Minister that there should be a

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

standard guideline for all the nationalized banks and also there must be a complete transparency as to the basis on which the study loan is sanctioned. So, I shall make an appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he should go for it and at least the State Bank of India, being the biggest bank, should be more liberal in sanctioning study loan.

Sir, this is my last clarification which I would like to seek from the hon. Finance Minister. At the time of his Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister mentioned that the transfer of share from RBI to the Government of India is going to be revenue neutral. During the debate in the Standing Committee on Finance, we sought this clarification from various officers but they could not give.

I would seek this clarification from the hon. Finance Minister as to what is the meaning of this revenue neutral. With these words I support this Bill.

**SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to speak on the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007. I would not dwell upon the subject of promulgation of the Ordinance, which has been raised by many Members. If the timing was such that the promulgation was required, I think, the hon. Minister would be answering on that. But let me take up the other issues.

We have seen the Narasimhan Committee Report, which has given recommendations. But I feel that the Government itself should have taken the initiative to have done away with the RBI control. I think, the Narasimhan Committee has very rightly said that this was required.

Sir, here I would make only four to five points. It is true, which my friend Shri Kharabela Swain also mentioned, that there are 31,43,39,200 shares of the SBI. What is the value of these shares? In the stock market, the value of one share of the SBI is Rs. 1500 today. It had touched the high of Rs. 1,800 also. Therefore, is it a very clear view of the Finance Minister to have got all these shares from the RBI to the Central Government? Now, do they want to disinvest and make some money on it? Is it the motive? If that is the motive, please let us know about it. I think, it is a very clever move.

Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there is a mention that all directions shall be given by the Central Government. Now, if that is going to happen, the autonomy of the SBI is going to be lost; and if the autonomy of the SBI is going to be lost, even the satellite banks of the SBI, viz., SBBJ, the State Bank of Patiala and others would not be really able to compete in the market because the competition is very fierce. I thought by doing this, new initiatives could be undertaken by the State Bank of India for the e-banking and many more facilities.

Sir, I am making those points, which have not been made before. Therefore, the autonomy is a very important issue. The Chinese banks are also coming into this market. Everybody is looking into India. Now, if that is the thing, would the SBI be really able to hold on to their monopolies, to their business and do better? I feel that by giving autonomy to the SBI, new initiatives would be moved and they should be able to really compete in the market, which is a very good thing.

Sir, let me also point out that the banking culture of the public sector banks which used to be has gone. Now, things are changing. That is one of the reasons that the brain drain, good officers are getting out of the SBI and joining foreign banks. This autonomy would stop such things because then, they would be able to really take more initiatives for themselves. There may be vested interest of the RBI and SBI; if the shareholding is there, they would also like to become the owners. It is a statutory requirement of the RBI to have their audits and other regulations. That also is going to be stopped. There used to be always a contradiction. There used to be even an internal contradiction that what is going to happen, why should the auditing be like this, why should the auditing of the RBI on the other banks be different from what is happening into the SBI?

All this will be done away and I think what has been done is in the interest of SBI and in the interest of the country.

Also, let me mention lastly that rural economy is really becoming very, very big and the SBI has maximum number of banks in rural India and those banks will also be able to give better loans, more facilities and more, what is called, the anywhere banking service from the banks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Now, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy. You will be the last speaker.

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007. Although this seems to be a very simple legislation, it has far reaching implication and impact on the rural and agrarian economy of our country.

Sir, the Government has taken the Ordinance route. It is not a good Parliamentary practice. Moreover, taking money from the Contingency Fund and that too without taking the approval of the House, through the Ordinance, to do any financial transaction of the Government is not a good and healthy Parliamentary practice. But there was no urgency to take the Ordinance route. The heavens would not have fallen if, through this Bill, which he has introduced, they take the approval of this House in this Session or in the last Budget Session if it was so urgent. But the Amendment Bill 2006 is pending with the Standing Committee. They have not decided on it. They have not considered it. It is under consideration. Now bifurcating the Bill, they have brought another

Amendment Bill, 2007 for the approval of this House through the Ordinance route. I am opposing this Ordinance route.

Sir, by these banking reforms, there are concerns about the lack of social orientation, fragility of the banking system, issue of economic sovereignty and ownership. These will be the consequences of these banking reforms. This clearly implies the tendency to move towards privatization. This has already started. The Chairman of the SBI has said on 12th May, 2007 in a Press Conference that SBI plans to raise Rs. 15,000 crore. This will be raised through a mix of debt and equity. The issue of shares is estimated to be Rs.6,000 crore. Already, the move has started. We have not given the approval. Yet the State Bank has its plan to raise equity and privatize this thing. It has already started.

Sir, by amending Sections 3, 5, 10, 11, 18, 19, 24 and 36 and substituting "Central Government" for the word "Reserve Bank", the Government is intending to take away SBI from the control, authority and directions of the Reserve Bank. This measure of the Government is nothing but yielding to the pressures of corporates, big business houses and speculators to get more bank loans. Govt. is, under the pressure of these corporate houses, this Ordinance Bill has been introduced to reform the SBI and to allow them to take more loans from the SBI.

The adverse impact would be that SBI would be tempted to uncover it with lesser SLO (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) and lend more money as loans, thereby increasing its risk. If they give more money as loan without considering the SLR, naturally there is a risk, and this is a Government bank.

The risk is that the public money will be taken away by the corporate houses. Is it that the banking reforms mean shifting of control and authority from Government to private which means withdrawing its responsibility from social sector and upkeepment of the weaker sections? Is this the entire intention of the banking reforms? The House should be very much concerned for all these things as to what is the real intention behind all these things?

Just now hon. Member Shri Swain was mentioning that the students are not getting loans from the nationalised banks, from the State Bank of India. The farmers are not getting loans. The small business houses are not getting loans. But the big corporate houses will get the loan and the loan will be waived off by this Government. The entire loan will be waived off. This is the way how the public money is drained away and misutilised in the name of banking reforms.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister would reply, however, the time of this Bill is extended till the reply and passage of the Bill.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I begin by thanking Shri Lakshman Singh and all others who participated in this debate on this Bill to replace the Ordinance? With your permission, Sir, let me clear a few misconceptions first. Firstly, the intention to acquire RBI's shareholding was announced in the Budget. It was a transparent upfront announcement made in the Budget and when this House passed the Budget you approved that decision. Then, we also provided Rs. 40,000 crore in the Budget which this House voted when it voted the Appropriation Bill. Unlike what Shri Radhakrishnan said, the money is not being appropriated under this Bill. The money was appropriated under the Appropriation Bill which was voted by this House. Perhaps, he may have overlooked that fact. Therefore, quite transparently, we announced our intention, we had a budgetary provision and this was voted by this House when the Appropriation Bill was passed. It is only after the Appropriation Bill is passed that I have the authority and the confidence to go about the transaction.

Suppose, theoretically, this House had rejected that part of the Appropriation Bill, I cannot bring this Bill. So, I could not have brought this Bill at the time of the Budget Session. I can only bring it after the Appropriation Bill is voted. So, after the Appropriation Bill is voted — and I have given the reasons — we needed to accumulate approximately Rs. 40,000 crore that is required without interfering with the regular borrowing programme, without upsetting the market from which we have to borrow. So, we estimated that it will take us about three months to rely upon tax revenues, non-tax revenues and borrowing in the market to build up this capital of Rs. 40,000 crore. This took us three months, April to June, to build up this capital of Rs. 40,000 crore.

Once we were confident by the middle of June that this capital of Rs. 40,000 crore has been built up, then we promulgated the Ordinance on the 21st of June and said we will complete the transaction by the 29th of June which is the penultimate day before the RBI's year is over. So, I give the money to the RBI on the very last day and take it back in the first week of July so that I save on interest, I do not spend too much on interest. So, that is all that has been done. All these apprehensions which were expressed, I say with great respect, have no basis at all. What has been done is the most effective, most efficient way of doing this transaction in a short period of time. Parliament has already voted this in the Appropriation Bill.

Sir, we had actually spent only Rs. 35,531 crore. The price of each share was calculated according to SEBI guidelines. There is no arbitrary way in which the price can be fixed. There are SEBI guidelines of how price of share should be calculated. According to those guidelines the price of share has been fixed.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

We have paid Rs. 35,531 crore and in the first week of July or middle of July, the RBI has returned that amount to us as part of its surpluses. So, it is a revenue neutral transaction.

As far as other aspects of SBI's working are concerned, there is a Bill pending before the Standing Committee on comprehensive amendment to the State Bank of India Act. This Bill does not touch any of those provisions. This Bill simply replaces the words 'Reserve Bank of India' by 'Government of India'. While I will be very happy to answer a few questions, when the regular SBI comprehensive amendment Bill comes, we can have a full discussion on the working of the SBI.

Sir, be that as it may, let me answer the few questions that were raised. A question was asked about SBI MF. Yes, SBI Mutual Fund is owned by two entities. One is SBI which owns 63 per cent and the other is Societe Generale which owns 37 per cent. Is SBI tying up with post offices to give credit? Yes, the SBI is working on it and I hope that the SBI will succeed in tying up with post offices to extend credit to the remotest villages of India.

Sir, as far as the NABARD and the NHB are concerned, both are unlisted companies. There, we would require a certain amount of money to take over those two shareholdings. We intend to do that in the current year and complete those two transactions by June, 2008, but since they are unlisted companies, there is no great urgency to do that immediately, but we will do that by June, 2008.

Sir, SBI has done rather well. In fact, SBI has improved its position since the UPA Government came into office. I am giving the figures as on 31st March 2007 and I am also giving the corresponding figures of the previous year, 31st March 2006. The SBI's deposits increased from Rs. 3,80,000 crore to Rs. 4,35,000 crore; SBPs advances increased from Rs. 2,67,000 crore to Rs. 3,42,000 crore; lending to SMEs increased from Rs. 42,263 crore to Rs. 51,840 crore; lending to agriculture increased from Rs. 30,447 crore to Rs. 41,510 crore. SBI's gross NPA has declined from 3.88 per cent to 2.92 per cent. Its net NPA has declined from 1.87 per cent to 1.56 per cent. Under every parameter, SBI is now a stronger bank than what it was three years ago. It is a stronger bank than what it was even one year ago.

Sir, questions were asked about the per employee business and per branch business of the public sector banks. Per employee business ranges from Rs. 240 lakh per employee in Central Bank of India to Rs. 570 lakh per employee in the Oriental Bank of Commerce. As far as per employee profit is concerned, this ranges from Rs. 68,000 per employee in the Central Bank of India to Rs. 5.37 lakh in Oriental Bank of Commerce. In a way, this shows that banks' performance is extremely...

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Is this Central Bank of India or State Bank of India?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is for all public sector banks and they are highly diversified.

There are some banks which are not as good as the best bank. There is a wide range, but the effort is to make all banks more profitable and more efficient.

Sir, I have given you the figures of SBI. In fact, if you look at SBI's performance since 2003-04, the improvement will be even sharper, but for want of time I have given you improvements from 2006 March to 2007 March. I have figures with me from 2004 March to 2007 March. That will be even sharper. For example, let me give you one figure. Gross NPA in March 2004 was 7.75 per cent. It has now come down, as I said, to 3.88 per cent and further to 2.92 per cent. Likewise, net NPA was 3.48 per cent. It came down to 1.87 per cent. Now last year, it came down further to 1.56 per cent. So, I believe that under the UPA's charge, SBI today is a stronger bank and we will make every effort to make SBI a much stronger bank.

Sir, as far as the Public Sector Banks are concerned, again I have given these figures in many fora. I have given them in the Parliament also while we discussed the Budget proposals and the Finance Bill. There has been a marked improvement in the performance of the Public Sector Banks. Today, the Public Sector Banks are much stronger than what they were 3½ years ago, and let me pay tribute to the management, staff, employees and the officers.

Let me give some numbers. I am giving the figures for March 2004 and March 2007. The total deposits from all Public Sector Banks have increased from Rs. 12,29,000 crore to Rs. 19,88,000 crore; advances from Rs. 6,33,000 crore to Rs. 14,54,000 crore; gross NPA of all banks that was at 7.8 per cent has declined to 2.65 per cent; net NPA declined from 3 per cent to 1.04 per cent, which is one of the lowest in the world for any country. There is scope for improvement, and we will bring it down to below one per cent this year.

The return on assets is comparable to international benchmarks. It is one per cent for 23 banks, and it is less than one per cent for one bank. It is comparable to international benchmark RoA, which is about one per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I had raised the point about quantum of waiving of loans.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will answer that point also. The total priority sector advances has increased from Rs. 2,44,000 crore to Rs. 5,21,000 crore; agricultural credit has increased from Rs. 84,435 crore to Rs. 2,05,080 crore. It is more than double, and more than what we promised. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): What about it in terms of percentage?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In terms of percentage also that proportion has increased.

There were 10,79,091 credit linked SHGs when we took over, which increased to 26,08,338 by the end of March 2007, and which further increased to 29,25,698 by the end of June 2007.

SHRI K.S. RAO: What is this increase?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is the number of SHGs.

The education loans were given to 3,19,337 students when we took over, it was given to 9,37,793 students by the end of March 2007. The amount of education loan given was Rs. 4,550 crore when we took over, and it is Rs. 14,214 crore by the end of March 2007. Therefore, by any measure, as Parliament, we must compliment our Public Sector Banks. They are carrying out the Parliament's mandate. They are giving more loans to agriculture; they are giving more loans to SMEs; and they are giving more loans to education. Of course, they can do better, but that is why we are here, that is, to ensure that they do better. There are mistakes. Who says that there are no mistakes? There are mistakes, and there are some managers in some branches where this is not done. We will pull them up, and we will correct them. But the numbers will clearly prove in every sector that as a system as a whole, they have done better, and the banks are stronger.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, your revenue on bank assets has declined about which I mentioned earlier in my speech also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, I will answer that point also. My learned friend is referring to return on assets, and he says that it has declined for State Bank from 0.94 to 0.84, and for PNB it has declined from 1.68 to 1.03. But please remember that it has also declined for ICICI from 1.41 to 1.1. Why is it so? The reason is that we cannot expect a net interest margin of more than three per cent in a highly competitive market. In fact, according to me, the international banks work on a NIM of about 2 ½ per cent. We were working with a NIM with very large spread, which in fact hides inefficiency. A NIM of three per cent and an RoA of one per cent corresponds to international benchmarks. So, an RoA of one per cent is not bad; an RoA of one per cent is good. It means that the people are getting credit at more competitive interest rates. This is a good sign, and not a bad sign.

With these words, let me commend this Bill once again and request that the Bill be passed.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, what about the question asked by me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What was your question?

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I had asked you that by one stroke the Central Government has been able to get a bigger asset. I do not know how the SEBI has worked it out. What is the real value that you are getting on these shares if it is Rs. 1,800 a share and you are getting it for Rs. 40,000 crore?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have just told you that according to SEBI guidelines, the share price on the date of transfer was Rs. 1,130.35. SEBI guidelines have been faithfully applied in valuing the shares.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): A question has been raised about autonomy. Is their autonomy going to be disturbed?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If this Government had interfered with the autonomy of the banks, would the banks have become stronger in the last three-and-a-half years? Would they have done better? The point is that we have given them more autonomy, we have given them performance-based incentives, and we have asked the banks to delegate powers to their managers. That is why, the banks' performance is better and the banks are stronger. When I read out the figures, my learned friend applauded me. You must also applaud me in my conclusion that I have given more autonomy rather than restricted autonomy.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I just want to supplement the point raised by Shri Panda. By taking out the shares from RBI, the Government is controlling the bank. Yet, you say that you are giving them more autonomy!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Ownership is different from management. Government owns the majority shares in all nationalized banks. It is only in the case of SBI, the shares were held by RBI. Today, the RBI shareholding is being taken over by the Government. Like in 19 other banks, Government will own the majority share in this bank. This has nothing to do with the management which is vested in the Board of Directors and the CMD, and we have given them more autonomy.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): I talked about study loans. Will you have a uniform policy in all the nationalized banks?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will send you the guidelines circulated by RBA on educational loans. I am not denying that maybe a hundred branch managers all over the country are not following the guidelines, but by and large, things are improving. The numbers will speak for themselves. But I will send you a copy of the guidelines circulated on educational loans.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the mover of the Statutory Resolution is not present, I am putting the Resolution to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 5 of 2007) promulgated by the President on 21 June, 2007."

*The motion was negated.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up the Motion for Consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

16.49 hrs.

### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

#### **- Situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No. 21, that is, further discussion on floods. Shri Sita Ram Singh was on his legs. Now, Shri Sita Ram.

[Translation]

SHRI SITARAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing the devastating situation arising due

to floods and rains in the country. Whereas the discussion on floods was not yet over in the House after the first flood that hit the country, several parts of the country were deluged with worst floods that hit at least 20 districts of my State, Bihar as per the official figures.

Sir, 20 districts across the State of Bihar have been devastated by flood and the rest have been destroyed by incessant rains. The eastern part of the Uttar Pradesh adjacent to the State is completely at a loss due to incessant rains and floods. A book containing the figures of the damage caused by the floods and the account of affected districts has been published. All the Members must have seen these figures. Yet, I would like to inform the House that more than 300 people have been killed in Bihar alone due to heavy rains and floods. This tragedy is still not over and more and more people are succumbing to floods. Only day before yesterday several people died in Chiriyia block of my constituency as a boat capsized. As per the official figures a population of one crore 25 lakh has been affected by floods. More than 2 crore people have been affected by floods and rains in Bihar alone. Today, the State of affairs in Bihar is such that owing to heavy rains and floods approximately 5 lakh houses of the poor, landless and small farmers have collapsed and many more are following the suit.

Sir, rains and floods hit Bihar every year. Not only Bihar but many other States get affected by floods, however, we the people of Bihar are perennially affected by floods. There occur heavy rains and floods every year in the Eastern and Northern parts of Bihar such as Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Motihari, Bettiah, Gopalganj, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Khagaria and Begusarai. This year cities like Patna and Nalanda have also been affected by floods.

Sir, floods continue to hit the State every year and this issue is discussed in this House. Floods hit the State as usual. Since it is a seasonal phenomenon, it gets restricted to general discussion. No remedial measures are taken thereafter. We are not sensitized on measures to control floods though these hit not only Bihar but so many other States too. We are not able to devise permanent measures or system to check floods. We sit quiet after the discussion in the House.

Sir, the reasons behind floods are known to everyone. Rains are followed by floods. Nepal lies adjacent to Bihar. The downpour of rains in Nepal is followed by floods in Bihar since Bihar is geographically located in the downhill of Nepal. Floods also affect the eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh since these areas are adjacent to Bihar. The magnitude of the calamity spreads up to Bengal and Assam but we are not able to take any permanent measure. This year, also incessant rains for 20-22 days were followed by floods.

Sir, every year a meeting used to be convened at State Level to take preemptive measures for floods. However, this

year, unfortunately, neither any meeting was convened nor any measures were taken for protection from floods. This has been the biggest blunder of the Bihar Government. I am not criticising the Government as an opposition Member, I am rather stating the facts that the preemptive measures which should have been taken by the Government have not been taken. The result was that there was not a single boat available at the time of floods caused by incessant rains. Boats were required. Earlier, people used to keep boats but due to lesser rainfall in the previous year, they sold their boats. Preparations for floods have to be made every year and boat is the most essential thing during floods. Help was sought for providing boats from every corner in the absence of which there was huge loss of life and property. The Government should have arranged for boats for every flood affected area in advance. However, it did not happen and even the post-flood review was conducted late. Another unfortunate aspect of circumstances was that our Chief Minister was away from the State at the time of floods. It was a peculiar situation. The State Government officials kept on making calculations on paper and relief was not provided timely.

Sir, a dam got breached in my Lok Sabha Constituency in the year 2005 which has not been repaired so far owing to which even a little rainfall in Nepal would affect 6 districts and Motihari district in Bihar. Recently a dam collapsed in Rachnaur and Ramni. The Government should have undertaken repair works of dams in Champaran and Bettiah. The Central Government has provided funds to the Bihar Government for the repair of dams. It will take a lot of time to quote the figures. But we do not know how much money has been spent by the State Government on the repair of those dams.

The Government of India says that the State Government of Bihar has not submitted a report regarding the utilization of funds. On the other hand not even a single canal has been repaired in Bihar. Neither Gandak Canal nor the embankment of Baghmata have been repaired due to which, I feel that 15 lakh people have been affected. I would like to say that the management is not upto the mark. I don't want to limit this issue to mere discussion rather I would suggest that the Government, before providing any financial assistance, should hold a meeting with State Governments and after making proper planning, prepare a detailed project to complete this work within a prescribed time limit. Only then people could get some benefit.

Sir, as far as the question of providing relief is concerned, both State and Central Governments provide relief to the people. Last year we had requested the Government of India to provide assistance and it was provided. Even now we are demanding and hope that the Government would provide assistance. But, today, the situation is such that thousands of people are living under the open sky and nearly 1 ½ month

have passed by, however, even today, plastic sheets are not available to them. Whatever figures the Government of Bihar may have given, we are witnessing that the Government is unable to provide plastic sheets to the flood victims.

17.00 hrs.

The Government have pressed into service helicopter to drop foodgrains at some places, however, the problem is that sometimes they drop it into the water and sometimes they drop the consignment somewhere else. The Government should have provided relief material through motorboats but the number of motorboats is very less. The number of boats normally required for every panchayat is not available with them and even today people are living in the open as if the factories manufacturing plastic sheets has been closed down. Bihar Government says that we have asked the Gujarat and other State Governments to provide plastic sheets but the Government is unable to provide plastics sheets to them. Not 10-5 but thousands of people are living in the open, they have no plastic sheets to cover them. The Government have started providing foodgrains now, however, the quantity is insufficient. I agree that the Government is providing 25 kgs of foodgrains however the quantity is less and it should be increased. The most unfortunate thing is that the entire area is affected by floods but no official of the Bihar Government has reached the spot and without seeing the fury of floods for themselves they conclude that only half of the area is affected. It is the greatest problem. We have requested both the State and the Central Government. The Central Government is saying that we have not received the report so far however the hon'ble Members were presenting the figures in the House. The hon'ble Minister has clearly asked them to send a proper report. Through this House, I would like to request the Government to instruct the Bihar Government to furnish figures. The Government have made efforts, visited Bihar to see the flood situation. This has boosted the morale of the people of Bihar. We want the Government to call for a report from the Government of Bihar and provide full assistance to the state of Bihar to deal with the floods.

One more point is necessary, I will take another two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking only on flood and relief, speak something about the solution also.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: I am coming to that only. Now I would like to say that the important Question before us is that in 2004, the Government took serious note of this issue and said that we will construct high dams and will open offices. The Government opened the offices also and for that discussions were held several times and now the Government is expressing concern in this regard. It will involve huge amount of money but I would like to clearly state that we should take this issue even more seriously. Spending crores



[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

of rupees on relief work is not going to solve the problem. I want to say that direction should be changed and efforts should be made to find a permanent solution of this problem.

Through this House, I would like to place my views before you regarding the damage caused due to floods. For this I want that this work should be started at the earliest. First thing is that the crops of the farmers have been destroyed. The State Government has made an announcement that it will provide an assistance of Rs. 2000/- or rupees four or five thousand per acre. However, my Question is that what is the fault of the small and marginal farmers who have got only one acre of land? Their crops have also been destroyed, why they are not being provided relief, insurance amount or compensation? Through this House, on this Question of Bihar and the entire country, I would like to say that all the farmers in the country, whether small or marginal farmers or those having more than 8-10 acres of land, should be provided a compensation of Rs. 5000/- per acre.

Sir, second thing which I would like to say is that earlier also the Government have provided assistance to Bihar. The Government had promised to provide housing facility to all flood victims, under Indira Awas Yojana whose houses have been damaged. In the matter of Disaster Management, I would like to say that no discrimination should be made between the BPL and APL in so far as floods are concerned. Under Disaster Management and Indira Awas Yojana, the damaged houses of all the poor people and farmers, irrespective of the fact whether they belong to APL or BPL, should be constructed under special package.

Sir, thirdly, the loans of the farmers whose crops have been destroyed, should be waived off and the land revenue should also be waived off. When there is no cultivation and no crops, then, why land revenue is being collected from them? Therefore, their land revenue should be waived off.

I would like to make two three submissions regarding protection from flood. Till we do not find any permanent solution of the problem, arrangement of boats should be made in each village after consulting the State Government of Bihar. If I start discussing about their condition it will take hours as it is very tragic. Hence I request that provision for tarpaulin and plastic sheets should be made for all; the displaced and marooned poor people. Further, I would like this area to be declared as flood affected area. The Government of India should come forward to give full assistance to the State of Bihar. Measures are required to be taken for the permanent solution to the problem of floods and for providing relief to the people. It would be pertinent to point out that the permanent solution cannot be found unless the Government of Nepal is involved in this exercise. Hence, the matter needs to be taken up with the Government of Nepal.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation of floods has assumed alarming proportions. This morning, while travelling to Delhi by Rajdhani Express, I received an S.O.S. call from a panicstruck person of Ghatal Assembly segment in western Mednipore district of Arambagh parliamentary constituency in West Bengal saying that the level of flood waters over there had reached upto 15 feet. That speaks volumes about the gravity of floods there. The people who have taken refuge on roof-tops of their houses called me to implore that some action should be taken at the earliest, army should be called and relief material should be air dropped by helicopters over there. I immediately called the Chief Minister and informed him about the devastating condition of the area. Three-four rivers pass through my constituency. Darkeshwar, Silawati and Roopnarayan rivers flows through Ghatal Assembly segment about which I just made a mention. Heavy rains have hit this area during the last two-four days. It called flash-floods. All these are rain fed rivers. Due to heavy rains, these rivers get flooded and then water recedes in two-three days.

The situation in the other area of my constituency, Arambagh is not good either because this is a low lying area under Damodar Valley Corporation. We had set up DVC in 1948. Chhota Nagpur experiences heavy rains and low-lying areas of Bengal are heavily flooded due to these rains. When Shri Nehru was the Prime Minister, it was decided in principle during the First Year Plan, that Damodar Valley Corporation would be a Central body. After conducting survey, holding talks, and taking expert opinion, the Government decided in principle that eight reservoirs would be constructed for the conservation of rainwater. However, only four reservoirs were constructed. When barrages of Panchet, Tatalya and Methane were inaugurated in 1948, the Government of India declared that it would minimise the devastation caused by Damodar river. DVC is a multipurpose project aimed to generate power and provide irrigation facilities as well as relief from the floods. However, it is 2007 now and we are observing that the envisaged DVC project has failed to fulfill its objective, because only four reservoirs have been constructed and the other four have not been constructed. The four reservoirs do not have the capacity to conserve even fifty percent of uncontrolled water caused by heavy rains. Therefore, whenever heavy rain occurs in Chhota Nagpur, all DVC reservoirs, release one lakh, two lakh and sometimes three lakh cusecs of water. The system envisaged to provide relief has become a cause for floods. DVC has withdrawn itself from this work and is now going to generate electricity. At present, DVC is engaged in generating maximum thermal power.

There are two bodies of the Central Government i.e.

Central Water Commission and Ganga Flood Control Commission. I am a Member of Parliament for the last 25 years. However, I fail to understand as to what these bodies are doing, because the Ganga Flood Control Commission is not doing the assigned job of controlling the floods in Ganga. Erosion is taking place on a large scale in West Bengal, but there is nobody to check it. All our rivers are tributaries of Ganga which eventually flow into the sea. The clearance of Ganga Flood Commission is required for any project to be taken up. However, GFCC takes 10-15 years to accord sanction to any scheme. What is the responsibility of GFCC? GFCC came into existence with an objective. What CWC is doing? These bodies of the Government fail to fulfill their objectives. Therefore, its situation is deteriorating. Shri Saifuddin Soz is present here. He is the Minister of Water Resources. The office of DVC is under him. I had written a letter to the Minister of Water Resources, who occupied office prior to Shri Saifuddin Soz, saying that in 40 years, so much silting had taken place in the four reservoirs that were constructed in 1948, that their capacity has been reduced to 40 percent. Their water conservation capacity got reduced from 60 percent to 40 percent. Therefore, the Government should take measures for desilting. In reply to that letter, it was said that desilting is not possible. What kind of reply is this? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Only this kind of reply is expected. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: I have any objection to the reply, but what will happen to the people of the country? ...*(Interruptions)* What would be the fate of a person, whose house, crops and property are devastated. ...*(Interruptions)* This reply was given, when their Government was in power. Therefore, I did not mention, which Government was in power. But, in the reply it was said that desilting is not possible. Four reservoirs were constructed and four were not. And the water conservation capacity got reduced from 60 percent to 40 percent in those four reservoirs. How can the people be saved? What is the concept and how it is being worked out? Besides, Damodar Valley Corporation set up by the Government of India has deviated from its prime responsibility and has started generating power. The Government of India is setting up huge thermal power plants. I do not have any objection in regard to setting up of power plants, but what will happen to the cause for which this organization was set up? Water is not available for irrigation, there is no protection from floods even electricity is not available. It was said that Hydro-power would be generated, but even then electricity was not available. That paved way to the thermal power. What was the outcome of the multipurpose scheme that was formulated? The Government shall have to ponder over all these things.

Next point is that the flood situation in East, West, North, South i.e. all over India is very critical this year, however, the

condition of floods in eastern and north India is more grim. As our colleague from Bihar was telling just now that nearly 500 people have died there due to floods. Every year, nearly Rs.1500 to Rs.2000 crores are spent on flood relief. Similarly, there is loss of life and property and loss of cattels every year amounting to nearly Rs.15 to 20 thousand crores. Keeping in view these losses, the Government should certainly do something in this regard. Every year we discuss this issue in the House. All the hon. M.P.s whether they are from BJP or CPM, share the same view in this regard. Every year we hold discussions on this issue, however, no measure is taken to bring about an improvement in this situation. Our relief manual was formulated during the British period. As per the relief manual, Rs.4000 are given to those whose houses have been completely destroyed and Rs.2000 are given to those whose houses have been damaged. Now, please tell me what reconstruction work can be undertaken with a meagre amount of Rs.4000. How much wood can be purchased with Rs.4000. There is a need to revise the manual. So, I would like to request the Minister of Home Affairs to convene a meeting of the Ministers concerned with Relief Operation of all the States and amend the relief manuals to suit the purpose. The relief manual should be amended according to the present day requirements. The Minister should discuss this issue with the Ministry of Rural Development regarding what benefit can be given to the victims under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Every Panchayat gets an allocation under this scheme. In the event of a national calamity there is large scale damage to property. So, at least, 10 per cent funds from NREGS should be given to every Panchayat, so that, in the event of widespread damage anywhere relief and assistance can be provided to the people for the construction of their houses. They should also be brought under its purview. Thus, the Government will not have to make separate allocation for this purpose.

My second suggestion is for Prof. Soz Sahab that he should tell CWC and GFC as to what they should do. He should make them understand the problem. The magnitude of erosion due to floods in Ganga river in India is so huge that the entire villages are engulfed in flood waters. Several villages get inundated in flood waters of Hugli in my area Murshidabad. Clusters of villages in Balaghat and Mangra Thana get submerged in flood waters. It is a devastating situation. We should take up protection work to check this erosion. The Government will have to ponder over it otherwise how will the people survive and how will they protect the country. Every year, we discuss this issue, every year rupees one and half to two thousand crore are spent on flood relief work and crops and livestock amounting to Rs.15 to 20 thousand crores are destroyed due to floods.

The rivers originating from Nepal enter into our country and they are the main source of floods in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

[Shri Anil Basu]

and Cooch Behar. We should take some measures to tame the rivers coming from Nepal. For this, every year we discuss the issue of holding talks with the Government of Nepal. What steps have been taken by the Government after holding talks with Nepal. The Government should constitute an Authority under the Indo-Nepal treaty especially to tame these rivers. The Government should prepare a national action plan for controlling the rivers originating from Nepal which are the root cause of floods in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal every year and put in place a mechanism to conserve and collect the river water for the purpose of irrigation and generation of hydel power. We have National Calamity Relief Fund in our country, however, we do not have any National Action Plan for tackling flood situation for conservation of water, productive utilisation of water in the country, and for tackling the problem of scarcity of drinking water in the country. There should be a national action plan, a national implementation plan for this. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to pay attention in this regard. He should call a meeting of the Ministers of all the States and hold discussions on this issue. A national action plan should be formulated for this purpose.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the irony of this discussion is that every Member expresses his views in the House and then leave the House. So, the reply that I give does not come to the notice of the hon. Members. Besides, they do not even read the written reply that is given to them. That is why, there are difficulties. Just now, an hon. Member said that Rs.4000 is given as compensation if any one's house gets damaged. I would like to submit that it is not correct. In fact Rs.25,000 are given by the Government. We have written all this information in this booklet.

Apart from this, one hon. Member submitted that National Plan should be prepared. The plan should also be prepared at State, district and village level. For this, we have enacted the Disaster Management Act and have prepared Disaster Management Plan. Under this Act, a Disaster Management Authority has also been set up that prepares Management Plan. I have also directed the States to set up a Disaster Management Authority in their respective States. Several States have set up such Authority and some States have not set it up. Similarly, it has been suggested to prepare a plan at district level. In fact all these things have already been done. The Members have approved all these things in the House and have formulated laws in this regard. If the discussion is held without taking into account all these things we come to the same conclusion that the discussion is fruitless and all things remain on paper only. The hon. Members do not remain present in the House to listen to my reply. That is why I have to say all these things to you.

SHRI ANIL BASU: I carefully listen to your reply. A Management Plan Committee is there in my district as well. Discussions are held in it, however, there are lapses in its implementation.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the ongoing discussion on floods. I belong to the State of Gujarat. Every two or three years the State of Gujarat is confronted with floods, cyclone or drought. For the last two years Gujarat has continuously been affected by the floods. The flood faced by Gujarat in the year 2006 was a very dreadful one. During that period, relief materials could not be supplied to our Surat city for many days. Not only this, even the army could reach there only after so many days. As a result of the current year's floods, about 290 people got killed. I would not like to go into the individual cases, however, I would like to talk about the reasons which have come to our notice keeping in view the gravity of the situation. I would also like to talk about the State administration and about the extent to which developmental activities have increased.

17.29 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

I have no qualms in stating that the developmental activities also leave an adverse impact on the nature which result in floods. The Minister of Water Resources is not present here, he is coming. Accumulation of water in dams, cloud bursts or low processing system created in Arabian sea aggravate the flood situation. As a result some areas witness 25 to 30 inches rainfall in 24 hours and due to this dams are filled with water.

Cannot the dam authority decide about the volume of water to be released gradually; cannot they decide about the flow of water in the dams? In order to assess the volume of incoming water to the dams, a system has already been put in place however

[English]

Somehow, every time they faulted

[Translation]

and there comes a stage when water level of the reservoir suddenly starts increasing. As a result we have to release the water. All of a sudden the river and its surroundings get filled with water and this water spreads into the cities. Such things happen, it is not a one-time incident. In Ahmedabad, Surat and in Bharuch, the same thing happened. Along the river banks, there is Narmada dam, the dam of Tapti and if we go down to South, there is Madhuban dam. There is a dam at Dharoi on Sabarmati river

[English]

the entire Centralised System that the Government has created in Gujarat is such that if you do not get orders from the Capital, you cannot release the water

[Translation]

We have seen many times that the authority responsible for monitoring the water levels and taking decision about the volume of water to be released, does not act in time. The people residing in the surrounding areas of the river and the cities are affected by it and they have to bear the brunt of the Authority's. I do now know how it can be resolved but I would like to praise the home department and the Government for whatever assistance was needed by the State Government, be it funds or other assistance, or the presence of army personnel or other forces, everything reached in time. However, on all these counts, every time the State Government has been a failure. Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority has been set up. In 2005-2006, they had stated that all their plans were getting readied and subsequently the plans got ready. They said that they would hire a Canadian agency. The said plans were ready but when the time of execution approached, nothing happened. GSDMA has also been allotted funds for purchasing boats but the boats were not procured in time and this year also, they have not been purchased. The accumulation of water in the reservoir, not releasing it in time, releasing it all of a sudden, all these factors contribute to the causing of floods in many cities and villages. We are faced with the issue of its prevention. We have indeed framed the rules but

[English]

how do we enforce it? How do we see that the people at the State level work and the officials at the State level put that into an action? It is still a very big question.

[Translation]

This fact has been repeatedly coming to the fore. How can it be resolved? It is a riddle for me also and I admit that.

The second point which came to my notice is that the quadrilateral highways were constructed two to two and a half feet above the ground level in east-west area. The natural outlets for the release of water have either been closed or not measured, as a result, in the event of 20 inch rainfall, due to non flow of water through natural outlets villages get inundated in water or even those areas get flooded with water which had never faced such a situation in the past. Wherever the highways were constructed, be it Sabarkantha, Bharuch or Khera district, all these locations were filled with water and a flood situation was created. Owing to this reason the flood situation got worsened.

In my view the third reason is the construction of a canal for diverting water which overflows from the Narmada river. The Central Government has no share in constructing the said canal. The State Government undertook the construction of the said canal. Even after four years, the said canal has not been completed. The canal covers a distance of 400 to 500 kilometers. Due to this fact water ceased to come out through the earlier mode in which it used to get discharged. Owing to this reason, the villages and farms were filled with water. There has to be some way out. All these works are undertaken by the State Government.

[English]

The Central Government has to work through the States and State Disaster Management Authorities.

[Translation]

So the challenge before the Central Government is that though it can allocate funds, provide manpower and ask them to chalk out the plan, however, the biggest question is whether that plan will be effectively implemented or not? I am citing an example of the current year only. I would like to request my colleagues not to make noise. Heavy rainfall has occurred this year in Gujarat. The entire administration was centralized in my State and more and more powers were vested in the Chief Minister. When there was heavy rainfall, the Chief Minister was in Switzerland. No action was taken despite his or the CMO's instructions. Even the relief material could not be delivered in the affected areas. Every day people were dying. In this situation, the Chief Minister concluded his tour five hours before and returned to Gujarat. The main point is that it was due to the centralization of power that there was delay in carrying out the relief work there. The State already had Rs. 1100 crore of the year 2006 and the Central Government had immediately provided Rs. 500 crore when the Chairperson of UPA had come on a tour to Surat. Later on, an additional amount of Rs. 200 crore were given, thus, a total of Rs. 700 crores were given. However, this amount could not be fully utilized. The Central Government had announced that Rs. 2 lakh will be given by the Government as compensation to the next of kin of those who have been killed. I confronted many nonsensical reasons that surprised me. The amount of compensation was paid in keeping with the proposal sent to the Central Government by the Disaster Management Authority. However, it is the Director of the Disaster Management Authority who decides whether the file is to be sent to the Government or not. I would like to narrate one incident. Once a tribal area was inundated due to rainfall. One tribal person went there to cross it but the administration warned him not to do so. He had to go to his house so he started crossing it but was carried away by the current. When his family members applied for compensation, the Government of Gujarat, in its written reply, said that the

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

person was advised not to cross the river but despite warning he went into the water, so, he is not entitled to get compensation.

There is no exaggeration in it. At one place two children got drowned in a pond as it was filled with water. The same reason was cited to deny compensation to them.

Now I come to politics. I would like to submit as to how politics has been used by the State Government. The funds were given to Gujarat Government by the Central Government for carrying out relief work. The ruling party of the State, BJP, put stamp of lotus symbol on the relief material and then it was distributed. The relief material was not provided by the Gujarat Government. Lotus does not bloom everywhere, it also withers away. ...*(Interruptions)*. Since he is sitting on the other side, so he has to defend this act, however, the fact remains that due credit should go to the Central Government. But instead of doing so, the State Government is trying to cover up their failure by way of pinpointing the shortcomings of the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit that some mechanism should be put in place by the Central Government, so that, it can be ensured that the funds provided by the Central Government to the State Government have been properly utilized. It is the State Government that decides as to who will get how much assistance, for example, in the case of sustenance allowance, the entire amount is not paid. The allowance is paid 10, 12, or 15 days after conducting the survey. I have done a lot of disaster management work. That is why I am saying all these things. Often the houses of people get damaged due to heavy rainfall. I have found tarpaulin sheets to be very useful in erecting temporary shelters for two three months. However, the State Government does not do anything like this to immediately provide good quality tarpaulin sheets for erecting temporary shelters. It will be better if the State Government provides relief in this regard.

The proportionate amount of CRF has been provided to the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)* Everything is mentioned in this booklet and if they want they may see it for themselves. I would like to submit to hon'ble Gadhave Sahab, that if he has not read this booklet then he should go through it. I would also like to submit that his Government in Gujarat is issuing misleading statement that it has applied for the contingency fund, however, it is evident from the document that the Government of Gujarat did not apply until eight days and did not demand funds till 8 days. The election is going to be held there soon so they are misleading the people by saying that Gujarat is demanding relief fund from the Central Government and the Central Government is not giving it. There is also a provision in CRF that funds can be released a week in advance. The Government of Gujarat did not spend the quantum of funds that it should have spent. Not only this, it discriminated between the poor and the rich. The maximum

amount was given to industrialists and very meager amount was given to the poor people who suffered maximum loss. Such things were done because the Government of Gujarat wanted to gratify only 5-7 industrialists and did not intend to go beyond that. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to submit that strict monitoring should be done with regard to the utilization of CRF. Audit of the funds that were provided for Surat is being conducted by the private auditors and the Government audit is not being done. The MLAs of the State have demanded in the Assembly that the State Government should give the details of the audit that is being conducted privately and supply the entire details of expenditure incurred in this regard to the Assembly. The details of expenditure regarding the CRF have not yet been submitted. The details of expenditure of Rs. 700 crore that were given last year by the Central Government have also not been submitted till today. I would like to submit that the funds so provided have not been utilized properly. That is why, the Government of Gujarat has not demanded any money from NCCF this years. It is a failure on the part of the Gujarat Government. Time and again I am stressing on this issue that it should be ensured by the National Disaster Management Authority that the amount provided for relief work is properly utilized or not? If it is not properly utilized, then action should be taken in this regard, or, I feel that, at least, such things should be exposed. No area has been left. The situation in tribal area or lower area, which has been submerged or flooded does not return to normalcy in four to six months. The agricultural crops get destroyed there and they have not got the amount of compensation till today. Regarding the relief material, the situation is such that suppose my house gets damaged and a kitchen is built out of the house, then I will get money for the house only and not the kitchen because if the kitchen is located outside the house it is not covered under the definition of a house. The State Government has made many such norms.

[English]

These norms require a thorough review from the Union Government.

[Translation]

I would like to request that action should be taken in this regard. I would once again like to submit to him and his department that though I do not know as to how much money has been utilized by the Gujarat Government, however, the Central Government have provided assistance to the flood affected people and have not discriminated against anyone in this regard.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Chairman,

Sir, every year this House discusses about the flood situation in the country. But whatever Mistry ji has said during the past 25 minutes, we are discussing only about emergencies where we are talking only about relief. But, here, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India that this is an issue where every year we are losing our national properties, human lives, livestock and what not. Why are we not taking up remedies to solve this problem and not to face the consequences every year? Rightly the hon. Home Minister has pointed out that we have passed a law in this House, namely, the Disaster Management Act. Before the arrival of monsoon in this country, up to what extent the disaster management at the Central level, at the State level and at the district level has been activated to face this consequence in Bihar, UP, Assam, Gujarat and in the Southern part of this country? For the disaster management, we have passed the law that we must have paramilitaries well-trained to face this sort of consequence. We must have medical teams, medicines, and essential commodities at the places where the floods and other disasters are taking place. Daily we are hearing about loss of human lives. Even the rescue teams, even the Army personnel and the paramilitary personnel are also drawn in such operations. After passing this Disaster Management Act, after constituting the disaster teams, we are yet to activate it at the Centre, at the State level and at the district level. It needs to be activated.

I would like to ask the concerned Minister to tell while he replies that before monsoons, before taking place of such floods in Bihar and in other States in the North-Eastern Region, how many teams of paramilitaries and Armed Forces have been readied to face this challenge? How many helicopters, motorboats, doctors, medicines, and how much ration have been accumulated to come forward in this situation? We need to evaluate and monitor these disaster management teams in this country. Prevention is better than cure.

This is a national loss. Every year we are facing this situation. The flood water came to Bihar and UP. It comes from the Himalayas and Nepal. Where from water in Assam has come? It comes from the main tributaries of Brahmaputra, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. So, what are the remedies? If the Government of India is having a Treaty with the Nepal Government, then I would like to know as to why it is being delayed and also why it is not being activated to resolve the flood situation in Bihar and UP. What is the progress of the Indo-Nepal Treaty for construction of dams or water reservoirs to resolve the flood situation in UP and Bihar?

I would like to draw one very interesting aspect. I feel that a kind of deprivation has been made to my State, Arunachal Pradesh. When flood comes every year during the monsoon season, the hon. Ministers — the Water Resource Minister, maybe the Prime Minister, and the hon. Chairperson

of the UPA, Madam Sonia Gandhi — used to visit Assam only. Of course, Assam face the major consequences and damages at the time of flood but the Government of India is not trying to find out where from this water comes. All the major tributaries of Brahmaputra come from Arunachal Pradesh. We need to do a lot of homework before the monsoon season in the North Eastern Region; we need construction of water reservoirs in the State of Arunachal Pradesh; we need to construct major dams in the main tributaries of Arunachal Pradesh; and we need to construct water protections, flood protections and embankments inside Arunachal Pradesh. Only then we can get major solutions for the flood situation in Assam.

Now, I would like to stress one point with the Government of India. Now, sedimentation takes place during flood and it spreads to Assam. Why can the Government of India not use dredging of the river course in the winter season so that the over-flooded water may not spread to the plains in Assam. This is a very important scientific way. During the British days, this dredging of river course had taken place in the north eastern parts of the country, and it may be applicable in Bihar, UP and Nepal borders also.

Now, as a part of relief to that part of the North Eastern Region, the hon. Home Minister has rightly mentioned that a sum of Rs. 25,000 would be given to the person whose house has been totally damaged. I would like to know how much money has been given to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. In this monsoon season, six districts of Arunachal Pradesh have been totally affected by this flood. The only problem is that the flood in Arunachal Pradesh has changed the geography. The entire roads, the bridges and the infrastructure were washed away within a few hours of rainfall, but the Central Team never reached that place. I would like to give one example. In my Parliamentary constituency, there is one district, Dibang Valley. The major bridge which is the only way to reach that district headquarter has been totally damaged by this flood within a few hours of rainfall. Now, for months together, upper Dibang district remains cut-off from the rest of the country. Even the essential commodities and the doctors could not reach that district because the Air Force helicopters could not be operated in the Himalayas due to cloud and rain.

Therefore, this sort of relief should be extended to Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and other Himalayan States. Recently, in Himachal Pradesh, the cloud got burst and major floods came out there and so many houses and roads got washed away. These natural disasters are happening in all the years in the hilly States, in the North-Eastern Region. Therefore, it is my request that there should not be any discrimination to the smaller States, specially, the hilly and the Himalayan States of the North-Eastern Region. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to please do not

[Shri Tapir Gao]

neglect the hilly States of the North-Eastern Region. Assam should be compensated with a heavy amount. It is the rightful demand of the people of Assam.

Water source should also be calculated thoroughly and the inputs for remedial measures be worked out. The State where major waters came out due to floods is Assam. I would like to suggest and request to the Government of India that a proper monitoring should be done in these relief operations. I had the opportunity to sit in the Lok Sabha TV Channel with the hon. Minister of Water Resources a few hours ago. One hon. Member from Assam was highlighting the problem that floods are taking place. The livestock are drowned, people are dying but the Government of India is seeking the Utilisation Certificates of the previous funds allocated to that State.

My point is that when the people are dying, States, viz., Bihar, Gujarat, UP and others are facing emergency situations, you need an explanation of previous funds allotted to those States! There may be such a system evolved that, you may take the account of the expenditures after the Monsoon is over, but when the relief issues such as deputation of army, deputation of doctors, taking relief measures, providing essential commodities and other expenditures are arising, you need not seek the Utilisation Certificates from the concerned State Governments. There is a need for taking up measures for immediate relief to the affected people.

Now, after the floods, there is a danger of epidemic breaking out in the affected areas. Right now, flood situation is serious in Bihar and Assam. How many doctors are being readied by the Disaster Management to face the challenge of epidemic after the floods? How many relief materials have been readied for the restoration and construction of the buildings, highways and the bridges in the flood affected areas? All these things need to be highlighted and told to the nation that the Disaster Management Authority is really working on the ground to face such challenges.

With these few words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is 6 o' clock. Now, I have to take the sense of the House. We have about 50 more speakers to take part in this discussion. If you all agree, the time for the discussion may be extended by one hour today.

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): Yes, Sir, the time may be extended for the discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the time of the House is extended by one hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: But it does not mean that the Members can take their own time. They must limit their speeches. It is true that we have extended the time. But even by extending the time by one hour today, we would not be able to finish the debate today. So, please bear in mind the time constraint.

Now, I am calling Shri Shailendra Kumar to speak. You have to be very brief and to the point.

18.00 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Hannan Mollah have raised a discussion under Rule 193 on the situation arising from floods. I am thankful to them. I would like to say, through you, that the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Minister of Water Resources are directly concerned with this issue. This is true that the Members of both sides in the House, ruling and opposition have expressed their views in detail. It would have been better if the situation of drought were also discussed along with the flood situation. There are so many areas in Western Uttar Pradesh which are facing drought situation. The main reason behind such a situation is population which is growing day by day. Nowadays, builders in urban areas are involved in large scale construction, but make no provision for drainage. Apart from it, even in small towns and villages there is no digging of ponds or cleansing of drains. Crores of rupees are bungled in the name of such works. Owing to rising corruption, we are facing the situation of floods today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rivers should be desilted after the floods. If this work is undertaken vigorously, we can tackle the problem of floods. That is why the linking of rivers is often discussed. Water can be supplied to places where there is no water by diverting the flow of rivers. With this measure, the situation of floods can be controlled. The commencement of this work has been made from Uttar Pradesh. If you look at the problem, you will come to know that there is a partial situation of floods in Assam, Meghalaya, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Mumbai. As far as the State of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that 20 districts are badly affected by the floods. Hundreds of lives have been lost in the State. The Government figures put the death toll at 205 and 1404 villages are completely under the water. More than 72 thousand houses have collapsed and the property worth more than Rs. 50 crore has also been lost. Today, the newspapers have reported that 17 more deaths have occurred due to floods during the last 24 hours. Rivers in Uttar Pradesh are flowing above the danger mark. The main reason is that when it rains in Nepal and Uttarakhand, the whole rain water

flows into the rivers of Ganga, Yamuna and their subsidiaries like Sharda, Boodhee Gandak, Betwa Rapti and Ghaghra. Due to this, the situation of floods worsens in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh are badly affected by floods. People of 8-10 districts such as Gorakhpur, Basti, Deoriya, Kushinagar, Mau etc. are also affected by the floods. The Central Government have allocated Rs.30 crores for flood relief. Booklets have been provided to State Governments detailing disaster management technique. It has exposed the reality of disaster management at the places where there is mismanagement due to worsening flood situation. At least 4 lakh hectares of land in 20 districts of Purvanchal in Uttar Pradesh are flooded where standing crops are getting destroyed. The area situated between Ganga and Yamuna rivers known as Doaba falls under my Parliamentary Constituency, Chail, where crops standing on thousands of bighas of land are getting destroyed. In the areas like Lehdari, Santo, Habbunagar, Shahjadpur, Tarsaura, Sandeepan, Palhana and Fatehpur Ghat falling under terai area of Ganga river, farmers have lost the crops of ground nut, millet, sweet potato and sesamum seeds due to floods.

While we are discussing the flood situation today, we should also pay attention to the drought situation and we will have to explore the means to tackle it. You will get reports from the States. About 60 per cent paddy crops have got ruined in the areas of Kaushambi, Fatehpur and Allahabad, particularly in Bundelkhand area of Uttar Pradesh. 50 per cent wheat could not be sown and about 30 to 50 per cent farmers have migrated to other places where they are earning their livelihood by working as labourers. Even today, only 42 per cent cultivable land has irrigation facilities in that area. I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that you have made provision of Rs.360 crore under DPAP programme for the year 2006-07. 15.38 lakh hectare area is planned to be brought under the said programme by the end of January, 2007. I would like to tell that 3076 new projects have also been brought under this programme. I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, through you, that a Central team may be sent to visit the flood and drought hit areas which are factually already identified. Each and every year we discuss in detail the natural calamities like drought, floods, hail storm, cyclone, Tsunami etc. I want that you should send the team which you have there so that the relief and rescue operation can be expedited in the affected areas. There should also be monitoring. The utilisation of funds that you provide to the States should also be monitored to see as to whether the State Governments are spending the same or not. Your figures say that you have provided the funds but the State Governments are not able to spend the money; they are unable to provide relief. Its monitoring should be done. Most of the rural areas are affected by floods. Today, there is a need to provide facility of crop insurance to the farmers.

Their loans should be waived off, fodder for the cattle should be provided, houses should be repaired, as a large number of houses have collapsed. There should also be facility of health centres as the diseases spread after the floods. Diseases like diarrhoea are caused due to polluted water and these diseases affect village after village. Such diseases spread as epidemics. Our health Minister is sitting here. The Minister of Water Resources, Home Affairs and Health and Family Welfare are sitting here while the discussion on floods is going on. So they must see that employment is provided to the people, particularly to those families who are affected and whose houses have got destroyed. You have implemented Rashtriya Gramin Rojgar Guarantee Programme all over the country. This is being implemented in some districts, but not in all the districts. You should make a provision of providing employment to the affected people by implementing this programme temporarily in the areas so that they could earn livelihood for their families and raise their standard of living.

With these words, I conclude and extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazari-bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is being held in the House on the flood situation. There are ten such States in the country like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam, Kerala, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh where flood has occurred this year. Whenever flood occurs we hold discussion on it in the Lok Sabha. The measures that should be taken to tackle flood situation are not taken by the State Governments or the Central Government before the occurrence of flood. Recently, I visited two districts of Bihar. The hon. Member of Lok Sabha, Shri Appaduraiji was also with me. We went to Begusarai and Khagaria districts. The dam on river Budhi Gandak was broken and it was on account of this that nearly 65 Panchayats got inundated. It seemed as if the area has been converted into sea. The flood situation in Khagadia is also the same. Nearly three fourth part of that area has got inundated there. Floods have occurred in nearly twenty districts in Bihar and out of that ten districts have been worst affected on account of this.

Similarly, floods have occurred in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and other States above which we have discussed. The relief material should reach there in time. As I have just now submitted, when floods occur, we start discussing it and then State Governments and the Central Government also awake. The Central team also starts visiting the flood affected areas and discuss as to how to tackle the flood situation and deal with this problem. The Central Government and the State Governments do not prepare plans that they should prepare before flood and they remain unprepared and meanwhile flood occurs all of a sudden. When flood occurs every year, then people should remain prepared for this in advance. Now,



[Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta]

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited Bihar and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs also went there. All visited Bihar. One should not think that flood has occurred only this year and next year it will not occur. It is a different thing that some areas get affected by flood early and some areas witness it late but flood occurs every year. Similarly, flood occurs in other States as well. So we should remain prepared to face it and tackle the problem of flood before its occurrence. But such things are not done. I would like to submit you that though financial assistance is provided in the event of flood, however, I have myself visited there and found that flood had occurred on 25th July but no relief work was done there till 5th of August. People are facing starvation there for so many days, but there is no arrangement of boats, tarpaulin and other necessary material for them. People are dying of hunger and thirst there and nobody cares about them. More than three hundred and fifty persons have died in Bihar due to flood and similar things have occurred in other States as well. If anything substantial is not done, flood will continue to occur and people will continue to die on account of this. The relief work will also be carried on and flood affected area will get some assistance, however, it will not solve the problem of flood unless a permanent solution to this problem is found.

Sir, I was also a Member of Parliament in 1991. At that time too discussions were held about the flood in Bihar. The rivers that originate from Nepal cause flood in Bihar and flood waters also enter in U.P. along with Bihar. At that time too discussions were held that talks should be held with the Government of Nepal. Multipurpose projects should be implemented after holding talks with the Nepal Government. 15-16 years have elapsed since then but till now no action has been taken in this regard. Presently, the hon. Minister is not sitting here. I would like to request him that he should hold talks with the Nepal Government at the earliest and implement the multipurpose projects that we often discuss here in the Parliament by way of constructing dams to check water and setting up hydel power stations in Nepal and developing irrigation system in the area. The same water should be diverted to Bihar so that, the problem of flood should be solved for ever. Otherwise, the problem of flood will not be solved. This time, I visited Bihar and saw the devastation caused by flood. One hundred and fifty houses of the village were washed away after the breaking of the dam. Three hundred and fifty persons have died there. Similar thing has happened in other States. So, we will have to somehow find out a permanent solution to this problem. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs of the Central Government that he should call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of those States which are flood prone and should ponder over the permanent solution to this problem to check the occurrence of flood. When I asked the district Collector of Begusarai as to why is he not providing assistance to the flood affected

persons, he replied that he had no sufficient means. In that case it becomes important to decide as to whom assistance is to be provided and to whom not. When all are equally affected by flood as was just now stated by an hon. Member. Some one has a land holding of 5 acres, some one has three acres and some of them are landless persons, but what is the fault of those farmers who have five acres of land. They will have to beg in case their lands and houses are damaged. So, the present rule of the relief work should be changed and relief should be provided to all the people affected by flood.

As far as the rivers are concerned, an hon. Member was just now making a discussion. The Government should formulate a policy by holding a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Purvanchal, West Bengal and other States and find out a permanent solution to the problem of flood, otherwise every year flood will occur and cause destruction. The relief work will not solve this problem. This is my submission to the Central Government and the hon. Minister that they should find out a permanent solution to this problem. With these words, I conclude.

\*SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Respected Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to participate in this debate which is on a very sensitive issue like the flood situation in the country. As you are aware, Indian economy is severely affected because of recurrent floods. Unless a permanent solution is found, situation is likely to worsen and our dreams of being a strong and prosperous nation can never be achieved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brahmananda Panda, please speak in English.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my hearty thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on the sensational issue. As you know, every year the people of India are subjected to heavy floods as a result of which there is a huge loss of human life and valuable properties.

I represent the State of Orissa which is one of the most backward States of the country. The present UPA Government is giving importance for all round development of the country. It is the duty of the Centre to ensure that Orissa is not discriminated. As you know, we have been constantly facing floods, supercyclone and drought as a result of which the financial backbone of the State has led to a collapsing state. We feel proud that our State is full of natural resources. We have vast iron ore reserves but most of the people of my State depend on agriculture. Agriculture is their only source of income. But due to constraints and the threat of floods, the normal life of the people of this State has been paralysed.

Last year, there was a heavy flood in Orissa as a result of which there has been huge loss; of life and property. As

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya

you know, 47.13 per cent of people are living below the poverty line and the State of Orissa is dominated by the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe population. My leader Shri Biju Patnaik, the then international hero has rescued Indonesia Supremo from the clutches of the Dutch soldiers. In his name, my party has been named to see and realise that while India prospers and Orissa is not neglected.

Though there is a demand of Rs.3,000 crore from the Chief Minister of Orissa last year for providing relief to flood victims and for extending other financial assistance to the flood victims, it is really shocking that the Government of India has extended only Rs.25 crore as a financial package. This has hurt the sentiments of the people of the State. We agree that India should prosper and all the other States should also get benefits. We have nothing to say about that. When our national leaders are rushing to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, they have an equal responsibility to rush to Orissa where common people and the poorest people of the country are suffering a lot. That is why, my humble appeal to this august House is, some permanent measures should be undertaken to overcome the flood situation in the State. By making this arrangement, we are going to only help them. It is pity to note that the benefits are going to the middlemen and not to the genuine poor and needy.

I had been to my constituency recently and I found that there are heavy floods; people are not able to come out of their houses. As you know, no financial help was extended to the Government of Orissa yet. It is only trying to extend all the financial help to the people of the locality. Similarly, people of North Orissa and South Orissa have been severely affected due to the recent fresh floods and their normal lives have also been paralysed. Five districts from these regions and none from others have been severely affected. In this context, I would like to appeal that a permanent national programme should be undertaken to control floods.

My second point is that adequate financial assistance should be given to the poor people in the affected areas; the agriculturists and those who have lost their paddy crops must be adequately compensated by extending financial help. You will find different rivers rising now-a-days. That is the acute problem. The rivers are flooding because they are filled with sands and no permanent measure is taken to dredge those rivers. That is why, there is a proposal that there must be an inter-river connectivity. The dredging of rivers has become the most essential part, failing which people have to suffer in this way.

During low pressure seasons — as you know, Orissa had been subjected to low pressures about 14 times last year and this year also, we have faced low pressures — carrying heavy floods; and people are not able to maintain their normal lives. In such circumstances, I would like to tell the Union Government that by discussing the matter here or

by making sweet announcements, we cannot remove the sufferings of the common people of this country. It is high time that this august House should take up permanent measures to see that people are not put to untold sufferings because of natural calamities.

Disaster Management Committees which have been set up in different districts have to be monitored by the Centre. The Centre should also announce a special package for different States. The Orissa Government demanded Rs.3,000 crore as calamity relief fund, but you will be surprised to know that only a meager Rs.25 crore has been given by the Central Government, though the Prime Minister had announced that Rs.200 crore will be given to the State of Orissa. But unfortunately, we have been discriminated against may be because neither the Congress nor its allies is ruling the State of Orissa. Shri Naveen Patnaik, worthy son of Shri Biju Patnaik is ruling the Orissa State and that is why, there may be such discrimination and that is why, Orissa has been neglected and no financial package have been deliberately given by the Government of India.

So, I would like to highlight that we feel proud of national integration; the only source of national integration is Lord Jagannath. As you know, Gopabandhu Das, the famous poet who was a leader during the national struggle said:

"The holy land of Utkal needs no leader,  
Because the Lord guide Utkal".

That is why, I appeal to the Union Government that if you discriminate against our State this way, Lord Jagannath is there to rescue us.

With that moral and spiritual theme of love and affection, we appeal to the Government of India and more particularly the Union Home Minister as well as the Minister of Water Resources to announce a special package. I know the Minister of Water Resources. They are all large hearted. They should not discriminate my State. They should announce a special package taking into consideration the critical situation which is now prevailing in my State. Jai Jagannath.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak during discussion on flood.

18.26 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair)

It is the tragedy of our country that every year we hold discussion either on flood or drought condition. Not even a single year has passed since independence when we have

[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan']

not discussed flood or drought condition in the country. However, we confine ourselves to discussion only. When there was drought we held discussion and expressed our concerns. The Government of India also provided whatever assistance was possible to the States for relief work. The relief material was distributed but after that we do not concentrate on the measures to tackle this problem and get rid of this calamity because water management is one of the major problems of this country. On the one hand while some areas are witnessing occurrence of flood due to excess rainfall on the other some areas are affected with drought so we should concentrate on the need of water management and finding out a permanent solution to this problem. Only then we can solve this problem.

Several hon. Members discussed about flood that occurred this year and submitted that flood was unprecedented. The flood was unprecedented in the sense that the water level of the rivers originating from Nepal reached up to two three meters above the danger mark on account of heavy rainfall between mid July and the first week of August in several States including 'tarai' region of Nepal. During the said period, States like Maharashtra also got affected by floods on account of heavy rainfall and the rivers originating from Nepal caused havoc. As per information available with the meteorological department and the Central Water Commission, the rainfall had been up to 300 to 350 per cent more than the normal rainfall. In this sense, the flood was unprecedented and the entire country admitted this. Besides, I would also like to submit along with this that the flood was unexpected and unanticipated. I am calling this flood unexpected because the flood was untimely. The floods occur usually in the last week of September so we were caught unawares in the floods. Several hon. Members of that region have rightly submitted that 19 districts of that region got devastated on account of floods. It was not only 19 districts but nearly 200 blocks and two crore population were affected by these floods. The flood waters have not receded and once water recedes mud houses will collapse. As per our estimate there might be nearly five lakh mud houses in Bihar that will collapse. The standing crops on seven lakh hectares of land got destroyed in water. You may understand that if the crops on seven lakh hectares of land get destroyed, then on the one hand there will be a crisis of food grains since agriculture is the backbone of our economy and on the other big farmers as well as other farmers will also be ruined when their crops get damaged.

Discussion has been held about the relief work. Relief work is going on. The Central Government have also provided assistance and the State Government is also carrying out relief work as per its capacity. Several hon. Members have submitted that relief work only provide temporary relief. The

people cannot lead a normal life in the event of natural calamities.

Sir, relief work is merely a relief. There are certainly problems when relief work is being carried out on such a large scale. The relief work is going on and the Central Government have also provided assistance. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Chairperson of UPA had visited there. I would like to express my thanks to them that they associated their sentiment with the people of Bihar and whatever was possible for the Central Government they did. Besides, there is a major problem about finding out a permanent solution to the flood problem. If we look into the permanent solution to the flood and factors responsible for the flood, we will find that pollution is the biggest cause of floods. There are several such States like Maharashtra where floods were like fable. The people of that State used to listen about floods like a story. Similarly at the international level there are several such countries like China and England where floods were like any other imaginary story. They might have heard about the life of people during the flood like any other story. However, today these regions and countries are witnessing floods. The main reason of flood is that we are disturbing the nature. Today the need of the hour is to stop destroying nature. If we do not stop destroying nature the intensity of fury of nature against our country and the world will keep on increasing. We should accept this fact.

Sir, along with this discussion was held about Nepal. There is a need to construct high dams in Nepal. If high dam is constructed in Nepal, one can control the flow of water. We can generate hydel power by way of implementing hydro power projects and can also make arrangement for irrigation. The river linking projects were launched during the NDA Government regime. The present Government has prepared project to link rivers in Bihar. I do not know, but, probably the water resource department of Government of India might have received or about to receive the proposal in this regard. Once the rivers are linked we can provide water in drought prone areas and can check the flood like situation in those areas which have surplus water on account of heavy rainfall.

Sir, Bihar is a economical weak State. The Union Minister of Home Affairs had visited there. He extended assistance in relief work and for this, I express my gratitude to him. Recently the Chief Minister of Bihar had come and met the hon. Prime Minister. After meeting the hon. Prime Minister, he submitted a memorandum. In that memorandum he has demanded additional 30 lakh quintal of foodgrains. Several hon. Members were speaking in this regard. They said that 25 k.g. foodgrains have been given, however, 25 k.g. food grain is not sufficient so it should be increased to 50 k.g. The same thing has been demanded in the memorandum submitted to the hon. Prime Minister by the hon. Chief Minister of Bihar. He has stated that 50 k.g. of foodgrains should be given to

each family and for this 30 lakh quintal of additional food grains should be allocated to them. Besides this he asked for kerosene because people have taken shelter on dams. In that case consumption of kerosene will increase, so he has demanded additional of 180 lakh litres of kerosene from the Central Government. Besides, he has also asked for compensation for damaged crops about which the hon. Member was quoting as 2 thousand rupees per acre, but inadvertently mentioned as house which the hon. Home Minister promptly corrected.

The Central Government provide compensation for damaged crops at the rate of Rs.2 thousand per acre from the CRF and the State Government has announced that it will pay Rs.2 thousand per acre on its behalf. The hon. Chief Minister in his memorandum has stated that he would require additional Rs.350 crore to pay compensation at the rate of Rs.5 thousands per acre to the farmers for their damaged crops. Besides, the hon. Chief Minister has also given suggestion regarding the long term solution to this problem about which we are holding discussion and has suggested to the hon. Prime Minister to set up a cell in the PMO. The said cell should have the officials from the Planning Commission, the Ministry of External Affairs, Water Resources Department and also the representatives of the State Governments and it may function collectively as long term strategic group and may take decision regarding construction of high dams for a permanent solution to this problem. There is a need to take action in this regard.

I have discussed several things. We all are discussing constructive things and there is no politics in it. However, politics have also been done here. If any one does anything to gain political mileage even at the time of natural calamities like floods then there cannot be any one more harmful to public interests. I have seen the proceedings of 14th August. One hon. Minister of State in the Union Government was delivering speech as if he was not a Minister in the Government of India but a Member of political party. He discussed several things. He talked about embankments. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform that there is total of a 3,432 k.m. long embankments in Bihar. These are all along 22 rivers. The hon. Minister who delivered his speech here like a candidate of a political party, ruled Bihar for 15 years. During the Eighth Five year Plan from 1992 to 1997, only 227 k.m. of embankment was got repaired by him. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, only 176 k.m. embankment was constructed. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, he remained in power from 2002 to 2006. During that period, only 148 k.m. long embankment was got constructed by him. There was flood in 2004. I have with me the paper cutting of the speech delivered by the then Irrigation Minister. I would like to inform that when the embankment was broke during his regime, the then Irrigation Minister said that the embankment was broke due to the faults of the officers. He was not ready to take its

responsibility and here he delivered speech on dams and embankment. He delivered a long speech that so much amount was sanctioned for this. The Bihar Government has sent a proposal of Rs.3000 crore to the Government for embankments. A proposal of Rs.2882 crore has been recently recommended by the Ganga Flood Control. The procedure in this regard is so lengthy that first it will go from Ganga Flood Control to the Planning Commission and then from Planning Commission to the Ministry of Water Resources. Then so many queries will be raised and ultimately nothing will come out of it and the next year flood will occur and the entire embankments will be in dilapidated condition. So, the Chief Minister of Bihar has said that a long term strategy group should be constituted in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) through which action could be taken. Regarding the flood relief works. ...*(Interrup-tions)* I am concluding in two minutes time. ...*(Interruptions)*

Today also one of the Central Ministers from Bihar is doing politics on flood. The Minister of Home Affairs and Madam Sonia ji, the Chairperson of UPA visited Bihar. It was published in newspaper that they did aerial survey of flood affected areas by helicopter. Helicopter has been put in action. The Minister of Home Affairs and Hon. Sonia ji were sweating out and outside one Central Minister was making statement on television. It is a natural calamity and one should not do politics during this time. That Central Minister is giving statement. Flood had occurred in 2004 in Bihar and there were no flood in Bihar in the year 2005 and 2006. I have with me a paper cutting of 2004. In his statement he said 'Pani ai tab na Khaib Machhar'. He did not term the flood in Bihar as a natural calamity. I have a copy of the interview given by him in 2004 in which he said that flood is not a natural calamity and during the flood poor people get good quality fishes for eating. Those who have this kind of understanding regarding the natural calamity have no right to speak.

In the present scenario the defeated persons have no right to do politics in Bihar. So, I would like to appeal that instead of doing politics at this tragic time, together we should seriously ponder as to how to provide relief to the flood affected people in Bihar. The Chief Minister of Bihar has suggested the Prime Minister to formulate a long-term plan to check the occurrence of such natural calamity in future.

With these words, I conclude and extend my thanks to you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since something has been said about me so it is essential for me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No clarification. It can not be allowed. Rules do not permit.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, comments have been made on whatever I had said in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No allegation against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No clarification is allowed.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Chairman, Sir, if they speak then we will also speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Comments have been made on whatever I had said in the House. So, you please allow me to give clarifications in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, M. Shivanna can speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is only a discussion. Shri Shivanna you can speak.

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Do I have a right to give clarification or not? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have anything to say, you can give it in writing. We will consider it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Whatever he has said, the amount that has been given by the Central Government. ...(Interruptions) He has made comment on whatever I have said in the House. ...(Interruptions) When the Minister is saying something. ...(Interruptions) I am replying his comment. The House should listen to me. ...(Interruptions) The fund that has been given by the Central Government. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: My hon. friend, you can tell me what you have to say. After going through the statement, we will decide.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I won't allow it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Shivanna's speech.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody need support him. We are not allowing it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Only Shri Shivanna's speech will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record. Nothing will go on record except Shri Shivanna's speech.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shivanna, you can speak. Your speech alone will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If I allow you, then I have to allow him also. It cannot go on like this. Then, there will be no end to it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

\*\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar): Sir, let me thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion under rule 193 on problems arising out of floods in the country.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you about the pathetic condition of the flood affected people.

It is a matter great of concern that our country is being suffered by natural calamities like floods, drought etc. it is very unfortunate. Sir, this year some states like Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal are badly affected by the flood.

Sir, despite this being a regular feature year after year, the Government has not taken any permanent measure to check these natural calamities. Precautionary steps are to

\* Not recorded.

\*\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

be taken to check such natural calamities. It is not the right way to make efforts to find solution when the problem has arisen but we should be ready with all equipment and strategies to tackle the problems before they arise.

As far as, Karnataka is concerned, large parts of the state has been severely affected by floods. The raging floods have claimed 242 lives in the last 3 months. Property worth over Rs. 4,000 crore has been damaged. Nearly 9 lakh people have been rendered homeless. Over one lakh hectares of land was submerged in flood water. Standing crops like Johar, Paddy, Sunflower, sugar cane in about 86,000 hectares have also perished. Both private and public property worth Rs. 5,000 Crore has been damaged.

Sir, coming to my constituency Chamarajnagar, my constituency is one of the most backward districts in the country sir. The irony is Chamarajnagar is always suffering from both the drought and floods. Even now the whole country has been affected by flood but the irony is that the people of Chamarajnagar are suffering from both floods and drought situation. There are 8 taluks in my constituency. Out of them 5 taluks are affected by floods and 3 taluks are facing severe drought. Taluks like Santemarahalli Haur, Chamarajnagar, are part of Kollegal, Nausnugud and Gundlupet, are facing drought situation there is no rain in these taluks, whereas T. Narsipar, Yalandur, part of Kollegal, Nanjurgud, taluks are badly affected by the flood. Heavy rains created havoc in these areas. The living condition of the people in Chamarajnagar district is very pathetic.

Sir, Karnataka state Government under the able leadership of Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy and Deputy Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yadiyurappa has taken several relief measures. They undertook an aerial survey in flood affected areas to obtain first hand information. Rs.50 Crore has been released for immediate relief works. Gruel centers has been set up, food, clothes are being supplied to flood victims. But it is not sufficient. Our Hon. Chief Minister H.D. Kumara Swamy has already sought Central assistance to the tune of over Rs. 500 Crore to take up immediate relief works. I appeal to the Central Government to consider the grim flood situation in Karnataka and release Rs.500 crore to take up immediate relief works and strengthen the hands of our young chief Minister Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy. At last I would like to suggest that the Government should come forward to interlink the river's of India, so that natural calamities like, flood can be tackled by the interlinking of the rivers.

With this I conclude my speech thank you, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister Prof. Saifuddin Soz, you can speak now.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I must thank the hon. Members cutting across party lines to show concern for the serious problem of floods in the country. Variations in speeches are already there. That happens always. Sometimes, there are repetitions. Sometimes Members are saying certain things. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Sir, you please also give me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He can intervene. I will tell you. Please take your seats. Any Minister can intervene in the discussion. He is only intervening. It is not the final reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I told you, it is not the final reply. Any Minister can intervene and take part in the discussion. The Minister is also a Member of the House. He can take part in the discussion. The Minister concerned will be replying finally. Mr. Minister, you can continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The procedure has been made clear. A Minister is also a Member of the House. Any Minister can intervene. If his name is in the list, I will call him.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : If you want, I can speak tomorrow. I can do that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The final reply will be at the last. He is going to intervene.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : If the debate is concluded tomorrow, I can speak tomorrow, I have no objection to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will strictly obey the rules. Mr. Minister, you can continue.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : If it can be done tomorrow, if the debate is concluded tomorrow, I have no objection to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know all these things. I will do only according to the rules. Yes, Mr. Minister, you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): How many times will he intervene? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you can speak. You need not address them. You should address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not good. The hon. Minister may address the Chair. The time is extended only up to 7 p.m. If you cannot conclude, you can continue next time. On no account will the time be extended because at 7 p.m. the House will be adjourned for a cultural programme.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no 'Zero Hour.'

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : You will have to seek some more minutes. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no Zero Hour after this. There is a cultural programme. Hon. Members have informed me that they would like to go to that cultural programme.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Mr. Chairman, I cannot speak less than 20 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue it. Why do you address them? You must address the Chair.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : I am addressing the Chair. With apology to my friends which I convey through the Chair, I would say that since the hon. Home Minister's name and my name have been bracketed, since relief and rehabilitation is a serious concern, the debate will be concluded by the hon. Home Minister. ...(Interruptions) Relief and rehabilitation is a serious matter.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Sir, it is not the question of apology. ...(Interruptions)

You please also give me time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion will be continued tomorrow. It was announced earlier.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Sir, when will we speak. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not allow him to speak today. He should speak tomorrow. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is left to him. That is not for me to decide. He has to decide that.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : If the House has any objection, I will speak tomorrow. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is left to him and not for me to decide. He has to decide that. I am not the person to decide when he should speak. His name is in the list.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : You cannot drag the debate.

Sir, if the House has objection, I will intervene tomorrow.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of State for Water Resources intervened the other day and now the Minister of Water Resources is intervening. How many times will the Ministers will intervene? ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, are you yielding to him?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Sir, I will go by the ruling of the Chair. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are certain rules which have to be observed in the House. Two Members cannot speak together. You can speak only if the Minister yields the floor to you. Otherwise it will not be on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since you say that the sitting of the House will not be extended beyond 7.00 p.m. today, let the Minister speak tomorrow because there are only five minutes left now for the House to adjourn. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for him to decide.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, we are not going to sit beyond 7.00 p.m. today. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : It is a serious thing. Please listen to me for a minute. ...(Interruptions) Sir, either you extend the time of the House today or I will speak tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak now. I have allowed you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

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\* Not recorded

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): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister can speak today till the House adjourns and then he can continue his speech tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and I am one with them so far as the concerns expressed by them to solve this serious problem of recurring floods in the country are concerned. I salute their sentiments and I am one with them on this.

Sir, I made copious notes of the points made by hon. Members who spoke in this debate starting from Shri Ananth Kumar to Shri Shivanna and perhaps I could answer to all of them, but that will take a lot of time of the House. So, I will skip that.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): You may reply to the points raised by them in general. You need not specifically reply to points raised by each and every Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : I will generate a debate for the nation as to what the Ministry is going to do. I will not go into details and answer every point. But many Members lumped many suggestions together. So, I chose only four areas and I will initially talk about them. For instance, many Members spoke about inter-linking of rivers and an impression was created here that, perhaps, this Government has put that proposition to the back burner. That is a very wrong impression. This Government is vigorously following the proposal of inter-linking of rivers, but perhaps this House should discuss the proposal of inter-linking of rivers as a separate proposition because that needs time. I would like to submit that a Task Force was constituted on this subject and the Task Force gave its recommendations in December, 2004.

It finished its job within six months of its constitution, it gave the terms of reference, it gave the details, it gave the expenditure and it gave a proposal for linking of peninsular rivers and also gave a proposal for linking of Himalayan rivers and this Government has been vigorously following them. ...*(Interruptions)* You had been a Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, not even a single step was taken ahead in three and half years.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Shahnawaz ji, you had been a Minister. How will you know it, if you donot listen to the entire thing?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: People are getting drowned in Bihar.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: First you please listen what we have done for Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

19.00 hrs.

*[English]*

Sir, I was wanting to say that we are inter-linking rivers. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, they do not want to face the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you can continue tomorrow.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 21st August, 2007 at 11 a.m.

19.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 21, 2007/Sravana 30, 1929 (Saka).*



**Annexure-I****Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

| Sl. No. | Member's Name                    | Question Number |
|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1       | Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.          | 102             |
| 2       | Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.            | 103             |
| 3       | Shri Barman, Ranen               | 106             |
| 4       | Shri Chowdhury, Adhir            | 105             |
| 5       | Shri Gangwar, Santosh            | 111             |
| 6       | Shri Gehlot, Thawar Chand        | 101             |
| 7       | Shri Koshal, Raghuvver Singh     | 111             |
| 8       | Shri Krishna Swamy, A.           | 113             |
| 9       | Shri Krishna, Vijoy              | 107             |
| 10      | Shri Kumar, B. Vinod             | 117             |
| 11      | Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra            | 103             |
| 12      | Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar      | 106             |
| 13      | Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar         | 118             |
| 14      | Shri Masood, Rasheed             | 115             |
| 15      | Shri Mohale, Punnu Lal           | 112             |
| 16      | Shri Prasad, Harikewal           | 109             |
| 17      | Shri Rajagopal, L.               | 104             |
| 18      | Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga         | 120             |
| 19      | Shri Rana, Kashiram              | 102             |
| 20      | Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil  | 104             |
| 21      | Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan      | 110             |
| 22      | Shri Singh, Suraj                | 116             |
| 23      | Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan" | 116             |
| 24      | Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash         | 119             |
| 25      | Shri Yadav, Giridhari            | 109             |
| 26      | Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal           | 108             |
| 27      | Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu      | 101             |
| 28      | Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath           | 114             |

**Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**

| Sl. No. | Member's Name                        | Question Number            |
|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1       | 2                                    | 3                          |
| 1       | Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat     | 1020                       |
| 2       | Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.              | 1016                       |
| 3       | Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.              | 1051, 1054, 1070, 1078     |
| 4       | Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.                | 985, 997, 1015, 1081       |
| 5       | Shri Appadurai, M.                   | 952                        |
| 6       | Shri Athawale, Ramdas                | 992                        |
| 7       | Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai       | 980                        |
| 8       | Shri Barman, Hiten                   | 963, 972                   |
| 9       | Shri Baxla, Joachim                  | 963, 1072                  |
| 10      | Shri Bhagora, Mahavir                | 1024, 1079, 1090           |
| 11      | Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan              | 1063                       |
| 12      | Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep                | 964                        |
| 13      | Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra      | 956                        |
| 14      | Shri Bose, Subrata                   | 967, 1043                  |
| 15      | Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan           | 959                        |
| 16      | Shri Chandrappan, C.K.               | 1001, 1011                 |
| 17      | Shri Chavda, Harisinh                | 955, 965, 1093, 1102, 1107 |
| 18      | Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.                | 1090                       |
| 19      | Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj               | 1059, 1093                 |
| 20      | Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas               | 1001, 1054                 |
| 21      | Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh      | 961, 1042, 1092            |
| 22      | Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra | 1010, 1073                 |
| 23      | Shri Dhotre, Sanjay                  | 989, 1037, 1086            |
| 24      | Prof. Dhumal, Prem Kumar             | 957, 1006, 1038, 1095      |
| 25      | Shri Fanthome, Francis               | 1029, 1054                 |

| 1  | 2                              | 3                     |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 26 | Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar | 974, 1046, 1059       |
| 27 | Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.         | 1012                  |
| 28 | Shri Gadhavi, P.S.             | 1098                  |
| 29 | Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.        | 1035                  |
| 30 | Shri Gangwar, Santosh          | 1054, 1055            |
| 31 | Smt. Gawali, Bhavana P.        | 989, 1037, 1086, 1100 |
| 32 | Shri Gehlot, Thawar Chand      | 1052, 1097            |
| 33 | Shri Gowda, D.V. Sadananda     | 1014                  |
| 34 | Ch. Hassan, Munawar            | 979                   |
| 35 | Shri Hussain, Anwar            | 968, 1050             |
| 36 | Dr. Jagannath, M.              | 987, 1062             |
| 37 | Shri Jain, Pusp                | 1029                  |
| 38 | Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan       | 1009                  |
| 39 | Shri Jha, Raghunath            | 1007                  |
| 40 | Shri Jindal, Naveen            | 970, 994, 1038        |
| 41 | Shri Joshi, Pralhad            | 971                   |
| 42 | Shri Kalmadi, Suresh           | 1036                  |
| 43 | Shri Khaire, Chandrakant       | 999                   |
| 44 | Shri Khan, Sunil               | 1022                  |
| 45 | Shri Kharventhan, S.K.         | 953, 1041, 1088       |
| 46 | Shri Koshal, Raghuvveer Singh  | 966, 1053, 1089, 1090 |
| 47 | Shri Krishna, Vijoy            | 1083, 1097            |
| 48 | Shri Krishnadas, N.N           | 998                   |
| 49 | Shri Kumar, B. Vinod           | 1058                  |
| 50 | Shri Kunnur, Manjunath         | 991, 1059             |
| 51 | Dr. Kusmaria, Ramkrishna       | 1054                  |
| 52 | Smt. Lakshmi, Botcha Jhansi    | 1106                  |
| 53 | Smt. Madhavraj, Manorama       | 977, 1070             |
| 54 | Shri Maharia, Subhash          | 978                   |

| 1  | 2                                       | 3                           |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 55 | Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar             | 1054                        |
| 56 | Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar                | 1048, 1089                  |
| 57 | Smt Mane, Nivedita                      | 1035                        |
| 58 | Dr. Manoj, K.S.                         | 990, 1030                   |
| 59 | Shri Masood, Rasheed                    | 1054, 1056                  |
| 60 | Shri Mehta, Bhubneshwar Prasad          | 994, 1061                   |
| 61 | Dr. Mishra, Rajesh                      | 1019, 1076                  |
| 62 | Shri Mohd., Tahir                       | 1033, 1056, 1076            |
| 63 | Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes Mondal            | 1026                        |
| 64 | Shri More, Vasantao                     | 983                         |
| 65 | Shri Nandy, Amitava                     | 1006                        |
| 66 | Smt. Narhire, (Saw.) Kalpana Ramesh     | 1046, 1059                  |
| 67 | Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin                  | 1013, 1028, 1107            |
| 68 | Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.                | 951, 1040, 1052, 1087       |
| 69 | Shri Panda, Prabodh                     | 1017, 1075                  |
| 70 | Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan                | 958                         |
| 71 | Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh               | 975                         |
| 72 | Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal            | 996, 1069                   |
| 73 | Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.               | 984, 1020, 1077, 1084, 1098 |
| 74 | Smt. Pateriya, Neeta                    | 994                         |
| 75 | Shri Path, Pratik P.                    | 976, 1047                   |
| 76 | Smt. Patil, Rupatai Diliprao Nilangakar | 954, 1015                   |
| 77 | Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar           | 980                         |
| 78 | Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra                | 958, 1069                   |
| 79 | Shri Prasad, Harikewal                  | 1065, 1093, 1102, 1107      |
| 80 | Shri Radhakrishnan, Varkala             | 986                         |
| 81 | Shri Rajagopal, L.                      | 1053                        |

| 1   | 2                                   | 3                           |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 82  | Prof. Ramadass, M.                  | 1008, 1071                  |
| 83  | Shri Rao, K.S.                      | 969, 1044                   |
| 84  | Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva        | 982, 1087, 1094, 1103       |
| 85  | Shri Rathod, Haribhau               | 1009, 1032                  |
| 86  | Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara           | 993, 1003, 1060, 1090, 1101 |
| 87  | Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.                | 997                         |
| 88  | Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan           | 997, 1021, 1079             |
| 89  | Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu    | 962, 1049                   |
| 90  | Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar      | 1054                        |
| 91  | Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao | 1065, 1092, 1093            |
| 92  | Shri Rijju, Kiren                   | 1069                        |
| 93  | Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed           | 1025, 1080                  |
| 94  | Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar               | 981                         |
| 95  | Shri Saroj, Tufani                  | 1013, 1074                  |
| 96  | Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey         | 1071                        |
| 97  | Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.       | 1003, 1054, 1064, 1091      |
| 98  | Smt. Sen, Minati                    | 994                         |
| 99  | Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh         | 1002                        |
| 100 | Shri Sharma, Madan Lal              | 1008                        |
| 101 | Shri Shivajirao, Adhairao Patil     | 1051, 1054, 1070, 1078      |
| 102 | Shri Shivanna, M.                   | 1034, 1085                  |
| 103 | Smt. Shukla, Karuna                 | 954                         |

| 1   | 2                                | 3                           |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 104 | Shri Siddeswara, G.M.            | 1005, 1069                  |
| 105 | Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh         | 1000                        |
| 106 | Shri Singh, Chandrabhan          | 1018                        |
| 107 | Shri Singh, Sugrib               | 984, 1020, 1077, 1084, 1089 |
| 108 | Shri Singh, Suraj                | 1057                        |
| 109 | Shri Singh, Uday                 | 1004, 1066                  |
| 110 | Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan" | 1063                        |
| 111 | Shri Subba, M.K.                 | 980                         |
| 112 | Shri Sugavanam, E.G.             | 973, 1045                   |
| 113 | Shri Suman, Ramji Lal            | 1063                        |
| 114 | Shri Surendran, Chengara         | 1031                        |
| 115 | Shri Thummar, V.K.               | 1069                        |
| 116 | Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani      | 958                         |
| 117 | Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore     | 1027, 1096, 1104, 1105      |
| 118 | Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry    | 1060                        |
| 119 | Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.      | 996                         |
| 120 | Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.        | 1023                        |
| 121 | Shri Verma, Bhanu Pratap Singh   | 988, 1003, 1062             |
| 122 | Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash         | 1051, 1054, 1070, 1078      |
| 123 | Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.       | 955                         |
| 124 | Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh   | 1033, 1076                  |
| 125 | Shri Yadav, Mitrasen             | 995                         |
| 126 | Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal           | 1039                        |
| 127 | Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu      | 1068, 1060                  |

**Annexure-II****Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Agriculture</b>                                    | 102, 104, 107, 108, 110, 112, 115, 117, 119, 120 |
| <b>Communications and Information Technology</b>      | 106, 109   |
| <b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b> | 101, 111, 114, 116                               |
| <b>Defence</b>  | 103, 118   |
| <b>Labour and Employment</b>                          | 105  |
| <b>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</b>            |  |
| <b>Water Resources</b>                                | 113  |

**Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Agriculture</b>                                    | 952, 961, 964, 966, 969, 979, 981, 984, 985, 987, 988, 997, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1023, 1024, 1027, 1028, 1031, 1034, 1037, 1044, 1047, 1051, 1058, 1062, 1064, 1071, 1074, 1076, 1080, 1083, 1084, 1089, 1097, 1100, 1103, 1104 |
| <b>Communications and Information Technology</b>      | 955, 959, 963, 965, 967, 971, 972, 982, 992, 995, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1004, 1005, 1016, 1017, 1020, 1025, 1032, 1042, 1043, 1045, 1046, 1050, 1053, 1061, 1063, 1066, 1067, 1072, 1073, 1081, 1086, 1087, 1098, 1099                        |
| <b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b> | 962, 970, 978, 989, 996, 998, 1006, 1007, 1035, 1039, 1049, 1052, 1057, 1059, 3065, 1068, 1077, 1079, 1088, 1092, 1096, 1105, 1106   |
| <b>Defence</b>  | 951, 953, 954, 957, 958, 960, 975, 976, 980, 1011, 1018, 1019, 1021, 1026, 1029, 1033, 1036, 1040, 1048, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1060, 1070, 1075, 1091, 1095, 1102  |
| <b>Labour and Employment</b>                          | 977, 983, 994, 1038, 1090, 1107  |
| <b>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</b>            | 956, 973, 986, 990, 993, 1022, 1030, 1041, 1069, 1082, 1094, 1101  |
| <b>Water Resources</b>                                | 968, 974, 991, 1003, 1015, 1078, 1085, 1093  |

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