

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

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



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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Friday, August 24, 2007/Bhadra 2, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 181. Shri K.S. Rao.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have given a notice for the Suspension of Question Hour. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may have given a notice but I am sorry. Only yesterday, it was raised in the meeting. We can have a full discussion. I will give you an opportunity,

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a short notice question. ... (Interruptions)  
The Chairman of the State Bank of India has bungled crores of rupees. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When you were the Speaker, did you do like this?

[English]

Any time, could you raise it?

[Translation]

You know about the privilege notice as to what is done in privilege notice,

[English]

In the usual manner, already action is being taken. Thank you very much.

Q.No. 181—Shri K.S. Rao.

11.02 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Captive Power Generation

+  
\*181. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of captive power plants and their surplus power available to meet the shortage of power in various States for the domestic and industrial consumers;

(b) whether the Government proposes to delicense the supply of power produced by captive power producers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether captive power capacity will increase after delicensing; and

(e) if so, the extent to which such delicensing of captive power supply will help to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country?

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

#### Statement

(a) According to information available with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), there are 2434 captive power plants of over 1 MW capacity each, in the country with an aggregate capacity of about 21,468 MW as on 31.03.2006. In the year 2005-06, captive power plants with an installed capacity of about 5133 MW exported their surplus power, to the tune of 5364 Million Units, to the grid.

(b) and (c) With the notification of the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007, effective from 15.06.2007, it has been further clarified that no licence is required for supply of electricity from a captive generating plant to any licensee in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Act.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As no license is required for installation of a captive power plant, it is likely that the industry may opt for a captive power plant in case of non-availability of regular power from the grid. It is estimated that a capacity of about 12000 MW may be added by the captive power plants during the 11th Plan period thereby bridging the demand-supply gap to that extent.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir I am happy that the Government of India has made it clear that no licence is required for the supply of electricity from the captive power generating plants. We all know that power is key to the economy and to the development of any country. We also know that there is a terrific shortage of power supply to the extent of 10 per cent. Though he has delicensed it yet the State Governments are coming in the way of taking the captive power generated to the nearby areas for all those people who are requiring that. So, I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he would direct the State Governments to make it possible for the captive power plants to supply power to all those needed freely at a price which is in-between the peak price and the other time price. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: The Government have issued timely instructions to the State Governments to give more weightage to captive power generation when the country is facing a shortage of power. Thereby, we have suggested them not only once but also in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Recently also, the hon. Prime Minister called a meeting of all the Chief Ministers in the country and in that forum also it was discussed. Since free access has been given now, the captive power producers must come up very quickly. I expect that within the Eleventh Plan, more than 12,000 MW is to come from captive generation.

SHRI K.S. RAO: As the hon. Minister is aware, there are three units in Andhra Pradesh ready to generate power based on the gas supply. Everything is ready. Investment has been made running into thousands of crores of rupees. But they are idle for want of gas. Already, the hon. Minister has said that they are given authority to utilize alternative sources of supply of naphtha.

MR. SPEAKER: He has been saying that every time.

SHRI K.S. RAO: But my point here is that the State Government is not accepting to take power generated from naphtha based on the input cost of naphtha because it costs more for generating power from naphtha. Will he

make the State Governments purchase the power at a higher price for which the consumers are ready to pay?

MR. SPEAKER: Because once he was the Governor!

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Yes, Sir, I was Governor of Andhra Pradesh. But the question basically is about captive power. The hon. Member is asking me about the independent power producers. The three units that are existing in Andhra Pradesh are that of independent power producers. It differs from the captive power generation. However, I will answer the question of the hon. Member. We have tried the independent power producers when there was a shortage in Maharashtra.

The Member is aware that I have personally spoken to the Chief Minister, but there are problems. Once the unit starts production, the interest will start and at the same time all concessions will also start. It was for a temporary phase that we have requested them. Subsequently many problems have come up. That is why they are not prepared to run on naphtha. Otherwise, they were prepared to run on naphtha.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, captive power plants account for a considerable portion of the country's total power output. With a total generating capacity of around 21,468 MW, as much as 78 billion units was generated in captive power plants during last year against the total power generation of 704.41 billion units in the country. The 11th Plan projection says that the power supply from captive power plants is expected to reach 131 billion units. This sounds encouraging at a time when we are facing a chronic power shortage. The surplus power generated from captive power plants is now estimated to be 6,000 MW. But the question is, what is the mechanism for its distribution which will reduce the gap between demand and supply?

MR. SPEAKER: This is regarding captive power generation.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I am concentrating only on captive power. After the amendment to the Electricity Act, no licence is required for captive power generation now and for distribution also licence is not required. After the delicensing mechanism is introduced, the captive power plants are no longer under the purview of regulatory mechanism. Most of the consumers those who are receiving power from captive power plants are small scale industries and cottage

industries. At what price will they take power from them? I would like to know whether you are having any mechanism to protect the interest of those consumers who are mostly small scale and cottage industries. I would also like to know whether the Government is moving towards the distribution franchisee model for power distribution. Whether the Government is also contemplating to have a National Grid with all power plants for captive power plants as there is no National Grid for them now and that is why the cost of power is more?

MR. SPEAKER: The second part does not arise. You are a very experienced Member and you are very cooperating also.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, captive power plants can give power to the National Grid. It is not that they cannot give it to the National Grid and they can also give power to the State Grid. But the power generated from captive power plants is meant to be used for companies or societies or group of societies. They will have 51 per cent share of it and whatever remaining power is there, they can give it to the consumers wherever it is required. I agree that more charges are being levied. That is why this issue was discussed many times at the forum of regulators also. In 2005 also this was discussed at the forum of regulators and some recommendations have come to the Ministry of Power. We considered them and issued advice also. Now, it is up to the State Regulatory Commissions to determine the charges to be levied.

Sir, for the information of the hon. Member I would like to inform that Maharashtra is not levying wheeling charges, but there are other States where wheeling charges are levied. So, it differs from place to place. Then transmission charges are very heavy. The hon. Member may say that I am mentioning about Orissa here. But since he belongs to Orissa and that he has raised this question, I would like to inform him that M/s Navbharat Company, which is a captive power plant, wanted to give, but the State Government did not allow.

MR. SPEAKER: The details should be supplied later. All the details cannot be given during Question Hour.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Otherwise, I would not have given answer to that. It is for the State Regulatory Commission to decide the price.

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, this may not be directly related to the captive power generation, but with your permission, I would like to ask one pointed question about Tuirial Hydel Project. It is a 60 MW power project and is the only project we have in my State Mizoram. This project was started by NEEPCO. After spending more than Rs. 200 crore, for the last four years this work has been stopped.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that project is going to be resumed or going to be abandoned. That is my pointed question.

MR. SPEAKER: Pointedly not relevant question. Yes, you can answer.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: You have given an absolutely correct direction, but since the hon. Member has asked on Mizoram and it is in the North-East, I would like to respond to it.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I have allowed it.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, as far as that project is concerned, we have certainly kept it idle because of lack of funds. I have taken two meetings with the DONER Ministry also to give the gap funding. But still it is in the discussion stage and we are considering it. At such places, in the North-East, we are trying to have such projects. Take the case of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, we have done it there. We are still in the process of doing it. There is a huge capacity available in the North-East area and we will exploit it.

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the place of Maharashtra in 2334 captive power plants, does not appear to be progressive. If the licensing system is dropped at the time of providing facilities, it will serve no purpose because while providing the facilities, it is required on a large scale not only in Maharashtra but all over the country. My question is whether the Government will consider before providing facilities because at the time of consideration heavy interest is charged on the alternative base. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Licensing is not required for captive power plants.

*[English]*

Now put your question.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: However, the remaining requirement like the bank finance is considered alternative and in that case, there is a need to reduce the rate of interest. The people come forward due to this. My question is whether the Government will consider or propose to consider from this point of view and what is the reason that this number is low in Maharashtra.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that the number in Maharashtra is not low. I will not say that I do not know. It is on account of the power generation in captive power plant that there is no loadshedding in Pune. We are distributing captive power through our grid. Besides, billing charges are applicable all over the country, however, there is no billing charges in Maharashtra. It is very important facility available. The hon'ble Member has asked about help in Finance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: As far as assistance in finance is concerned, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that presently assistance is being provided through the old system and there is no problem in it, however, whatever will have to be done, will be done as per law. If the hon'ble Member has any problem or captive power generation is ready, he may approach our Ministry, or he can approach me for installing captive power generation, we are ready to provide them facilities.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He will get tea also.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, we speak a lot about atomic energy. In our country, there is a lot of potential for hydroelectric power. According to some studies, Arunachal Pradesh alone can produce 60,000 MW of power.

MR. SPEAKER: We are talking about captive power.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: I would like to know whether the Government has any project for utilizing this power. In my State of Kerala, there are no captive power plants. Will the Government give any subsidy or help to the private entrepreneurs who will come forward for these projects?

MR. SPEAKER: He is inviting them. Answer the second part only about Kerala.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: In Kerala, we have grid and Kerala has produced 24.28 million units from captive generation. Kerala has captive generation.

MR. SPEAKER: His information is not correct.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: As the economy grows, the demand of power also grows. The Government has been devising various ways to meet the increasing demand of power in our country. Surplus power from captive power plants is an additional source of having power in our national grid and in our national economy.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the Government has identified 3.2 billion tonnes of coal reserve for merchant and captive power producers. But it is the Coal Ministry's Screening Committee which sometimes plays the disincentive to the merchants and power producers. It is because power trading still is in infancy in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: The major fuel inputs attract various kinds of levies and taxes. These are always playing disincentive. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is considering any kind of incentive to those captive power producers so that they will be more interested in producing surplus power.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, the hon. Member has asked two or three questions.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You chose only one.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I will chose only one but I will say that as far as the coal is concerned, recently we have taken a meeting and we have also given recommendations to our officers. We have seen that units which are having water, land, net worth and DPRs; such projects are recommended only so that we can get electricity quickly to these.

While I was replying, I said about the wheeling charges in Maharashtra. I would like to just correct it. Cross subsidy has not been levied on this thing. Not wheeling charges but cross subsidy has been removed by the Maharashtra Government.

#### Rejection of Credit Card

\*182. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has received complaints stating that no reasons for rejecting the application for a credit card and also for refusing a loan to a customer have been communicated by the banks in writing to the complainants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those banks who do not follow the directions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has received representations from the public about rejection of their loan/credit card applications without assigning reasons thereof. Government has advised RBI/Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to take appropriate corrective measures to ensure that customers of the banks get efficient and hassle free banking services at affordable charges. Banking Ombudsmen have been appointed for quick disposal of the complaints of the bank customers. The banks are also required to set up internal grievance redressal mechanism to redress the grievances of their customers in a time-bound manner.

The revised Banking Ombudsman Scheme, effective from 1st January, 2006, provides a forum to the bank customers to seek redressal of their complaints against banks including those relating to credit cards, service charges, promises made by the sales agents of the banks but not honoured by banks, etc. RBI has issued Fair Practices Code for Lenders on 5th May 2003 advising commercial banks and All India Financial Institutions that in case of small borrowers seeking loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs, the lenders should, within a stipulated time, convey in writing the main reasons which have led to rejection of the loan applications. IBA has issued a Fair Practices

Code to be voluntarily followed by the member banks. The Code provides that, wherever possible, reasons for rejection of loans including credit card limits be conveyed to the customers. The Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) has been set up to ensure that the banks formulate and adhere to a comprehensive code of conduct for fair treatment to customers.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has been kind enough to give a little detailed answer. I would like to pick up one point from his answer. He has accepted that complaints have been received and representations have been received from the public about rejection of their loan/credit card applications without assigning reasons thereof. The hon. Minister has mentioned in his answer that RBI has issued Fair Practices Code for lenders on 5th May, 2003.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister that for the last four years or so, how many complaints have been received and what action has been taken on them. It is because you have mentioned in your answer that stipulated time is fixed by RBI for giving an answer and giving a reason. We have seen that, especially in category states, so far nothing has been done and no action has been taken. I would like to know as to what is the action taken.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, as far as the number of complaints received is concerned, that will be a huge data. It will be difficult to collect it from all the banks. But that could be collected, if you so want.

But as far as the timely action is concerned, no case goes without taking timely action whenever a complaint is received. There is Fair Practices Code for Lenders by the Reserve Bank of India, Fair Practices Code by IBA, which is a voluntary one, which is adhered to strictly. There is Banking Ombudsman Scheme. Any person aggrieved by any decision of the bank, whether it relates to credit card or any other matter, can approach firstly the bank, which has its own internal mechanism whereby the grievances are addressed, and if it is not satisfied one can go to Ombudsman. There is an elaborate Scheme to that effect, and it is administered and run by RBI. Against that also, an appeal can be filed. We do not come across cases where finally somebody can legitimately say that his grievances have not been addressed.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it is quite fair.



Shri Shaheen, please put your second supplementary.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to make a survey in Kashmir and also in the North-East States to find out the status of the advances and also to know what the CD ratio of the banks is? In the case of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana also, we have received complaints that the banks are denying the loan. It has been mentioned in the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, will you make an enquiry about the banks in Jammu and Kashmir?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, CD ratio is not directly connected with this question but the hon. Finance Minister takes periodic review meetings with CEOs of all the banks to say that all the parameters which are governed by the Statement of Intent are taken care of. It is our emphasis to see that the CD ratio reaches the level of 60 all over. Every effort is made to ensure that that level is reached in all the States.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that whether it is loan from the credit card, or any other small loan or the education loan for the youths especially in small districts, first, customers are made to make rounds of the banks for two three months without giving them any specific response and then it is conveyed to them that the bank has no money to give as loan. Especially in smaller districts of Bihar such things often happen. We have to visit banks several times to ask them to give loans. We do not get specific reply. The hon'ble Minister has stated that he would tell them after forming Association of the banks.

Sir, it is not taken seriously there. They are very poor people and so they cannot approach higher authority. So, I would like to submit that the Government should take it seriously and conduct an enquiry in this regard, especially in Bihar.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We take note of that.

MR. SPEAKER: That is fine.

Now, Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, if I am not mistaken, ATM and debit card services are provided directly by the concerned banks but credit card service is provided by some agencies, and mostly in the case of PSBs also, they are provided by agencies. They are sometimes beyond the access of the common customer and even beyond the access of the branch also. Now, what happens is that sometimes the agencies are operating in a parallel manner, sometimes beyond the control of the PSBs also. In such a situation, may I know from the hon. Minister whether in IBA or in the Reserve Bank of India there is any Task Force or any Centre exclusively to monitor the parallel activities of the agencies, which operate on the brand name of the PSB on behalf of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I think, the hon. Member is referring to Visa and Master Card. They are co-branded cards with the bank being the issuer of the credit card but it is co-branded with Visa and Master Card.

As far as the client is concerned, the customer is concerned, the card that is issued to him is issued by a bank and, therefore, his remedy is against the bank. Visa and Master Card are a payment system. In fact, they are established by an association of banks. They are a payment system. We intend to bring a Bill to regulate the payment and settlement system. But as far as the client is concerned, his remedy is against the bank, which has issued the card, and the bank is obliged to redress the grievance relating to a card issued by the bank.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh. Please be brief and put a pointed question. You see the time. We are still on the second Question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of loan is a serious issue. As the hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that if the loan application for loans upto Rs. 2 lakh is not accepted by the banks, then the banks will have to give in writing the reasons for rejecting the loan application within a stipulated time limit. The hon'ble Minister shows the guidelines of the Reserve Bank time and again. I would like to submit that the guidelines are issued for everything, however, it is

essential to know practically as to what extent those guidelines are actually complied with.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether or not an inquiry will be held to know if the loan application of one person is rejected on the basis of the reasons on which the loan of the other applicant is sanctioned. The only formula for sanctioning of loan is that if the manager of the bank is satisfied and pleased with a customer, whatever may be the reason, he or she will get loan within a fixed period but if the manager is not satisfied with the customer he/she will not get loan. Now, what is the reason of satisfaction or dissatisfaction, whether the hon'ble Minister has ever held any inquiry in this regard, if not whether he will now hold an inquiry as to what is the reason that the loan application of one person is rejected on the basis on which the loan of other person is approved.

MR. SPEAKER: They are satisfied if MPs go to bank.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, certainly there are guidelines for repayment of loans as the hon'ble Member has himself said. However, whatever he has said about satisfaction and dissatisfaction, I would like to submit in that regard that whatever is done at the micro level is not the responsibility of RBI and it is on this account that we have made the provision of Ombudsman. If some one does not get loan then he may complain to the Ombudsman. If he is not satisfied with the action taken by the Ombudsman, he may make an appeal to the higher authority. But, it is not justified to say that the branch managers are guided by their whims and fancies in this regard. There are prescribed parameters for this. In accordance with the guidelines, they examine the loan repaying capacity of the loan applicant. If any one requires loan under the self employment scheme, the bank manager ascertains the purpose for which the loan is sought, and whether four more persons are doing the same business in the same locality for which the applicant is seeking loan. He becomes the 5th person. In that case, will he be able to run his business successfully. It is also essential to tell them that the loan they are taking should be judiciously used for their future betterment.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, it is a paper Government so, I stage a walkout from the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing to be recorded further. Do not record it.

...(Interruptions)\*

11.27 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prabhunath Singh and some other Hon'ble Members left the House)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What type of walkout it is?

...(Interruptions)

#### Duping by Housing Finance Companies

\*183. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several housing finance companies of doubtful integrity are operating in the country and are duping the people;

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

(c) whether the Government has held any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (d) The National Housing Bank (NHB) regulates Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) that are registered with it. At present there are 43 registered HFCs with NHB. It has not received any information regarding any registered HFC presently defaulting in repayment of public deposits. In the past, in cases where NHB received information through sources, including complaints from the public or, otherwise, regarding non-payment of public deposits by an HFC, NHB intervened and took action which, *inter-alia*, included prohibition of the HFC from acceptance of public deposits, prohibiting the HFC from

\*Not recorded.

alienation of its assets without prior written permission of NHB, denial/cancellation of Certificate of Registration (COR), prosecution of company and its functionaries, filing of petition for winding up of the company etc.

The fact of prohibition of HFC from acceptance of public deposits/alienation of assets or rejection of its application for grant of COR or cancellation of its COR

or ineligibility of HFC to carry on the business is also notified by NHB through publication in news papers and display on NHB's website.

The NHB has in the past also come across an instance of a registered HFC which has indulged in fraudulent activities. The details of the company are as under:

Name of the Company	Subject	Status
Dharohar Housing and Finance Ltd., B-21/124, Batuk Bhairav Road, Kamachha, Varanasi - 221010.	COR without permission to accept public deposits was granted to the Company. The Company forged the COR to read as with permission to accept public deposits.	(i) COR of the Company has been cancelled.
		(ii) Criminal complaint against the Company has been filed.
		(iii) Investigation by Economic Offences Wing (EOW), West Bengal is in progress. NHB is in coordination with EOW in this case.
		(iv) The Company is no more in operation. Liquidator has been appointed on 27/09/06.
		(v) Public Notices have been issued by NHB in the Local Press regarding cancellation of COR.

As regards companies other than the 43 HFCs registered with NHB, as and when NHB receives information about any HFC conducting housing finance business in violation of the provisions of the NHB Act,

1987, the NHB takes appropriate action under the provisions of the Act. NHB has also filed winding up petitions in various High Courts against the following companies:

No.	Company	Status	Date of Order
1.	Crystal Homefina Corporation Ltd., New Delhi	Winding up orders issued	7.4.2003
2.	Badrika Housing Finance Ltd., New Delhi	Winding up orders issued	7.4.2003
3.	B.M.W. Housing Development Finance Ltd., New Delhi	Winding up orders issued	7.4.2003
4.	Ekta Finstock & Investment Ltd., Surat	Winding up orders issued	10.8.2005
5.	Times Housing Finance Ltd., Jaipur	Winding up orders issued	15.12.2003
6.	Rayalam Housing Finance Ltd., Hyderabad	Winding up orders issued	22.11.2006
7.	Samrat Housing Finance Co. Ltd., Jodhpur	Petition filed for winding up	21.11.2002
8.	Shantidoot Housing Finance Ltd., Mumbai	Petition filed for winding up	25.2.2004
9.	National Dwellings of India Ltd., Pondicherry	Petition filed for winding up	12.8.2005
10.	International Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad	Petition filed for winding up	2.4.2007

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Sir, I have asked the hon'ble Minister, the number of such finance companies, according to State, against which he is going to take action. Cases are going on in the High Court against the companies about which he has furnished details. What happened to the said companies. He may please provide Statewise details of the companies which are indulging in fraudulent activities and the action being taken against them? This is my humble submission.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, National Housing Bank has made it mandatory that all the housing finance companies can function only after acquiring registration certificate from it. This process was set in motion in the year 2000. Now, there are 43 companies which have got authentic licenses and out of the said companies there is only one company, the name of which I had stated in my reply to his question, Dharohar Housing and Finance Ltd. had indulged in fraudulent activities. The act of deception was in this way that as per the certificate obtained by them permission was not granted to them for accepting deposits from the public, but they forged it making it appear that they have got permission to accept deposits from the public also. Therefore, the first step taken against them was to cancel their certificate. The second step taken against them was to register a criminal complaint against the company and the economic offence wing is conducting an investigation into this matter. Investigation by the economic offence wing is going on in West Bengal against that company. As on date the company is no more in operation. It is not carrying out its operations.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bansal, you have already mentioned it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, public notices are always issued in the case of companies against which action is to be taken. There are 10 other companies about which I have made a mention. When we find out that they are carrying on their operations without any license and if we receive such complaints then we can know that they are indulging in fraudulent activities. Out of the 10 companies about which I have mentioned six companies have wound up their operations and action is being taken against four of them.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are a worried lot. They have deposited their money in the banks. Now they are not getting their money back. Hence, in order to ensure that such types of companies do not indulge in fraudulent activities in future and to maintain people's trust on these companies, what concrete steps were taken by him thereby assisting the companies function properly and people's trust is maintained in them. If the Government will not take steps in that direction, there will be great discontentment among the people.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that people should deposit their money only in the registered companies so that monitoring can be done and action taken against them. If somebody forms a company and a second person deposits his money in the bank then action can be taken against them under the existing general laws of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Before depositing money, some enquiry should definitely be conducted into it.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister of Finance that whether the Government is aware that the housing finance companies impose a lot of hidden charges on its customers; and if so, whether the Government has any proposal to give direction to the housing finance companies to make their rules more transparent and simple so that the common people can understand and take loan accordingly?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There are two fair practices codes. One I referred to in the earlier Question, the one for the lenders, that is by the bank, the RBI. Even relating to this, the National Housing Bank again expects of all these companies that everything has to be done in a very transparent manner. There has to be no hidden cost. All the things have to be very specifically mentioned and it is for every person who is approaching a company to seek loan that he gets to understand as to what are the terms and conditions, and according to that, one does.

MR. SPEAKER: It may be done by one of those fraudulent companies.

*[Translation]*

Shri Ramdas Athawale. Has Ramdas Athawale fallen asleep?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: No, Sir, I am not the one to fall asleep, I am the one who awakens the sleeping people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether the National Housing Board and Housing Finance companies are providing loans to the poor and to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at lower interest rates. Is there any such policy through which loans can be provided at lower rates to the poor class as of the society and to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the country? Housing companies are committing mistakes in this regard, what action is taken against the erring companies and what encouragement is provided to the companies which are not making mistakes in this regard?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: With regard to the weaker sections especially the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, instructions have been issued that loans be given as per their requirements. Recently it was said in the Budget speech that the limit of DRI, which has the lowest interest rate, has also raised to Rs. 20,000. Its limit has been raised in the priority sector also so that the common man can avail loans from the banks. They will get money at lower interest rates as companies also have to earn money by fixing interest rates on their own.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Sir, housing companies make the people dream about owning their own houses and people deposit their hard-earned money in those companies for purchasing flats and later these companies wound up their operations. I would like to know whether there is any provision under which we can take police action against such companies which close down after taking money from the people and put those people behind the bars? Do the Government propose to bring any legislation in this regard?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this question is related to housing development companies. In this regard I would like to say only this that if someone becomes the victim of any fraudulent activities of any nature he can approach the police and file his complaint. Action will definitely be taken on those complaints. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please send his name.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: I am not taking any names, these are complaints of general nature. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. This has become a daily occurrence in big cities. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He has assured that action will be taken.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to put his supplementary now.

*...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, what is happening today? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I never expected. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Today, I think, you will put a relevant question.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We find an all-powerful corporation, that is HDFC throughout the country and they have very wide publicity also. I do not understand why these bogus companies, without any integrity, are flourishing. In every part of the country we find housing corporation companies duping the poor people and at the same time we see the publicity of the HDFC. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state under what circumstances, these private companies are flourishing in our country? I ask Mr. Chidambaram because he alone can understand the position. Please tell me. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bansal understands better. He will answer.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Alright, if you are so big, you need not answer just now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bansal is equally big.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there is an elaborate criteria prescribed. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So many prosecutions are now being launched against these bogus

companies throughout the country. So many prosecutions are there by the CPI, CPM people. We filed cases in every part of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You always forcefully make your point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But what about the HDFC? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You now realize why I do not call you everyday.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there is an elaborate criteria laid down for the purpose of issuing certificate of registration. Those *inter alia* include that:

"The housing finance company should be in a position to pay its present or future depositors in full, that the company will conduct its affairs in a manner that is not detrimental to the interests of present and future depositors, that the general character of the management of the company shall not be prejudicial to the public interest or the interest of depositors, that the company has adequate capital structure and earning prospects, that public interest can be served by the grant of this certificate of registration to the housing finance company and that the grant of the certificate shall not be prejudicial to the operations and growth of the housing finance sector of the company."

Sir, the National Housing Bank is mandated under the Act to take care of all those things and it is only then that the certificate of registration is granted and as I said earlier, in all those 43 cases where the certificate of registration has been granted, the NHB from time to time conducts both on-site and also off-site inspections and anything which comes to the notice, either directly *suo motu* or on the basis of a complaint, is looked into and action is thereafter taken on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 184—Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda—not present.

### Biometric PAN Cards

\*185. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of duplicate Permanent Account Number (PAN) cards cancelled by the Government;

(b) whether the Income-Tax Department has examined the option of recording biometric information on the PAN cards to overcome the menace of duplicate PAN cards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

### Statement

(a) The number of persons suspected to have duplicate PANs are estimated to be 13,10,127. The verification exercise as of 10.8.2007 has been completed in respect of 11,43,919 persons of which 10,18,421 PAN cards have been found to be duplicate.

(b) to (d) A Joint Working Group (JWG) was set up to obtain technical and commercial proposals from leading biometric solution providers, negotiate techno-commercial terms and conditions and to submit a proposal for consideration of the Government. The JWG has submitted its report, which is presently under consideration.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, in the reply given, the hon. Minister has stated that the number of persons suspected to have duplicate PANs are estimated to be 13,10,127 and the verification exercise has been completed in respect of 11,43,919 persons of which 10,18,421 PAN cards are found to be duplicate.

I want to know whether the PAN cards which have been found to be duplicated have been cancelled or not. Secondly, I want to know whether any penalty could have been incurred upon those PAN number holders who have not still complied with the prescribed PAN formula enunciated by your Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Both your supplementaries are covered in that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, a duplicate card is not an illegal card or a bogus card. For a variety of reasons, more than one card has been issued to the assesseees and I can go into the reasons. At one stage there was a drive by the Government to ensure that every assessee got a PAN card and whenever they found an assessee without a PAN card, they voluntarily even issued a PAN card.

So, what has happened is that over a period of years, a large number of people have more than one card, usually two cards. Now, what we are doing is de-duplication. I have given in the answer that out of 13,10,127 cards, which are suspected to be duplicate PAN cards, we have verified and de-duplicated 10,18,421 cards. That means they have been de-activated. So, those cards are no longer valid cards. Only the other card which an assessee has is a valid card; the second or third card in that case has been de-activated.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, your Ministry is going to introduce biometric PAN Cards. It is a very new idea.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not my Ministry.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am asking the question to the Minister himself.

MR. SPEAKER: But you said 'Sir, your Ministry'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Under the stewardship of the hon. Finance Minister, the Finance Ministry is going to introduce biometric PAN cards, which is a new idea in our financial system, in addition to 360 profiling of individual taxpayers. We are yet to be acquainted with this system, but I think that the sole objective of all the formulae that are being adopted is to widen the tax net and curb the black money which has been in circulation in our economy.

Sir, in every ten or fifteen years, we are experiencing that an amnesty scheme is announced by the Government. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is going to announce any amnesty scheme because....

MR. SPEAKER: No 'because'.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: The sole purpose of the measures is to widen the tax net and to curb black money also. That is my observation.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already said that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, biometric PAN card is to ensure that no one obtains more than one PAN card and no one obtains a PAN card on the basis of disguised or non-existent identity. Biometric cards are now used in a variety of functions. Passports are now becoming biometric; smart cards are biometric; and access cards are biometric. There is nothing wrong about biometric cards. We must use the technology. People are accepting biometric identification in many applications.

This Question has nothing to do with amnesty scheme at all. This is only about biometric PAN cards.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for aggressively using modern technology and thinking of issuing biometric PAN cards to assesseees, all with the intention of widening country's tax-base in a very transparent and simple manner.

I would like to remind the hon. Minister that his Ministry had introduced some years ago a scheme called 'Samman Scheme' whereby the taxpayers were to be given some due recognition.

MR. SPEAKER: What is its connection with this Question?

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, the connection is very simple. Is the Ministry thinking of incentivising more people to come into the tax net by making the issuing of PAN cards and other things more simple and can they see that a tax-payer is being recognised as being separate from those who do not pay taxes? It will help them to increase his tax-base. Sir, that is the connection.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very intelligently put, but it is not relevant. I am sorry.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, do I not merit an answer?

MR. SPEAKER: On a different occasion.

MD. SALIM: Sir, the Minister has already mentioned that it can be used for various purposes. It is good and simple also. It is easily accessible for rural folks in particular and semi-literate and illiterate people also. But we are issuing a lot of cards, not only PAN cards. So, why do we not go for Universal Identification Card so that we can make use of one card only? The ultimate purpose of a card is individual identity and unique identity. For that purpose, even the ATM cards for SBI. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is about biometric PAN cards.

*...(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: I would like to ask whether the Minister will ask that because of the financial inclusion. The Government is committed to financial inclusion. So, will they go for Unique Identification Card for multi-purposes, even for financial inclusion, be it ATM card issued by SBI or PAN cards?

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I do not think that your question has anything to do with this Question. Has it got anything to do with this Question?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I just wanted to clarify one point. If I recall right, the Ministry of Home Affairs is examining the question of a Unique Identification Number Card, and I think that they have introduced it in the border States of India on a pilot basis.

Now, my catchment population is only about 3-4 crore people. I do not have to issue the PAN Card for a 100 crore people. Therefore, this is really for the purpose of those 3-4 crore assesseees, which is likely to grow at a certain rate. But you will recall that in the Budget announcement we have now made the PAN Card as the sole card for all financial market transactions.

#### **Prediction of Rainfall**

\*186. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any progress in evolving a system to predict rainfall accurately in advance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) 1. Rainfall predictions are provided in different temporal and spatial ranges. These are

- (i) Short range rainfall predictions, upto 3 days, are generated daily for all 36 Meteorological sub-divisions in the country.
- (ii) Medium range rainfall predictions (3-7 days) are generated for the whole country.
- (iii) Long range rainfall forecast for the southwest monsoon season (June-September) for the country as a whole and also for 4 homogeneous regions. The forecast is issued in 2 stages, first in April with the data up to March and the second by end of June with the data up to May.

2. The following efforts have been made to improve the accuracy of rainfall forecasts:

- (i) 125 automatic weather stations (AWS) have been made operational for monsoon season of 2007.
- (ii) An improved numerical model with 50 Km resolution has been implemented.
- (iii) Additional satellite observations are being assimilated in the numerical models for improving the forecast since May 2007.
- (iv) A multi-model Man-Machine-Mix approach has been adopted for improving the forecast skill.

These initiatives have resulted in some improvement in the short and medium range rainfall forecasts.

3. Further, a comprehensive modernization programme of IMD and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) is being taken up with following components:

Procurement of high performance computers for forecasting.

Enhancement of observation systems including Automated Rain Gauges (ARG), Automatic Weather



Stations (AWS), improved Radiosonde systems for upper level data, acquisition of Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) etc.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice that the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting is the premier institution in India to provide weather forecasts to the farmers. As we are all aware, a number of States have been affected by heavy floods in the past 15 days, and some States like Bihar are still reeling under floods. A number of precious lives have been lost, and properties worth crores of rupees have been damaged.

Would the hon. Minister inform the august House whether any warning has been issued in these States well in advance? If yes, please give the complete details thereof.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The hon. Member is perhaps aware of the fact that the floods that occur in Bihar and some of the other areas have been repeated every year, and it is not on account of the lack of prediction. The fact is that these areas are generally reeling under floods every year because of the overflowing of rivers, which does not fall within our territory and actually comes into our territories.

As far as the warning aspect is concerned, I think that every year the people already know that the area is going to be flooded. We have no system by which we can measure the rise in the level of rivers across the border.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: It is reported that in Gujarat even weathermen were surprised with the record rainfall that had submerged large parts of Gujarat within 24 hours in July 2007. Is it true? If yes, would the hon. Minister explain as to what went wrong with the weather predictions in Gujarat?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I would like to place before the House a broad scenario as to the capabilities, the lack of capabilities and the building up of capabilities in this sector. What has happened is that for the last 60 years we have had a manual analog weather forecasting system. We have very limited capabilities in the manual analog weather forecasting system. We need to modernize the entire system into a digital automatic weather forecasting system, which requires huge expenditure to be incurred for it. But for the first time my Ministry has chosen to have a plan to make the most modern digital-

based automatic weather forecasting system found anywhere in the world for ourselves, and give it to the people of this country. This task will be completed by and large by May 2009, but for absolute accuracy for giving information to the farmers at the district level it would be done by 2013. This is a huge task, and we have a plan to invest Rs. 900 crore for it. A note is being moved to the Cabinet, and this is going to be done. I can promise this to the people of this country, and, especially, the farming community. I am saying this because our Government is committed to give information to the farming community for the purposes of flooding, drought, extent of rainfall, etc. I commit that by May 2009 we will give them a basic system by which at least we will be able to give them information at a 50 km. resolution range.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply to the question the Minister has just said that water is always available in the rivers of Bihar. But the reality is entirely different. Water flows there from the rivers of Nepal. Whenever it rains in the mountains of Nepal, water flows in those areas. The people of Bihar do not know about it. Owing to this there is extensive damage to life and property. Will the Minister make any such arrangements, which will prevent the damages caused by an international river and ensure that people receive warnings about flood in time?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I would like to say yes, we intend to do that, but there is a small problem in it that we cannot install any such instruments on the other side of the border which could enable us to receive such information in our digital centres and subsequently to our computing facilities thereby enabling us provide information to people. But we are installing the said systems within our boundary. I would like to assure you as I have already stated that by the year 2013 such a system will be installed in India which will be unique in the world.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has spoken about it; illustrated it in a proper way. This is a matter related to technology.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Minister that while some part of the country is witnessing floods, the other parts experience droughts. It is a fact that drought-hit areas also witness floods. In our State of Uttar Pradesh, floods

occur as a result of heavy rains in Uttarakhand and Nepal. The Government have scientists and equipments, there is department of meteorology as well, therefore, the hon. Minister should have the forecast about this and through that he can advise the Government about the areas likely to be affected by floods and droughts. This is an annual phenomenon and in this House we discuss this matter every time. He should be vigilant in this regard and there should be such kind of system in place.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, it is enough.

*[English]*

It is a question on prediction of rainfall. The Member is asking about drought.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, whatever the hon'ble Member has said is correct. I would like to say that there are three types of predictions—prediction covering one day to three days, prediction covering three days to seven days which is known as medium range prediction and long term prediction. The prediction covering one day to three days that we give is accurate up to 90 per cent. We had provided information to Bihar that there would be heavy rains and it was about to come, but we could not give the information that minutely. We had given information to the authorities of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. It will be wrong to say that we didn't provide information. But when our system will be completely modernized, when our computer facilities will be transformed into terraflops, when we will have storage facilities, when our modelling system will be modernized, when our sensors, automatic rain gauges, weather stations, 55 doppler radars get installed, then the said information will be despatched to each and every district. We will provide full information by the year 2009 and will provide it in small resolutions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is giving assurances to you all, please listen.

*[English]*

The Minister is fully aware of all these systems.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, we will provide it by the year 2009. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We should encourage the Minister instead of discouraging him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware of the fact that in the year 2004, an agreement had been signed to install forecasting network at 16 locations of Nepal territory with the cooperation of India and Nepal to forecast flood and rain of the said 16 locations, forecasting network of not even a single location has become functional so far, nor any efforts have been made to modernize them despite the fact that India and Nepal are friendly countries. Crops as well as life and property worth crores of rupees get destroyed due to the rivers flowing to Bihar from Nepal. If the people get information through the forecasting network, they can save their lives by climbing to the high hillocks and embankments.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: As the hon'ble Minister has said now, as per the agreements entered into between the two countries, the sensors installed there are not operative so far. It is not our responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)* We are making efforts to make all these facilities operative. We cannot call for explanations from Nepal as to why they are not being made operative and as such we hope to hold discussions and during such discussions we will ask them to make operative all these facilities.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 187.

Shri L. Rajagopal—not present.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is absent, what can I do?

*[Translation]*

#### Cloning of Credit Cards

\*188 SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases where cloning of Credit Cards has been detected during the last two years;

(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ward-off such clonings?

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

**Statement**

(a) The number of instances of frauds and amount involved, on account of cloning of credit cards, where the amount involved is Rs. 1 lakh and above, reported by banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the year 2006 and 2007 (upto June) are as under:

Year	Number of instances	Amount involved (Rs. in Lakh)
2006	127	235.42
2007 (upto June)	61	123.11

(b) and (c) RBI as a part of its supervisory process has been sensitizing banks from time to time about common fraud prone areas, modus operandi and the measures to be taken by them to prevent/reduce the incidence of frauds in banks. RBI had issued guidelines to banks on credit card operations which were consolidated in a master circular dated 2nd July 2007. The banks were advised to set up internal control systems to combat frauds and to take pro-active fraud control and enforcement measures. They were also advised to ensure that credit card operations are run on sound, prudent and profitable lines and also fulfil "Know Your Customer" requirements; assess credit risk of customers; specify terms and conditions in clear and simple language; ensure prompt despatch of bills; maintain customer confidentiality; etc. RBI had also issued a circular to all commercial banks in June 2006 advising them to take preventive measures to combat cloning/skimming related frauds. The measures include educating customers through hoardings, advertisements, handouts and also posting cautionary messages on the website of card issuing banks.

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply to the question, the hon. Minister of Finance has stated that 127 instances of frauds on account of cloning of credit cards have come to the notice in the year 2006. Similarly, he also stated that in the first quarter of the year 2007, 61 cases have come to the notice. I would

like to ask the Minister of Finance the reasons for not taking any action expeditiously when 127 cases of frauds had come to the notice in the year 2006 as a result of which 61 cases came to the notice in the very first quarter of the year 2007 and about frauds worth Rs. 123 lakh were carried out. Along with this, I would also like to know whether any new system is being put in place to curb the number of similar instances of frauds in future?

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there are millions of credit cards in the country. In 2006, 127 instances were brought to the notice and action is being taken in each of the cases. Cases have been registered. It is after we found that there is a significant number of cases, whether it is cloning or skimming, the RBI has issued a circular in June, 2006 to take a number of measures to prevent cloning and skimming of credit cards. But the fundamental responsibility is with the owner of the credit cardholders. One should not make one's credit card available to all and sundry or make the information available easily so that it can be cloned and skimmed. One has to protect one's own credit card. The fact is in a country as large as India with millions of credit cards, there are only 127 cases in a year. The world over this is the phenomenon but each one must protect one's own credit card.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, are the bank employees also involved in this fraud, if so; the action taken by the Minister against the said employees?

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not have any information about the involvement of bank employee as such. Cloning and skimming is done when you hand over your credit card to a stranger or may happen when you hand it over to the service provider or hotel or restaurant where they copy and copy into another card. So, one has to be very careful when one hands over the credit card to a service provider. I do not have any incident with me of a bank employee being involved. I will find out and let you know if any bank employee is involved.

*[Translation]***Promotion to New and Renewable Energy**

+  
\*189. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) the quantum of power generated from each of the non-conventional energy sources in the country, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of power contributed from the New and Renewable Energy (NRE) sources out of the total power generated in the country, as on date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase NRE power generation capacity during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (e) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) Around 10,256 MW grid-interactive power generation capacity has been set up through renewable energy sources as on 31.03.2007. State-wise and source-wise details of the same are given in the Annexure.

(b) The share of grid-interactive power generation capacity in the total power generation capacity is around 7.7 per cent as on 31.3.2007.

(c) and (d) A target of 2000 MW grid interactive renewable power generation capacity addition comprising 1500 MW of wind power, 300 MW of bio-power and 200 MW of small hydro power has been set for 2007-08.

(e) The Government is encouraging private investment to accelerate deployment of grid-interactive renewable power projects in the country. In this regard, fiscal and financial incentives are being provided that include capital/ interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from taxes. These apart, preferential tariffs for grid-interactive renewable power are being given in most potential states.

**Annexure**

*State-wise and source-wise details of grid-interactive renewable power generation capacity as on 31.03.2007*

Sl. No.	States/UT	Small Hydro Power (in MW)	Wind Power (in MW)	Bio Power		Solar Power (in MW)	Total Capacity (in MW)
				Biomass Power (in MW)	Waste to Energy (in MW)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.85	122.40	301.25	28.50	0.10	831.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.24				0.02	45.26
3.	Assam	2.11					2.11
4.	Bihar	50.40					50.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	18.05		113.30			131.35
6.	Goa	0.05					0.05
7.	Gujarat	7.00	636.60	0.50			644.10
8.	Haryana	62.70		6.00			68.70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	141.62					141.62
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	111.83					111.83
11.	Jharkhand	4.05					4.05
12.	Karnataka	416.50	821.10	254.28	1.00		1492.88
13.	Kerala	98.12	2.00			0.02	100.14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51.16	57.30	1.00	2.70	0.10	112.26
15.	Maharashtra	209.33	1487.70	76.00	1.00		1774.03
16.	Manipur	5.45					5.45
17.	Meghalaya	30.71					30.71
18.	Mizoram	17.47					17.47
19.	Nagaland	20.67					20.67
20.	Orissa	7.30	3.20				10.50
21.	Punjab	123.90		28.00	1.00	0.32	153.22
22.	Rajasthan	23.85	469.80	23.30		0.15	517.10
23.	Sikkim	39.11					39.11
24.	Tamil Nadu	89.70	3492.79	215.50	4.25	0.05	3802.29
25.	Tripura	16.01					16.01
26.	Uttar Pradesh	25.10		121.50	5.00	0.38	151.98
27.	Uttaranchal	75.67				0.05	75.72
28.	West Bengal	98.40	1.10			0.05	99.55
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.25				0.10	5.35
30.	Chandigarh						
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli						
32.	Daman and Diu						
33.	Delhi						
34.	Lakshadweep					0.76	0.76
35.	Pondicherry					0.02	0.02
Total (MW)		1975.60	7093.99	1140.63	43.45	2.12	10255.79

MW = Megawatt.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, 60 years have elapsed since the country became independent. However, till now we have been able to generate only 7.7 per cent of renewable energy and have reached only upto 10,000 megawatt. I would like to know whether during the eleventh five year plan the Government propose to invite large scale private investment in this sector so that we may generate at least 50,000 megawatt power. I would also like to know the quantum of private investment so far made in this sector and the investments likely to be made in future in this regard.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, generation of power from the renewable energy sources was started in 1982 by the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi. A separate Ministry was constituted in 1992 for this.

12.00 hrs.

The hon'ble Member is saying that during these 60 years our achievement is only of 10 megawatt. I would like to submit that most of the investment made in this sector are in the private sector. As far as his submission regarding the eleventh five year plan is concerned, a target of generation of 14 thousand megawatt power has been fixed. There are several separate schemes to attract private sector investment in this sector and harnessing their potentials. Providing subsidy and financial concession are involved in these schemes. I feel that we will surpass the target of 14 thousand megawatt mark fixed for the eleventh five year plan.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over. I am sorry, Rewati Raman Singh. I am very sorry. The clock is not under my control

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Relief for Senior Citizens

\*184. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to keep the interest earned from Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, 2004, free from Income-tax provisions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and other financial incentives proposed in favour of the senior citizens by the banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no proposal, as referred to, under consideration.

### Photo Identity Cards

\*187. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) issued by the Government in various States as on March, 2007, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a large number of EPICs have been found defective;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to issue error free EPICs in the country; and

(e) the time by which the entire country is likely to be covered fully with EPICs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A Statement showing the number of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) issued in various States/Union Territories provided by the Election Commission of India is enclosed.

(b) to (e) The Election Commission of India has intimated that there are no reports of large scale defective EPICs being found. However, there are some isolated cases of issuance of defective EPICs. In case of defective EPIC, if any, steps are taken to correct the defective ones and issue to the elector a new card free of cost as per Election Commission's instructions. It has been the endeavour of the Election Commission to achieve 100% coverage under the EPIC scheme, as far as practicable, in a time bound manner. Even though efforts have been constantly made to cover all the electors under the EPIC scheme, various reasons such as natural calamities, and engagement of administrative machinery to works other than election work, apathy of voters themselves are some of the reasons why progress has been uneven.

**Statement***Status for the progress of Elector Photo Identity Card*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Total General Electors w.r.t. 01-01-2006 roll	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards	% of EPIC issued (Column 3 & 4)	EPIC report upto
1.	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh%^	49,848,836	35,278,198	70.77	March, 2007
2.	Arunachal Pradesh**	672,916	160,094	23.79	March, 2007
3.	Assam#	17,410,558	0	0.00	March, 2007
4.	Bihar\$	51,478,648	30,641,377	59.52	March, 2007
5.	Chhattisgarh	13,999,848	4,850,000	34.64	March, 2007
6.	Goa^^	1,010,207	764,774	75.70	March, 2007
7.	Gujarat^^	36,470,548	25,100,000	68.82	March, 2007
8.	Haryana	12,123,645	10,854,503	89.53	March, 2007
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4,543,024	2,918,344	64.24	March, 2007
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6,284,658	4,276,715	68.05	March, 2007
11.	Jharkhand	17,873,713	8,409,060	47.05	March, 2007
12.	Karnataka^^	41,610,955	32,069,242	77.07	March, 2007
13.	Kerala^^	20,929,146	20,929,146	100.00	March, 2007
14.	Madhya Pradesh	38,446,833	28,473,060	74.06	March, 2007
15.	Maharashtra	66,438,515	45,392,934	68.32	March, 2007
16.	Manipur## ^^	1,701,410	763,481	44.87	March, 2007
17.	Meghalaya	1,339,181	709,309	52.97	March, 2007
18.	Mizoram	565,094	477,099	84.43	March, 2007
19.	Nagaland###	1,268,369	576,725	45.47	March, 2007
20.	Orissa^^	27,235,112	19,661,504	72.19	March, 2007
21.	Punjab^^	16,859,720	15,693,997	93.09	March, 2007
22.	Rajasthan^^	34,800,000	27,800,000	79.89	March, 2007
23.	Sikkim^^	305,992	222,766	72.80	March, 2007
24.	Tamil Nadu	46,304,764	44,800,000	96.75	March, 2007

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura <sup>^^</sup>	2,005,704	1,871,552	93.31	March, 2007
26.	Uttar Pradesh <sup>^^</sup>	1,134,000,000	913,000,000	80.51	March, 2007
27.	Uttarakhand <sup>^^</sup>	5,961,350	5,303,710	88.97	March, 2007
28.	West Bengal	48,112,642	46,630,101	96.92	March, 2007
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands <sup>^^</sup>	243,188	214,241	88.10	March, 2007
30.	Chandigarh	572,662	402,304	70.25	March, 2007
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli <sup>^^</sup>	133,250	95,645	71.78	March, 2007
32.	Daman and Diu	88,263	60,447	68.49	March, 2007
33.	Lakshadweep <sup>^^</sup>	40,241	37,617	93.48	March, 2007
34.	NCT of Delhi <sup>^^</sup>	10,123,095	6,262,840	61.87	March, 2007
35.	Puducherry <sup>^^</sup>	711,595	711,595	100.00	March, 2007
Total		1,711,513,472	1,335,412,380	78.03	

<sup>\*\*</sup> Except Data of elector of AC No. 4, 46, 49 & 50 in Arunachal Pradesh.

<sup>#</sup> In the first phase in 1996-97, total 67,479 EPICs were prepared but not distributed. The issue of EPIC programme is currently not underway in Assam.

<sup>\$</sup> Data of Electors w.r.t. 1-1-2007 roll except 6 ACs where final publication is due.

<sup>^^</sup> Data of Elector w.r.t. 1-1 -2007 roll.

<sup>##</sup> A total of 1033733 EPICs were issued for the photography done till 1997. As per the survey conducted by the Dy. Commissioners 90% of them are not available with the electors owing to snatching away of EPICs by the underground elements.

<sup>###</sup> In Nagaland the EPIC % dropped down from 57.06% to 45.47% after Intensive Revision w.r.t. 1-1-2005.

<sup>%</sup> Except Hyderabad where EPIC programme is in progress.

*[Translation]*

**Amendments in the Laws of the British Era**

\*190. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the laws enacted during the British era with a view to make them compatible with the present days; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Review of all laws, including those enacted during the British era, with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and

political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by the different nodal Ministries/ Departments administering their respective laws and generally by the Law Commission of India. The Government also set up in 1998 a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws.

*[English]*

**Stanford-India Biodesign Programme**

\*191. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently launched the Stanford-India Biodesign Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) the names of the States likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(d) the time by which the said programme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Department of Biotechnology has taken an initiative to promote medical technology innovation in India in collaboration with the Stanford University, USA. In order to discuss the concept of this initiative, a meeting was organized in January, 2007 in Delhi by inviting five leading overseas experts from Stanford University, USA and about 35 Indian participants. Based on the consensus, a collaborative venture has been initiated as "Stanford-India Biodesign programme".

The objective is to create medical technology innovation in India in partnership with Stanford University by developing leaders in biomedical technology. This initiative seeks to provide training to young engineers from IITs, leading engineering institutions with partner medical institution to identify major health needs in India and develop solutions that are cost-effective and widely deployable across a broad socio-economic spectrum.

The programme goals are: (i) to introduce medical technology innovation into education system (ii) to establish Centre of Excellence at each IIT in partnership with a medical institution (iii) to identify opportunities for medical technology development through observation of patients by a multidisciplinary team comprising of biologist, engineers, chemists and medical persons, then to select at least one new technology for group to be designed and develop it into a prototype.

The focus of the programme will be on the development of implants, medical devices and bioinstrumentation. The initial development phase will include an intensive design and planning process based on the national needs. The faculty and fellows would be trained in the design innovation process by providing hands-on training at Stanford University, USA. Once the training will be over, the team will come back to India and start designing process and identifying clinical needs/challenges in India based on their experience at Stanford University, USA.

(c) The first Stanford-India Biodesign (SIB) Programme has been launched jointly at AIIMS and IIT, Delhi. Subsequently, pairs of IITs and partner medical schools will be identified in the country to set up more SIBs for the next five years on a competitive basis.

(d) Currently, the duration of the programme is for a period of five years.

*[Translation]*

#### UN Report on Urbanisation in India

\*192. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations has given any report recently regarding urbanisation in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) As per the information available, United Nations has not come out with any such report regarding urbanization in India. However, in the recently published report entitled "State of World Population 2007" of United Nations Population Fund, there is a mention about India's population growth, employment opportunity in formal sector and urban poverty in urban areas. Relevant comments on the urbanization in India are summarized in the enclosed statement.

(c) Though Urban Development is a State subject, the Government of India has launched the largest initiative in December 03, 2005 called Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore as additional Central Assistance. The aim of this Mission is to give focused attention to integrated development of infrastructure services in 63 select cities through subcomponent *v/z.* Urban Infrastructure and Governance. All other small and medium towns will be covered under another sub-component namely Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). Similarly two more components *i.e.* Basic Services for Urban Poor for select 63 cities and Integrated Housing and Slum Development

Programme for all other cities under JNNURM are administered by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to ensure basic services to urban poor namely Housing, water supply, sewerage, drainage, street lighting, etc.

Since inception of the Mission till 31st March, 2007 all the 63 cities have prepared City Development Plan—a Vision Document as to how the cities would like to see themselves developing over a period of time. 49 cities have signed Memorandum of Agreement with Ministry of Urban Development to undertake mandatory as well as optional reforms over the mission period of 7 years. 205 projects valued at Rs. 16,965.81 crore have been approved and Rs. 1567.38 crore have been released to 42 cities in 20 States. Under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns 408 projects costing Rs. 6,181.62 crore for 324 towns have been approved. Additional central assistance of Rs. 4978.19 crore has been committed against which Rs. 1,271.56 crore have been released.

Similarly, under Basic Services to the Urban Poor 160 projects for 35 cities in 15 States valued at Rs. 9,495.37 crore have been approved and first installment of Rs. 970.91 crore has been released against central share of Rs. 4,785.74 crore. Under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) 196 projects from 189 towns in 15 States have been provided with additional Central Assistance of Rs. 492.61 crore against Central share of Rs. 1399.75 crore. The Mission seeks to achieve the following outcomes at the end of mission period viz. modern and transparent budgeting and financial management systems adopted for all urban services and government functions, transparency and accountability in the functioning of urban local bodies, improved service delivery, financially self-sustaining urban local bodies with improved credit-worthiness and provision of services to citizens at their door steps through e-Governance applications. It is expected that the Mission will bring about overall improvement in the infrastructural facilities and Governance which will ensure access to basic services to all its citizens including urban poor.

#### **Statement**

##### *Relevant Comments on the Urbanisation in India*

India's urban areas still hold less than 30 per cent of the total population. This is expected to rise to 40.7 per cent by 2030. This relatively low level is partly

attributable to a stringent definition of "urban" in India (for instance, it excludes peri-urban areas). Even with such a definition, urbanites are expected to number some 590 million in 2030.

Natural increase is the major factor in India's urban growth. Employment opportunities in the formal sector are not expanding and much of the urban labour force works in the informal sector, but this does not prevent migrants from coming in search of the intangible advantages, opportunities and amenities of larger cities. Poverty in small towns has always been higher than in the million-plus cities and medium-size towns; also, between 1987-88 and 1993-94, urban poverty declined more sharply in the million-plus cities than in medium cities and small towns.

*[English]*

#### **Market Borrowings by NABARD**

\*193. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) is borrowing money from the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of market borrowings of NABARD vis-a-vis its loan portfolio;

(d) whether this practice violates any RBI regulations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, During the year 2006-07, NABARD had raised Rs. 10,898.79 crore at a weighted average cost of 8.69%. For the year 2007-08, it has raised Rs. 6,186.51 crore at a weighted average cost of 9.66% as on 17th August, 2007.

The details of outstanding market borrowings vis-a-vis the loan portfolio, excluding the deposits by banks and loans given to State Government under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), for the financial years ending 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	O/S Market Borrowings	O/S Portfolio	% age
2005-06	24,084.00	42945.53	56.08
2006-07	32,146.00	49503.07	64.94

As on 31st July 2007 the total loans outstanding in respect of Short Term Production Credit, Medium Term (Conversion) and Liquidity Support, Investment Credit (Farm Sector, Non-Farm Sector and Self Help Groups), Rural Infrastructure Loans, financing to State Government for Share Capital contribution to Co-operatives aggregated to Rs. 67,700 crore (including Rs. 21,079.38 crore of RIDF loans to State Governments). In order to meet the requirement of such a large loan portfolio, NABARD has raised resources by way of borrowings to the extent of Rs. 52,944 crore (including Rs. 20,746.91 crore of RIDF deposits from Banks).

(d) No, Sir. The Market borrowings of NABARD are within the stipulated RBI Law/Regulation as prescribed from time to time.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Drinking Water Schemes

\*194. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Union Government for allocation of funds under drinking water schemes to the States;

(b) whether there is lack of coordination between the States and the Centre in regard to implementation and utilization of financial assistance being provided to the States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for better coordination with the States thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The criteria adopted for different components of centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) are:

(i) State-wise allocation under ARWSP (Normal) is made by taking into account rural population, number of NC/PC habitations, geographical condition and water quality problem. The components for weightage and percentage points are as:

Weightage for	Percentage (%)
Rural Population	40
States under DDP, DPAP, HADP & special category hill States in terms of rural areas	35
Not Covered/Partially Covered villages (at 2:1 ratio)	15
Quality affected villages	10
Total	100

(ii) The inter-state allocation of ARWSP (DDP) funds is determined in proportion to the number of no safe source habitations existing in the DDP areas of the State. The components for weightage and percentage points are as:

Weightage for	% age points
Proportionate rural population in DDP blocks	40
NC/PC habitations (at 2:1 ratio)	35
Quality affected habitations	25

(iii) For ARWSP (Calamity), no allocation is made to the States. These funds are released to the States taking in account the report of the State Government, the damage caused to the identified rural drinking water supply sources and systems and the funding needed to bring these back to their original condition.

(iv) Funds under Sub-Mission on Water quality are allocated to States as per the weightage criteria - Arsenic = 35%, Fluoride = 35%, Salinity = 15%, Nitrate = 5%, Iron = 5% and Multiple problems = 5%.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The funding pattern of ARWSP itself ensures co-ordination, wherein both the Centre and State have 50:50 share. For Sub-mission projects, the Centre State share is 75:25. Besides, for better co-ordination, the Government of India conducts Quarterly Review meetings with all States in which detailed analysis of performance is made, along with discussions on removing bottle necks in implementation. An Annual State Ministers' Conference is also held to discuss the policies, problems, new ideas and successes in each State. A representative of the Department of Drinking Water Supply is also a member of the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee. Financial and physical progress of various programmes of the Department are reviewed through monthly progress reports and field visits by Area Officers of the Ministry. Regular review meetings, analysis of monthly progress reports, correspondence with the States for timely and optimal utilization for funds are also measures undertaken to improve co-ordination.

[Translation]

#### World Bank Report

\*195. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:  
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has made any report on the decline of investments in India due to policy bottlenecks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any suggestions have been made in the report for accelerating the rate of investment in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The World Bank in its Global Development Finance Report 2007 has, *inter alia*, observed that "In India, more restrictive policy conditions are expected to lead to deceleration in investment growth and weaker private consumption and government spending, contributing to a slowdown in GDP growth to 7.8 per cent and 7.5 per cent in 2008 and 2009, respectively."

(c) and (d) The Global Development Finance Report 2007 covers the Outlook for all Developing countries in a global context, and is not exclusively on India. In regard to developing countries as a group, the report suggests that good economic policies need to be sustained and extended for managing adjustment. The report highlights the need for greater efforts to spur the development of well-regulated and liquid local capital markets that provide developing countries with sound protection against external shocks and ensure prudential regulation of foreign borrowing by domestic banks and other regulated financial entities.

#### Review of Monetary Policy By RBI

\*196. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has completed its quarterly review of its monetary policy;

(b) if so, whether it has expressed apprehensions about the price rise in its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether RBI has decided to revise the terms of home loans and auto loans during its review meeting; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The First Quarter Review of Annual Policy Statement of Monetary Policy for the year 2007-08 was announced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 31st July, 2007. The Review noted the decline in inflation measured by variations in the Whole Sale Price Index (WPI) on a year on year basis from 5.9 percent at

end March 2007 to 4.4 percent as on July 14, 2007. The review has also indicated that while there is an abatement of inflation in the recent period, upward pressures persist and it would be necessary to carefully monitor developments relating to aggregate supply conditions and supply responses to demand impulses in the short run and expand production capabilities over the medium term.

(d) and (e) Effective October 18, 1994, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakh and these interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards.

*[English]*

### **Power Losses**

\*197. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether around forty percent of power has been lost in transmission and distribution in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to check this loss?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) To assess the losses in transmission and distribution of power, the concept of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses was introduced in 2001-02. AT&C loss parameters capture not only technical losses, but also theft, pilferage and commercial losses due to poor feeder, distribution transformer and consumer metering, poor billing and non-realisation of dues. A report prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Loss of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2005-06 was 34.54%.

(b) The main reasons for AT&C losses are:

#### **(i) Technical Losses**

- Overloading of existing lines and substation equipments
- Old and outdated network
- Low High Tension:Low Tension Ratio

- Poor repair and Maintenance of equipments
- Non installation of sufficient capacitors
- Substandard and inefficient, poor quality distribution equipments
- Poor power factor of consumer end devices.

#### **(ii) Commercial Losses**

- Defective meters
- Theft & Pilferage
- Tampering of Meters
- Low accountability of employees
- Poor metering efficiency
- Poor billing efficiency
- Non realization of dues.

The reduction of technical and commercial losses is one of the critical components for improving distribution segment which come largely in the purview of the State. The Government has taken various initiatives to reduce the AT&C losses which *inter-alia* include:-

- (i) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was launched in 2002-03 under which Additional Central Assistance was provided to States for taking up the following technical, commercial and management measures.

#### **(a) Technical Measures**

- Upgradation and strengthening of the weak distribution system
- Relocation of distribution sub-stations and/or provision of additional distribution sub-stations
- Installation of lower capacity distribution transformers to serve a smaller number/cluster of consumers and substitution of distribution transformers with those having lower no-load losses
- Installation of shunt capacitors
- Adoption of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS)

- Regular maintenance of distribution network
- GIS mapping of sub transmission and distribution network including compilation of data.
- IT intervention

**(b) Commercial Measures**

- Improvement in metering and billing
- Improvement in revenue collection.

**(c) Management Measures**

- Adoption of energy accounting and auditing
  - Proper network planning for future expansion
  - Preparation of long-term plans on regular basis for phased strengthening and improvement of the distribution systems along with associated transmission system
  - Training of employees.
- (ii) To enable effective control of theft of electricity, the Electricity Act, 2003 has incorporated specific provisions for detection of theft, speedy trial of theft related offences by setting up Special Courts and Police Stations and also for the recovery of the charges of electricity stolen. Based on the feedback from the States and other stakeholders, the Central Government has further strengthened the theft related provisions in the Act by enacting the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007. By this amendment Act, theft of electricity has been explicitly made a cognizable and non-bailable offence. The distribution licensees have been empowered to disconnect the supply of electricity upon detection of theft. The penalty for repeated theft of electricity by large consumers has also been enhanced.

*[Translation]***Legal Aid to Poor**

\*198. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA  
DESHMUKH :  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

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

(a) the norms fixed by the Government for seeking legal assistance under the legal aid scheme;

(b) the number of poor persons benefited under the scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, every person who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services if that person is—

- a member of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe,
- a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution,
- a women or a child,
- a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person,
- a victim of mass disaster, violence, flood, drought, earthquake, industrial disaster,
- an industrial workman,
- a person in custody, including custody in a protective home; or in a juvenile home; or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home.
- a person whose annual income is less than the amount as prescribed by State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court and as prescribed by Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court. In cases before the Supreme Court, the limit was originally fixed at Rs. 12,000/- and now the income ceiling has been raised by the Central Government to Rs. 50,000/-. In regard to cases before the High Courts and Courts subordinate thereto, the income limit was originally Rs. 9,000/- which was resolved to be raised to Rs. 50,000/- in the fourth annual meet of State Legal Services Authorities held on 29.02.2004 and 01.03.2004 at Kolkata. In pursuance to this 19 States and 3 Union Territories have raised the income limit to Rs. 50000/- and the remaining States/ UTs have also been requested to increase the income limit to Rs. 50000/-.

(b) A statement showing the number of poor persons who benefited under the Legal Aid Scheme during the last three calendar years viz., 2004, 2005 and 2006, State-wise is enclosed.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal to include senior citizens, dependents of family members of Armed forces personnel and personnel of the paramilitary forces, who died in action, and victims of terrorists/extremist violence and riots in the categories of persons entitled to get legal services under Section 12 of the aforesaid Act.

**Statement**

*The number of poor persons benefited under the Legal Aid Scheme during the last three years, State-wise*

S.No.	Name of the State Legal Services Authority	Number of persons
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7132
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1677
3.	Assam	75564
4.	Bihar	16359
5.	Chhattisgarh	13082
6.	Goa	1223
7.	Gujarat	20448
8.	Haryana	7729
9.	Himachal Pradesh	787
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2902
11.	Jharkhand	2532
12.	Karnataka	5294
13.	Kerala	6680
14.	Madhya Pradesh	109018
15.	Maharashtra	188175
16.	Meghalaya	140
17.	Mizoram	11839

1	2	3
18.	Nagaland	684
19.	Orissa	6824
20.	Punjab	12429
21.	Rajasthan	22061
22.	Sikkim	996
23.	Tamil Nadu	431512
24.	Tripura	1940
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1448645
26.	Uttarakhand	14144
27.	West Bengal	11612
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	125
29.	U.T. of Chandigarh	1671
30.	Delhi	39187
31.	U.T. Puducherry	3409
Total		2465820

*[English]*

**Women Beneficiaries under NREGS**

\*199. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the women workforce is very less than the men beneficiaries under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

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

(c) whether any complaint has been received from women workers about their numbers in the workforce;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of women beneficiaries under the NREGS?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Para 6 of Schedule II of the NREG Act, 2005 provides that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under this Act. During the year 2006-07, a total of 90.51 crore persondays of employment was generated out of which 36.79 crore (40.65%) were for women. During 2007-08, out of a total of 29.8 crore persondays of employment generated up till June 2007, 14.53 crore (48.76%) have been for women. Thus, the percentage of women beneficiary under NREGA has been much higher than provided under the Act.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) At present, the percentage of women beneficiaries under NREGA is already much higher than provided under the Act.

*[Translation]*

#### **Liquidation of Non-banking Financial Companies**

\*200. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has called for liquidation of some Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and for the initiation of criminal proceedings against them;

(b) if so, the details of these companies;

(c) whether any of these companies has been penalised after completing the due legal process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been taking action against Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which have either not complied with provisions of the RBI Act or are financially weak. Such action includes prohibiting the companies from carrying on activities of a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI) and from accepting deposits and alienating assets. RBI has, so far, filed 84 winding up petitions, 70 criminal proceedings and 27 Police complaints against NBFCs,

These cases are at different stages of legal process. The details of these companies are given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

*Winding up petitions have been filed in the respective High Courts against the following companies:*

1. Al -Falah Finlease Ltd., New Delhi
2. Al-Fahad Investment Limited, Bhopal
3. Al Fahad Fincom Ltd., Bhopal
4. Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd., Hyderabad
5. ATN International Ltd., Kolkata
6. Concert Capital Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram
7. CRB Capital Markets Ltd., New Delhi
8. Crystal Credit Corporation Ltd., New Delhi
9. DCL Finance Ltd., Hyderabad
10. D S J Finance Corporation Ltd., Mumbai
11. Dealwell Investment & Finance Ltd., Mumbai
12. Dugar Finance India Ltd., Chennai
13. EBF Finance Ltd., Hyderabad
14. Enarai Finance Ltd., Mumbai
15. Fidelity Finance Ltd., Chennai
16. Genius Financial Services Ltd., Hyderabad
17. Helios Corporation Ltd., Patna
18. Helios Finance & Investment Ltd., Patna
19. Himachal Grameen Sanchayka Ltd., Chandigarh
20. Hoffland Finance Ltd., New Delhi
21. IFB Finance Ltd., Kolkata
22. Incan Mutual Benefit Ltd., Kanpur
23. Indodeep General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd., Kolkata
24. JVG Finance Ltd., New Delhi
25. JVG Leasing Ltd., New Delhi



26. JVG Securities, New Delhi
27. Jammu & Kashmir Originated Finance Co. Ltd., Jammu
28. Jenson & Nicholson Financial Services Ltd., Kolkata
29. Jibanbikash Gen. Finance & Invest. (I) Ltd., Bhubaneswar
30. Kashmir Valley Fin. & Investment Co. Ltd., Jammu
31. Kirloskar Investments & Finance Ltd., Bangalore
32. Krishi Export Commercial Corp. Ltd., Kanpur
33. Kuber Auto General Finance Ltd., New Delhi
34. Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd., Kanpur
35. Lakshmi Trade Credits Ltd., Chennai
36. Lalbhai Finance Ltd., Ahmedabad
37. Lok Vikas Finance Corporation Ltd., Jaipur
38. Lok Vikas Capital Limited, Jaipur
39. Lynx (I) Ltd., Kolkata
40. MCC Finance Ltd., Chennai
41. Memorial Finance & Investment (I) Ltd., Kolkata
42. Midwest India Industries Ltd., Hyderabad
43. Monarch Finlease Ltd., Hyderabad
44. Merbanc Financial Service Limited, Hyderabad
45. New Century Leasing & Investment Ltd., Bangalore
46. Piramal Financial Services Ltd., Ahmedabad
47. Padamja Ventures Limited, Hyderabad
48. Pennar Paterson Limited, Hyderabad
49. Prudential Capital Markets Ltd., Kolkata
50. Rockland Leasing Ltd., New Delhi
51. Rossel Finance Ltd., Mumbai
52. Sanjeevani Savings & Investment (I) Ltd., Mumbai
53. Sanmac Motor Finance Ltd., Chennai
54. Schematic Finance Ltd., New Delhi
55. Sunrise Investment and Finance Ltd., Jammu
56. Synergy Financial Exchange Ltd., Chennai
57. Tulunadu Fin. and Developments Limited, Bangalore
58. T.V.K. Equity Fund Limited, Hyderabad
59. Vijaya Commercial Credit Ltd., Bangalore
60. Vijaya Leasing Ltd., Bangalore
61. Alpico Finance Ltd., Mumbai
62. Hindustan Fin. Management Ltd., New Delhi
63. Onida Finance Ltd., New Delhi
64. Mangal Finance Ltd., New Delhi
65. Dawson Leasing Ltd., New Delhi
66. Protective Savings & Finance Ltd., Kolkata
67. Tathagat Small Ind. inves. Corporation Ltd.
68. Nagarjuna Finance Ltd., Hyderabad
69. Maharashtra Apex Corporation Ltd., Bangalore
70. Kothari Orient Finance Ltd., Chennai
71. Krest Finlease Ltd., Chennai
72. Samruddhi Saving & Investment (India) Ltd., Bhopal
73. Southern Udyans Ltd., Hyderabad
74. Maegabyte Leasing & Finance Ltd., Kanpur
75. Rapti Nidhi Ltd., Kolkata
76. Janapriya Finance and Industrial Investment (I) Ltd., Kolkata
77. DCM Financial Services Ltd., New Delhi
78. Chance Savings Co. Ltd., Kolkata
79. Karnataka Financial Services Ltd., Bangalore
80. S.N. Finance Ltd., Bangalore
81. Yashaswi Ltd., Bangalore

82. BCL Financial Services Ltd., Kolkata
83. Suraj Securities & Financial Ltd., Kolkata
84. Global Finance Corporation Ltd., Kolkata

**(II) Prosecution Proceedings launched**

In exercise of the powers vested in Reserve Bank of India under Section 58 E read with Section 58 C of the RBI Act, 1934, criminal complaints have been filed against:

1. Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd. Hyderabad
2. Authentic Finance Ltd. Kolkata
3. ATN International Ltd. Kolkata
4. CRB Capital Market Ltd., New Delhi
5. Crystal Credit Corporation Ltd. New Delhi
6. EBF Finance Ltd., Hyderabad
7. Endowment Investment (I) Ltd.
8. Galaxy Growfin Ltd. Kanpur
9. Galaxy Finlease Ltd. Kanpur
10. Himachal Grameen Sanchayka Ltd. Chandigarh
11. Hoffland Finance Ltd. New Delhi
12. Haryana Credit & Leasing Ltd., New Delhi
13. IFB Finance Ltd. Kolkata
14. Indodeep General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd. Kolkata
15. Janata Cinema Properties & Finance Ltd. Kolkata
16. Jenson & Nicholson Financial Services Ltd. Kolkata
17. JVG Finance Ltd. New Delhi
18. JVG Leasing Ltd. New Delhi
19. JVG Securities Ltd. New Delhi
20. K.M. Capital Ltd. New Delhi
21. Kirlskar Investment & Finance Ltd. Bangalore
22. Kothari Orient Finance Ltd. Chennai
23. Vijaya Leasing Ltd., Bangalore

24. Krest Finlease Ltd., Chennai
25. Kuber Auto General Finance Ltd. New Delhi
26. Lakshmi Trade Credits Ltd., Chennai
27. Lynux (I) Ltd. Kolkata
28. Lalbhai Finance Ltd. Ahmedabad
29. MCC Finance Ltd, Chennai.
30. MDD Mutual Benefit Co. Ltd. Kanpur
31. Midwest India Industries Ltd. Hyderabad
32. New Century Leasing & Investment Ltd. Bangalore
33. NITL Mutual Benefits Ltd, New Delhi
34. Platinum Finance Ltd. Kolkata
35. Prudential Capital Market Ltd. Kolkata
36. Rapti Growth Fund Ltd. Kanpur
37. Raunaq Finance Ltd. Jaipur
38. Rockland Leasing Ltd. New Delhi
39. Rossel Finance Ltd. Mumbai
40. Sanmac Auto Investment & Finlease Ltd., Chennai
41. Sanmac Motor Finance Ltd., Chennai
42. Schematic Finance Ltd., New Delhi
43. Shetty Leasing (India) Limited Bangalore
44. Shivanand Finance Ltd. Mumbai now Sumair Forex Ltd.
45. Shoppers Investment & Finance Ltd., Chennai
46. SSL (I) Ltd. New Delhi
47. Suraj Securities & Finance Ltd., Kolkata
48. Synergy Financial Enlarge Ltd., Chennai
49. Trikone Finance (I) Ltd, Kanpur
50. Trikone Leasing Co. Ltd. Kanpur
51. Trikone Mutual Benefit Ltd. Kanpur
52. The Memorial Finance & Investment (I) Ltd., Kolkata

53. Warner Multimedia Ltd. formerly Classic Global Securities Ltd., Kolkata
54. S.M. Finance Ltd., Bangalore
55. Tataghat Small Industrial Investment Ltd., Kanpur
56. Lok Vikas Finance Corporation Ltd., Jaipur
57. Vatsa Corporation Ltd., Mumbai
58. Mangal Finance Ltd., New Delhi
59. P.L.Finance and Investments Limited
60. Ramkashyap Investment Limited
61. Sehejpal Finance and Investment Ltd., Chandigarh
62. Jivanseva Fin. & Investment Ltd., Bhubaneswar
63. Integrated Finance Ltd., Chennai
64. Moulik Mutual Benefits Ltd., Kanpur
65. Moulik Finance and Benefits Ltd., Kanpur
66. S.M.Finance Ltd., Hyderabad
67. Kiev Finance Ltd., Kolkata
68. Memorial Finance & Investment (I) Ltd., Kolkata
69. Sanchayani Savings & Investment (I) Ltd., Kolkata
70. Rapti Nidhi Ltd., Kolkata

### (III) Police complaint Filed

A Police complaint for cheating members of the public has also been filed under Section 420 of IPC against the following:

1. Alakhnanda Growth Funds Ltd.
2. Al Falah Finlease Ltd., New Delhi.
3. Amber Investment India Ltd., Patna
4. Amoli Finance & Leasing Ltd.
5. Argosy Finance & Industrial Investment (I) Ltd., Kolkata
6. Bhagawathi Comm. Finance Ltd., Patna
7. Deepika Leasing & Finance Ltd., Hyderabad

8. Deshit General Finance & Investment Ltd.
9. Hoffland Finance Ltd., New Delhi
10. Kakatiya Credit & Commercial Ltd., Warangal
11. Kranit Kamdheni Leafin Ltd., Warangal
12. Krishi Exports Commercial Corpn. Ltd., Lucknow
13. Lalbhai Finance Ltd., Ahmedabad
14. Lynx India Ltd., Kolkata
15. Marigold India Leasing Ltd., Chandigarh
16. Monarch Finlease Ltd., Bangalore (branch Hyderabad)
17. Oban Finance & Investment Ltd., Hyderabad
18. Padmaja Ventures Ltd., Hyderabad
19. Prudential Capital Market Ltd., Kolkata
20. R K Satyadarshi Savings & Finance Ltd., Jalandhar
21. Sanchayani Savings & Investments India Ltd., Kolkata (case regd at Hyderabad as the co. has a branch in Hyderabad)
22. Swam Bhumi Forest India Ltd., Chandigarh
23. The Memorial Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.
24. S. N, Finance Ltd., Bangalore
25. Dadhich Savings India Ltd., Jaipur
26. United Canara Credit & Leasing Ltd., Bangalore
27. Linker Securities Ltd., Bhopal

*[English]*

### Loan to Silk Weavers

1798. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the silk weavers due to denial of banks to accept new applications under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Textiles had launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textiles and Jute Industries w.e.f. 01.04.1999 for a period of 5 years, which was subsequently extended upto 31.03.2007. The TUFS has been further extended beyond 31.03.2007 subject to necessary modifications. The process of modifications in consultation with stake holders has already started. In view of this, the Ministry of Textiles has kept the Scheme in abeyance for sanction of any fresh loans w.e.f. 01.04.2007 till the finalization of modifications.

*[Translation]*

#### Loan for North Eastern States

1799. SHRI KIREN RIJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Eastern States have demanded more loans for the Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received some other proposals from the North Eastern States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) GOI has not received any proposal from North Eastern States for more loans for Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The States have only been requesting permission to raise the loan component (10% of Normal Central Assistance/Additional Central Assistance/ Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources etc.) from the market. Whenever the State Governments have requested, GOI have given its consent under Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India for raising the loans from the market.

#### One Time Settlement Scheme for Farmers

1800. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks/institutions financed by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) have made provision for One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS) for small and marginal farmers:

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the debts of farmers have been settled or adjusted in any other scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) NABARD had issued guidelines to State Cooperative Banks and District Central Cooperative Banks in April 2001 on One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for recovery of dues relating to Non Performing Assets (NPAs). The scheme was closed on 31 October, 2004. It has been decided that Cooperative Banks can implement their own compromise settlement scheme as a part of NPA management with the approval of their respective Boards and concerned Registrar of Cooperative Societies, subject to provisions in the respective bye-laws for implementing the same.

The Farm Credit Package announced by Government on 18.06.2004 for doubling the flow of agricultural credit, *inter-alia*, includes debt relief to farmers by way of reschedulement of loans with a moratorium period and "One Time Settlement Scheme" for small and marginal farmers. NABARD had issued guidelines on 26.07.2004 to Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for OTS of NPAs of small and marginal farmers who were in default as on 24.06.2004.

During 2005-06, under OTS Scheme, the Cooperative Banks and the RRBs extended relief of Rs. 298.94 crore and Rs. 64.04 crore respectively.

Further, in 31 debt stressed districts in the four States of Maharashtra (06), Andhra Pradesh (16), Karnataka (06) and Kerala (03), a relief package was announced for farmers by the Government. It provides for waiver of the

entire interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006 such that all farmers have no past interest burden as on that date. It also provides for rescheduling of the overdue loans of the farmers as on 01.07.2006 over a period of 3-5 years with a one year moratorium.

The Government has released Rs. 1359.13 crore as its 50% share towards interest waiver for 31 districts during 2006-07.

*[English]*

#### **Revenue from States**

1801. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the commissionerate-wise/State-wise details of direct and indirect revenue collection during the last three years;

(b) the share of the States in the revenue so collected during the said period and disbursed by the Union Government to States;

(c) whether collection during the said period has surpassed the estimate;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve revenue collection in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As far as

direct taxes are concerned the details of revenue collection during the last three years are as given in the enclosed statement-I. The details of indirect Taxes relating to Customs, Excise & Service Tax are given in the enclosed statement II, III & IV respectively.

(b) Statement V showing the releases of States' Share of Union Taxes and Duties during last three years 2004-05 to 2006-07 is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The details of estimates of revenue collection in relation to both direct and indirect taxes are given in the enclosed statement-VI. It would be seen that as far as direct taxes are concerned, there is slight shortfall in the years 2004-05 & 2005-06. In so far as indirect taxes are concerned, the estimate could not be achieved during 2004-05 because of shortfall in excise revenue collection.

Actual collection of revenue vis-a-vis the estimates/targets depends upon various factors. It is not always feasible to identify any specific reasons for shortfall in the collection of revenue. The estimates are based upon certain parameters which, if not achieved in the economy, may result in not achieving the estimates.

(f) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to realize greater revenue. These include rationalization of tariff structure, review and withdrawal of tax exemptions wherever necessary, plugging leakage of revenue through anti-smuggling and anti-evasion measures, monitoring and disseminating international prices of imported commodities, simplification of tax collection procedures to improve tax compliance. Detailed instructions have been issued to field formation to monitor advance tax payment of top tax payers. The TDS administration has also been strengthened to maximize revenue collection.

#### **Statement I**

##### ***Direct Taxes Chief Commissioner (CCA)—Region***

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
	1	2	3
Ahmedabad	9109	6143	4662
Bangalore	20650	15063	11157
Bhopal	4089	3443	3277

	1	2	3
Mumbai	76096	52656	42136
Calcutta	9806	7548	5686
Cochin	2117	1702	1724
Hyderabad	10132	6627	4790
Jaipur	4379	2148	1643
Chennai	14818	10716	8307
Delhi	38388	26158	20047
Chandigarh	7019	5011	4283
Kanpur	1007	701	675
Meerut	11206	10306	8603
Lucknow	1783	1339	1244
Pune	8970	6436	5248
Patna	1951	1440	1463
Guwahati	1802	1673	1494
Bhubneshwar	3309	2469	2197
Nagpur	1554	1154	931
Total	228187	162732	129767

Figures are exclusive of collections under Central TDS and other taxes like Wealth Tax etc.

### Statement II

#### *Customs: Zonewise Revenue Collection*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Zones	Revenue collection in		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (P)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mumbai-I(CUS)	5924	6409	7807
2.	Mumbai-II(CUS)	11984	14977	21247
3.	Mumbai-III(CUS)	521	455	576
4.	Mumbai-I (C.EX)	19	20	12

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Mumbai-II (C.EX)	11	8	11
6.	Pune	352	347	521
7.	Nagpur	198	280	343
8.	Ahmedabad(CUS)	6768	10759	13014
9.	Ahmedabad(C.EX)	1747	15	5
10.	Vadodara	722	6	6
11.	Bangalore(CUS)	4128	3843	4993
12.	Mysore	0	86	112
13.	Cochin (C.Ex.)	58	86	112
14.	Hyderabad(C-EX)	405	496	779
15.	Vizag (C.EX)	2168	2352	2690
16.	Chennai(CUS)	7858	9493	12777
17.	Chennai(PREV.)	1068	1143	1680
18.	Chennai(C.EX)	42	63	100
19.	Coimbatore	-64	-72	-42
20.	Lucknow(C.EX)	616	-59	-8
21.	Meerut(C.EX)	147	792	1192
22.	Patna(PREV.)	194	212	176
23.	Ranchi	1	0	0
24.	Delhi	6881	6800	9640
25.	Delhi(PREV.)	306	49	115
26.	Delhi(C.EX)	776	808	695
27.	Chandigarh	0	406	578
28.	Jaipur	22	29	33
29.	Bhopal(C.EX)	90	134	178
30.	Kolkata(CUS)	4492	4884	6619
31.	Bhubaneshwar	169	305	415
32.	Shillong	8	14	28
All India Total		57611	65067	86304

P:Provisional

**Statement III*****Excise: Zonewise Revenue Collection***

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Zones	Revenue collection in		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (P)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mumbai-I	4628	3980	5073
2.	Mumbai-II	5721	8617	10302
3.	Pune	4945	4438	4326
4.	Nagpur	3418	2799	2809
5.	Vadodara	9149	10278	11304
6.	Ahmedabad	7535	8476	5242
7.	Bangalore	3607	4148	3779
8.	Mangalore	3961	5257	5835
9.	Cochin	3084	3667	4540
10.	Hyderabad	2917	2777	2879
11.	Vishakapatnam	5173	6075	7046
12.	Chennai	6124	7635	7985
13.	Coimbatore	2580	1864	2160
14.	Lucknow	4375	6215	6934
15.	Meerut	4085	4279	4489
16.	Ranchi	4786	6818	7452
17.	Delhi	6776	7074	7572
18.	Chandigarh	2509	1270	1465
19.	Jaipur	1904	1752	1967
20.	Bhopal	4434	4776	5493
21.	Kolkata	4997	5557	5907
22.	Bhubaneswar	1462	1785	2067
23.	Shillong	2379	2763	3134
24.	Bangalore-LTU	0	0	365



1	2	3	4	5
Excise drawbacks paid by customs houses	2300	2050	3039	
Net Excise Revenue	98249	110250	117086	
Cess not levied by department of revenue	876	976	1035	
All India Total	99125	111226	118121	

Note: (1) Figure of "Cess not levied by department of revenue" for the year 2006-07 is the Budget Estimate.

(2) Bangalore-LTU zone came into existence from October 2006.

P : Provisional.

#### **Statement IV**

##### ***Zone Wise Revenue Figures (Service Tax)***

Sl.No.	Name of Zones	Revenue collection in		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mumbai-I	3980	7099	12329
2.	Mumbai-II	146	166	225
3.	Pune	457	917	1531
4.	Nagpur	209	382	604
5.	Vadodara	204	433	719
6.	Ahmedabad	602	860	1271
A.	<b>West Zone</b>	<b>5598</b>	<b>9857</b>	<b>16679</b>
7.	Bangalore	760	1259	2141
8.	Mysore	191	268	426
9.	Cochin	356	458	719
10.	Hyderabad	439	723	1268
11.	Vishakapatnam	216	311	486
12.	Chennai	1093	1645	2725
13.	Coimbatore	348	461	766
B.	<b>South Zone</b>	<b>3403</b>	<b>5125</b>	<b>8531</b>
14.	Lucknow	304	464	615
15.	Meerut	253	460	781
16.	Ranchi	165	233	385

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Delhi	2042	3692	6012
18.	Chandigarh	384	512	715
19.	Jaipur	280	428	675
20.	Bhopal	273	465	693
C.	North Zone	3701	6252	9877
21.	Kolkata	943	1270	1770
22.	Bhubaneshwar	153	264	432
23.	Shillong	85	128	192
D.	East Zone	1181	1662	2394
All India Total		13883	22896	37481

**Statement V**

*The releases of States' Share of Union Taxes and Duties during  
the last three years 2004-05 to 2006-07*

(In crore of Rupees)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6058.42	6950.86	8866.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	191.95	272.15	347.14
3.	Assam	2584.33	3056.78	3898.99
4.	Bihar	9117.13	10420.59	13291.72
5.	Chhattisgarh	1876.28	2507.82	3198.80
6.	Goa	162.07	244.70	312.11
7.	Gujarat	2219.30	3372.43	4301.63
8.	Haryana	742.62	1015.77	1295.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	537.32	493.26	629.16
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	961.00	1135.26	1413.33
11.	Jharkhand	2366.40	3175.89	4050.90
12.	Karnataka	3878.44	4213.42	5374.33

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	2404.95	2518.20	3212.04
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5076.63	6341.35	8088.54
15.	Maharashtra	3644.02	4721.81	6022.76
16.	Manipur	287.96	342.09	436.33
17.	Meghalaya	269.04	350.57	447.18
18.	Mizoram	155.78	225.83	288.05
19.	Nagaland	173.08	248.50	316.93
20.	Orissa	3977.56	4876.75	6220.42
21.	Punjab	902.35	1227.45	1565.65
22.	Rajasthan	4305.61	5300.08	6760.37
23.	Sikkim	144.73	214.50	273.59
24.	Tamil Nadu	4236.39	5012.75	6393.86
25.	Tripura	383.10	404.38	515.78
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15055.20	18202.93	23218.31
27.	Uttarakhand	519.97	887.32	1131.83
28.	West Bengal	6384.89	6668.33	8505.60
Total		78616.52	94401.77	120376.99

**Statement VI**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Head	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007 (P)
1	2	3	4	5
I.	<b>Customs</b>			
	BE	54250	53182	77066
	RE	56250	64215	81800
	Actuals	57611	65067	86304
	% achievement of BE	106.2	122.3	112.0
	% achievement of RE	102.4	101.3	105.5
	% growth over last year	18.5	12.9	32.6

1	2	3	4	5
<b>II. Union Excise</b>				
BE		109199	121533	119000
RE		100720	112000	117266
Actuals		99125	111226	118121
% achievement of BE		90.8	91.5	99.3
% achievement of RE		98.4	99.3	100.7
% growth over last year		9.2	12.2	6.2
<b>III. Service Tax</b>				
BE		14150	17500	34500
RE		14150	23000	38169
Actuals		14200	23055	37484
% achievement of BE		100.4	131.7	108.6
% achievement of RE		100.4	100.2	98.2
% growth over last year		80.0	62.4	62.6
<b>IV. Total Indirect Tax</b>				
BE		177599	192215	230566
RE		171120	199215	237235
Actuals		170936	199348	241909
% achievement of BE		96.2	103.7	104.9
% achievement of RE		99.9	100.1	102.0
% growth over last year		15.0	16.6	21.4

P-Provisional.

*Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Collections of Direct Taxes*

(In Rs. Crore)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Collections	Growth Rate of Actual Collns over last year	% age of Budget Estimates Achieved	%age of Revised Achieved
2004-05	139510	134194	132771	26.34%	95.17%	98.94%
2005-06	177077	170077	165208	24.43%	93.30%	97.14%
2006-07	210884	229272	230091	39.27%	109.21%	100.36%

**Losses Incurred by Banks**

1802. SHRI SUBRATA BÔSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public sector banks/nationalized banks/co-operative banks which have incurred losses during each of the last five years;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon alongwith the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make these banks profitable and competitive in global arena?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of public sector banks and co-operative banks, which have incurred losses during the last five years, are as under:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Public Sector/Nationalised Banks	—	—	—	1	—
Urban Co-operative Banks	10	6	7	9	8
District Co-operative Banks	105	122	101	72	88
Primary Co-operative Agricultural Agricultural and Rural Development Banks	572	560	519	458	194

(b) These banks have suffered losses mainly due to high risk provisioning, high level of Non-performing Assets (NPAs), low level of capital funds, high transaction cost, low volume of business, etc.

(c) To facilitate quick and efficient decision-making and to provide Bank Boards sufficient managerial autonomy to be able to compete internationally, Government announced an Autonomy Package on 22.02.2005 for the public sector banks. As for co-operative banks, based on the recommendations of the Task Force headed by Prof. A. Vaidyanathan, the Government of India has formulated a Revival Package for strengthening/revitalizing Short Terms Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) with state government participation. So far, 18 States and one Union Territory have agreed to implement the Package. Further, a Task Force for Urban Co-operative Banks (TAFUCB) has been set up in each of the States, which have signed the MoU with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for identification of and drawing up of a time bound action plan for revival of potentially viable Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and for non disruptive exit for non-viable UCBs.

**Metro Rail Project**

1803. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ghaziabad Development Authority has given permission to run metro rail upto sector 62 NOIDA via Indirapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the matter is to be taken up with the Authority; and

(d) the other locations in Ghaziabad where metro rail is proposed to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No proposal for Metro rail extension in Ghaziabad is under consideration of Government of India at present.

[Translation]

**Equity Investment Scheme by IDBI**

1804. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has started equity investment scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, sir. IDBI has not started any 'Equity Investment Scheme'. However, it acquired equity shares in companies mainly on account of lending operations, viz. direct subscription/underwriting as part of its earlier project financing activities besides conversion of dues into equity while restructuring the liabilities of weak companies. Equity is also acquired as part of strategic investment in other institutions. IDBI also selectively subscribes to equity of companies having upside potential during their IPOs as also as part of Secondary Market Operations.

#### Loan to Self-Help-Groups

1805. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) target fixed for providing loan to self-help-groups in Chhattisgarh during the last two years; and

(b) the amount allocated to the self-help-groups in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The details of target fixed, number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) credit linked and bank loan disbursed during the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 in Chhattisgarh are as follows:

Financial year	Target fixed	No. of SHGs credit linked	Bank loan disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)
2005-06	10000	12752	1658.80
2006-07	11000	11742	2184.40
Cumulative figures as on 31.03.2007	—	41703	5582.50

Bank loans to SHGs depend on the extent of saving of groups. Banks give loans in multiples of group corpus. Hence no credit target is fixed under SHG-Bank linkage programme.

[English]

#### Research on Climatic Change

1806. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open new institute for research on glaciers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to formulate a national programme to minimize the effect of changes in climate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted an Expert Committee to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for setting up of new centre for research on snow, ice and glaciers. This Detailed Project Report will be processed by the Department of Science and Technology after following due Government procedures.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Expert Committee on Climate Change impacts, which is headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government. This Committee will be looking into the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and identify measures that we have to take in future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts. The Government has also set up a Prime Minister's Council on climate change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

#### Quality of Scientific Research

1807. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranked at 17th position for the quality of scientific research institutions and universities in the world;

(b) if so, efforts made by the Government to improve the position; and

(c) the incentives or encouragement being provided to young scientists by the Government in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) One of the recent reports has positioned India at 6th among other countries in the world in quality of scientific research institutions and universities.

(b) and (c) The Government of India, on its part, has taken a number of steps to rejuvenate and promote scientific research in universities and other scientific institutes of excellence. The Plan Allocation of scientific departments has been doubled from about Rs. 12000 crore in the IX Plan to about Rs. 25000 crores in the X Plan and it is planned to increase it approximately four fold in the XI Plan. The Research Infrastructure programme of DST is a targeted programme to upgrade the laboratory infrastructure in universities and other higher educational institutions. Several institutions, centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas have also been established; for example, in the areas of Brain Research, Marine Biotechnology, Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering, Soft Computing, Water Resources Development, Nanophosphors, Display Technology, Fuel Cell Technology, Ultrafast Processes, Protein Research, etc. More recently, three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata, Pune and Chandigarh which, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment. It is also planned to establish autonomous research institutes in the areas of molecular materials, glaciology, cancer research etc.

Developing and nurturing of human resource in Science and Technology has always been on top of the Government's agenda. A number of schemes have been initiated to attract research scholars namely Young Scientists/Women Scientists Fellowships; Swarnajayanthi Fellowships, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Fellowships, KS Krishnan Fellowships and J.C. Bose & Ramanujam Fellowships for practicing scientists, Junior/Senior Research Fellowships (JRF/SRF), Research Associateship etc. More recently the fellowships of JRF/SRF have been enhanced. The Government, in the XI Plan is also proposing to launch a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and, (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private partnerships. In addition, another new scheme on Scholarships for Science in

Higher Education will be initiated in the XI Plan. The scheme targets institution of 10,000 fellowships of Rs. 1,00,000 per year for bright students in science streams during their B.Sc/M.Sc courses.

#### **Sanjha Swachhata Abhiyan**

1808. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the budget and funds of Sanjha Swachhata Abhiyan under HUDCO's basic sanitation facilities for the general public programme in financial year 2007-08;

(b) the amount sanctioned under Sanjha Swachhata Abhiyan under basic sanitation facilities for the general public programme in financial year 2006-07 to Bihar; and

(c) the number of HUDCO's community toilets constructed during financial year 2006-07 in Bihar with their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has total funds of Rs. 1.81 crores available with it for implementation of Community Toilets and Sanitation (Sanjha Swachhata Abhiyan) for the year 2007-08.

(b) HUDCO has sanctioned a scheme for providing subsidy of an amount of Rs. 25.60 lakhs for Bihar during the financial year 2006-07 for construction of 128 WC/Bath units.

(c) No community toilet has been constructed in Bihar during the financial year 2006-07. Only one Community Toilet Scheme was sanctioned in Bihar, but work did not start as concerned Nagar Parishad, i.e., Purnea Nagar Parishad, could not release its share of project cost for the scheme.

#### **Funds for Narmada Main Canal**

1809. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the work of Narmada Main Canal of Sardar Sarovar Project is suffering due to paucity of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such funds are likely to be released?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Technologies Developed by CSIR**

1810. PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the Technologies developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) during the last decade;

(b) the number of them patented/applied for patents during these years; and

(c) the number of them have been deployed commercially ?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) CSIR has developed 1376 technologies/ knowledgebase during last decade *i.e.* from April 1997 to March 2006.

(b) Indian patents filed were 3420 (out of which 1753 were granted) and foreign patents filed were 4425 (out of which 1191 were granted).

(c) 757 technologies/knowledgebase have been licensed for commercial exploitation during the said period.

#### **Implementation of DPAP by NGOs**

1811. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for appointment of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as Project Implementing Agencies for projects being implemented under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

#### **Grant/Loan to States by World Bank**

1812. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests of States for one time grant or soft loan has been forwarded to World Bank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of projects posed to World Bank for International Development Association (IDA) Assistance is given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

*Details of Projects Posed to the World Bank for International Development Association (IDA) Assistance (As on 31st July 2007)*

(in US \$ Million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Approximate Amount of assistance sought	State
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project	536	Andhra Pradesh
2.	AP Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme	210	Andhra Pradesh



1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar Structural Adjustment Loan (Blend of IBRD and IDA)	200	Bihar
4.	Bihar Decentralization Support Project	120	Bihar
5.	Himachal Pradesh SAL (Blend of IBRD and IDA)	200	Himachal Pradesh
6.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project - II	35	Karnataka
7.	Mahanadi Basin Development Project	830	Orissa
8.	Orissa Community Based Tank Management Project	120	Orissa
9.	Participatory Watershed Management Project in Jammu and Kashmir	210	Jammu and Kashmir
10.	Strengthening Local Governments in Kerala	120	Kerala
11.	Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Project	150	Tamil Nadu
12.	Targeted Rural Initiatives for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure (TRIPTI)/Orissa Rural Poverty Reduction Project	70	Orissa
13.	UP- Diversified Agricultural Support Project - II	217	Uttar Pradesh
14.	Uttar Pradesh SAL-II (Blend of IBRD and IDA)	TBD	Uttar Pradesh
15.	West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation	272	West Bengal
16.	West Bengal Health System Development Project	172	West Bengal

#### **No-Due Certificate from Farmers**

1813. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for obtaining smaller amount of bank loans by the farmers;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the banks are insisting on No Due Certificates (NDC) from the farmers even after RBI's instructions;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to alleviate the problems being faced by the farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to the Chairman & Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks) that banks may dispense with the requirement of No-Due Certificate for small loans upto Rs. 50,000/- to small & marginal farmers, share croppers and, instead, obtain self-declaration from the borrower. Besides, the loans up to Rs. 50,000 have also been made collateral and margin free.

Further, in order to overcome the problems faced by banks in lending to landless labourers, share-croppers and oral lessees due to the absence of documents verifying their identity and status, banks have been advised to accept certificates provided by local administration/*panchayati raj* institutions regarding the cultivation of crops in case of loans to landless labourers, share-croppers and oral lessees.

There is no specific report with the Government of any Scheduled Commercial Bank (including Regional Rural Bank) insisting on a 'No Dues Certificate' for sanctioning a farm loan up to Rs. 50,000.

**Restructuring of RRBs**

1814. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report submitted by Reserve Bank of India regarding restructuring of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association has sent any comments in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made a number of recommendations relating to merger/amalgamation, change of sponsor banks, minimum capital requirements, governance, management, regulation and supervision in their Report.

(c) and (d) The All India Regional Rural Bank Employees' Association made the following suggestions to the Working Group constituted by Reserve Bank of India:

- (i) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) sponsored by different banks within the same State should be amalgamated and should be de-linked from the sponsor bank.
- (ii) No privatisation/liquidation of RRBs should be done.
- (iii) No dilution of Government share should take place.
- (iv) No leadership role should be given to Commercial Banks.
- (v) All the uncovered districts/States/Territories should be given to RRBs.

On consideration of the recommendations made by the Working Group of RBI, a view was taken to implement such recommendations which are in conformity with the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. The Government of India initiated a process for consolidation of RRBs sponsored by a Bank within a State in September 2005. As a result thereof, the total number of RRBs has been reduced

from 196 as on 31.3.2005 to 96 as on date. It has been decided that there will be no State level amalgamation of RRBs sponsored by different Banks and there will be no de-linking of RRBs from Sponsoring Commercial Banks. There is no proposal at present, for privatisation/liquidation of RRBs and dilution of Government share in RRBs. Further, Sponsor Banks have been advised to cover the uncovered districts/States/Territories by RRBs and undertake aggressively Branch expansion.

**Grading System For Indian Cities**

1815. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to put in place a grading system for Indian cities to pump money into urban infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to form panel in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Agreement with International Organisations**

1816. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agreements, Government has signed with International Organisations in the field of Science and Technology during the last three years;

(b) the details of institutional assistance received during the said period; and

(c) the details of the progress made with the help of such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL

SIBAL): (a) to (c) Under the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences two Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with International Organisations in the field of Science and Technology during the last three years. These are—an Agreement signed between Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and UNESCO on 14th July, 2006 towards establishment of UNESCO Regional Centre for Education, Training and Innovation in Biotechnology at Faridabad, Haryana and an MOU between DBT and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) signed on 7th July, 2005 towards collaborative R&D efforts in HIV/AIDS vaccine development. Action has been initiated for obtaining administrative approvals for establishment of DBT-UNESCO Centre. No financial assistance has been received by the Government during the last three years. However, under DBT-IAVI MOU, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have received financial support for conducting research on neutralizing Antibodies as a part of the global Neutralizing Antibody Consortia. These projects have started recently.

#### **Energy from Garbage**

1817. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have submitted project proposals for setting up garbage based power plants to augment power supply in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VIALS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) A proposal for setting up of an 8 MW power project in Bangalore based on Municipal Solid Wastes was received from the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd., the State Nodal Agency, in the year 2005-06.

(c) Since the proposal was not in accordance with the provisions of the Ministry's scheme, it could not be supported. Moreover, there was a Supreme Court stay on Government subsidy for such projects.

#### **Licence for Opium Production**

1818. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue licences to private pharma companies for production of Opium and its derivatives to supplement the existing production capacities at the Government owned Ghazipur (U.P.) and Neemuch (M.P.) units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted for issue of such licence?

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

(b) and (c) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rules, 1985 have been amended to allow the manufacture of specified opium alkaloids/active pharmaceutical ingredients by persons or entities other than Government Opium & Alkaloid Factories, after obtaining license. The Government has determined that it is in public interest to license two Indian companies for this purpose. Expressions of Interest from interested and eligible Indian pharmaceutical companies in the public sector, private sector or joint sector having an annual turn over of at least Rs. 50 crores during each of the past three years; having a strong record of compliance with law subject to their not being marketing agents of any foreign supplier/buyer of narcotic materials have been invited. The Expressions of Interest received from the companies have been evaluated by a committee constituted for this purpose. On evaluation, 16 companies have been found to have qualified on the basis of the aforesaid norms for pre-qualification and technical and financial bids have been invited from these qualified companies.

*[Translation]*

#### **Inclusion of more Revenue Villages under PMGSY**

1819. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to include the revenue villages declared after the year 2001 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

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

(c) the details of funds allocated to them thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) the primary unit for connectivity is 'habitation' with specified population and not the revenue village. The programme envisages connecting habitations with population of 500 persons and above [250 persons and above in hill and North Eastern States, the Tribal (Schedule V) areas and Desert areas]. According to the latest estimates made available by State Governments, about 1.79 lakh unconnected habitations are eligible for coverage under PMGSY at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,32,000 crore (at 2003-04 prices). Statewise details of the number of habitations eligible to be covered under PMGSY and funds released have been furnished in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

S.No.	State	No. of habitations eligible for coverage under PMGSY	Amount released as on 9.8.2007 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	980	1280.71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	466	233.68
3.	Assam	15348	1217.35
4.	Bihar	10034	1279.98
5.	Chhattisgarh	12561	1886.78
6.	Goa	55	10.00
7.	Gujarat	4253	434.62
8.	Haryana	2	456.32
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3494	668.28
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2792	217.55
11.	Jharkhand	10696	563.45
12.	Karnataka	876	556.83

1	2	3	4
13.	Kerala	473	136.97
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18492	3421.97
15.	Maharashtra	1513	1213.59
16.	Manipur	598	180.50
17.	Meghalaya	756	123.17
18.	Mizoram	285	271.89
19.	Nagaland	116	161.56
20.	Orissa	18339	2351.48
21.	Punjab	536	406.93
22.	Rajasthan	11235	3523.54
23.	Sikkim	318	212.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	2640	582.90
25.	Tripura	1917	170.89
26.	Uttar Pradesh	28842	2815.16
27.	Uttarakhand	2531	228.12
28.	West Bengal	28884	1845.31
Total		179030	26452.13

[English]

**Upgrading/Renovation In Government Quarters**

1820. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:  
SHRI M. APPADURAI,

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether before allotment of Government quarters to new allottees, complete upgradation/renovation of the quarter is carried out by CPWD;

(b) if so, whether 10%, 20% of the total cost is charged from the allottees already living in Government quarter for carrying out the same upgradation/renovation; and

(c) if so, the reasons for discrimination/disparities for both the categories of allottees?

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

(b) At present, CPWD takes percentage payment from allottees for carrying out certain addition and alteration work as per the existing policy guidelines.

(c) The prevailing disparity is proposed to be rectified.

#### **Allotment of Land to Cooperative Group Housing Societies**

1821. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Cooperative Group Housing Societies in Delhi which are still pending for allotment of land by DDA as on date;

(b) whether DDA has chalked out any action plan to allot land to those societies against which no criminality has been found by CBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the allotment of land is likely to be made available to these societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that the allotment of land is pending in the case of about 238 Cooperative Group Housing Societies in Delhi.

(b) to (d) DDA has further informed that as per Rule 6 of the Delhi Development Authority (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Rules 1981 the allotment of land to Cooperative Group Housing Societies is governed by the seniority determined on the basis of registration of the Societies with the office of Registrar Cooperative Societies (RCS), Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) and verification of membership by that office. The recommendation of RCS, GNCTD for allotment of land to those societies against which no criminality has been found by CBI has not yet been received in DDA.

#### **Insurance Scheme by SBI**

1822. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has launched Unit Linked Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign company is associated with the said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total investments made by SBI in the said scheme; and

(f) the extent to which people are likely to be benefitted therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that State Bank of India (SBI) has not launched any Unit Linked Insurance Scheme. However, SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd., which is a Joint Venture company of SBI (with 74% holding) and Cardif S.A. of France, has launched the following Unit Linked Insurance Schemes:

S.No.	Name of the Product
1.	Horizon (Withdrawn)
2.	SBI Life—Unit Plus—Single (withdrawn)
3.	SBI Life—Unit Plus—Regular (Withdrawn)
4.	SBI Life—Horizon II
5.	SBI Life—Unit Plus II Regular
6.	SBI Life—Unit Plus II Single
7.	SBI Life—Horizon II Pension
8.	SBI Life—Unit Plus II Pension
9.	SBI Life—Golden Gratuity

(e) and (f) The total investments made under the above unit linked insurance schemes belong to the policyholders who have purchased these unit linked insurance schemes from the company. As per information provided by IRDA, SBI has not made any investments in the above unit linked insurance schemes.

**Liberalised Remittance Scheme**

1823. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Liberalized Remittance Scheme;

(b) whether the Government has announced some changes in this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As a step towards further simplification and liberalisation of the foreign exchange facilities available to residents, Resident individuals were permitted to freely remit upto USD 25,000 per calendar year, for any permitted purpose with effect from Feb 4, 2004. The limit of USD 25,000 was subsequently enhanced to USD 50,000, with effect from Dec. 20, 2006 and has since been enhanced to USD 100,000 per financial year, with effect from May 8, 2007. All Resident Individuals are eligible to avail of this facility under the Scheme. However, the facility is not available to corporate, partnership firms, HUF, Trusts etc. The facility is available for making remittances for any permitted current or capital account transaction or combination of both, without prior approval of the Reserve Bank. Under this facility, resident individuals are free to acquire and hold immovable property or shares or any other asset outside India. Individuals are also allowed to open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts with a bank outside India for making remittances under the Scheme without prior approval of Reserve Bank. This facility is in addition to the facility already available for private travel, business travel, studies, medical treatment, etc. However, the separate facilities earlier available to resident individuals for remittances towards gift, donations and investment in overseas companies has been subsumed under the enhanced limit of USD 100,000.

**Extending the Date of Filing Service Tax Returns**

1824. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend due date of filing service tax returns for small service providers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A service tax payer with turnover upto Rs. 8 lakh during the preceding financial year is not required to file service tax returns. Other assesseees are required to file returns by 25th day of October or April, for the respective preceding half-years. A period of twenty-five days is considered adequate to file service tax returns.

**Loans for Infrastructure**

1825. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering to set up revolving fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 crore to assist State Governments in preparatory work to expedite implementation of infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to provide interest free loans to State Governments for infrastructure projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A revolving fund with a corpus of Rs. 100 crore to quicken the pace of preparation of a shelf of bankable projects which can be offered for competitive bidding was announced by Finance Minister in the Budget Speech 2007-08. Scheme for India Infrastructure Project Development Fund, to operationalise the Fund is under consideration of the Government.

**Import Duty on Titanium Di-Oxide**

1826. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government for enhancement of import duty on Titanium di-oxide to promote indigenous production and marketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir;

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

#### **Commercial Space Developed by HUDCO**

1827. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that built up commercial space developed by Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) in Delhi has not been utilized/auctioned for several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for auction of the above commercial space?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has developed three properties at Bhikaji Cama Place and one at Andrews Ganj, New Delhi. Out of these, two properties at Bhikaji Cama Place are already disposed of to Government/Government bodies. As regard another property at Bhikaji Cama Place most of the space has already been allotted/disposed of to Government bodies.

As regards property at Andrews Ganj Delhi, HUDCO is acting as an agent of the Government for its development as per terms of allotment & lease deed and all commercial spaces have been allotted. However, due to the ongoing litigation, nine Guest Houses and Hotel site are still in possession with HUDCO with can be occupied on conclusion of litigation and as per decision of the lessor, i.e., Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.

*[Translation]*

#### **Smuggling of Medical Equipments**

1828. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of smuggling of medical equipments have been on the increase during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the smuggled medical equipments have been confiscated at Delhi Airport recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken to check smuggling of medical equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Nil in view of above (a).

(c) and (d) On 03-04-2007, medical equipments (Endoscopes, Spares & PCBs) valued at Rs. 0.19 crores were recovered from a passenger EDAKARA CHACKO ABRHAM, coming from U.S.A via Moscow by Aeroflot flight, and were seized under Section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962.

(e) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been alerted to prevent and thwart the smuggling of medical equipments into the country.

#### **Teesta Hydro Power Project**

1829. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the protest of the local people against the Hydro Power Project being constructed on Teesta River in Sikkim in view of its environmental aspect;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted a study on the environmental aspect of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of Sikkim have informed that the developers of the hydro projects on river Teesta while preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) have

got the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies conducted and also prepared an Environment Management Plan (EMP) which is a statutory requirement for obtaining environment clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). It has also been informed that these aspects have been discussed in detail in the public hearings conducted for the projects.

In addition, MoEF have awarded a study to the Centre for Inter-disciplinary Study of Mountain & Hill Environment (CISMHE), New Delhi titled "Carrying Capacity Study of Teesta Basin in Sikkim". The study covers details of the land, water and air environment, besides the preparation of environment management guidelines for decision making.

[*English*]

#### **Financial Benefits to Marginal Farmers**

1830. SHRI SURVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any high powered committee to prepare a strategy for expanding financial services to vulnerable groups, including marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a "Committee on Financial Inclusion", under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:

- (i) Studying the pattern of exclusion from access to financial services disaggregated by region, gender and occupational structure;
- (ii) Identification of barriers confronted by vulnerable groups in accessing credit and financial services, including supply, demand and institutional constraints;

(iii) Reviewing of the international experience in implementing policies for financial inclusion and examine their relevance applicability to India;

(iv) To suggest strategy to extend financial services to small and marginal farmers and other vulnerable groups, including measures to streamline and simplify procedures, reduce transaction costs and make the operations transparent;

(v) To look into the measures including institutional changes to be undertaken by the financial sector to implement the proposed strategy of financial inclusion;

(vi) To suggest a monitoring mechanism to assess the quality and quantum of financial inclusion including indicators for assessing progress.

(c) and (d) The Committee has submitted its Interim Report. Based on its recommendations, two funds *viz.* a "Financial Inclusion Fund" with NABARD for meeting the cost of developmental and promotional interventions and a "Financial Inclusion Technology Fund", to meet the costs of technology adoption, are to be constituted. Each Fund envisages an overall corpus of Rs. 500 crore, with initial funding to be contributed by the Central Government, RBI and NABARD.

[*Translation*]

#### **North Maharashtra Legal Development Board**

1831. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for recognition of North Maharashtra Legal Development Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.



**Regularisation of Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi**

1832. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines relating to regularization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these colonies would be regularized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) A firm date cannot be given at this stage in view of the legal and administrative issues involved.

**Development of Cities**

1833. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the fund provided by Union Government for the development of cities in national capital region during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has received utilisation certificate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Central Government provides Grand-in-aid to the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) for carrying out its functions. Central assistance is also provided for developmental schemes in various cities of the National Capital Region under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), and other Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes. A Statement showing the details of funds provided and utilization certificate during the last three years is enclosed.

**Statement**

*The details of funds provided during the last three years to NCRPB and to Cities in the National Capital Region*

S. No.	Year	Grant-in-aid provided to NCRPB (Rs. in Crore)	Utilization Certificate No. & date	Central Assistance					
				JNNURM*	Utilization certificate	AUWSP** (Rs. in Crores)	Utilization Certificate	UIDSSMT**	Utilization Certificate
1.	2004-05	61.70	G—2017/GIA/2006—07/NCRPB dt. 9.6.05	Nil	Not Applicable (N.A.)	3.515	UC received in respect of Haryana & UP State upto 2005	Nil	N.A.
2.	2005-06	70.00	G—20017/GIA/2006—07/NCRPB dt. 29.3.06	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
3.	2006-07	75.00	G—20017/GIA/2006—07/NCRPB dt. 17.5.07	15.80	Awaited	0.1195	Nil	37.71	N.A.

\* Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

\*\* Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme.

\*\*\* Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns.

*[English]***Distribution of Fund under PMGSY**

1834. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allocation of fund under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) whether any weightage is given to cess on diesel collected from the States in this criteria; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Fifty percent of the cess accruals on high speed diesel oil is allocated for the development of rural roads. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) allocation of funds to the States is based on, *inter alia*, a weightage of 75% for Need (share of unconnected Habitations in the total unconnected Habitations of the country) and 25% on Coverage (share of connected Habitations in the total connected Habitations of the country). In addition to the allocation to the States, a special allocation of upto 5% of the annual allocation from the Rural Roads share of the Diesel Cess is made for:

- (i) Districts sharing borders with Pakistan and China (in coordination with Ministry of Home Affairs)
- (ii) Districts sharing borders with Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal (in coordination with Ministry of Home Affairs)
- (iii) Left Wing Extremists areas in the Districts identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs
- (iv) Extremely backward Districts (as identified by the Planning Commission) which can be categorized as Special Problem Areas
- (v) Research and Development Projects and innovations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of reply to part (b), the question does not arise.

*[Translation]***RGGVY in Jharkhand and Orissa**

1835. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana is very slow in Jharkhand and Orissa due to delay in getting no objection certificate from the Department of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, the number of districts in Jharkhand and Orissa where the work under the said Yojana has got stalled and the action taken by the Government to expedite the said work so far;

(c) the details of funds allocated by the Government and the amount spent on the implementation of the RGGVY during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the districts where the implementation of the said scheme is stalled due to non-issue of no objection certificate by the Department of Environment and Forests?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a), (b) and (d) Jharkhand State Electricity Board had reported problems of forest clearance to the Ministry of Power in July, 2006. This Ministry had requested the Ministry of Environment & Forests for granting general approval under Section-2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for works taken under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), which is operating in 8 districts of Jharkhand has stated that progress of Rural Electrification works were affected due to delay in forest clearance in some villages of Dhanbad, Bokaro and Koderma. On follow up by DVC, Ministry of Environment & Forests has consented for submission of proposals for obtaining forest clearance under Section 2.4 of Hand Book of Forest Conservation Act 1980 i.e. "Simplified procedure for certain categories of proposal". CCF (Central) Bhubaneswar alongwith PCCF cum Nodal Officer, Jharkhand and other Forest Officials inspected sites and finalized the procedure on 11.08.2007. The proposals are now submitted by DVC according to the simplified procedure. Jharkhand State

Electricity Board has reported that in the absence of village maps (to be provided by State Government), some difficulties are being experienced to obtain forest clearance.

In Orissa, the implementing agencies, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have not faced any problem

regarding forest clearance so far.

(c) In Phase-I of RGGVY, 4 projects of Orissa have been sanctioned for implementation at the cost of Rs. 234.60 crore and 13 projects of Jharkhand have been sanctioned for implementation at the cost of Rs. 970.39 crore. Details of year-wise funds released to Orissa and Jharkhand are given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

*Amount Disbursed to Jharkhand and Orissa under RGGVY as on 17.08.2007*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Amount Disbursed under RGGVY			Total
		During 2005-06	During 2006-07	During 2007-08	
1.	Jharkhand	*3.50	285.24		288.74
2.	Orissa	*3.50	63.67	52.54	119.71
	Total	7.00	348.91	52.54	408.45

\* Advance payment to CPSUs.

*[English]*

#### **Channelling Cash Flow from PSEs to Debt Schemes**

1836. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:  
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI SURAJ SINGH  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of any proposal regarding investment of inflow of cash from Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) into equity and debt schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has laid down any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved relaxation of the prohibition on investment of surplus funds by PSEs in mutual funds. However, it has restricted the relaxation to Navaratna and Miniratna Public Sector Enterprises investing in public sector mutual funds subject to the condition that they would not invest more than 30% of the available surplus funds in equity mutual funds and the Board of PSEs would decide the guidelines, procedures and management control systems for such investment in consultation with their administrative Ministries.

*(Translation)***Cash Flow in the Country**

1837. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to control the cash-flow into the country in order to keep the rate of inflation below 5%;

(b) if so, the amount of cash-flow in the country during each of the last two years;

(c) whether the RBI has taken any steps to check the cash-flow in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No specific proposal in this regard is under the consideration of Government.

(b) Gross capital inflows were US\$ 227.7 billion during 2006-07 as compared to US\$ 141.8 billion during 2005-06. However, net capital inflows during 2006-07 were US\$ 44.9 billion as compared with US\$ 23.4 billion during 2005-06.

(c) and (d) A review of the external commercial borrowing (ECB) guidelines was undertaken keeping in view the current macroeconomic situation, changing market conditions, sectoral requirements and the experience gained so far in administering the ECB policy. Based on the review, certain modifications to the ECB policy have been made in August 2007, like putting certain end-use restrictions and foreign currency expenditure conditionality

for borrowing above the threshold of US\$ 20 billion per borrower per financial year and requiring RBI approval for borrowing up to US\$ 20 billion for Rupee expenditure.

*(English)***Vacant Posts of Judges in High Courts**

1838. SHRIMATI K. RANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government for filling up the vacant posts of judges in High Courts during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals lying pending with the Union Government, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) During the period 2005 to 2007 (till 21.8.2007), 231 appointments were made and 38 proposals are at various stages of consideration as on 21.08.2007. High Court-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The proposals for filling up of vacancies in the High Courts are made to the State Constitutional Authorities who, along with their comments send the proposal to the Union Government. The Union Government refers the proposal to the Chief Justice of India for advice. The advice tendered by the Chief Justice of India is submitted for consideration and approval of the Prime Minister and President. Since the appointment of Judges in the High Courts is through a consultative process amongst the Constitutional Authorities, no time frame can be fixed.

**Statement**

S.No.	High Court	Appointments made			Proposals pending as on 21.8.2007
		2005	2006	2007 (till 21.8.2007)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	17	10	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5	6	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bombay	5	8	1	4
4.	Calcutta	—	16	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	—	—	—
6.	Delhi	2	12	2	2
7.	Gauhati	—	6	1	1
8.	Gujarat	3	—	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	3	3	3
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	—	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	—	4	—	—
12.	Karnataka	4	4	5	5
13.	Kerala	2	—	5	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12	3	2	2
15.	Madras	17	7	4	4
16.	Orissa	—	1	1	1
17.	Patna	4	13	2	2
18.	Punjab and Haryana	—	13	2	2
19.	Rajasthan	8	3	7	7
20.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
21.	Uttarakhand	—	1	—	—
Total		86	110	35	38

**Loan to Minorities**

1839. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of bank lending to minorities is still under 10 per cent of the total Priority Sector Credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(c) the measures being taken to raise the level of lending to minorities to a minimum level of 15 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The share of Minority Communities in Priority Sector Advances given by the Scheduled Commercial Banks during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Priority Sector Advances (PS) (B)	Share of Minority Communities in Priority Sector (in all districts)	
		Amt.(A)	% share to PS (A/B)
March 2006	516334.78	45490.60	8.81
September 2006 (latest available)	556967.20	51669.51	9.28

(c) Government has decided that efforts be made for stepping up Priority Sector Lending to minorities from the present level of 9% to 15% over a period of three years.

Pursuant to the PM's new 15-Point Programmes for the Welfare of Minority Communities, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has issued a revised circular dated 18.05.2007 to the Scheduled Commercial Banks for including minority communities under the heading "Weaker Section" under Priority Sector Lending.

In their consolidated Master Circular on lending to minorities dated 5.07.2007, the RBI has also advised the banks to take care to ensure that minority communities secure in a fair and adequate measure, the benefits flowing from various Government sponsored special programmes. The master circular *inter-alia* envisages creating a separate cell in each bank to ensure smooth flow of credit to minority communities.

[Translation]

#### Investment in Mutual Funds

1840. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in Mutual Funds (MFs) is on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one and a half year;

(c) whether the Union Government has given encouragement to investing in MFs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response therefrom?

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

(b) The growth of investments in mutual funds has been as under:

Period	Net Inflows (Rs. Crore)
2005-06	52,779
2006-07	93,985
April July 2007	1,30,764

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The income of SEBI registered Mutual Funds as well as income (other than on sale/redemption) of an investor from such mutual funds is exempt from income tax.

[English]

#### Loan to Customers by Nationalised Banks

1841. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:  
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deposits and advances in Banks in rural and urban areas, State-wise;

(b) whether there is wide difference between deposits and advances in most of the nationalised banks in rural areas;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the disparity for the grant of loans/advances to the customers/ farmers in rural areas through nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) State-wise details of Aggregate Deposits and Gross Bank Credit in rural and urban areas in respect of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on March 31, 2007 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised all Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to achieve a Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of 60% in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches, separately on All India

basis and to ensure that wide disparity in the ratios between different States/Regions is avoided in order to minimize regional and sectoral imbalances in credit deployment.

RBI has advised the convener banks of the States to monitor the issue of CDR in the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) meetings and identify measures for enhancing the CD Ratio. RBI have also advised the banks to set up Special Sub Committees (SSCs) of the District level Consultative Committees having CDR of less than 40 in order to monitor the CDR and draw up Monitorable Action Plans (MAPs) to increase the CDR.

**Statement**

*Region-wise/State-wise data on Aggregate Deposits and Gross Bank Credit for Scheduled Commercial Banks as on March 31, 2007*

Region/State/Union Territory	Rural		Urban	
	Aggregate Deposits	Gross Bank Credit	Aggregate Deposits	Gross Bank Credit
1	2	3	4	5
<b>1. Northern Region</b>	<b>56,110</b>	<b>32,054</b>	<b>117,657</b>	<b>75,660</b>
Haryana	7,559	4,866	38,482	21,086
Himachal Pradesh	8,998	3,283	4,578	2,302
Jammu and Kashmir	6,367	1,920	10,983	6,836
Punjab	18,569	10,022	27,008	13,548
Rajasthan	10,230	8,395	18,274	13,453
Chandigarh	1,485	337	18,331	18,436
Delhi	2,903	3,231	—	—
<b>2. North-eastern Region</b>	<b>7,483</b>	<b>3,986</b>	<b>19,233</b>	<b>7,088</b>
Arunachal Pradesh	678	144	—	—
Assam	4,671	2,712	12,611	4,836
Manipur	124	163	1,072	450
Meghalaya	765	334	2,595	881
Mizoram	169	117	840	346

1	2	3	4	5
Nagaland	126	104		
Tripura	950	414	2,116	576
<b>3. Eastern Region</b>	<b>55,160</b>	<b>23,560</b>	<b>82,621</b>	<b>34,965</b>
Bihar	15,652	5,970	12,557	3,496
Jharkhand	9,191	2,510	17,705	7,187
Orissa	10,624	7,300	20,514	14,176
Sikkim	368	315		
West Bengal	19,097	7,405	31,845	10,106
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22,7	61		
<b>4. Central Region</b>	<b>59,665</b>	<b>29,905</b>	<b>106,661</b>	<b>45,110</b>
Chhattisgarh	4,340	1,752	15,396	9,322
Madhya Pradesh	9,646	7,214	19,312	9,182
Uttar Pradesh	39,794	18,964	55,269	23,754
Uttarakhand	5,884	1,975	16,684	2,852
<b>5. Western Region</b>	<b>30,082</b>	<b>18,731</b>	<b>58,186</b>	<b>25,737</b>
Goa	3,491	564		
Gujarat	14,344	6,870	28,210	9,695
Maharashtra	12,181	11,290	29,976	16,042
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	66	7	—	
Daman and Diu	—	—		
<b>6. Southern Region</b>	<b>49,629</b>	<b>46,549</b>	<b>146,911</b>	<b>127,606</b>
Andhra Pradesh	15,881	16,702	35,435	28,572
Karnataka	14,918	13,436	31,734	22,439
Kerala	3,914	3,088	37,573	28,580
Tamil Nadu	14,487	13,164	39,316	46,574
Lakshadweep	59	10		
Pondicherry	369	149	2,853	1,441
<b>All India</b>	<b>258,128</b>	<b>154,785</b>	<b>531,269</b>	<b>316,166</b>



**Discrepancies in Disinvestment**

1842. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sharp discrepancies have come to the notice of Government in valuation of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) disinvestment including VSNL during the recent time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has initiated any action against merchant bankers for discrepancies in their evaluation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has shifted to strategic sale route from public offer route for disinvestment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Report for the year ended March 2004-Union Government Transactions Audit Observations No. 2 of 2005 (tabled in Parliament in May, 2005), which include the sale transactions of Hotel Juhu Centaur, Mumbai and Hotel Airport Centaur, Mumbai, has *inter-alia* observed that valuation of these properties were not consistent with the practice followed by the Ministry in other cases. In the light of observation made by C&AG, sale transactions of these hotels were referred to CBI for an inquiry in July, 2005.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India conducted audit examination of 9 PSUs, including VSNL, disinvested through strategic sale between 1999 and 2003. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2005 [Union Government (Civil), Performance Audit No. 17 of 2006] on Performance Audit of Disinvestment of Government Shareholding in Selected Public Sector Undertakings during 1999-2003, was laid in the Parliament on 25th August, 2006. This report contains, *inter alia*, observations on the valuation of these PSUs. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has selected this report for detailed examination during 2006-07. Further action will be taken on receipt of the recommendations of the PAC.

(e) and (f) There has been no case of strategic sale after the present Government assumed charge in May 2004.

**Construction of Court Buildings in Orissa**

1843. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for financial assistance from Government of Orissa for construction of buildings of high court, district and sessions courts during last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated by the Government for the purpose during each of the last three years?

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

(b) Government of India had released an amount of Rs. 5.03 crore to the Government of Orissa for the proposed expansion of Orissa High Court Complex during the year 2006-07. No grants were released to the State Government during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06.

[*Translation*]

**Use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps**

1844. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to encourage the use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps to reduce the consumption of power in the country;

(b) if so, whether any schemes has been formulated to provide CFL at the price of common electric bulbs in the country;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to make CFLs available at cheaper rates by providing subsidy to CFL manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER ( SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has evolved a scheme to provide CFLs at the price of the common electric bulbs in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Demolition of Buildings in Delhi**

1845. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cent percent ground coverage and 350 FAR is eligible for regularisation under MPD-2021 for constructions already existing as on September 22, 2006;

(b) if so, whether a large scale demolition of buildings by MCD is underway in Delhi which are fit to be regularised under MPD-2021;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by the Union Government to save such buildings from demolition which are fit to be regularised under MPD-2021?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2021, as notified on 7.2.2007, provides for regularization of construction upto 100% ground coverage and 350 FAR which were already existing as on September 22, 2006 on plot measuring upto 175 sqm. on payment of charges, as notified. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India & Others" has restrained MCD from granting permission for construction of additional floor (third floor) in plotted development except those cases where construction was permissible on the basis of the Master Plan-2001 (notified on 1.8.1990), as modified in 1998.

(b) to (d) Regularization is subject to payment of charges. MCD has intimated that no action is being taken against buildings which have been got regularized as per the provisions of MPD-2021.

#### **Repo Rate Hike**

1846. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has hiked the Repo Rate;

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

(c) whether this hike has brought the desired result on price indices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the further measures taken by the Government to check price-rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised Repo Rate by 25 basis point on March 30, 2007 to 7.75 per cent in the light of the prevailing macro-economic, monetary and anticipated liquidity conditions, and with a view to contain inflation expectations. The First Quarter Review of Annual Statement on monetary policy for the year 2007-08 of the RBI released on 31.7.2007 has indicated that inflation, measured by variations in the Whole Sale Price Index (WPI) on a year on year basis, declined from 5.9 per cent at end March 2007 to 4.4 per cent as on July 14, 2007. Further measures taken by the Government to control inflation include supply side improvements in some essential commodities like wheat and sugar.

#### **Meeting of Chief Ministers**

1847. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI KIREN RIJU:  
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Chief Ministers was held recently in New Delhi in regard to reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the issues deliberated upon during the conference and the issues on which a consensus was reached between the Government and the State Governments; and

(d) the action taken by the Government for time bound implementation of the decisions taken during the conference?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) A conference of Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories on Power Sector Issues was convened on 28th May, 2007 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

The following themes were discussed at the Conference: -

- (i) Accelerated Capacity Addition.
- (ii) Reduction of AT&C Losses to 15%.
- (iii) Ensuring Greater Competition: Open Access.
- (iv) Rural Electrification.
- (v) Energy Conservation and Efficiency.

There was a general consensus on all the above themes at the conference and a copy of the Resolution adopted at the conference is given in the enclosed statement.

- (d) Action by the Government is under process.

#### **Statement**

#### **Resolution**

#### **Chief Ministers' Conference on Power**

1. The Conference recognizes the vital importance of the power sector in the development of the economy which is on a trajectory of high growth and resolves that a time bound closely monitored action programme for accelerated capacity addition, drastic loss reduction, achievement of the rural electrification targets set out under Bharat Nirman, and promotion of efficient energy and Demand Side Management, be put in place at the Centre and in the States.
2. The Conference acknowledges that electricity is a concurrent subject. The States and the Centre shall jointly endeavour to provide access to electricity to all. The States are conscious of their primary responsibility of ensuring availability and distribution of electricity. The continued proactive initiatives of the Union Government in coordinated planning, supplementing generation through Central Public Sector Undertakings, inter-state and inter-region transmission, rural electrification, providing financial assistance through various programmes and institutions, and in guiding the reforms process, along with the proactive stance of the States, are vital to achieve this objective.
3. The Conference acknowledges that the Bharat Nirman targets for rural electrification have to be met in order to ensure that rural India has adequate access to electricity; and resolves that the Central Government would, through the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, continue to assist the State Governments help expand

their rural networks and extend household connections to BPL families as set out under Bharat Nirman. The Government of India, in discharge of its statutory functions under the Electricity Act, would extend all possible financial and techno-managerial support. The States would urgently formulate clear, cost effective and comprehensive rural electrification plans which would address the concerns of sustainability, availability, affordability and delivery of power. The States should also develop appropriate revenue and franchisee models that may use system improvements to meet the requirements of the rural areas and disadvantaged groups, particularly wherever it is a better alternative to existing arrangements. The Centre shall support the States in their commitment and take into account the special requirements of different States.

4. The Conference noted with concern that the country is presently facing serious peaking and energy shortages, and resolves that the States and the Centre would vigorously pursue the capacity addition programmes so as to create capacities in line with the rapid growth of demand of electricity and eliminate shortages within the 11th Plan to ensure the goal of "Power for all by 2012". The Centre and the States would ensure timely placement of orders by December 2007 for all projects intended to give benefits during the 11th Plan and ensure regular monthly project monitoring for their timely commissioning along pre-determined milestones. The Centre would set up a National Power Project Management Board for monitoring the timely commissioning of the unprecedented capacity addition and associated transmission projects. The States would also set up similar dedicated apparatus. Immediate steps would also be taken to expedite the development of hydro power and renewable sources. The Centre would continue to ensure the timely development of inter-state and inter-region transmission lines, with active facilitation by the States. Matching sub-transmission and distribution networks would be created by the States to synchronise with the capacity addition. The States supported the initiative of the Centre to set up Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs). The Centre would also develop the necessary transmission network for UMPPs. The States would continue to effect further improvement in the PLF of their existing generating stations. The Government of India would facilitate the timely and adequate

availability of coal and gas for the generating plants at reasonable and competitive prices within the existing legal framework. The linkage from coal fields will be locationally rationalized, to the extent possible.

5. The Conference recognizes that an estimated captive generating capacity of about 20,000 MW is being sub-optimally utilized in a phase of critical power shortage; and resolves that no generating capacity would be left idle. The States would facilitate captive power plants to provide spare generating capacity to the grid and strive to do away with restrictive levies, duties and regulations in a time-bound manner.
6. The Conference further resolves that the States commit themselves to operationalizing 'open access' in the transmission and distribution sectors and resolve to issue policy directives to regulators, if necessary, to appropriately restructure cross subsidy surcharge, wheeling charges and other charges, with a view to augment the quantum of power flowing into the grid in the prevailing environment of shortages.
7. The Conference recognizes that the operationalizing of 'open access' and competition in the supply of electricity to consumers would improve the supply position, help lower the tariffs and attract much needed investment in capacity addition; and resolved that the Centre and the States would unshackle generation, transmission and distribution to enhance the availability of electricity and its unhindered movement to consumers. The Centre and the States would also issue any necessary policy directives to any undertaking or regulator to this end, in the interest of consumers, within and outside the concerned State.
8. The Conference recognizes that the current level of AT&C losses constitute a grave threat to the viability of the power sector and the distribution segment, which is currently losing about Rs. 47,000 crores per annum, is the weakest link in the power system; and resolves that the States commit themselves to achieve and sustain drastic reduction in the overall AT&C losses through the next five years, and at least to a level of 15% in the APDRP project areas as has been demonstrated by the participating States in 163 towns and cities. Towards this end, the States with appropriate assistance from the Centre would establish the necessary

baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting and auditing, besides ensuring a resolute elimination of electricity theft, which is negating various investments and initiatives for power sector reforms. It is further reiterated that where free or subsidized power is provided to a section of consumers, the State Government shall ensure upfront payment of the same to the utilities.

9. The Conference recognizes that there is a very significant potential of saving electricity through its efficient use; and resolves that States and the Centre should focus on Demand Side Management measures and ensure such interventions as would provide immediate results for saving electricity. These interventions could include bulk procurement and distribution of CFLs, adoption of the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), promoting and mandating the use of energy efficient pump sets and other energy efficient equipment and appliances, besides giving appropriate financial and tax incentives for their manufacture.
10. To periodically review the implementation of the resolutions adopted in the Conference, it is decided to set up a Standing Group of Power Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Union Power Minister to meet once a quarter.

#### **Decline in Deposits under National Savings Scheme**

1848. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deposits under the National Savings Scheme has declined since 2003;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to attract deposits under the Scheme and to make the Scheme competitive/attractive with various deposits schemes offered by Nationalized/Scheduled banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The National Savings Scheme, introduced with effect from

1st October 1992, was discontinued with effect from 1st November 2002. No deposits can be made under the Scheme on or after 1st day of November 2002.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Uniform Civil Code**

1849. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government to formulate a law for Uniform Civil Code for unity and integrity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court of India in its judgment delivered on the 21st July, 2003 in the matter of John Vallamattom Vs. Union of India and Anr. [2003(5) SCALE 384] has made certain observations in respect of enactment of Uniform Civil Code.

(c) Bringing in a Uniform Civil Code involves changes in the Personal Laws including those of the minority communities. It has been the consistent policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the Personal Laws of the minority communities unless the necessary initiatives for such changes come from a sizeable cross-section of such communities themselves.

*[English]*

#### **Loss of Valuables from Lockers**

1850. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to give compensation to the customer in case of loss of valuables from the Bank Lockers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government is planning to incorporate any Act or Rule to safeguard the interest of the Customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Relationship between the banker and renter of the locker is in the nature of a bail and bailee, although the bank has no knowledge of the contents of the locker and the definition of "bailment" in section 148 of the Contract Act does not strictly apply. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not issued any instructions to banks advising them to give compensation to the customer in case of loss of valuables from the bank lockers. However, RBI has advised the banks to exercise due care and necessary precaution for protection of the vault and the locker provided to the customers. Banks are also required to review the systems in force for operation of safe deposit vaults/locker at their branches on an on-going basis and take necessary step. The security procedures should be well-documented and the concerned staff should be proper trained in the procedure. The internal auditors should ensure that the procedures are strictly adhered to.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **IDBI Assistance for Power Plants**

1851. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided for setting up of power plants in the country by Industrial Development Bank of India during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) whether the IDBI has any machinery to check proper utilisation of such assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Details of assistance provided for setting up of Power Plants in the country by IDBI Ltd. during the last three years are as under:

*Assistance by IDBI Ltd. to Power Plants*

Year	No. of companies	Sanctioned amount	Amount disbursed (Rs. in Crore)
2004-05	18	2,521.98	1,009.71
2005-06	31	4,601.35	3,286.84
2006-07	25	3,499.10	3,347.60

(b) and (c) IDBI grants assistance, both by way of Rupee Term Loan/Foreign Currency Loan/Deferred Payment Guarantees, to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) or Utility Companies for setting up of the power projects.

The monitoring of the projects is undertaken both through normal process *viz.* obtaining progress reports, undertaking visits before disbursements, appointing nominee directors and through a special mechanism *i.e.* by appointing lenders' engineers, an expert agency, which reviews the technical aspects of the project and reports about the status of implementation of projects etc. The end-use of funds also is generally ensured by routing all the disbursements through Trust & Retention Account, No-Lien Account and by obtaining certificate from the statutory auditors/chartered accountants for the expenditure incurred towards the project as also means of financing thereof.

[English]

**Amalgamation of RRBs**

1852. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks amalgamated in the country during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government has done any impact study on Rural Credit following the amalgamation of RRBs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The process of amalgamation of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), was initiated in September, 2005 and as a result thereof, 145 RRBs have been amalgamated into 45 new RRBs,

thereby reducing the total number of RRBs from 196 to 96, as on date.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Rain-water Harvesting**

1853. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recommended to the urban local bodies mandatory measures for incorporating rain-water harvesting in building bye-laws; and

(b) if so, the result of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Central Ground Water Authority has issued Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to conserve and use rain water. The Model Building Bye Laws brought out by the Ministry of Urban Development has incorporated the provision of Rainwater Harvesting which have been circulated to all the State Governments.

Some of the State Governments *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Kerala, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have incorporated the provisions of Rainwater Harvesting in their Building Bye Laws.

**Excise Duty Exemption**

1854. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had given exemption of Excise Duty to various States;

(b) if so, the details of States, the reasons and period for giving excise exemption to each such State;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of excise exemption to such States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken/being taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Excise duty exemption schemes have been extended by the Government for specified goods produced by specified units in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and North East Region and Kutch district of Gujarat, subject to certain conditions. All the above exemptions, except that for Kutch district of Gujarat, have been extended as per specific Industrial Policies announced by the Government. In the case of Kutch district of Gujarat, however, the exemption was given following an earthquake in January, 2001 leading to loss of industrial assets. The exemption is for a period of ten years from the date of commencement of commercial production by eligible units located in NER, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and for five years in case of Kutch.

(c) and (d) Government has made an estimate of revenue foregone on account of the above exemption. Estimated excise duty foregone during the last three financial years is as under:

Year	Revenue foregone in Rs. crores*
2004-05	1502
2005-06	4150
2006-07	7000

\*Provisional figures, excluding revenue foregone on account of exemption to four oil refineries located in the NER.

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

[Translation]

#### Loan to Weaker Sections

1855. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to the scheduled Commercial Banks to extend 10% of their total loan to weaker sections of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the banks which have followed the said instructions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines on lending to the Priority Sector on 30.04.2007 to all the Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks. The revised guidelines stipulate a sub-target of 10% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent amount of off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, for lending to the Weaker Sections the Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks.

(b) and (c) All the Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks are required to follow the revised guidelines. However, there is short fall in achieving the percentage target meant for Weaker Sections on account of increasing credit flow to other competing sectors of the economy.

[English]

#### Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme

1856. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cities covered under integrated housing and slum development programme in the country; and

(b) the achievements made so far under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) All cities and towns (except 63 select cities covered under the Sub-Mission II Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) are covered under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

(b) Progress under the scheme is as under:

1.	No. of projects approved	:	257
2.	No. of cities/towns covered		250
3.	Total No. of Dwelling Units approved	:	177819
4.	Total project cost approved	:	Rs. 2406.82 crore
5.	Total Central share		Rs. 1743.06 crore
6.	Total Additional Central Assistance released	:	Rs. 759.79 crore

[*Translation*]

### Housing Index

1857. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Housing Bank (NHB) has received the report of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on NHB Residex;

(b) if so, the details of recommendation contained in the report and the action taken by the NHB thereon; and

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) recommended that to start with, the index may be constructed for 35 cities in India having a population of one million or more as per the 2001 Census. The housing price index should capture the transaction prices of both plotted houses and flats, inclusive of old as well as newly constructed ones, reporting transaction (sale/resale) during the reference period. The Group further recommended that the National Housing Bank (NHB) should be the nodal agency for construction of the index on a continuing basis.

NHB has initiated the process of setting up of necessary systems for implementing the recommendations

of the TAG especially with respect to collection and collation of data and construction of the index.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

### Doorstep Banking Services

1858. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has permitted banks/certain banking services at the doorsteps of customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether bankers have been given the right to fix their own service charges for this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that guidelines were issued to banks permitting them to prepare a scheme for offering doorstep banking services to their customers, with the approval of their Boards. Under the scheme, banks were permitted to offer doorstep services such as pick up of cash/instruments, delivery of cash against cheques received at the counter and delivery of demand drafts to corporates/Government Department/ Public Sector Undertakings and pick up of cash/instruments and delivery of demand drafts to individual customers.

In terms of these guidelines, banks have been advised that charges, if any, to be levied on the customer



for doorstep services should be incorporated in the policy approved by the Board and should form part of the agreement entered into with the customer. The charges should be prominently indicated on brochures offering doorstep services.

*[Translation]*

**Registration of Government Employees  
as Lawyers**

1859. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to allow the Government employees to register themselves as advocate keeping in view the shortage of lawyers in the country and rise in crime graph;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Concessions to Industries in Uttarakhand**

1860. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and period of rebate in income-tax, excise duty, central sales tax and the subsidy in transport provided to industries located in Uttarakhand;

(b) whether the requests for extension of similar concession to industries in the neighbouring States have been received;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As far as direct taxes are concerned, tax benefit is available if the undertaking has begun manufacturing or producing or has

undergone substantial expansion during the period 7.1.2003 to 31.3.2012. The quantum of tax benefit available is 100% for the first five assessment years and 25% (30% in case of companies) for the subsequent five assessment years.

As far as indirect taxes are concerned excise duty exemption has been provided to specified units manufacturing specified products subject to certain conditions.

The eligible units (new units or existing units undertaking substantial expansion and starting commercial production on or after 7.1.2003 but not later than 31st March, 2010) get full exemption from excise duty for a period of ten years from the date of start of commercial production.

As regards Central Sales Tax, no rebate in Central Sales Tax Act has been provided by the Department of Revenue, Government of India to the industries located in Uttarakhand. The States are however, empowered vide Section 8(5) of CST Act 1956, to reduce the rate of or exempt from the applicable CST subject to fulfilment of prescribed requirements. The Government of Uttarakhand has accordingly notified a CST rate of 1% for those industrial units located in their State which start commercial production on or after 7.1.2003 but not later than 31.03.2010; for a period of 5 years from the date of commencement of commercial production by the respective unit.

As far as transport subsidy to industries is concerned, the information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) A number of requests were received from the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, UP, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Tamil Nadu. Keeping in view the facts that area-based exemptions distort tax structure, reduce tax base and generally do not result in durable investments, it had not been extended to new areas.

*[English]*

**Indo-Bhutan Agreement on Power Generation**

1861. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhutan is carrying out Pune-Teang-Chu Hydel Power Project in collaboration with India;

(b) if so, the amount being spent by the Indian Government on the project and benefit accruing to India;

(c) the total MW power targeted to be generated and the total estimated Cost of the project;

(d) whether any time frame has been set for the completion of the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. An Agreement has been signed on 28.07.2007 between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on the implementation of Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project (1095 MW) in Bhutan.

(b) and (c) The estimated cost of the project as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is Rs. 3,514.81 crores at December, 2006 price level, excluding taxes and duties. The project is proposed to be funded by the Government of India. The surplus power from the project will be exported to India thus augmenting power availability in the country. The Installed Capacity of the Project is expected to be 1095 MW with six units of 182.5 MW each.

(d) and (e) The Project is expected to be commissioned in 7 years from the date of commencement of construction.

#### **Sealing of Shops**

1862. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether MCD/DDA have sealed several shops in the NCT of Delhi based on Supreme Court orders;

(b) whether Supreme Court has also passed an order to seal shops of small traders having 'Ad-hoc' licenses from the MCD/DDA and having their business establishments on the ground floor on 20ft. or more wide roads;

(c) if not, the reasons to sealing their shops; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to stop harassment to small traders?

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

(b) and (c) MCD has issued a circular to the effect that ad-hoc trade registration/storage licences granted by MCD in non-conforming/residential areas under various ad-hoc registration schemes/policies shall not be renewed in view of the various orders passed by the Supreme Court. Supreme Court in its judgement in IA No. 1970 in IA No. 22 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4677 of 1985 in the matter of M.C. Mehta Versus Union of India has allowed small shops measuring not more than 20 sqm in residential areas trading in 22 categories/items.

(d) The Master Plan of Delhi 2021 permits small shops of maximum 20 sqm area trading in or dealing with 24 categories of items/activities in the ground floor in residential premises.

#### **Subsidy for Supply of Rice**

1863. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought financial assistance to enable subsidised supply of rice at Rs. 2/- per Kg to the poor sections in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken/being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Government of Tamil Nadu has not sought any financial assistance from Government of India for the scheme of provision of rice at Rs. 2/- per kg. Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Setting Up of Thermal Power Projects in Karnataka**

1864. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has approved a special purpose vehicle for setting up three 1000 MW thermal power projects in the State and has submitted to the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the site selected where these projects are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Power Procurement Co-ordination Centre set up by the Government of Karnataka has commenced development of three Thermal Power Projects of 1000 MW each, at Chamalapura (Mysore District), Ghataprabha (Belgaum District) and Jewargi (Gulbarga District) in the State of Karnataka through Tariff-based competitive bidding as per Guidelines of the Ministry of Power, on behalf of the distribution Licensees in the State of Karnataka. A Special Purpose Vehicle *viz.*, Power Company of Karnataka Limited has since been constituted by Government of Karnataka for carrying out the preliminary activities pertaining to these projects on the lines of Ultra Mega Power Project.

#### **Cash Reserve Ratio**

1865. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently hiked the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to control inflation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of times the RBI has hiked CRR during the last one year; and

(d) the effect of increase in CRR in checking inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On a review of the current liquidity situation, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its First Quarter Review of Annual Monetary Policy for the year 2007-08, decided to increase Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of scheduled commercial banks by 50 basis points from 6.50% to 7.00% of their net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) with effect from the fortnight beginning 4th August, 2007.

(c) and (d) On review of prevailing macro-economic and monetary conditions as also to contain the inflationary pressure to the extent it is attributable to monetary

conditions, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), vide notifications dated 11.12.2006, 14.02.2007, 04.04.2007 and 31.07.2007, raised the CRR of the banks from 5.00% (effective from 2nd October, 2004) to 7.00% with effect from 4th August, 2007.

#### **National Institute of Securities Market**

1866. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India plans to establish National Institute of Securities Markets on the model of public-private partnership; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India has informed that it has established the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) as a public trust under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950. A number of entities, both from private and public sectors, are expected to voluntarily contribute to the financial resources of NISM in the form of contributions to the corpus fund, contribution to the establishment of chair professorships, endowments to organize seminars and workshops, contribution to campus construction, establishment of scholarships, establishment of student awards, etc. They are expected to associate voluntarily in various activities of NISM to make its programmes and events more relevant to the needs of the market and for market development.

#### **Rampur Hydro Power Project at India-Tibet Border**

1867. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Chinese companies have bid for a slice of Rampur Hydro-power project, close to India-Tibet border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether security angles of the country have been examined by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As informed by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited the implementing agency of the Rampur Hydro-electric Project, only one joint venture company of two Chinese firms has submitted its bid for electro-mechanical works of Rampur Hydro-electric Project in Himachal Pradesh. The joint venture is between:

- (i) M/s Harbin Power Engineering Company Ltd., No. 39, Sanda Dongli Road, Dongli District, Harbin, China, and
- (ii) M/s Harbin Electric Machinery Company Ltd., No. 99, Sanda Dongli Road, Dongli District, Harbin, China.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The matters related to security concerns have been deliberated upon in an inter-ministerial meeting with security agencies.

#### **Allotment of Houses in the Name of Women**

1868. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to all States to allot houses built by Government agencies for urban poor in the name of women to empower women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Guidelines for the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), provide that the title of the land should preferably in the name of the wife and alternative/jointly in the names of husband and wife. In exceptional cases, title in the name of male beneficiary may be permitted.

#### **Assistance to Farmers**

1869. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cooperative Banks have failed to achieve their primary objectives of assisting farmers in promoting farming and allied activities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The agricultural credit flow by Cooperative Banks has increased substantially during the last four years as may be observed from the data furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount disbursed
2003-04	26,875
2004-05	31,231
2005-06	39,404
2006-07	42,480*

\*Provisional.

However, to strengthen the rural cooperative credit institutions, the Government of India is implementing a revival package for short term cooperative credit structure. The States willing to implement the package are required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Government and NABARD for carrying out certain legal and institutional reforms.

18 States and one Union Territory have so far conveyed their consent to implement the package. The revival package includes a financial outlay estimated at Rs. 13,596 crore to be shared by Central Government, State Governments and the Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure in the ratio of 68:28:4 respectively for the country as a whole. Central Government has already released Rs. 1425 crore for implementation of the package to NABARD.

#### **Duty Evasion by EOUs**

1870. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of duty evaded by Export Oriented Units (EOUs) during the last three years and measures taken to recover the same;

(b) whether EOUs are selling finished goods into Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) illegally instead of exporting them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such EOUs?

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

#### Loan to SSI

1871. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loans have been provided to the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) by Nationalized Banks in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and other States of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any complaints from SSIs in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The amount of outstanding credit given to Small Scale Industries (SSIs) by the Public Sector Banks during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and other States of the country are given as under:

States	Amount outstanding (Rs. in crore)		
	2004	2005	2006
Uttar Pradesh	4652	5287	6502
Bihar	593	646	712
Jharkhand	636	730	945
Rajasthan	2086	2252	2639
Other States	44679	49396	71636

(c) and (d) The complaints received from SSIs are dealt with in consultation with the concerned banks.

[Translation]

#### National Debt

1872. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether internal as well as external debts of the country has been increasing during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures adopted/propose to be adopted to reduce the said debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Details of internal debt and external debt of the Central Government are given below:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (RE) (Rs. crore)
1. Internal liabilities#	1,933,544	2,165,902	2,434,329
2. External debt*	60,878	94,243	102,135
3. Total outstanding liabilities (1+2)	1,994,422	2,260,145	2,536,464
(As per cent of GDP)			
1. Internal liabilities	61.8	60.7	59.0
2. External debt	1.9	2.6	2.5
3. Total outstanding liabilities	63.8	63.4	61.5

Source: Receipts Budget 2007-08.

# Internal debt includes net borrowing of Rs. 64,211 crore for 2004-05, Rs. 29,062 crore for 2005-06 and Rs. 70,000 crore for 2006-07(RE) under Market Stabilisation Scheme.

\* External debt figures represent borrowings by Central Government from external sources and are based upon historical rates of exchange.

Note: The ratio to GDP are based on CSO's latest Estimates for GDP.

(c) In order to reduce the carrying cost of outstanding debt burden of the Central Government following measures have been taken in the recent past:

- (i) Buyback of high coupon Government securities contracted during the earlier high interest rate regime.
- (ii) Utilisation of receipts under States Debt Scheme to repay high coupon special securities to National Small Savings Fund (NSSF).
- (iii) Repayment of high cost external loans from bilateral as well as multilateral sources. External debt in excess of USD 6 billion have been prepaid during Fiscal Year 2002-03 and 2003-04 to World Bank, ADB and many bilateral sources.

[*English*]

#### **FDI Inflow**

1873. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to further liberalize the norms for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in development of nuclear energy and other power projects, civil aviation, petroleum etc. to meet high investment requirements of the rapidly growing economy;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review FDI policy and raise the cap on FDI in different sectors, relax mandatory divestment conditions and free some sectors from the obligations of Press Note 1; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government has put in place a liberal & transparent FDI policy according to which FDI in most sectors/activities is permitted up to 100% under the automatic route. The FDI policy, including caps on foreign equity limits and procedures are reviewed on a continuing basis with a view to creating an improved investment regime for higher FDI inflows. Recently, a review of the FDI policy was undertaken by the Government in January, 2006. Press Note 4 (2006 series) containing the rationalization measures is available on the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)'s website <http://dipp.nic.in>.

[*Translation*]

#### **Public and Private Insurance Companies**

1874. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative details regarding facilities being provided by both public and private sector insurance companies to their customers;

(b) whether any rebate of agent's commission is provided to the customers directly approaching the company's office for insurance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, details of head under which the said amount is deposited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that facilities provided by both public sector and private insurance companies to customers include: services by way of insurance cover that provide indemnification, compensation or benefits as per the terms of the contract agreed upon. In respect of life insurance policies, the insured has an option to return the policy within 15 days of receipt of the policy document upon his disagreement with the terms and conditions. In case of delay in settlement of a claim by an insurance company, interest at the rate of 2% above the bank rate is payable by the insurer. Insurers also provide facilities like payment of premium by cash, cheque as also through Electronic Clearing Service (ECS), Credit cards, payment gateways, internet etc.

(b) to (d) No Sir. In terms of Section 41 of the Insurance Act, 1938, no rebate is provided to the customer in lieu of agent's commission when the customer approaches an insurance company to buy insurance protection.

[*English*]

#### **Irregularities in Catholic Syrian Bank**

1875. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been failure on the part of Reserve Bank of India to prevent irregularities committed by the management of Catholic Syrian Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any enquiry against these banks; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Based on the findings of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) scrutiny conducted at Ashram Road, Ahmedabad and Fort, Mumbai branches of the Catholic Syrian Bank, RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10.00 lakh on the Bank on 20th July, 2007 under Section 47A(l)(b) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for violations of Know Your Customer/Anti-Money Laundering norms while opening and operating certain accounts and failure of internal control systems to detect those irregularities.

(c) and (d) A Criminal Miscellaneous Petition (CMP 3585/2006) has been filed by a shareholder of the Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd. before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Thrissur against the bank, its former Chairman and current Chairman (since resigned), its Directors and officials in connection with certain leasing transactions undertaken by the bank during the year 1994-95. The Court has, vide order dated 3rd February, 2007, appointed an Assistant Audit Officer to conduct an enquiry into the allegations stated in the complaint. RBI has, however, advised the Bank to explore the option of requesting the Court to appoint statutory auditor of the Bank to conduct an investigation in the matter.

*[Translation]*

#### Poverty Alleviation

1876. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any change in the target fixed for achievement during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to eradicate poverty prevailing in cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government machinery is also being sensitized for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Target fixed for achievement during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for eradication of poverty viz. reducing the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points has not been changed.

(c) and (d) With a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor, an employment-oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), is already being implemented by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997. The programme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have not studied beyond 9th standard and, secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

*[English]*

#### Viability Gap Funding

1877. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received suggestion from Karnataka on viability gap funding of infrastructure projects done through public private partnership route; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### Reimbursement of Cost Overrun in Sardar Sarovar Project

1878. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests for reimbursement of cost overrun caused mainly due to anti-dam activism against Sardar Sarovar Project has been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No request has been received from Government of Gujarat for reimbursement of cost overrun of Sardar Sarovar Project.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Activities of Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre**

1879. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work/activities of Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) has been reviewed;

(b) if so, the details of the agency who have reviewed the activities of the EREC alongwith its recommendations;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether there is any proposal to extent the activities of the EREC;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) is an integral part of India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Earth Commission (EC). A Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) of the centre, consisting of eminent scientists also periodically reviews the activities of the centre and recommends scientific projects to be undertaken by EREC. The action on recommendations is taken and proposals submitted for government approvals. Some of the major recommendations made by SAC include:-

(i) Undertaking first level (on the scale of 1:50,000) seismic hazard microzonation of Delhi including related seismotectonic, site response, geoscientific and geotechnical studies of the area to accomplish the task.

(ii) To prepare detailed plan for seismic hazard microzonation of Delhi, Guwahati and Ahmadabad at higher resolution scale.

(c) Accordingly seismic hazard microzonation of Delhi has been completed at 1:50,000 scale. Microzonation of Delhi has been taken up at the scale of 1:10,000, for quantification of hazard for better land use planning and risk evaluation. Detailed proposals have been prepared to carry out microzonation of five more cities.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Nine projects related to EREC activities including continuation of EREC have been approved by the Earth Commission. These are currently being processed for implementation under the XI five year plan.

(f) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Amendment in the Representation of People Act**

1880. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make amendments in the Representation of the People Act in view of the prevailing corruption and criminalisation of politics;

(b) if so, the time by when these amendments would be made;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to formulate any code of conduct for elected representatives;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) In recent past, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2002 and the Representation of the



People (Third Amendment) Act, 2002 have been enacted with a view to making the electoral process clean and free from criminal and corrupt influences. The Government, however, continues to strive and explore further ways and means aimed at bringing about further reforms. In this regard, the Government has before it the recommendations made by different bodies/individuals, like the Dinesh Goswami Committee, the Indrajit Gupta Committee, the Election Commission of India, the Law Commission of India, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, etc. Since the process of electoral reforms is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among the political parties, which is a time-consuming process, no time frame can be given.

(c) to (e) The evolution of a Code of Conduct for legislators is a matter for the Legislatures to decide and the Government has no intention to interfere in the matter.

[English]

#### **Report of Working Group of XI Plan on Housing**

1881. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of the working group of the XI Plan, the shortage of housing units is 25 million;

(b) if so, the shortage of houses for EWS, low income group, MIG and HIG with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The National Buildings Organization (NBO) has informed that as per the report of the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) Working Group on Urban Housing, the estimated housing shortage in urban areas at the beginning of the 11th Plan period is 24.71 million. Category-wise Housing shortage is as follows:

Category	Housing shortage in Million As on 2007
Economically Weaker Section (EWS)	21.78
Low Income Group (LIG)	2.89
Middle Income Group (MIG) and Higher Income Group (HIG)	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.71</b>

According to the above stated report, the estimated housing shortage in Andhra Pradesh as on 2007 is 1.95 million.

(c) The Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005. This Ministry is implementing two schemes under JNNURM viz., Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). While the former aims at providing basic infrastructure in 63 cities of the country, the latter strives for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers of the identified urban areas.

Apart from this an Interest Rate Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor is being finalised in consultation with the Planning Commission to provide subsidy in the interest rate to EWS and LIG category people of the urban areas while availing of home loans.

#### **Reforms in Insurance Sector**

1882. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has recommended for reforms in the insurance sector;

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

(c) the extent to which people are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Law Commission of India, in its 190th Report has made recommendations which *inter-alia* cover legal issues concerning repudiation of life insurance policies; nomination, assignment and transfer of policies; merger of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Act, 1999 with Insurance Act, 1938; selling up of a grievance redressal authority; amendments to definitions and deletion of redundant provisions in the Insurance Act, 1938. On its recommendations, IRDA constituted a committee of experts under Shri K. P. Narasimhan, former Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to examine issues relating to surveyors and loss assessors; investments; tariffs; shareholders and policyholder's funds & extent of foreign shareholding etc.

Further, on the recommendations of Law Commission/ Narasimhan Committee/IRDA/LIC & General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association (GIPSA), a Cabinet Note regarding Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was considered in the Cabinet Meeting held on 21.12.2006. The Bill has been referred to the Group of Ministers for consideration.

#### Inspection by IRDA

1883. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) inspects the insurance companies to ensure consumer interests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it carries out both off

site and onsite inspections of all insurance companies in terms of the powers vested under section 14(2)(h) of IRDA Act, 1999. IRDA regularly monitors their solvency issues and financial reporting norms through off site inspections. IRDA has also established a separate Inspection Department for carrying out onsite inspections at the offices of insurance companies. During onsite inspections, IRDA examines the extent of compliance of statutory provisions and regulatory directions by insurance companies including their market conduct, operational practices and governance norms in vogue.

#### Village Knowledge Centre

1884. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals to set up Village Knowledge Centres (VKCs) from different States, particularly Karnataka;

(b) if so, the locations identified for the same, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Village Knowledge Centres are being implemented by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). Information in respect of NABARD is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House. No proposals have been received by CAPART from the State of Karnataka.

(b) The State-wise location of the Village Knowledge Centres identified by the CAPART so far, is enclosed as statement.

(c) These Village Knowledge Centres are likely to be set up by March, 2008.

#### Statement

##### *Details of Projects on Village Knowledge Centre (VKC)*

S.N.	Name of the NGO	State	District/Block	Location
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mukti, At Gandhi Mandir Road, Dhenkanal	Orissa	Deogarh, Reamal	Palsama Hilang

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Multi Applied System, Plot No. 45, Swarnapuri Complex, Patia, Bhubaneswar	Orissa	Keonjhar	Khireitangiri Tarumunga Tangarpada Badapatna
3.	Professional Assistance for Voluntary Action, C/O Green Grow, O.T. Road, Distt Balasore	Orissa	Balasore, Nilgiri Block H.Q.	Mihaspatta Ajodhya Baramahmpura Chatrapur Garadihi KP Lakhraj Narsinghpur
4.	Centre for Community Development, Pathapatnam Road, Near Check Post, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati	Orissa	Gajapati, Gumma Block H.Q.	Badakalalote Rajgidi Bajihal Namanaguda Tumulo
5.	Society for Social Services Madhya Bharat Chapter G-128, Ethiraj Towers, G.E. Road, Near Maurya Cinema, Bhilai Distt. Durg, Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	Durg, Dandi Lohara Block	Bunduli Jatada Marri Bhavamara
6.	Centre for Advanced Research And Development, E-7/803, Arera Colony, BLK-Fanda, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Chhattisgarh	Korba, Korba Block	Ajarbahar Gar-Upproda Bela Paraskhet Bundell Kurdin
7.	Amarapalii Prashikshan Sansthan, Karigar Mohal Ward No. 4, Deoli, Distt. Tonk, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Tonk, Deoli	Rajmahal Kasir Gawdi Poly Yada Santhali Panwad

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation 18, Pillaiyar Kori Street, Somasundaram Colony, Madurai	Tamil Nadu	Madurai Ramanathapuram Tuticorin	Alanganallur Mellur Kottampatti T. Kallupatti Tirupullani Mandapam Vadipatti of Madurai Kadaladi of Ramanathapuram Ottapidaram Tiruchendur of Tuticorin
9.	Lok Panchayat, Lane-3, Shivajinagar, Sangamner, Distt Ahmednagar Maharashtra-4422605	Maharashtra	Ahmed Nagar, Sangamner	Nannaj Dumla Nimgaon Saroie Sakur
10.	Gomukh Environmental Trust for Sustainable Development 92/2, Durga, Gangote Path, Erandawane, Pune, Maharashtra	Maharashtra	Pune	Chale Mulshi
11.	Dilasa Jan Vikas Pratishthan. 5— Shivalik Apartment, Samadhana Colony, Distt Aurangabad, Maharashtra	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	Kacchighati Ladsevangi Pimpri Raja
12.	Yuva Gramin Vikas Gargoti At PO Gargoti, Block Bhudargad, Kolhapur, Maharashtra	Maharashtra	Gargoti	Adampur Kadgaon Pimpallgaon
13.	Nirdesh, VIII. Majjaulia, PO Khabra, Disst. Muzaffarpur-843146, Bihar.	Bihar	Muzaffarpur, CGC-Vaishali	Serukahin

**Setting up of Power Projects Abroad by NTPC**

1885. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with the Governments of Nigeria and Indonesia to set up power projects in these countries; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Energy, Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) for setting up power plants in Nigeria subject to conditions that FGN will provide, subject to availability, at least three million tonnes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) per annum at reasonable price on long term basis for a period of 25 years from its existing/future LNG plants where operation is likely to begin in the next 5 to 6 years. Upon successful operation of above commitment by FGN, NTPC Ltd. will set up subject to technical feasibility, a 500 MW coal based and a 700 MW gas based power plant in Nigeria.

NTPC has not signed any MoU with the Government of Indonesia.

**Utilisation of Services of Post office by Banks**

1886. SHRI E. G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian banks proposes to use the services of post offices for banking purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these services are likely to be provided through post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines on 25th January, 2006 advising all scheduled commercial banks to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), Post Offices and other Central Statistical Organisations (CSOs) as

intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitator and Correspondent models.

In terms of the RBI guidelines, Post Offices, as Business Facilitators, could help in identification of borrowers and activities, collection and preliminary processing of loan applications, creating awareness about saving and other products of the banks, processing and submission of loan application, post sanction monitoring etc. As a Business Correspondent, the Post Office, in addition to usual facilitation services, could also disburse small value credit, recover principal/interest due to banks, collect small value deposits, sell micro insurance/mutual fund/pension/other third party products and receive and remit small value funds.

Further, Indian Banks' Association has advised member banks for a possible tie-up with India Post for identifying and assisting rural beneficiaries through their vast network of Post Offices and their unique customer interaction. This initiative intends to help member banks to expand their credit deployment, increase profitability and contribute to rural development without incurring higher transaction cost and thereby achieving the national policy on financial inclusion.

India Post has started tie-up arrangements and entered into Memorandum of Understanding with banks as per their specific requirement customizing the scheme.

**Power Generation in Narmada Dam**

1887. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Generation has been started from Narmada Dam in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Gujarat has started power supply to Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to their share according to the memorandum of understanding among these three States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Narmada Control Authority has informed that power generation from Narmada Dam (Sardar Sarovar Power complex) in Gujarat started in August, 2004. Power generated from Sardar Sarovar Power Complex [6x200 (Right Bed Power House) + 5x50

(Canal Head Power House) = 1450 MW] is being shared among the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat in the ratio of 57:27:16 as per provisions of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) Award.

### **MRP Linked Excise Duty**

1888. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India suffered losses in Excise Revenue as a result of imposing Maximum Retail Price (MRP) linked excise duty on pharmaceutical products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether prices of non-schedule medicines, which included essential life saving medicines, has shot up tremendously owing to lack of excise deterrent in Tax Holiday State; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The objective behind levy of excise duty on pharmaceutical products on the basis of retail sale price is to provide certainty in assessment, avoid valuation disputes and tax avoidance through under valuation. This is not a 'tax concession'. Thus question of loss of any revenue on this account alone does not arise.

(c) and (d) In respect of drugs, which are not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (non-scheduled formulations), manufacturers are free to fix the prices by themselves without seeking approval of Government/National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion cost, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports. It is a fact that in respect of non-scheduled formulations, prices of various brands are different although composition and weight/pack size are same, because price on non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers based on economics of production, which differ from case to case. However, as a part of its price monitoring activity, Government regularly examine the movement of price of non-scheduled

formulations and whenever abnormal price increase is noticed, action is taken.

### **Safe Drinking Water**

1889. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:  
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from the State Governments, particularly Assam, Bihar and West Bengal to provide safe drinking water to villages situated on the banks of polluted rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Proposals approved by the State level Scheme Sanctioning Committees were received from Assam, Bihar and West Bengal for release of funds. These were examined and States have been requested to provide some clarifications.

### **Request from Government of Kerala regarding SGRY**

1890. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the State Government of Kerala to provide cash in lieu of foodgrains under Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Para-2.2 of the SGRY Guidelines state that "no additional allocation of cash in lieu of foodgrains will be made by the Central Government".

**NBCC Projects in J&K**

1891. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects under implementation by National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) in Jammu & Kashmir, location-wise; and

(b) the amount earmarked for these projects in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The undermentioned seven projects are under implementation by NBCC in Jammu and Kashmir:

1. Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua, Jammu.
2. Govt. Degree College, Samba, Jammu.
3. Govt. Degree College, Basholi, Jammu.
4. Govt. Degree College, Mendhar, Jammu.
5. Govt. Degree College, Beerwah, Kashmir.
6. Govt. Degree College, Budgam, Kashmir.
7. Govt. Degree College, Pattan, Kashmir.

(b) During current financial year 2007-08 an allocation of Rs. 5.00 crores under PM's Reconstruction Plan has been earmarked for these seven projects.

**New Rural Development Schemes**

1892. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any new rural development schemes for SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Issue of New Licenses for Cooperative Banks**

1893. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI B. MAHTAB:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing cooperative banks in each State at present;

(b) whether the Government has issued new licenses for cooperative banks especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The details of the number of existing cooperative banks in each State and Union Territory is given in the enclosed statement.

Reserve Bank of India has issued license to the Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank Ltd. on 21.04.2006. Further, the Fazilka Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., Punjab was issued licence on 17.08.2006 and the Ambala Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., Haryana was issued licence on 16.01.2007.

**Statement***Details of Cooperative Banks as on 31 March 2007*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	SCBs	DCCBs	SCARDBs	PCARDBs	UCBs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	22	*	*	118
2.	Bihar	1	22	1	*	5#
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	6	1	12	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Gujarat	1	18	1		284
5.	Haryana	1	19		19	
6.	Jharkhand\$	*	8	*	*	-
7.	Karnataka	1	21	1	177	288
8.	Kerala	1	14	1	48	60
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1	38	1	38	74 <sup>••</sup>
10.	Maharashtra	1	31	1	29	622 <sup>***</sup>
11.	Orissa	1	17	1	48	14
12.	Punjab	1	18	1	87	16 <sup>***</sup>
13.	Rajasthan	1	27	1	38	39
14.	Tamil Nadu	1	24	1	181	131 <sup>**</sup>
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1	50	1	*	77 <sup>••</sup>
16.	Uttaranchal	1	10	*	*	
17.	West Bengal	1	17	1	24	51 <sup>+</sup>
18.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	1	1	
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	3	1	*	4
20.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	*	*	*	
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	*	*	*	
22.	Assam	1	*	1	*	17 <sup>•</sup>
23.	Chandigarh	1	*	*	*	
24.	Delhi	1	*	*	*	15
25.	Goa	1	*	*	*	
26.	Manipur	1	*	1	*	
27.	Meghalaya	1	*	*	*	
28.	Mizoram	1	*	*	*	
29.	Nagaland	1	*	*	*	
30.	Pondicherry	1	*	1	*	



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	Sikkim	1	.	.	.	
32.	Tripura	1	.	1	.	
	All-India	31	367	20	696	1815

- \* SCB not started functioning.
- \* Nc Banks, SCARDB is operating with the help of its branches.
- " Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.
- \* Bihar and Jharkhand.
- Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- " Maharashtra and Goa.
- \*\*\* Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.
- \*\* Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.
- ss Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- + West Bengal and Sikkim.

SCBs - State Cooperative Banks  
DCCBs - District Central Cooperative Banks  
SCARDBs - State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks  
PCARDBs - Primary Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks  
UCBs - Urban Cooperative Banks.

#### Unsatisfactory Services in SBI

1894. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the functioning of some branches of the State Bank of India in Delhi is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been complaints regarding non-redressal of customer's grievances in prompt way;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that the functioning of branches is monitored and rated through periodical inspections. During the course of such inspections by the bank no branch in Delhi has been rated as 'not satisfactorily run'.

(c) to (e) The bank is able to ensure redressal of more than 90% complaints within the stipulated time frame of three weeks, unless the complaint requires a detailed investigation. Even in such cases the investigation is completed in a time bound manner and suitable action is taken.

To improve customer service, steps taken by the bank, *inter-alia*, include, setting up of suitable grievance redressal mechanisms at all branches/Controlling Offices to ensure prompt redressal of complaints. Customer Service at branches is regularly reviewed by the Branch Manager/Controllers and suitable steps are taken to remove deficiencies, if any. Customer Relations Programmes and Customer Service Committee Meetings are held at stipulated intervals at branches, etc. where customer grievances and ways to improve customer services are discussed.

#### Expansion of Security Printing Presses

1895. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets and turnover of various units of Security Printing Presses during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government proposes for expansion of Security Printing Presses operation across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of funds allocated for the said purpose during the current financial year to various security printing presses in the country;

(e) whether the Government proposes to explore new business opportunities in the areas like printing of national Identity Cards and Smart Cards etc. in Security Printing Presses; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The targets and turnover in financial terms of the two Security Printing Presses during last two years are as under:

Name of the Unit	Financial year	Target (Rs. in Crores)	Turnover (Rs. in Crores)
India Security Press	2005-06	275.00	241.86
Nashik	2006-07	387.00	312.40
Security Printing Press	2005-06	57.16	43.06
Hyderabad	2006-07	54.19	62.79

(b) No, sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Since both the Security Printing Presses at Nashik and Hyderabad are presently under the administrative control of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited, the Corporation is competent to explore new business opportunities.

[Translation]

#### **Solar Energy**

1896. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:  
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the utilisation of solar energy in the country continues to remain low and is underutilized as compared to its full potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the kind of subsidies offered to popularize solar power in the country; and

(c) the other effective measures being taken by the Government to popularize solar energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Solar energy can be harnessed through two routes, namely solar photovoltaic and solar thermal, by direct conversion to electricity and heat energy respectively. The utilization of solar energy in the country is regularly increasing, however, the high initial cost of the solar energy systems is a barrier in its large-scale utilization.

(b) The initial cost of solar energy systems is high compared to the cost of conventional energy systems because of use of expensive materials, processes of manufacturing and some of the components being imported, etc. However, the operation and maintenance cost of these systems is low as these do not require any fuel to run. The Government is supporting research and development projects to reduce the cost of these systems.

The Government is implementing several schemes to promote use of solar energy systems by providing

Central Financial Assistance. The details of the Central Financial Assistance being provided for various solar energy systems under different schemes is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Government has undertaken a massive publicity and awareness campaign on renewable energy

including solar energy through electronic and print media; by organizing exhibitions at national, regional and local levels; observing Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Divas on 20th August throughout the country, establishing District Advisory Committees for renewable energy at district level and renewable energy clubs in large number of AICTE approved engineering colleges.

### **Statement**

#### *Details of Central Financial Assistance Under Solar Energy Programmes*

S. No.	Programmes/Sector	Central Financial Assistance (CFA)
1	2	3
1.	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV)	
	Solar lanterns	Rs. 2,400 for un-electrified villages and hamlets in special category states; nil for other states 100% CFA for girl child from BPL family studying in class IX-XII and residing in the un-electrified villages and hamlets in special category states
	Solar home lighting systems	Rs. 4500 to 8,660 for special category states Rs. 2500 to 4,800 for other states depending on models
	SPV street lighting systems	Rs. 17,300 for special category states Rs. 9,600 for other states
	SPV standalone power plant of capacity > 1 kWp	Rs. 2,25,000/kWp for special category states Rs. 1,25,000/kWp for other states
	SPV standalone power plant of Capacity > 10 kWp	Rs. 2,70,000/kWp for special category states Rs. 1,50,000/kWp for other states
2.	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) applications in Urban Areas:	
	Solar streetlight control system	25% of cost subject to a max. of Rs. 5000/-
	Solar street/public garden lights (74/75 Wp modules)	50% of cost subject to a max. of Rs. 10,000/- & Rs. 12,000/- for 11W and 18 W CFL respectively
	SPV illuminated hoardings (with maximum 1kWp SPV module for illuminating a min of 2 sq.m area)	50% cost subject to a max. of Rs. 15,000/100 Wp module
	Solar road studs	50% of cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 1000/-
	Solar blinkers (minimum 37 Wp module)	50% of cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 7,500/-
	Solar traffic signals (minimum 500 Wp module)	50% of cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakh
	BIPV Systems (max 5 kWp modules)	50% of cost subject to a maximum Rs. 2.00 lakh per kWp
	SPV power packs (maximum 1 kWp module)	50% of cost subject to a maximum Rs. 1.00 lakh per kWp

1	2	3
3.	SPV water pumping systems	Rs. 30/ Wp of SPV array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000 per system.
4.	Solar Water Heating Systems (SWHS)/other Solar Thermal systems	<p><i>Solar Water Heating systems.</i></p> <p>Subsidized Loan @ 2% to domestic users, 3% to institutions and 5% to commercial and industrial users plus Rs. 100/ square meter of collector area as incentive to motivators.</p> <p><i>Solar Air Heating/Steam Generating Systems.</i> Capital subsidy @ 35% — 50% of the cost subject to Rs. 3500—Rs. 5000 per sq. m.</p> <p><i>Dish/Community type solar cookers.</i> 30% of cost limited to Rs. 1,500 for dish type cookers and Rs. 15,000 for Scheffler/ community type cooker.</p>
5.	Akshay Urja Shope	Subsidized loan @ 7%, max 85% of the cost of the shop subject to maximum of Rs. 10 lakh Monthly recurring grant for two years & incentive for two years up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 per month each to be paid through state nodal agencies
6.	Solar Building	<p>50% of the cost for preparation of Detailed Project report, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs per building</p> <p>10% of the cost of solar building, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs per building</p>

*[English]*

**Investment on Power Projects in  
North East States**

1897. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to invest Rs. 50,000 crore in North East region of the country to add 5,600 MW power during the Eleventh Plan period as reported in the *Business Line* dated August 1, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government proposes to prepare a power policy for North East Region of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The 11th Plan is yet to be finalized by the Planning Commission. However, a capacity addition of 78,755 MW has been tentatively envisaged during the 11th Plan. Out of this, 5,615 MW is expected to be developed in the North Eastern Region (including Sikkim). This comprises of 4,055 MW of Hydro Power and 1,560 MW of Thermal Power. An estimated investment for development of 5,615 MW of generating capacity would be around Rs. 28,000 crores. A matching investment is expected to ensue for strengthening/developing the corresponding transmission and distribution networks.

(d) and (e) At present there is no separate power policy for North Eastern Region of the country. However, Government of India had announced in August 1998, a policy on hydro power development incorporating several steps and measures. The hydro Policy among others lays emphasis on basin wise development, evolving consensus on inter state issues, mitigation of geological risks, simplified procedure for transfer of clearances, promoting joint venture arrangements etc. Subsequently, National Electricity Policy was announced by Government in February, 2005, which, among others, lays emphasis on harnessing hydro potential speedily to facilitate economic development of States, particularly North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **Drinking Water Facilities**

1898. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received applications from State Governments and other various developmental agencies in regard to providing drinking water facilities to uncovered districts in different States;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received by the Government for this purpose during the year 2006-2007 and number out of them sanctioned and amount allocated, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to accept direct

proposal at the district level and allocate funds to District Magistrate keeping in view the procedural delay in clearance of the proposal;

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

(e) the steps taken or being taken by Government for speedy clearance of the proposals submitted by State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As drinking water supply is a State subject, no projects are currently received by the centre. State Governments are responsible for providing drinking water to the rural habitations. The Government of India supplements efforts made by the States by providing financial and technical assistance under the centrally sponsored programme Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Governments are competent to plan, sanction and implement individual rural water supply projects from the funds provided by the central government under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. The amount allocated to States in 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. There is no procedural delay at the centre as the first installment amounting to 50% of the allocation is released in April without any condition except that the last installment in the previous financial year was drawn by the State/UT Government.

#### **Statement**

*Allocation under ARWSP (Normal+DDP), Swajaldhara and Water Quality during 2006-07*

(Rs in lakh)

S. No.	State/UT	ARWSP	Swajaldhara	Water Quality
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20084.08	2880.00	3412.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10299.00	597.00	68.00
3.	Assam	17369.00	1004.00	4422.00
4.	Bihar	18571.00	2434.00	7941.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	6549.00	858.00	1327.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	253.00	33.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	13161.56	1838.00	5838.00
8.	Haryana	6045.63	596.00	298.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9706.86	1420.64	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	26324.79	3429.00	28.00
11.	Jharkhand	7261.00	310.96	2101.00
12.	Karnataka	19502.40	2005.00	12536.00
13.	Kerala	6216.00	914.00	311.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18797.00	2463.00	6023.00
15.	Maharashtra	36152.00	4737.00	7634.00
16.	Manipur	3379.00	205.00	4.00
17.	Meghalaya	4073.00	234.00	15.00
18.	Mizoram	2920.00	168.00	3.00
19.	Nagaland	2998.00	173.00	16.00
20.	Orissa	10332.00	1354.00	8516.00
21.	Punjab	4098.00	537.00	2036.00
22.	Rajasthan	41489.68	3884.00	20663.00
23.	Sikkim	1229.00	72.00	9.00
24.	Tamilnadu	12057.00	1772.00	1063.00
25.	Tripura	3613.00	207.00	461.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	27990.00	4114.00	5013.00
27.	Uttaranchal	7523.00	986.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	15806.00	2071.00	14200.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32.73	27.00	6.00
30.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	5.92	17.00	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu	13.53		0.00
32.	Delhi	0.00	13.00	0.00
33.	Lakshadweep	3.64		0.00
34.	Pondicherry	38.72	13.00	53.00
35.	Chandigarh	5.46		0.00
Total		353900.00	41366.60	103998.00

*[Translation]***Electrification of Villages**

1899. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme for the electrification of villages located in remote rural and forests areas through New and Renewable energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages that have been electrified during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(d) the number of unelectrified villages in each State; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to electrify all such villages in the country through New and Renewable energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing the Remote Village Electrification Programme for providing financial support for electrification of those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of

electrified census villages which are located in remote rural areas including forest areas and where grid-extension is either not feasible or not cost effective. Such villages are electrified using renewable energy sources such as small hydro, biomass/biofuel, solar photovoltaic etc., depending upon their availability. Central Financial Assistance of up to 90% of the cost of the systems, subject to pre-specified maximum amounts, is provided for approved projects.

(c) The State-wise details of remote villages and hamlets covered under the Programme during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) The State-wise details of unelectrified villages are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) The Government is implementing Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana since April, 2005 which aims to electrify all villages by 2009. All those remote villages where grid-extension is either not feasible or not cost effective will be covered under the Remote Village Electrification Programme of this Ministry. The task of identification of such villages has been entrusted to the Rural Electrification Corporation. The state governments then submit proposals to the Ministry for taking up such remote villages and hamlets for electrification. The Ministry has so far provided support for 2350 such villages and hamlets.

**Statement I*****State-Wise Details of Villages and Hamlets Covered Under RVE Programme During the Last Three Years***

(As on 31.7.2007)

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (as on 31.7.2007)
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	40	50	66
Assam	0	0	16
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0
Gujarat	0	0	36
Haryana	0	45	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0

1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	0	27	0
Jharkhand	29	234	61
Karnataka	0	0	16
Kerala	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	30	0
Maharashtra	0	110	10
Manipur	3	25	0
Meghalaya	1	0	0
Mizoram	7	13	0
Nagaland	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0
Rajasthan	0	129	89
Sikkim	0	13	0
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
Tripura	0	205	0
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	20
Uttarakhand	164	1	0
West Bengal	49	135	0

**Statement II***State-Wise Details of Number of Unelectrified Villages*

State	No. of Unelectrified Villages as on 30.6.2007
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	0
Arunachal Pradesh	1668
Assam	5383
Bihar	18395
Chhattisgarh	3270

1	2
Delhi	0
Goa	0
Gujarat	158
Haryana	0
Himachal Pradesh	328
Jammu and Kashmir	113
Jharkhand	20235
Karnataka	356
Kerala	0



1	2
Madhya Pradesh	1904
Maharashtra	5085
Manipur	362
Meghalaya	2354
Mizoram	137
Nagaland	455
Orissa	20994
Punjab	0
Rajasthan	12990
Sikkim	25
Tamil Nadu	0
Tripura	367
Uttar Pradesh	12693
Uttarakhand	910
West Bengal	2739

*[English]***Rural Electrification by NTPC**

1900. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has taken up electrification of remote villages under the mission "Rural Electrification Supply Technology" based on renewable energy sources in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inaccessible and remote tribal villages in Karnataka would also be covered under the mission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has taken up implementation of 17 Distributed Generation (DG) Projects for

electrification of remote villages through renewable energy sources. Projects have been taken up with 90% financial grant from Ministry of Power for 14 projects which are pilot projects, from Ministry of Science & Technology for two projects and from Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. for one project. Balance 10% funding is from NTPC-Foundation which is set up by NTPC to address niche domains of socio-economic initiatives. Eight (8) DG projects have been commissioned so far and nine (9) are expected to be commissioned during this financial year 2007-08.

**Projects commissioned**

States	No. of DG Projects
Uttar Pradesh	03
Rajasthan	01
Chhattisgarh	04

**Projects under Implementation**

States	No. of DG Projects
Uttar Pradesh	03
Madhya Pradesh	05
Chhattisgarh	01

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

*[Translation]***Default in Payment of Annual Listing fee by Trading Companies**

1901. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has taken any steps to suspend the trading of the companies which have not paid annual listing fee;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

The Bombay Stock Exchange Limited has informed that it has suspended 20 and 41 companies respectively, for failure to pay listing fees for years 2005-06 and 2006-07. It suspends a company following the due procedure if the latter fails to pay the annual listing fee as per the listing agreement.

*[English]*

#### **Implementation of Swajaldhara Scheme in Gujarat**

1902. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal of financial assistance to cover all villages under Swajaldhara Scheme from the State Government of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) No proposal from Gujarat Government for implementation of Swajaldhara Scheme in all the districts has been received. However, a proposal for covering villages in 13 districts of the State under Swajaldhara Scheme was received.

A decision to discontinue Swajaldhara in its present form has been taken on the basis of recommendations of Annual All India State Ministers' Conference held in January 2006. In this conference various State Ministers made a recommendation and raised practical difficulties regarding compulsory community contribution in implementing the programme. However, the principles of Swajaldhara have been accepted by Government of India, with the change only in the pattern of funding from Government of India to States from 90:10 central: community share to 50:50 share. The States can institutionalize and encourage community contribution as per local conditions as percentage component of their share.

*[Translation]*

#### **Monitoring Mechanism in Banks**

1903. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monitoring mechanism on the functioning of banks has been established;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its aims;

(c) the names of the banks whose functioning has not been found satisfactory by this mechanism;

(d) the details of the action taken by the Government against the said banks; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has put in place a mechanism to monitor the overall performance of all Public Sector Banks (PSBs) on the basis of the 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals (SOI)' submitted by them on various performance parameters including deposits, advances, non-performing assets (NPAs), cost to income ratio, return on assets (ROA), profit, etc.

(c) to (e) The mechanism of SOI is not a fault finding exercise, but is aimed to motivate, guide and encourage the PSBs in improving upon their performance. The performance of each public sector bank vis-a-vis the annual goals outlined in its SOI is reviewed on a periodic basis and appropriate directions are issued to the banks, wherever required.

#### **Delay in Implementation of PMGSY**

1904. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in its sixth and seventh phases in many States whereas it has not completed even its third phase in Jharkhand;

(b) the reasons for the delay in the implementation of this scheme in Jharkhand; and

(c) the time by which the progress of this scheme in Jharkhand is likely to match the progress made in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), project proposals from Phase I to Phase IV have been sanctioned for Jharkhand. For some of the States, sixth and seventh phase proposals have also been sanctioned. The projects are at various stages of implementation.

(b) and (c) Rural Roads being a State subject, projects are executed by the State Government through their agencies. Some of the major constraints affecting the pace of implementation of PMGSY in Jharkhand are administrative delays including late award of projects; inadequate capacity of the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) and lack of dedicated Units; inadequate contracting capacity and security related problems. The State Government is required to take steps to accelerate the pace by strengthening State Rural Roads Development Agency and the Programme Implementing Units.

[English]

#### Grant of Housing Loans to the Rural Poor

1905. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks are not granting housing loans to the rural poor people even after they prove their credit worthiness;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to extend housing loans to the rural poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per information available from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the outstanding credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks for rural housing for the last three years is as under :

2004	2005	2006
771209	1302421	1821336

It would be observed that there has been a year on year increase of housing loans outstanding in rural areas.

(c) In order to ensure that banks extend credit for home loan in rural areas following steps are taken:

(i) The Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme was introduced for the easy flow of institutional credit for housing in rural areas.

(ii) Loans up to Rs. 5 Lakhs to individuals for acquiring or constructing new dwelling units and up to Rs. 50,000/- for upgradation or major repairs to the existing units in rural areas are given under the Special Rural Housing Scheme of National Housing Bank.

(iii) Banks have been advised that while fixing the repayment schedule in case of rural housing advances granted to agriculturists under Indira Awas Yojana and Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme, banks may ensure that the interest/installment payable on such advances are linked to crop cycles.

(iv) Housing loans upto Rs. 20,000/- per eligible beneficiary are granted under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme at 4 percent interest.

#### Projects under SGSY

1906. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects submitted by the Governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh under Swarn-Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) whether these projects have been sanctioned;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to enhance allocation keeping in view number of BPL families; and

(f) so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Since

inception of the scheme i.e. 1.4.1999, 58 special project proposals under Swaranjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) in the State of Rajasthan have been received of which 21 projects have been sanctioned for implementation in the State. Similarly, 69 special project proposals under SGSY in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been received of which 21 projects have been sanctioned for implementation in the State. Special project proposals under SGSY received from the State Governments and other sponsoring agencies are processed as per guidelines of Special Projects under SGSY, through a two-tier Inter Ministerial Project Screening/Approval Committee mechanism and only those projects which are considered suitable and viable models by the Inter Ministerial Committees are sanctioned for implementation. Receipt of project proposals, their revision by the sponsoring State Governments and their appraisal and approval through the above two tier Inter Ministerial Committees is a continuous process.

(e) and (f) As per existing guidelines of SGSY, 15% of annual allocation of funds for SGSY is set apart for funding special projects and this is not determined or dependent on the number of BPL families.

*[Translation]*

#### **Repayment of Loan by Farmers**

1907. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed against the farmers for not paying Bank Loans during the last two years, bank-wise;

(b) the amount of loan for which the said cases have been filed along with the details thereof, Bank-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of farmers sent to jail for not repaying the said loans along with the number of farmers whose land have been attached in this regard, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for not waiving of the loans of farmers up to the amount of rupees ten thousand; and

(e) the rules regarding waiving of the loans of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The Data Reporting System does not generate information in the manner asked for. As regards waiver of loans, Government does not favour 'across the board' waiver of loans as it vitiates recovery and credit culture.

However, the Farm Credit Package announced by Government on 18.06.2004 for doubling the flow of agricultural credit, *inter-alia*, includes debt relief to farmers by way of rescheduling of loans with a moratorium period and "One Time Settlement Scheme" for small and marginal farmers. The farmers availing the benefit of this debt relief scheme became eligible for fresh loans from the banks.

Further, in 31 debt stressed districts in the four States of Maharashtra (06), Andhra Pradesh (16), Karnataka (06) and Kerala (03), a relief package was announced for farmers by the Government. It provides for waiver of the entire interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006 such that all farmers have no past interest burden as on that date. It also provides for rescheduling of the overdue loans of the farmers as on 01.07.2006 over a period of 3-5 years with a one year moratorium.

The Government has released Rs. 1359.13 crore as its 50% share towards interest waiver for 31 districts during 2006-07.

*[English]*

#### **Online Trading Frauds**

1908. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of online trading frauds took place during the last three years;

(b) whether National Stock Exchange has recently come up with a plan to trace online trading frauds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether due to various frauds in stock exchanges, the investors are being cheated; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure transparency in the functioning of various stock exchanges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSEIL) has received 16 complaints from the investors relating to misuse of user-id and password in respect of internet trading during the last three years. The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has not received any such complaint.

(b) and (c) In order to strengthen security and access controls at broker's end in respect of internet trading, NSEIL has stipulated a compulsory system audit by Certified Information Systems Auditor. It has also specified minimum safety standards which the software facilitating internet based trading should provide.

(d) There are mechanisms in place to deal with misuse of user-id and password or any other kind of cheating.

(e) SEBI has prescribed minimum conditions to be ensured by the stock exchanges and the system requirements to be put in place before granting approval to the brokers to start internet trading.

#### **Basic Services to Urban Poor**

1909. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned under sub

mission II for the Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP), city-wise;

(b) the details of the services which are being provided under the projects;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for completion of projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the projects are achieving the targets fixed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The city-wise details of projects sanctioned under Sub-Mission II Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Basic services like housing, water supply, sewerage, drainage, community toilets/baths, etc. are being provided under the projects.

(c) and (d) After approval of projects, generally 2 to 3 years time limit has been fixed for completion depending upon the nature of the project.

(e) and (f) It is expected that the projects will achieve the intended targets on time.

#### **Statement**

##### ***JNNURM-Basic Service to the Urban Poor (Sub Mission II) Project Approved (City-wise)***

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Name of Mission Cities	Number of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total no. of new Dwelling Units Approved (In Situ)	Total no. of DUs approved Under (Relocation)	Total No. of DUs approved for up-gradation	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved (In Situ+ Up-gradation)	Total Central Share Approved	Total State Share Approved	Est Installment (25% of Central Share)	Total ACA Released by MoFinance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	5	823.0	13441	35559	0	49000	311.95	311.95	77.99	77.99
		Vijayawada	4	348.86	0	15000	0	15000	173.12	175.74	43.28	43.28
		Vishakhapatnam	7	416.06	15320	0	0	15320	206.13	209.93	51.53	51.53
		Sub-total	16	1388.82	28761	50559	0	79320	691.20	697.62	172.80	172.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	2	564.94	0	25728	0	25728	396.13	168.81	99.03	0.00
		Sub Total	2	564.94	0	25728	0	25728	396.13	168.81	99.03	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	4	391.45	27976	0	0	27976	312.18	79.26	78.05	78.05
		Sub Total	4	391.45	27976	0	0	27976	312.18	79.26	78.05	78.05
4.	Delhi	Delhi	3	617.28	0	27980	0	27980	268.23	349.05	67.06	0.00
		Sub Total	3	617.28	0	27980	0	27980	268.23	349.05	67.06	0.00
5.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	3	523.95	0	32640	0	32640	254.28	269.68	63.59	63.59
		Surat	5	381.80	0	30128	0	30128	183.98	197.61	46.07	46.07
		Vadodara	1	88.61	0	6668	0	6668	42.17	46.44	10.54	10.54
		Sub Total	10	994.16	0	69436	0	69436	480.43	513.73	120.20	120.20
6.	Haryana	Faridabad	2	64.23	3248	0	0	3248	31.18	33.05	7.79	7.79
		Sub Total	2	64.23	3248	0	0	3248	31.18	33.05	7.79	7.79
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	1	9.99	252	0	0	252	7.05	2.94	1.76	1.76
		Sub Total	1	9.99	252	0	0	252	7.05	2.94	1.76	1.76
8.	Karnataka	Bangalore	4	249.78	13407	0	0	13407	117.93	131.85	29.48	29.48
		Mysore	1	45.28	2788	0	0	2788	33.13	12.15	8.28	8.28
		Sub Total	5	295.06	16195	0	0	16195	151.06	144.00	37.76	37.76
9.	Kerala	Kochi	1	28.61	1531	197	0	1728	13.31	13.31	3.33	3.33
		Thiruvananthapuram	2	42.59	913	2107	0	3020	33.86	8.73	8.52	8.52
		Sub Total	3	69.20	2444	2304	0	4748	47.17	22.03	11.84	11.84
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	12	341.01	12688	5764	0	18452	163.51	177.50	40.88	40.88
		Indore	2	74.73	4132	885	0	5017	36.20	38.53	9.05	9.05
		Jabalpur	4	87.53	4434	4134	0	8568	43.69	43.84	10.92	10.92
		Sub Total	18	503.27	21254	10783	0	32037	243.41	259.86	60.85	60.85
11.	Maharashtra	Greater Mumbai	5	1648.08	23026	23011	0	46037	673.24	974.83	168.31	168.31
		Nagpur	3	219.57	5121	0	0	5121	84.10	135.48	21.02	21.02
		Nashik	8	334.25	16000	0	0	16000	150.82	183.44	37.70	37.71
		Nanded	1	87.06	4132	0	0	4132	66.33	20.73	16.58	16.58
		Pune	15	766.67	29288	0	0	29288	362.08	404.59	90.52	90.52
		Sub-total	32	3055.83	77567	23011	0	100578	1336.57	1719.07	334.14	334.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12.	Nagaland	Kohima	1	134.50	0	3504	0	3504	105.60	28.90	26.40	26.40
		Sub-total	1	134.50	0	3504	0	3504	105.60	28.90	26.40	26.40
13.	Rajasthan	Ajmer-Pushkar	1	107.71	5337	0	0	5337	84.57	23.14	21.14	21.14
		Jaipur	1	169.43	12000	0	0	1200	84.63	84.81	21.16	21.16
		Sub-total	2	277.14	17337	0	0	17337	169.20	107.95	42.30	42.30
14.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	12	304.91	13222	0	685	13907	119.66	185.25	29.91	29.91
		Coimbatore	4	355.15	16470	0	0	16470	161.50	193.65	40.37	40.37
		Madurai	3	170.20	13644	0	0	13644	78.51	91.69	19.63	19.63
		Sub-total	19	830.26	43336	0	685	44021	35.67	470.59	89.92	89.92
15.	Tripura	Agartala	1	16.73	256	0	0	256	13.96	2.77	3.49	3.49
		Sub-total	1	16.73	256	0	0	256	13.96	2.77	3.49	3.49
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	1	3.34	264	0	0	264	1.52	1.82	0.38	0.38
		Lucknow	1	32.53	1632	0	0	1632	14.78	17.74	3.70	3.70
		Mathura	1	4.58	240	0	0	240	3.33	1.25	0.83	0.83
		Meerut	1	32.84	2000	0	0	2000	14.93	17.91	3.73	3.73
		Kanpur	1	8.85	544	0	0	544	4.02	4.83	1.01	1.01
		Sub-total	5	82.13	4680	0	0	4680	38.58	43.55	9.64	9.64
17.	West Bengal	Kolkata	41	925.19	46781	3136	0	49917	435.73	489.46	108.93	108.96
		Asansol	4	244.31	6395	4000	0	10395	120.81	123.50	30.20	30.21
		Sub-total	45	1169.50	53176	7136	0	60312	556.54	612.96	139.14	137.17
Total for Mission Period		38 Cities	169	10484.29	296482	220441	685	517608	5208.16	5256.13	1302.18	1134.13

*[Translation]*

(b) if so, the details thereof;

**Foreign Funds for Research Programme**

(c) the terms and conditions for releasing such foreign fund; and

1910. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(d) the areas of research for which said foreign fund has been utilised?

(a) whether the Government has received foreign funds for conducting research programme in the country during the last three years;

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir. Ministry of Science and Technology

and Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India has not received foreign funds for conducting research programme in the country during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Does to arise.

[English]

#### **Credit for Agriculture Sector**

1911. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set disbursement targets for Public Sector Banks for production and investment in the farm sector, during the last two years;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure credit disbursement for agriculture purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) On 18th June, 2004, the Government announced a package for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities in a period of three years i.e. from 2004-05 to 2006-07. Although no specific target was set for the Public Sector Banks, the details of target for agricultural credit flow by all banks during 2005-06 to 2007-08 is as follows-

Year	Target
2005-06	1,41,000
2006-07	1,75,000
2007-08	2,25,000

(c) The Government: has taken the following steps to ensure credit disbursement for agriculture purposes:

- > Short Term crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh is being disbursed @ 7% per annum at the ground level.
- > Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have been advised to finance 50 lakhs new farmers during each of the last three years.
- > The Banks have been advised to simplify the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans.
- > Loans upto Rs. 50,000/- have been made collateral and margin free. Besides, no 'No Dues Certificate' is required for such amount of loan.

#### **New Credit Policy of RBI**

1912. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has a new Credit Policy announced recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued its Annual Policy Statement for the Year 2007-08 on April 24, 2007 and has carried out the First Quarter Review of the Annual Statement on Monetary Policy on July 31, 2007. The details of the Annual Policy Statement and the First Quarter Review are available on the RBI web-site at [www.rbi.org.in](http://www.rbi.org.in). The overall stance of the monetary policy in the period ahead will broadly continue to be:

- To reinforce the emphasis on price stability and well-anchored inflation expectations while ensuring a monetary and interest rate environment that supports export and investment demand in the economy so as to enable continuation of the growth momentum;
- To re-emphasize credit quality and orderly conditions in financial markets for securing macro-economic and, in particular, financial stability while simultaneously pursuing greater credit penetration and financial inclusion;
- To respond swiftly with all possible measures as appropriate to the evolving global and domestic situation impinging on inflation expectations, financial stability and the growth momentum.

[Translation]

#### **Construction of Embassy Building in Dwarka, Delhi**

1913. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:



(a) whether certain countries have been allotted land in Dwarka for construction of embassy buildings due to shortage of land in Chankyapuri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

#### Power Tariff

1914. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for high power tariff in the country;

(b) whether tariff fixation has any bearing of World Bank policies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has any record available regarding power tariff in advanced countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Determination of power tariffs to be charged by the distribution licensees is the statutory function of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). In doing so SERCs are guided by the provisions contained in the Electricity Act 2003 which *inter alia*, include the factors that would encourage competition efficiency economical use of resources safeguarding of consumers interests and at the same time ensure recovery of cost of electricity in a reasonable manner, reduction of cross subsidies the National Electricity Policy and the Tariff Policy. The SERC is required to determine tariff in a transparent way after hearing various stakeholders.

The cost of power to a consumer includes the overall bulk power purchase cost as well as transmission cost and the operational and financial performance of the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) i.e. Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, operational expenses, capital investment for system upgradation/augmentation, consumer profile, subsidy and cross subsidy etc. Accordingly, the tariffs vary between different DISCOM areas and also between different categories of the consumers, even within the same DISCOM area.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) As per the statistics published by the International Energy Agency, in the year 2006, the retail prices of electricity for industrial and household consumers in USA, Japan, China (Taipei), France and United Kingdom (UK) were as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Country	Industrial Consumers		Household Consumers	
		Price in US \$/kWh	Price in Rs./kWh*	Price in US \$/kWh	Price in Rs./kWh*
1.	USA	0.0549	2.25	0.0961	3.94
2.	Japan	0.1272	5.21	0.1963	8.05
3.	China (Taipei)	0.0512	2.10	0.0690	2.83
4.	France	0.0483	1.98	0.1365	5.59
5.	UK	0.1003	4.11	0.1580	6.47

\* Above conversion for comparison purposes has been done using an exchange rate of 1 US\$ = Rs. 41.00.

**Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation Centres**

1915. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation Centres in High Courts across the country to reduce the pendency in country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**IT Raids**

1916. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax raids have been conducted in Kanyakumari District;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Searches in eight groups were conducted in Kanyakumari District since April, 2002.

(b) Searches resulted into seizure of assets and books of accounts.

(c) Statutory action as per the I.T. Act has been undertaken for assessment of income of these groups of cases.

[Translation]

**Opening of Branches of Banks in Minority Dominated Districts**

1917. SHRI KIREN RIJU:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to open the branches of banks in minority dominated districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the minority dominated districts have been identified for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the decision taken in the meeting of the Union Finance Minister with the Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks (PSBs)/Financial Institutions on 19.4.2007, all PSBs were advised to open more branches in the identified minority concentration districts. Banks were also asked to finalize their proposals for new branches and submit to the RBI. Under the extant Branch Authorisation Policy, banks are encouraged to open branches in rural and under-banked districts, which will cover many of the minority concentrated districts. In its circular dated 16.7.2007, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a consolidated list of 121 minority concentration districts, having atleast 25% of minority population, to scheduled commercial banks specially for monitoring credit flow to the minorities.

A list of 121 Minority Concentration Districts circulated by the RBI to all the scheduled commercial banks to ensure that minority communities receive an equitable portion of credit within the overall target of the Priority Sector under the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, is given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise/District-wise list of Minority Concentrated Districts*

States/UTs	Districts
1	2
<b>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</b>	
1.	Nicobars
2.	Andamans

1	2
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	
3.	Hyderabad
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	
4.	Tawang
5.	Changlang
6.	Tirap
7.	West Kameng
8.	Param Pare
9.	Lower Subansiri
10.	East Kameng
<b>Assam</b>	
11.	Dhubri
12.	Goalpara
13.	Barpeta
14.	Hailakandi
15.	Karimganj
16.	Nagaon
17.	Marigaon
18.	Darrang
19.	Bongaigaon
20.	Cachar
21.	Kokrajhar
22.	North Cachar Hills
23.	Kamrup
<b>Bihar</b>	
24.	Kishanganj
25.	Kathiar
26.	Araria
27.	Purnia

1	2
28.	Sitamarhi
29.	Darbhanga
30.	Paschim Champaran
<b>Delhi</b>	
31.	Central
32.	North East
<b>Goa</b>	
33.	South Goa
<b>Haryana</b>	
34.	Gurgaon
35.	Sirsa
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	
36.	Lahul and Spiti
37.	Kinnaur
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>	
38.	Leh (Ladakh)
<b>Jharkhand</b>	
39.	Pakaur
40.	Sahibganj
41.	Gumla
42.	Ranchi
<b>Karnataka</b>	
43.	Dakshina Kannada
44.	Bidar
45.	Gulbarga
<b>Kerala</b>	
46.	Malappuram
47.	Emakulam
48.	Kottayam

1	2
49.	Idukki
50.	Wayanad
51.	Pathanamthitta
52.	Kozhikode
53.	Kasaragod
54.	Thrissur
55.	Kannur
56.	Kollam
57.	Thiruvananthapuram
58.	Palkkad
59.	Alappuzha
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	
60.	Bhopal
<b>Maharashtra</b>	
61.	Akola
62.	Mumbai
63.	Aurangabad
64.	Mumbai (Suburban)
65.	Amravati
66.	Buldana
67.	Parbhani
68.	Wasim
69.	Hingoli
<b>Manipur</b>	
70.	Tamenglong
71.	Ukhrul
72.	Churachandpur
73.	Chandel
74.	Senaati
75.	Thoubal

1	2
<b>Meghalaya</b>	
76.	West Garo Hills
<b>Mizoram</b>	
77.	Lawngtlai
78.	Mamit
<b>Orissa</b>	
79.	Gajapati
<b>Pondicherry</b>	
80.	Mahe
<b>Rajasthan</b>	
81.	Ganganagar
<b>Sikkim</b>	
82.	North
83.	South
84.	East
85.	West
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	
86.	Kanyakumari
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	
87.	Rampur
88.	Bijnor
89.	Moradabad
90.	Saharanpur
91.	Muzaffamagar
92.	Meerut
93.	Bahraich
94.	Balrampur
95.	Ghaziabad
96.	Pilibhit
97.	Bareilli

1	2
98.	Siddarthnagar
99.	Shrawasti
100.	Jyotiba Phule Nagar
101.	Baghpat
102.	Bulandshahar
103.	Shahjahanpur
104.	Budaun
105.	Barabanki
106.	Kheri
107.	Lucknow
<b>Uttaranchal</b>	
108.	Hardwar
109.	Udham Singh Nagar
<b>West Bengal</b>	
110.	Murshidabad
112.	Maldah
113.	Birbhum
114.	South 24-Parganas
115.	Nadia
116.	Dakshin Dinajpur

1	2
117.	Haorah
118.	North 24-Parganas
119.	Koch Bihar
120.	Kolkata
121.	Bardhaman

#### Loan to Entrepreneurs from IDBI

1918. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications of loans received by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from the entrepreneurs during the last three years;

(b) the details of the applications sanctioned during the said period; and

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to the entrepreneurs by the IDBI during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Year-wise details of applications received from entrepreneurs by IDBI for setting up industrial units, for expansion, diversification, modernization thereof, for equipment finance, short term loans etc.; number of applications sanctioned and amount disbursed during the last three years are as under:

Sl.No.	Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	No of Applications received	551	777	651
2.	No. of Applications Sanctioned	292	462	400
3.	Amount Provided (Disbursed) (Rs. Crore)	6,071	13,578	14,592

#### Land Allotted to Societies

1919. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the societies in Delhi which have been allotted land from DDA during the last three years;

(b) the terms and conditions of allotment of the land;

(c) whether the genuineness of societies have been verified by DDA at the time of allotment;

(d) whether the said societies have violated the terms and conditions;

(e) if so, the terms and conditions that have been violated and the details of any fine imposed or any action taken in this regard; and

(f) the nature of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that with effect from September 2004, it has allotted land, on lease-hold basis and on zonal variant rates, to the following societies, for religious purposes and for community hall, in Delhi:

**A. RELIGIOUS CATEGORY:**

- (i) Guru Singh Sabha
- (ii) Vishnu Dharmic Sabha
- (iii) Raj Yoga Education and Research
- (iv) Delhi Marthoma Church
- (v) Methodist Church in India
- (vi) Nanaksar That Ish Darbar

**B. COMMUNITY HALL:**

- (vii) Central Govt. Industrial Workers Cooperative House Building Society (CHBS)
- (viii) National CHBS
- (ix) Shrestra Vihar CHBS
- (x) Shyam CHBS
- (xi) Government Teachers CHBS

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) DDA has further reported that no violation of terms of allotment has been reported in the above societies.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply at (d) above.

*[English]*

**Setting Up of Separate Stock Exchange**

1920. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved in principle to set up a separate stock exchange for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rationale behind setting up of separate stock exchange for SMEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India recognises the need for a special platform for small and medium enterprises, as the existing platforms are not specifically structured keeping their needs in view. It has, however, not approved the setting up of a separate stock exchange for them.

*[Translation]*

**Increase in Working Days under NREGS**

1921. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:  
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:  
SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether migration of labourers from their villages to cities has come to the notice of the Government due to deficiencies in implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), particularly from North East States;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the number of working days from the current number of 100 days to generate additional jobs for rural families, particularly in North East States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The objective of NREG Act is to enhance the livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. However, the workers are free to take up any other form of employment besides the guaranteed employment under the Act.

**Tunnel Between Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Commonwealth Games Village**

1922. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of high powered committee set up by the Government regarding proposed tunnel to be made between Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Commonwealth Games Village has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) has not accorded its approval for this proposed tunnel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Government has not set up such a high powered committee.

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

(c) DUAC has not accorded approval for the proposed tunnel.

(d) DUAC has suggested four alternative alignments for consideration of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) at various points in time. The GNCTD considered the alternative alignments. Reply to the latest alignment suggested by DUAC has been sent by GNCTD on 16.8.2007.

**Completion of Rural Development Projects**

1923. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:  
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from North Eastern States to extend the time for completion of various projects under the Ministry of Rural Development;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to give special package to North Eastern States and other tribal dominated States particularly Jharkhand for completion of projects in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the funds are likely to be provided thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of rural development programmes in the country including the North Eastern States and Jharkhand. Some of these programmes have provisions for project based implementation mode. Wherever request for extension of time for completion of projects is received, the same is considered on case to case basis as per the guidelines. At present there is no proposal under consideration to give special package to North Eastern States and Jharkhand.

(c) and (d) The question does not arise.

*[English]*

**Duty Evasion of Foreign Companies**

1924. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign companies have evaded tax to the tune of crores of rupees as reported in the 'Navbharat Times' dated August 13, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the modus operandi adopted by the companies for tax evasion;

(c) whether the Income Tax Department has issued notices to such companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The declared income of foreign companies is subjected to scrutiny under the provisions of the Income-tax Act. As a result of such scrutiny, additions to the total income have been made in some cases of foreign companies. The additional taxes demanded and outstanding from such foreign companies, as on 31st July, 2007 is to the tune of Rs. 8,020 crore.

Additions to the total income emanate from taxability of certain incomes on the ground of there being permanent establishment, disallowances of expenses and differences with regard to the interpretation of tax treaties. Certain adjustment to the income have also been made on account of transfer pricing regulations.

(c) to (e) The Income Tax Department has issued notices in all such cases for payment of additional tax demand in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act. Appropriate action under the law is undertaken to recover the outstanding demand.

#### **Government Equity in Public Sector Banks**

1925. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of equity held by the Union in the various Public Sector Banks as on April 1, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007;

(b) whether there are plans to reduce Government holdings in different banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The details of percentage of equity held by the Central Government in various public sector banks (PSBs) as on 31st March, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 are given in the enclosed statement. Section 3(2B) (c) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80 provides that the Central Government shall, at all times, hold not less than 51% of the paid up capital consisting of equity shares of the nationalized banks. Similarly, Section 5 (2) of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 provides that the Central Government shall, at all times, hold not less than 55%, of the issued capital of the State Bank. Government does not hold any share of the Associate banks of SBI. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to sell its shares held in PSBs. However, to meet their regulatory capital requirement commensurate with increase in their asset and investment portfolios, PSBs raise equity capital, as and when required and subject to the statutory provisions, by issue of additional shares through public offerings. Though there is no reduction in amount of Government equity, raising additional equity capital by way of Initial Public Offer/Follow-on Public Offer dilutes the percentage of Government shareholding in these banks.

#### **Statement**

##### *Union Government Holdings in Public Sector Banks (Percentage-wise) For The Last 4 Years*

Bank Group	Bank Name	Government Capital (% Shareholding)			
		March 31, 2004	March 31, 2005	March 31, 2006	March 31, 2007
1	2	3	4	5	6
Nationalised Banks	Allahabad Bank	71.16	71.16	55.23	55.23
	Andhra Bank	62.50	62.50	51.55	51.55
	Bank of Baroda	66.83	66.83	53.80	53.80



1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bank of India	69.47	69.47	69.47	69.47
	Bank of Maharashtra	76.77	76.77	76.77	76.77
	Canara Bank	73.17	73.17	73.17	73.17
	Central Bank of India	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Corporation Bank	57.17	57.17	57.17	57.17
	Dena Bank	70.99	51.19	51.19	51.19
	IDBI Ltd.	—	58.48	52.75	52.71
	Indian Bank	100.00	100.00	100.00	80.00
	Indian Overseas Bank	61.23	61.23	61.23	61.23
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	66.48	66.48	51.09	51.09
	Punjab & Sind Bank	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Punjab National Bank	80.00	57.80	57.80	57.80
	Syndicate Bank	73.52	73.52	66.47	66.47
	UCO Bank	74.98	74.98	74.98	74.98
	Union Bank of India	60.85	60.85	55.43	55.43
	United Bank of India	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Vijaya Bank	53.87	53.87	53.87	53.87
SBI Group	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Bank of Hyderabad	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Bank of India	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Bank of Indore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Bank of Mysore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Bank of Patiala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Bank of Saurashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Bank of Travancore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Off-site returns (Domestic operations).

Note: RBI held 59.73% of the equity shares of SBI during all the above periods, which was transferred to Government of India on June 29, 2007.

**Smart Card Project for Poppy Cultivation**

1926. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented Smart Card Project for Poppy Cultivators in some States;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof;

(c) the details of the information contained therein;

(d) whether there is any proposal to implement Smart Card Project in other Poppy growing States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A Smart Card Project for issuing microprocessor chip based Smart Cards to opium poppy cultivators in the three poppy growing States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh was started in 2001. However, as there were some deficiencies in the hardware/software which were not resolved satisfactorily by the project implementer M/s Smart Chip Ltd., the project was not taken over by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN). Instead of correcting the deficiencies, the project implementer declared its unilateral withdrawal from the project and also withdrew supporting staff from all the locations which resulted in disruption of work. Since the project implementer also, despite reminding, did not renew the Bank Guarantee, the CBN wrote to the bank for encashment of the Bank Guarantee, on which M/s Smart Chip has obtained a stay order from the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the matter is sub-judice.

(b) The Smart Card Project was initiated with a view to digitize the entire data collection of opium poppy cultivators during the various cultivation operations such as settlement, measurement, test measurement, preliminary weighment register (PWR) checks, uprooting and weighment as well as compilation of the data and generation of reports through the use of dedicated software.

(c) The Smart Card System contains the essential information of the poppy cultivators such as name, village, area licensed, area harvested, opium yield, average yield of the village, name of the Lambardar, cultivators previous

years' yield and number of cultivators in the village, Range, Division and Unit level.

(d) and (e) The Smart Card Project was proposed to be implemented in all the three opium growing States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. However the project was not taken over in view of the position as explained in (a) above and the matter is sub-judice.

**Pending Cases of Excise Duty Evasion**

1927. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of central excise assessment cases involving high amount concerning multinational companies are pending finalization for more than two years;

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

(c) the steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether establishments have been instructed to finalize provisional assessment cases involving substantial revenue on priority basis;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of central excise pending against M/s. ITC Ltd. and its subsidiary companies with year of pendency and measures taken to recover the amount?

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

*[Translation]*

**Disbursing of Loan by Cooperative Banks**

1928. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans disbursed by cooperative banks and nationalised banks in agriculture sector during the last three years;

(b) the rate of interest of the said loans;

(c) whether Government proposes to reduce the rate of interest on loans for agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The details of loans disbursed by Cooperative Banks (CBs) and Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in agriculture sector during the last three years is as follows :

Agency	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
CBs	31,231	39,404	42,480	13,160
PSBs	65,218	94,278	1,14,478	24,020

\*Upto 30 June, 2007 (figures provisional).

To reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs. 1,00,000/- was credited to their account. From Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to Cooperative Banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

#### **Kota Thermal Power Plant**

1929. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present power generation capacity of Kota Thermal Power plant in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government proposes to expand its power generation capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with estimated amount to be spent thereon; and

(d) the expected power generation capacity likely to be increased after the expansion of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The present power generation capacity of Kota Thermal Power Plant in Rajasthan is 1045 MW.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The power generation capacity of Kota Thermal Power Station is proposed to be expanded by adding one Unit of 195 MW capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 880 Crores. The order for the main plant has been placed on M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) by M/s. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited on 30.06.2006. The environment clearance has also been received on 7.02.2006. The coal linkage is also available from M/s. South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) for 0.9 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

[English]

#### **Communication and Capacity Development under TSC**

1930. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from Government of Karnataka to set up a Communication and Development Unit under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal received from Government of Karnataka to establish a Communication and Capacity Development Unit (CCDU) has been approved. An amount of Rs. 277.86 lakh has been released till now, to Karnataka for this purpose.

#### **Policy Guidelines for Micro Finance Institutions**

1931. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate policy guidelines to strengthen and regulate the funding of micro finance institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced a bill in Lok Sabha on 20.03.2007 "The Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007" to create environment friendly policy for micro-finance services in the country. The bill is intended to provide a formal statutory framework for the promotion, development and regulation of the micro finance sector. The salient features of this bill are as follows :

- (i) entrusts the function of development and regulation of the micro financial sector to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (National Bank);
- (ii) defines the various entities engaged in the activity of micro finance such as Cooperative Societies, etc.;
- (iii) defines various categories of beneficiaries of micro financial services as eligible clients including Self help Groups (SHGs) or joint liability groups of such eligible clients;
- (iv) provides for acceptance of thrift i.e. savings of eligible clients other than in the form of current account or demand deposit account by Micro Finance Organisations registered by the National Bank, subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed;
- (v) provides for registration of Micro Finance Organisations that undertake thrift;
- (vi) provides for creation of a reserve fund and maintenance of accounts and submission of periodical returns by Micro Finance Organisations;
- (vii) provides for functions and powers of the National Bank in relation to thrift services and micro financial services;
- (viii) empowers the National Bank to frame a scheme for appointment of one or more Micro Finance Ombudsman for settlement of disputes between eligible clients and Micro Finance Organisations;
- (ix) empowers the National Bank to make regulations with the previous approval of the Central Government for carrying out the purposes of the legislation.

#### **Setting Up of National Institute of Bio-technology and Nano Technology**

1932. SHRI K. C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up National Institute of Bio-technology and National Institute of Nano technology in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, in some parts of the country. However, there is no proposal from Tamil Nadu to set up National Institute of Bio-technology and National Institute for Nanotechnology.

(b) and (c) (i) UNESCO regional centre for education, training and innovation shall be established by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology at Faridabad by the year 2008.

(ii) The Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Trivandrum has been taken over as a DBT's autonomous institute with effect from 1st April 2007.

#### **Geo Thermal Energy**

1933. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item "Race to centre of the Earth to harness energy" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated August 6, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The news item 'Race to centre of the Earth to harness energy' published in the *Times of India* dated 6th August 2007, pertains to

deep drilling of the earth's crust to tap its inner heat by **Ms. Geopower Basel** for power production in Switzerland.

(c) The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy is implementing a programme for promoting the use of geo-thermal energy in the country, both for power generation and direct heat applications. Under this on-going programme, resource assessment for geo-thermal energy at different potential sites has been carried out. However, no deep drilling has been done so far for exploiting the geo-thermal energy for power generation.

#### **Cases Related to MRTTP**

1934. **SHRI RANEN BARMAN**: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) do not keep account of cases related to monopolies and restrictive trade practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (**SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA**): (a) to (c) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission does maintain a register to keep account of cases relating to monopolies and restrictive trade practices.

#### **Package for H.P.**

1935. **PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL**: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special Development Initiative for Himachal Pradesh has been announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount under this package as on date; and

(d) the status of action taken by the Government till date?

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

(b) As per the enclosed statement-I.

(c) As per the enclosed statement-II.

(d) As per the enclosed statement-III.

#### **Statement I**

During the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to Himachal Pradesh on 28th May 2005, State Government had submitted a memorandum containing various developmental issues to the Prime Minister of India. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, in a press conference held at Shimla on 28th May, 2005 indicated his reactions to the demands put forward by the State Government. The reaction of the Prime Minister basically comprised of a "Special Development Initiative" for Himachal Pradesh towards strengthening the basic developmental infrastructure, improving the quality of life and helping the State Government to deal with the acute debt burden. The sector-wise latest status of implementation on the issues raised by Government of Himachal Pradesh, central assistance received and the Prime Minister's reactions is as under:

#### **A. Railway**

1. Bhanupalli to Bilaspur (110 Kms)-will take it up with Railways.
2. Nangal to Talwara—Construction will be speeded up and completed by 2008.
3. Chandigarh-Baddi—Survey will be completed by December, 2005.

#### **B. HRD**

1. Grant for Infrastructure Upgradation of 3 Universities—Rs. 20 crores will be provided for this purpose.

#### **C. Drinking Water**

- Special Project will be taken up under Bharat Nirman to achieve Universal Coverage by 2007 to cover 6,000 partially covered habitations.
- Will cost approx. Rs. 500 Crore.

#### **D. Road Connectivity**

- Special Assistance of Rs. 200 crore will be provided under PMGSY to cover 410 panchayats of approx. 250 populations.

**E. Airports**

- 1 Kangra Airport—Extension of runway by 400 ft. will accommodate 45 seater ART aircraft.
  2. Kullu Airport—Runway being extended. Communication equipment will be installed.
- All possible assistance will be given for promotion of tourism.

**F. Plan**

- Special Plan Assistance of Rs. 400 crore for 2005-06 will be untied.

**G. Power**

- Himachal Pradesh's equity in NHPC projects can be enhanced from 25% to 30%. This will increase benefits to the State.

**H. Financial Restructuring**

- HP will be supported with a structural Adjustment Facility loan to reduce its debt.

**I. Irrigation**

- If the State sends proposals for gravity irrigation in remote areas, Government of India will examine this favourably.

**Statement-II***Funds released by the Government of India under PM Package*

Sl.No.	Component of the SDI	Financial Implication of the announcement (Rs. In crore)	Releases made to the GOHP till 31st July, 2007 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	<b>Railways:</b>		
	(a) Full funding of the Bhanupalli to Bilaspur Railway Line with an estimated cost of Rs. 1200 crore as a national project	766.70*	Nil
	(b) Speedy completion of Nangal Talwara broad gauge railway line with an estimated cost of Rs. 400 crore	400.00	125.61 (To Railways)
	(c) Completion of survey of Baddi-Chandigarh broad gauge railway line by the end of 2005 (estimated cost Rs. 300 crore)	328.14	Nil
	(d) Establishment of an Inland Container Depot at Baddi	Will be known only after DPR is prepared by the CONCOR	Nil

1	2	3	4
2.	Upgrading infrastructure in the three Universities of the State (Rs. 20 crore)	20.00	25.06
3.	Coverage of 6000 PC habitations under Bharat Nirman for providing drinking water facilities by 2007. (estimated cost Rs. 518 crore)	518.00	263.93
4.	Connecting 257 unconnected Panchayats with a population of appx. 250 under PMGSY (Rs. 200 crore)	200.00	254.17
5.	(a) Extension of Runways at Kangra and Kullu Airports and establishment of communication tower at Kullu Airport (Rs. 100 crore)	100.00	Nil
	(b) Viability gap funding of Rs. 1 crore per helicopter for procuring helicopters or running the helicopter services	To be known only after GOI takes decisions.	
6.	Intergrated Tourism Development project for 8 to 10 designated tourist circuits.	97.00	15.90
7.	Special Plan Assistance to be untied	400.00	400.00 (untied)
8.	Increase of equity of Himachal Pradesh in the SJVN Projects from the existing 25% to 30%	Will be known after the announcement is honoured	Nil
9.	Supply of DTH, Dish Antennae in the Tribal areas of the State (20,000 nos.)	6.00 (approx)	Nil
10.	Structural Adjustment Facility loan to reduce State's debt.	Will be known after the announcement is honoured.	Nil
11.	Gravity based Irrigation Schemes	242.00	30.39
Total		3077.84**	1115.06**

\* Initial estimates were of Rs. 1200.00 crore which came down to Rs. 766.70 crore after actual survey by Railways.

\*\* Figures do not include financial implication for those announcement mentioned at Sl. No.1 (d), 8 and 10 which when are honoured are accepted to take the total to Rs. 4200.00 crore approximately.

**Statement III***Status of Projects announced by  
Hon'ble Prime Minister***1. Railways Projects:**

(a) *Bhanupalli to Bilaspur Railway line* - The survey for laying 63.1 Kms of Rail line has been completed and the cost estimates for the work have been worked out at Rs. 766.70 crore.

(b) *Nangal-Tahwara Railway Line*: The railway line between Nangal dam and Chururu - Takrala (33 Kms) has been completed and opened up for traffic. In the next section Chururu - Takrala to Amb Andaura (11 Kms) land acquisition is in progress. A Budget provision of Rs. 24.08 crore has been provided in the Union Railway Budget for the year 2007-08 of this Railway line.

(c) *Chandigarh Baddi Railway Line*: Announced in Railway Budget 2007-08.

2. *Upgrading the Infrastructure of three Universities*— an amount of Rs. 25.06 crore has been received as Central assistance by the three Universities of the State for infrastructure upgradation against the announcements of Rs. 20 crore.

3. *Drinking Water Facilities*— An amount of Rs. 263.93 crore has been released by Govt. of India between the period from April 2005 to July 2007.

4. *Road Connectivity* — 162 roard projects connecting 166 panchayats with an estimated cost of Rs. 254.17 crore have been sanctioned under PMGSY. With these approvals, the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister stands honoured.

5. *Airports* — (a) *Kangra Airport* — Extension of runway by 400 feet completed (b) *Kullu Airport* - runway being extended. Communication equipment yet to be installed.

6. *Tourism*— Assistance given from Ministry of Tourism for promotion of tourism circuits.

7. *Plan*— Special Plan Assistance was untied as per PM announcement.

8. *Power*— Govt. of India 'In Principle' has agreed to raise the equity limit from the existing 25% in the

NJPC to 30% in case of Rampur Hydel Project, which has been agreed to be installed by the SJVN as joint venture between the Govt. of India and the Govt. of HP.

9. *Financial restructuring*— World Bank appraisal is under way for Development Policy Loan for Himachal Pradesh.

10. *Irrigation*— The Govt. of India has indicated that the projects be covered under AIBP funding.

**Opening PSB Branches in Rural and Urban Areas**

1936. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector banks have asked the Government's permission to open more branches in Rural and Urban areas to compete with banks in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Public Sector banks have demanded the Government to allow them to go in big way for housing loans advances; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government assigns top priority to opening of bank branches in rural centres and unbanked areas, for financial inclusion of the poor and the Weaker Sections to bring them within the network of financial services offered by the Banking Sector.

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

The branch authorization policy of RBI also aims at inducing enhanced competition within the banking sector both for Public and Private Sector Banks to provide quality banking services.



(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has de-regulated interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakh, including the housing loans, with effect from October 18, 1994 and interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards. For credit limit up to Rs. 2 lakh, the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) has been prescribed as the ceiling lending rate.

As per Master Circular on Housing Finance dated 2.07.2007 of the RBI, banks are free to evolve their own guidelines of Housing Finance with the approval of their Boards on aspects such as security, margin, age of dwelling units, repayment schedule etc.

### Disaster Warning System

1937. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the disaster warning system in each State, as on date:

(b) the amount spent for the purpose so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken the assistance/made collaboration with foreign firms in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There is no separate disaster warning system for individual States in the country. The status of the disaster warning systems operated in various organizations of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) are given below:

(i) An interim Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) developed at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad is functional for the last six months. The complete IOTWS is expected to be in place by September, 2007 with a defined system of warning dissemination to concerned central and state level disaster management authorities.

(ii) A Three stage Cyclone Warning System is operational in India Meteorological Department (IMD). In the First Stage, known as "Cyclone Watch", the genesis of a tropical cyclone is

monitored based on satellite observations, from INSAT and other satellites, data from ships, ocean buoys and numerical weather prediction models. In the second stage, a 'Cyclone Alert' is issued 36-48 hr. prior to the commencement of adverse weather over a coastal belt. In the third stage, 'Cyclone Warnings' are issued 24-36 hrs before the landfall of cyclone over a place. When the systems come nearer to the Indian coastline, their subsequent development and movement is monitored by a network of Cyclone Detection Radars, set up by IMD to cover the entire coastal belt. The likely movement of the storms is predicted with the help of track prediction models and final assessment of track, intensity and landfall is made.

(iii) India Meteorological Department (IMD) monitors river sub-catchment rainfall scenario based on rainfall data of IMD, Central Water Commission (CWC) and state governments and Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF) are provided to CWC for the purpose of flood forecasting and warnings.

(b) Does not arise as warning systems are not implemented State-wise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Savings in Banks

1938. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited in the banks under personal savings industrial accounts and savings from rural areas;

(b) whether the Government policies have discouraged the saving habits among people;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to inculcate saving habits among the people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Population Group-wise Deposits by Scheduled Commercial Banks according to type of deposits is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to inculcate savings habit and to attract the financially excluded population in the structured financial system, on the basis of the interim report of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan on Financial Inclusion, the Government has decided to establish the following two funds with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore each:

- A Financial Inclusion Fund with NABARD for meeting the cost of developmental and promotional interventions.

- A Financial Inclusion Technology Fund to meet the cost of technology adoption.

Besides RBI has issued instructions to all the banks to make available a basic banking "No Frills Account" either without or with very low minimum balance so that such accounts are accessible to vast sections of the population.

Banks have been further advised to identify and adopt one district in each State/UT for ensuring 100% Financial Inclusion.

### **Statement**

#### *Population Group-wise Deposits of Scheduled Commercial Banks According to Type of Deposits*

(No. of Accounts in Thousand, Amount in Rupees Lakh)

Population Group	Current		Savings		Term		Total	
	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>2006</b>								
Rural	25,61 (1.8)	12117,04 (5.4)	1060,17 (76.0)	102393,24 (45.3)	309,92 (22.2)	111550,90 (49.3)	1395,70 (100.0)	226061,18 (100.0)
Semi-Urban	42,44 (3.5)	26890,15 (8.9)	883,39 (72.6)	124709,54 (41.3)	290,80 (23.9)	150613,12 (49.8)	1216,64 (100.0)	302212,23 (100.0)
Urban	56,92 (5.4)	52844,62 (12.2)	723,95 (68.2)	146623,84 (34.0)	280,85 (26.5)	231344,77 (53.7)	1061,72 (100.0)	430813,23 (100.0)
Metropolitan	74,51 (6.3)	166064,97 (14.7)	766,67 (65.1)	213177,74 (18.8)	335,74 (28.5)	752844,31 (66.5)	1176,92 (100.0)	1132087,02 (100.0)
All-India	199,49 (4.1)	257916,77 (12.3)	3434,18 (70.8)	586904,36 (28.1)	1217,31 (25.1)	1246353,10 (59.6)	4850,98 (100.0)	2091174,24 (100.0)
<b>2005</b>								
Rural	28,16 (2.0)	11123,60 (5.2)	1049,22 (73.9)	89652,24 (42.1)	341,70 (24.1)	112328,26 (52.7)	1419,08 (100.0)	213104,11 (100.0)
Semi-Urban	40,00 (3.2)	24877,31 (8.4)	882,09 (70.5)	111138,25 (37.6)	329,89 (26.3)	159869,84 (54.0)	1251,98 (100.0)	295685,40 (100.0)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Urban	48,72 (4.8)	45097,49 (12.0)	656,99 (64.8)	117535,78 (31.4)	308,05 (30.4)	212257,76 (56.6)	1013,76 (100.0)	374891,01 (100.0)
Metropolitan	60,31 (6.1)	130841,04 (15.2)	611,68 (62.2)	152402,53 (17.7)	311,11 (31.6)	579889,894 (67.2)	983,10 (100.0)	863133,51 (100.0)
All-India	177,20 (3.8)	211939,43 (12.1)	3199,99 (68.6)	470728,81 (26.9)	1290,74 (27.7)	1064145,80 (60.9)	4667,93 (100.0)	1746814,04 (100.0)
<b>2004</b>								
Rural	25,99 (1.9)	9044,79 (4.6)	1001,08 (72.1)	76029,18 (39.0)	360,53 (26.0)	110007,74 (56.4)	1387,60 (100.0)	19581,71 (100.0)
Semi-Urban	36,98 (3.1)	20809,25 (7.8)	832,01 (69.0)	94240,54 (35.1)	337,52 (28.0)	153167,13 (57.1)	1206,51 (100.0)	268216,92 (100.0)
Urban	45,45 (4.6)	38661,54 (11.7)	628,02 (63.1)	98918,93 (29.9)	322,24 (32.4)	192715,27 (58.3)	995,71 (100.0)	330295,74 (100.0)
Metropolitan	57,11 (5.8)	111800,05 (15.6)	582,39 (59.3)	125912,96 (17.5)	342,27 (34.9)	479966,01 (66.9)	981,76 (100.0)	717679,01 (100.0)
All-India	165,53 (3.6)	180315,63 (11.9)	3043,50 (66.6)	395101,61 (26.1)	1362,56 (29.8)	935856,15 (61.9)	4571,58 (100.0)	1511273,39 (100.0)

Source: Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial banks in India.

[English]

#### Tax Exemption to RRB

1939. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tax concessions available to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs);

(b) whether RBI has appointed any task force on RRBs;

(c) if so, whether the task force has recommended to restore tax concessions to RRBs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Section 36(l)(viiia) of the Income-tax Act, provides for deduction

to, *inter-alia*, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on account of any provision for bad and doubtful debts, of an amount not exceeding 7.5% of the gross total income and 10% of the aggregate average advances made by its branches.

Further, section 36(l)(viii) of the Income-tax Act allows RRBs a deduction of up to 20% of the amount carried to the reserve account in respect of any special reserve created and maintained by such banks, subject to conditions specified therein.

(b) Yes, sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up the Task Force on Empowering of RRB Boards for Operational Efficiency, on 11.9.2006.

(c) The Task Force has recommended that the tax benefits under section 80P of the Income-tax Act may be continued for a further period of five years or till the restructuring process of the RRBs is completed, whichever is earlier, in view of the high cost of operations in rural areas and the fact that RRBs as a separate rural credit system are yet to consolidate.

(d) The Report is still under the consideration of the RBI. The Government will examine the recommendations contained in the report only after receipt of the views of the RBI.

#### **Divesting RBI Stake from NABARD**

1940. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the current average cost of fund for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) whether NABARD was advised recently to revise its interest rates due to rising cost of fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Reserve bank of India has firmed-up a plan to divest its stake in NABARD;

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

(f) whether after having divested its stake RBI is likely to lose its right in the Board of Directors of NABARD; and

(g) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the farmers who are in a serious financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The average cost of fund for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 (till 21st August 2007) is 8.69% and 9.66% respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As per the recommendations of the Narsimham Committee, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to divest its holdings in banks and Financial Institutions (FIs), which, *inter-alia*, include NABARD. This recommendation is with a view to prevent the conflict of interest being faced by RBI in view of its ownership in the regulated entities.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. Even after the divestment of its stake in NABARD, RBI will continue to have its

representative on the Board. The Government has taken a number of steps to increase the credit flow to agriculture sector. The Government announced a Farm Credit Package on 18.06.2004 which, *inter-alia*, includes doubling the Farm Credit within three years. The credit flow to this sector in the country during the year 2006-07 has been Rs. 2,03,297 crore as against the credit flow of Rs. 86,981 crore during 2003-04. Further, to ensure that farmers receive Short Term Production Credit at 7% per annum upto the upper limit of Rs. 3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is implementing a scheme since Kharif 2006, and is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

Besides, Banks have been instructed to achieve financial outreach through provision of a General Credit Card to households, opening "No Frills" accounts with limited overdraft facilities, to extend financial outreach by utilizing services of Civil Society Organisation like Farmers Clubs, NGQs, Post Offices as Business Facilitator/ Business Correspondent Model, etc.

#### **Debt Burden of States**

1941. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received proposals from some State Governments for rescheduling of their loans and reduction of rates of interests; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) NDC Sub-Committee on Debt Outstanding of the States against National Small Savings Funds (NSSF) was set up by National Development Council (NDC) to examine issues related to the debt burden of the States and debt relief. During the meetings of the Sub-Committee held between October, 2005 to November, 2006, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh had, *inter-alia*, requested for rescheduling of outstanding NSSF loans and reduction in the rate of interest. Keeping in view all relevant considerations including the contentions of the State Governments for relief on outstanding NSSF loans and considering the

financial position of NSSF, the Sub-Committee *inter-alia* made the following recommendations unanimously:

- (i) The interest rates on loans taken by State Governments from NSSF from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 will be reset at 10.5% with effect from 1st April, 2007. The interest rate on these old loans will be reviewed if the interest rate on the current loans is reduced or after 3 years, whichever is earlier.
- (ii) The interest rate on current NSSF loans will continue at 9.5%.
- (iii) Requests of State Governments for additional open market borrowing to enable them to repay non-NSSF loans will be considered on a case to case basis.
- (iv) Requests of State Governments for prepayment of NSSF loans contracted up to 2002-03 will also be considered on a case to case basis within the approved market borrowing ceilings.

As a follow up of the aforesaid recommendations, requests were received during January and March, 2007 from the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Delhi for pre-payment of NSSF Loans, contracted up to 2002-03. Later on, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh withdrew its request for prepayment of NSSF loans.

The State Governments of Orissa and Delhi were allowed to pre-pay their NSSF loans, carrying interest rate of 10.5% per annum, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The pre-payment in 2007-08 will be limited to 10% of the total outstanding NSSF debt for the period 1999-2000 to 2002-03.
- (ii) The 10% ceiling in 2007-08 will be conditional upon the State Government financing it within the approved market borrowing ceiling and/or the available cash surplus with the concerned State Government.

*[Translation]*

#### **Delay in Payments under NREGS**

1942. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that labourers working under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) are not being paid wages in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds under NREGS is being disbursed in time by Union Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. State Governments are taking action to pay wages on time.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. Funds are released to the districts on receipt of a proposal alongwith utilisation certificates showing at least 60% utilisation of the funds released earlier and other necessary documents. There has not been any delay by the Union Government in release of funds to the States.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Availability and Introduction of Coins**

1943. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposes to introduce ten rupees coins;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RBI has decided to reintroduce the five rupees notes;

(d) whether there is shortage of five rupees coins; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has decided to introduce Ten Rupees (Bimetallic) coin to partially supplement the demand for notes of Rs. 10 denomination. The outer ring of the coin will be of Aluminium-bronze and the centre piece of Cupro-nickel.

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

[Translation]

#### Rural Electrification

1944. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI B. MAHTAB:  
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:  
SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:  
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rural electrification schemes is not progressing as per the programme in many States;
- (b) if so, whether any review has been done to find out the reasons behind it;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of villages that have been electrified in each State during the last three years till date and the funds allocated/released by the Government for the purpose during the current financial year; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of rural electrification in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), a rural electrification programme launched by Government of India in April, 2005 has so far been progressing on the expected lines. As compared to earlier rural electrification scheme where average rate of electrification has been 3,000 villages per year, under

RGGVY, 9,819 unelectrified villages were electrified in 2005-06 and 28,706 unelectrified villages were electrified in 2006-07 besides intensive electrification of around 12,000 electrified villages in these two years. In 2007-08, so far 4,467 unelectrified villages have been electrified and 7,708 electrified villages have been intensively electrified. Also, since the introduction of the scheme in April, 2005, 13 lakh electricity connections have been released to Below Poverty Line (BPL) free of charge.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Power & Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) have frequently reviewed the progress of RGGVY and have impressed upon all the stakeholders for expeditious implementation of the same so that the targeted goals are achieved within the stipulated time schedule. Some of the issues which came up during implementation were:

- Delayed submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by States.
- Delay in issue of tenders by state power utilities and State Government Departments due to non-acquaintance with turnkey contracts.
- Delay in issue of authenticated Below Poverty Line (BPL) list by State Authorities in Bihar, U.P. and West Bengal.
- Delay in allocation and subsequent acquisition of land for new sub-stations in Bihar.

(d) The implementing agencies have reported that electrification works have been carried out in 62554 villages including 42,992 un-electrified and 19,585 electrified villages up to 17th August 2007, under RGGVY. State-wise and year-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. Funds released during 2007-08 so far are to the tune of Rs. 400 crore.

(e) To accelerate the pace of village electrification under RGGVY in the country, following steps have been taken:

- For speedier and effective implementation of projects, these are executed on turnkey basis.
- Government of India has set up an inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee which periodically meets to sanction projects and review progress of implementation.

- States have been advised to set up district committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification works. All the States have notified formation of district committees.
- The Government of India as also REC, the nodal agency for RGGVY, are conducting frequent review meetings with all the stakeholders e.g. concerned State Governments, state power utilities and implementing agencies for expeditious implementation of the scheme as per agreed schedules.
- Wherever the State has desired, the services of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been provided for implementation of the scheme. 139 districts have been allocated to CPSUs.

### Statement

*State-wise and Year-wise no. of villages in which electrification works have been reportedly carried out by implementing States/agencies under RGGVY*

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
22.	Rajasthan	0	230	230	570	765	1335	0	332	332	570	1327	1897
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	7503	7503	0	16620	16620	0	1855	1855	0	25978	25978
27.	Uttaranchal	0	87	87	2332	798	3130	0	83	83	2332	968	3300
28.	West Bengal	0	352	352	0	2108	2108	0	736	736	0	3196	3196
29.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G.Total		350	9819	10169	11527	28706	40233	7708	4467	12175	19585	42992	62577

*[English]***Setting Up of Coal Based Thermal Power Projects**

1945. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to develop power projects in the country based on indigenous coal and imported coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the development work of Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd., on imported coal project at Mundra (Gujarat) has been taken up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the proposed XI

Plan capacity addition of 78,577 MW, 52,905 MW is proposed to be coal based, of which projects totalling 1350 MW are envisaged to use imported coal.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Power had launched an initiative for the development of coal based Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) each of about 4000 MW capacity. Under the initiative, four pit head sites and five sites at coastal locations have been identified by the Central Electricity Authority in consultation with the concerned States. The UMPP at Mundra in Gujarat is one of the coastal sites. The developers, that is, M/s. Tata Power Company Ltd. in respect of this project had been selected through a tariff based competitive bidding process, and the Special Purpose Vehicle i.e. Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL) which had been set up for the Project has also been transferred to the developer. CGPL has informed that the contracts have been entered into for supply of boiler and steam turbine generator packages. The Project is expected to give full benefits during the 12th Plan.



*[Translation]***Unauthorised Occupation of Government Accommodation**

1946. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government accommodations occupied unauthorisedly by former Minister, retired IAS, IPS officers and judges for the last five years;

(b) the efforts made by the Government for vacating these accommodations during the last three years;

(c) the number of such accommodations vacated during the above period;

(d) the number of unvacated houses as on date alongwith the reasons;

(e) whether any time-frame has been fixed to get them vacated; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) Not applicable in view of part (a) above.

(d) Nil.

(e) Does not arise in view of part (a) above.

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

*[English]***Pending Funds under NFFWP and other Schemes**

1947. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a request from State Government of Rajasthan to release pending

funds regarding National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Project (DPAP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these pending funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A reference was received from the State Government of Rajasthan regarding release of central funds in lieu of reduced quantity of foodgrains allocation during 2005-06 under National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP). In this regard, attention of the State Government was drawn towards the instructions that ongoing works under NFFWP should be completed with the resources already available with the Districts. In case of paucity of funds for completing the ongoing works, the same may be assessed and funded by the Programme Officer or by the District Programme Coordinator, out of their share.

The Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 160.25 crore and Rs. 25.82 crore under Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) during 2006-07 to the State of Rajasthan. During the current year 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 12.22 crore and Rs. 4.57 crore has been released so far under DDP and DPAP respectively. Under the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), an amount of Rs. 42.76 crore was released during 2006-07 and Rs. 9.73 crore has been released so far during 2007-08.

*[Translation]***Cost Sharing Under JNNURM**

1948. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL:  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cost sharing between the centre and the State for JNNURM;

(b) the quantum of funds released under the said mission during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to change the existing formula; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Cost sharing under the Mission is as under:

Category of Cities/Towns/UAs	Grant		ULB or ParaSatal Share/Loan from Financial Institutions
	Centre	State	
Cities/UAs with 4 million plus population as per 2001 census	35%	15%	50%
Cities/UAs with million plus but less than 4 million population as per 2001 census	50%	20%	30%
Cities/towns/UAs in North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir	90%	10%	—
Cities/UAs other than those mentioned above	80%	10%	10%
For setting up de-salination plants within 20 Kms. from sea-shore and other urban areas predominantly facing water scarcity due to brackish water and non-availability of surface source	80%	10%	10%

(b) State-wise release of funds, since the launch of the Mission, is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

*Release of Funds Under Submission For Infrastructure And Governance (As on 15.08.07)*

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No	Name of State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4472.50	4710.83	10180.53	19363.86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2006.94	2006.94

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	791.26	791.26
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	461.93	461.93
5.	Chhattiegarh	0.00	4800.00		4800.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00		0.00
7.	Gujarat	1844.00	15576.20	5911.93	23332.13
8.	Haryana	0.00	1297.88	383.09	1680.97
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	522.61		522.61
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	2359.35		2359.35
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00		0.00
12.	Karnataka	0.00	10167.19	618.62	10785.81
13.	Kerala	0.00	4405.00		4405.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	474.29	11107.42		11581.71
15.	Maharashtra	2219.79	41358.21	3707.25	47285.25
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00		0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00		0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00		0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00		0.00
20.	Orissa	0.00	120.26	5158.40	5278.66
21.	Punjab	0.00	2241.75	1868.63	4110.38
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	4146.93		4146.93
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00		0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	12913.28	8068.37	20981.65
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00		0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	1860.47		1860.47
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00		0.00
28.	West Bengal	0.00	8708.45	793.53	9501.98
29.	Delhi	0.00	0.00		0.00
30.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00		0.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00		0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	1139.72	1139.72
33.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00		0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00		0.00
35.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total		9010.58	126295.83	41090.20	176396.61

*(English)*

### UN Report on Urbanisation

1949. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (UNESCO) for Asia and Pacific Region has reported that half of the population of India will be residing in urban areas by the year 2025;

(b) if so, the fact stated therein;

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to check exodus of rural population and develop the basic infrastructure facilities in rural areas; and

(d) the details of rural population who are getting employment and other basic facilities and who are deprived of these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific region has brought out a report based on the Country Reports written by the Experts drawn from different Institutes of the countries of this region. In this report, it has been estimated that half of the population of the developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region will live in urban areas by 2025 because of Urbanisation and economic globalization. These projections have been made on the presumption that if the present global trend continues, Asia is poised to become world's dominant economic powerhouse. The region is experiencing rapid economic growth,

industrialization and urbanization which will result in changes and growth of the urban areas. Though, the report is for the Asia Pacific region, but India being a major country of this region is expected to play a leading role in the process of economic development and globalization.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the challenges of economic development, more emphasis is being laid on developing the basic infrastructure, amenities and employment opportunities in the rural areas through our planning process. The Bharat Nirman having a time bound business plan to develop basic rural infrastructure of providing connectivity through Rural Roads, Drinking Water Supply, Rural Housing, Irrigation, Rural Electrification and Rural Telephone Connectivity are the steps which have been taken to build basic rural infrastructure. The launching of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and strengthening of the self-employment programme of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) are the initiatives for providing employment in the rural areas. The other measures taken by the Government to provide the basic facilities in the rural areas include the strengthening of education facilities through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and basic health facilities through the National Rural Health Mission etc. All these steps are aimed to check exodus of rural population.

The programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development aim at reducing the poverty in rural areas through generation of employment and to improve the living conditions of rural masses. During the year 2006-07, more than 210 lakh households were provided employment of 90.40 crore persondays under the NREGS, about 42.39 crore mandays of employment were generated under the SGRY, total swarozgaris assisted through the programme of SGSY was 16.82 lakh and more than 14.98 lakh houses were constructed for the rural poor under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY).

**Siphoning of Funds by Pharmaceutical Companies**

1950. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the top pharmaceutical companies had been siphoning the funds through licensing arrangements with their associate/subsidiary companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of such companies;

(c) whether cost audit reports of different pharmaceutical companies have not been analysed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) There are no findings available with this Ministry of siphoning of funds by the pharmaceutical companies through licensing arrangement with their associate/subsidiary companies.

(c) and (d) Cost audit of the companies is carried out under section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956 and the compliance thereof is monitored in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has also been availing cost audit reports from this Ministry for regulatory action by them as appropriate in respect of pharmaceutical companies.

*[Translation]*

**Fund for Nanotechnology**

1951. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up a fund to bring out inventions related to Nanotechnology in the market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has very recently launched a National Mission on Nano Science & Technology (Nano Mission) to encourage R&D in the field of Nano Science and Technology with an allocation Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years. Apart from capacity building

in this area of research, the Nano Mission plans to put in special efforts towards development and commercialization of Nano Technology by promoting institution-industry linked projects through increased public private partnerships, entrepreneurship through establishment of business incubators and by encouraging and enabling the private sector to invest in, and leverage, this sunrise technology.

*[English]*

**Skill Development Bank**

1952. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to USQ No. 4137 on May 4, 2007 regarding Skill Development Bank and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. It has been informed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) that a note on Skill Development Bank was submitted with the Pre-budget Memorandum of CII for the Union Budget 2007-08.

**Allotment of Land to Political Parties**

1953. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines/criteria fixed for determining the entitlement of national and State/regional political parties as recognised by the Election Commission for allotment of land in the national capital for setting up their offices;

(b) whether according to this guideline, the Government is considering allotment of land for National and State political parties in Rouse Avenue and Institutional Area of MG Road in the Capital; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

policy for determining the entitlement of political parties for allotment of land for construction of their office accommodation in Delhi is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Screening Committee constituted in the Ministry for allotment of land in Delhi considers for recommendation of allotment of land in accordance with the policy and availability of land including availability at Rouse Avenue and Institutional Area of MB Road and allotment is done with the approval of Competent Authority.

#### **Statement**

- (i) National Political Parties which have been recognized as such by the Election Commission of India and the State recognized parties having at least seven (7) MPs (in both the Houses of Parliament together) shall be considered for allotment of land for construction of office building in Delhi;
- (ii) Political parties should furnish a certificate from the Election Commission of India confirming their status and recognition as a National/State recognized political party;
- (iii) In case political parties are in occupation of Govt. bungalow(s) /suite(s) in Vithalbhai Patel House for the purpose of their office, they should vacate the same immediately on construction of their office building on the plot of land allotted to them, or within 3 years from the date of taking over vacant possession of the plot, whichever is earlier;
- (iv) The building constructed on the allotted land shall be utilized by the political parties for their National level political unit as well as other wings/organization of the parties. These premises shall be utilized only for office purpose. Subletting of the plots shall be governed by the instructions/restrictions issued in this regard, for institutional plots;
- (v) The premises shall not be used for residential/commercial purpose;
- (vi) The land shall be allotted on leasehold basis and the allotment shall be made on payment of premium at zonal variant institutional rate prevailing on the date of allotment. The allottee

party shall also pay the annual ground rent amounting to 2.5 per cent of the premium. These allotments would not be permitted to be converted into freehold;

- (vii) The quantum of land that would be considered for allotment to political parties, according to the strength of their MPs in both the Houses, shall be as follows:
  - (a) 500 sq. mt for total strength of MPs upto 15.
  - (b) 1000 sq. mt for total strength of MPs between 16 to 25.
  - (c) 2000 sq. mt for total strength of MPs between 26 to 50.
  - (d) One acre for total strength of MPs between 51 to 100.
  - (e) Two acres for total strength of MPs between 101 to 200.
  - (f) 4 acres for total strength of MPs being 201 or more.
- (viii) The land allotted to political parties may comprise of one or more plots;
- (ix) In case a political party has been allotted land earlier, fresh allotment of land in accordance with the above norms shall be considered, after deducting the quantum of land already allotted;
- (x) In the case of Delhi State units of various National/State recognised parties, allotment of land upto 500 sq. m. would be considered, for the following two categories:-
  - (a) Delhi State Units of National political parties having representation in the legislative assembly of Delhi; and
  - (b) Delhi State Units of State recognised parties having a minimum of seven (7) legislators in the legislative assembly of Delhi.
- (xi) Other recognized State political parties, having a minimum of 4 MPs (both the Houses taken together) shall be considered for allotment of office space in Vithal Bhai Patel House;
- (xii) When a political party ceases to exist, the land shall be resumed. However, whenever a political

party is divided, the leased land shall pass on the faction(s) of the party, determined as successor by the Court of Law/the Election Commission. Any other unforeseen situation arising from such an eventuality will be dealt with on case to case basis;

- (xiii) The allottees shall construct the building only after getting the building plans approved from the local body, L&DO and DUAC;
- (xiv) Removal of encroachments/structures, if any, on the allotted land shall be the responsibility of the allottee;
- (xv) Trees, if any, standing on the plot will be the Govt. property and shall not be removed without prior approval of the competent authority.
- (xvi) The allottees shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and a Lease Deed, at their own cost;
- (xvii) The possession of land shall be initially given on licence basis on receipt of the premium and advance ground rent for the first half year and on execution of a Memorandum of Agreement. The money deposited as premium shall be treated as security for due performance of the Agreement and when the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement are successfully completed within the stipulated time, land will be given on lease and the security will become the premium and the licence fee shall become the ground rent.
- (xviii) The allotment shall be liable to be rescinded/ cancelled in the following circumstances:-
  - (a) if the allottee fails to make the payment of premium and ground rent or any other Govt. dues in accordance with the terms of allotment/MOA/Lease Deed;
  - (b) If the party fails to construct the building within the period of three years of handing over of possession;
  - (c) If the premises are put to a use other than the use for which land is allotted/leased;
  - (d) If the allottee violates the building by-laws/ other statutory guidelines including the Master Plan; and

- (e) For violation of any of the conditions specified in the allotment letter or the Memorandum of Agreement or the Lease Deed, which is to be executed subsequently.

#### **Tax Evasion by Transfer Pricing**

1954. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain companies/Banks have evaded Tax worth crores of Rupees by way of transfer pricing;
- (b) if so, the complete details for the last three years;
- (c) action taken against the companies/banks upto July, 2007;
- (d) whether any appeals have been lodged against such tax demands by such companies/banks; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and present status of each such case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Differences between Transfer Price and Arm's Length Price in case of certain companies have been found as a result of Transfer Pricing audit carried out by the Income Tax Department. The adjustments made during the last three financial years are as under:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
No. of cases	240	320	444
Adjusted amount (Rs. In crores)	1,300.19	2,260.24	3,455.82

(c) The Department has raised demand in respect of such cases and appropriate action under the law is taken for recovery of the outstanding demand.

(d) and (e) The orders of the Transfer Pricing Officers get merged with the assessment orders passed by the Assessing Officers. Appeals against these orders passed by the Assessing Officers. Appeals against these orders are filed by the assesseees before different appellate authorities spread all over the country. No centralized information is maintained/available relating to appeals file against transfer pricing adjustments.

**Multi Model Transport Policy**

1955. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated multi-model transport policy;

(b) if so, whether all States have agreed to implement the multi-model transport system;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the States have requested the Union Government to give special assistance/grant-in-aid to implement the multi model transport system; and

(e) if so, the details of the financial and technical assistance provided to each State to implement the multi modal transport system, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The Government has formulated a National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006 for urban area which envisages integration across different modes and operators of public transport system so as to provide seamless travel across different modes and operators.

*[Translation]***Profit of Insurance Companies**

1956. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total turnover, amount paid against claims and net profit of public and private sector insurance companies during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether there is any helpline or consultation centre for assistance of insurance clients and protection of their interests; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of total turnover, amount paid against claims and net profit of public and private sector insurance companies during the last three years and the current year as reported by Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) IRDA has reported that as per the Protection of Policyholders' Interests Regulations, 2002, every insurer shall have a proper grievance redressal mechanism in place to address customer complaints. IRDA has further informed that all insurance companies have a dedicated customer service cell and toll free number, which is widely publicized including on their website. If the complainant is not satisfied with the insurer, he/she has the option to approach the Insurance Ombudsman or Grievance Redressal Cell of the IRDA.

**Statement***General Insurance Companies*

(Rs. in Crore)

	Total Turnover				Amount paid against Claims				Net Profits			
	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Public Sector	17283.45	15976.44	14948.82	14284.65	13887.64	12962.71	10285.77	9180.72	2907.36	1319.28	1171.58	1358.35
Private Sector	8646.57	5361.53	3507.62	2257.83	3433.95	2901.28	1243.72	713.79	229.74	154.38	121.91	67.60
Total	25930.02	21337.97	18456.45	16542.49	17321.59	15863.99	11529.49	9894.52	3137.10	1473.66	1293.49	1425.35



*Life Insurance Companies*

(Rs. in Crore)

	Total Premium				Benefits Paid				Net Profits			
	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Public Sector (Life Insurance Corporation)	175188.15*	90792.22	75127.29	63533.43	#	33956.80	28455.71	23930.34	#	631.58	708.37	551.81
Private Sector	28217.77	15083.54	7727.51	3120.33	2470.27	1306.65	244.86	81.78	(1933.22)	(1102.48)	(886.94)	(966.36)
Total	203405.92	105875.76	82854.80	66653.75	2470.27	35263.45	28700.57	24012.13	(1933.22)	(470.90)	(158.57)	(414.55)

# Annual accounts yet to be finalised.

\* Provisional figures.

*[English]***Education of Investors**

1957. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to educate investors about the initial public offerings, capital market investments and mutual funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) With a view to empowering investors to invest with knowledge, SEBI has been conducting workshops for investor awareness and education through the recognized investors associations, Association of Mutual Funds in India and Stock Exchanges. It is also publishing reading and presentation materials on different aspects of the market in different languages.

**Protection of Indian Companies**

1958. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fiscal measures have been taken by the Ministry recently to protect the interests of Indian

companies while entering into a joint venture with Multi National Companies (MNCs)/foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this direction?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The interests of Indian companies who have existing joint venture with foreign companies as on January 12, 2005 are protected by policy measure as per the Foreign Direct Investment policy whereby any new venture by the same foreign company requires prior government approval so that their interest is not jeopardized.

**National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy**

1959. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national urban housing and habitat policy has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the changing socio-economic parameters of the urban area and growing requirement of shelter and related infrastructure, it has been decided to have a new National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy in place of the existing National Housing Policy 1998. The new Policy is likely to be finalized and implemented shortly.

#### **MoU Between NTPC and BARC**

1960. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to develop an automated boiler tube inspection system;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred therein; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) NTPC Ltd. has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on 26.07.2007 for collaborative research to "Develop and Deliver Automated Boiler Tube Inspection System for Coal Based Thermal Power Plants". This is a project to develop a prototype crawler for Automated Boiler Tube Inspection in Coal Based Power Station. NTPC Ltd. will supply inspection probes. The BARC will develop the technology and assemble the prototype Automated Boiler Tube Inspection System in their robotic lab at BARC. The prototype will be tested in one of the power stations of NTPC Ltd.

(c) Preliminary estimated cost of this collaboration research project is Rs.170 lakhs.

(d) Total time envisaged for completion of this project is 26 months.

#### **Import of Crude Oil**

1961. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal regarding inclusion of Import of crude oil in the free trade agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Free Trade Agreements are negotiated and finalized by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Under the ongoing ASEAN-India FTA negotiations, ASEAN has requested for tariff concessions on crude palm oil and crude petroleum oil.

(c) Indo-ASEAN FTA is currently under negotiation.

#### **Strengthening of NTPC**

1962. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to enhance the thermal power generation during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Ltd. is a Navaratna Public Sector Undertaking which has been granted enhanced autonomy as per Navaratna guidelines. This includes power to approve new investments without any monetary ceiling. The Board of NTPC Ltd. has so far utilized Navaratna powers to accord investment approval of projects for a total capacity of 16,070 MW with total estimated cost of nearly Rs. 70,000 crores.

For the XI Plan (2007-2012), NTPC Ltd. has envisaged a capacity addition target of about 22,350 MW which includes thermal capacity of 20340 MW and hydel capacity of 1,920 MW. Out of this, 500 MW capacity has

already been commissioned, 13,360 MW capacity is under construction, Main Plant bids have been invited for 7,990 MW capacity and for balance 500 MW capacity, Feasibility Report is under preparation.

*[Translation]*

#### **Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme**

1963. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released by the Union Government under the urban poverty alleviation programme during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of its achievements during the above mentioned period, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) With a view to ameliorate the living condition of urban poor, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an urban poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis since 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have not studied beyond 9th standard and, secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

The State-wise release of Central funds, as well as physical progress under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

#### **Statement I**

#### **Central Funds releases under SJSRY**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	2004-2005 Central Funds released	2005-06 Central Funds released	2006-2007 Central Funds released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1116.41	1526.17	2295.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.69	0.00	46.68
3.	Assam	245.07	0.00	368.27
4.	Bihar	468.09	681.66	566.83
5.	Chhattisgarh	119.31	405.67	698.46
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	164.36	0.00	894.65
8.	Haryana	668.47	681.12	571.67
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.17	45.36	9.24
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	128.17	9.06	849.38

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	1165.15	822.99	1416.98
13.	Kerala	554.95	681.26	639.22
14.	Madhya Pradesh	931.49	1596.76	2388.35
15.	Maharashtra	1508.66	2552.92	3776.34
16.	Manipur	0.00	111.39	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	97.65
18.	Mizoram	491.04	351.90	533.40
19.	Nagaland	34.02	194.51	145.23
20.	Orissa	48.91	469.86	808.97
21.	Punjab	0.00	39.68	135.71
22.	Rajasthan	256.29	495.38	852.93
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	10.38
24.	Tamil Nadu	511.69	924.36	1891.51
25.	Tripura	352.18	0.00	127.08
26.	Uttaranchal	160.31	309.14	93.96
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2622.61	3071.43	4566.49
28.	West Bengal	424.02	617.47	1063.13
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	28.64	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Pondicherry	191.00	0.00	0.00
		12200.70	15588.09	24868.45

**Statement II***State-wise and Year-wise Physical Achievement under SJSRY (As reported upto 31.7.2007)*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		No. of Urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises	No. of urban poor provided training	No. of mandays of work generated (in lakhs)	No. of Urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises	No. of urban poor provided training	No. of mandays of work generated (in lakhs)	No. of Urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises	No. of urban poor provided training	No. of mandays of work generated (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17704	5831	6.11	5887	11613	0	2195	4945	0.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40	0	3.88	36	100	2.59	23	3	0.82
3.	Assam	1150	4638	0.94	0	2085	0.63	192	0	1.64
4.	Bihar	0	0	3.28	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	1903	4559	0.56	2155	602	0.25	2814	6203	0.06
6.	Goa	53	345	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
7.	Gujarat	4307	5958	0.27	4892	2776	0.12	8339	4171	1.13
8.	Haryana	2362	4171	0.37	5215	7965	0.69	4400	5958	0.21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	302	639	0	89	394	0.06	370	982	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1265	1748	0.29	918	5165	0	0	0	0.56
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
12.	Karnataka	4572	2709	1.24	3451	1241	1.28	7359	5064	0.00
13.	Kerala	3007	4736	0.12	3847	4527	0.53	4420	4908	0.29
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8704	7524	1.47	9187	19845	0.52	5672	39078	1.24
15.	Maharashtra	19114	14518	0.53	20611	20140	2.77	19134	31436	1.02
16.	Manipur	0	2508	0	0	0	2.47	0	628	0.76
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
18.	Mizoram	1175	379	0	48	1346	22.36	0	1906	1.92
19.	Nagaland	265	250	0	0	333	0.53	0	0	0.28
20.	Orissa	3967	2273	0.76	8375	1709	0	3544	1572	0.33
21.	Punjab	527	1440	0.25	17	597	0.01	0	1085	0.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	Rajasthan	4680	1957	0.5	6643	3340	0.16	862	1973	0.65
23.	Sikkim	76	176	0.56	44	118	0	0	0	0.13
24.	Tamil Nadu	2356	5016	0.59	7433	18920	0	18211	10403	20.51
25.	Tripura	544	4783	1.07	578	4253	0.48	2286	1728	0.17
26.	Uttaranchal	153	1212	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	6919	29031	4.2	11789	24255	4.69	11267	27608	7.42
28.	West Bengal	4033	2361	1.92	5349	3986	1.46	2151	600	0.31
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	0	0.87	6	0	0.62	43	0	1.24
30.	Chandigarh	72	961	N.A.	24	794	N.A.	31	785	N.A.
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	10	96	0	0	0	0	67	219	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
33.	Delhi	214	220	N.A.	624	775	N.A.	71	230	N.A.
34.	Pondicherry	1106	1792	1.46	2736	4400	0.64	0	0	0.00
Total		90566	111831	31.24	99956	142073	42.86	93451	151445	41.68

### Post of Independent Directors in Banks

1964. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for independent directors in banks;

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

(c) the norms laid down for nomination of such directors;

(d) the names of banks in which these posts are presently vacant with dates of vacancy; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The provisions of Section 9(3) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80,

*inter alia*, provide for nomination of three to six part time Non-Official Directors and one Non-official Director under Chartered Accountant (CA) category. In Nationalized Banks with public shareholding, between one to three shareholder directors are to be elected by shareholders depending on the percentage of shares held by the public - one up to 16 per cent, two between 16 and 32 per cent and three beyond 32 per cent of public shareholding. Other than the Director under CA category, the total number of non official directors nominated by Government and elected by shareholders taken together shall not exceed six.

(c) The criteria/procedure adopted for nomination of part time non official directors on the Boards of Nationalized Banks broadly provide that persons with special academic training or practical experience in the fields of agriculture, rural economy, banking, cooperation, economics, business management, human resources, finance, law, marketing, industry and IT will ordinarily be considered. As far as possible representation may also be given to women and the persons belonging to SC/ST community. Effort should be made to ensure representation

of all the six zones of the country - North, South, East, West, Central and North-East—on the Boards of Public Sector Banks taken together. An NOD should at least be a graduate. Educational qualifications may be relaxed with the approval of ACC in case of farmers, depositors and artisans. The age of the Director, on the date of recommendation by Appointments Board, should not be less than 40 years and preferably below 60 years. The upper age limit may be relaxed in case of outstanding experts, eminent persons. No person may be re-nominated as an NOD on the Board of a Bank/FI on which he/she has served as Director in the past under any category for two terms or six years whichever is longer whether continuously or Intermittently.

(d) and (e) A Statement indicating the vacancy position bank-wise is enclosed. However, nominations to fill up these vacancies have already been finalized and their appointment will be notified after obtaining the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

#### **Statement**

*Vacancy position of Part-time Non-official Directors in the Nationalised Banks Hinder category 9(3)(h) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980*

Sl. No.	Name of Bank	Total vacancies of Part-time NoD under category 9(3)(h)
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad Bank	3
2.	Andhra Bank	1
3.	Bank of Baroda	1
4.	Bank of India	2
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	2
6.	Canara Bank	2
7.	Corporation Bank	3
8.	Dena Bank	3
9.	Indian Bank	1
10.	Indian Overseas Bank	1

1	2	3
11.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	3
12.	Punjab and Sind Bank	2
13.	Punjab National Bank	3
14.	Syndicate Bank	1
15.	UCO Bank	1
16.	Union Bank of India	2
17.	Vijaya Bank	3
Total		34

*[English]*

#### **Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT)**

1965. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sectors on which Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) is imposed;

(b) the total revenue collected under the Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) during 2006-07 and upto June, 2007;

(c) the comparison of tax collection targeted with tax received during 2005-06; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the position further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) is levied on all sectors of the economy,

(b) The total FBT collected in financial year 2006-07 is Rs. 5,323 crore (provisional) and the amount of FBT collected till June, 2007 in financial year 2007-08 is Rs. 804 crore (provisional).

(c) The collection of Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) in financial year 2006-07 registered a 11.55 per cent growth over the amount collected in financial year 2005-06.

(d) Improvement in the Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) structure is a continuous process. Therefore, as and when considered necessary, appropriate steps are taken to improve compliance.

**Investment in Infrastructure**

1966. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to revise banking laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has finalized a scheme to invest money in infrastructure for agriculture or small scale industries instead of investing in Government bonds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2005 to further amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with a view to accord greater operational flexibility and regulatory powers to Reserve Bank of India is pending for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha. However, at present, there is no proposal to amend the Banking Laws which envisage any scheme to invest money in infrastructure for agriculture or small scale industries instead of investing in Government bonds.

**Micro Finance Institution by NABARD**

1967. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has recently decided to start a Micro Finance Institution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) NABARD is entrusted with the responsibility of promoting micro finance sector besides, scaling up the SHG-Bank Linkage. Accordingly, NABARD decided to restructure Karnataka Agri Development Finance Company Ltd. (KADFC) into a Micro Finance Institution (MFI) on a pilot basis with the objective of developing it as a model Non-Banking Financial Company MFI. KADFC will be renamed as NABARD Financial Services Ltd (NABFINS) and will

operate as a subsidiary of NABARD with NABARD having not less than 51% of equity. This MFI may start operating during the year 2007-08.

**Disposal of fused CFL Bulbs**

1968. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to environmental experts, Compact Fluorescent Lamps are highly health hazards;

(b) if so, whether the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) had decided to set up 50 centres across the country where fused CFLs can be disposed of;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the sites selected for setting up facilities centre, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which such centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) It has been reported that the amount of mercury in Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) ranges from 1.3 milligram to 5 milligram, which does not pose health hazard to humans as long as the bulbs are intact or in use. Further, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has constituted a task force on 14.08.2007 to evolve a policy on safe management of mercury from CFL.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

**Setting up of Ultra Mega Power Projects**

1969. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has decided to adopt a proactive approach in regard to Ultra Mega Power Projects being set up in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Power had launched



an initiative for the development of coal based Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs), each of about 4000 MW capacity. These projects are being developed on a Build, Own and Operate basis, and the project developer is selected through a tariff based competitive bidding process initiated/to be initiated by project specific shell companies which have been formed a wholly owned subsidiaries of Power Finance Corporation, the identified nodal agency for this initiative.

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in consultation with the States had identified the following nine locations for setting up of UMPPs:

- (i) Sasan in Madhya Pradesh;
- (ii) Mundra in Gujarat;
- (iii) Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;
- (iv) Akaltara in Chhattisgarh;
- (v) Tadri in Karnataka;
- (vi) Girye in Maharashtra;
- (vii) Cheyyur in Tamil Nadu;
- (viii) Sundergarh District in Orissa; and
- (ix) Tilaiya in Jharkhand.

Out of the above, the bidding process has been completed in respect of the UMPPs at Mundra and Sasan. In addition, the bidding process has been initiated in respect of the UMPPs at Krishnapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Tilaiya (Jharkhand).

#### **Increasing Strength of Judges in High Courts**

1970. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a triennial review of the strength of judges in High Courts has been completed;
- (b) if so, whether a final decision in appointing the judges as per review has been taken; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) As a result of a triennial review in the year 2006, 106 posts of Judges, subject to concurrence of the respective State Governments, had been approved in various High Courts as per details given below:

(i) Allahabad	65 Judges
(ii) Andhra Pradesh	27 Judges
(iii) Calcutta	08 Judges
(iv) Delhi	01 Judge
(v) Karnataka	01 Judge
(vi) Kerala	01 Judge
(vii) Punjab & Haryana and	02 Judges
(viii) Madhya Pradesh	01 Judge

On the acceptance of the recommendation from the State Governments, 65 posts of Judges in the Allahabad High Court, 1 post in Karnataka and 1 post in Madhya Pradesh have already been created.

After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. Vs. Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court.

#### **Setting Up of National Urban Commission**

1971. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently decided to set up a National Urban Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said Commission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### Public Sector Banks In Foreign Countries

1972. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public sector banks and their branches operating in foreign countries at present, bank-wise;

(b) the number of proposals pending with the Government for clearance for opening more such branches in foreign countries including the names of countries where such branches are proposed;

(c) whether Government has received any complaint in regard to functioning of these branches from host countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the nature of complaints received;

(e) whether RBI is monitoring the functioning of these bank branches; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As on 31st July, 2007, public sector banks (PSBs) have 115 branches abroad, consisting of Punjab National Bank-1, Allahabad Bank-1, State Bank of India-33, Bank of India-22, Bank of Baroda-42, Indian Bank-3, Indian Overseas Bank-6, UCO Bank-4, Canara Bank-2 and Syndicate Bank-1.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has received applications from 3 PSBs for opening overseas branches in 7 countries viz. South Africa, Germany, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and New Zealand.

(c) RBI has not received any complaint in regard to functioning of these branches from regulators of the host countries.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) RBI monitors the functioning of Indian banks' branches abroad by way of Off-site monitoring through quarterly returns, quarterly letters from the Chief Executives of the banks and monthly compliance certificates from the banks reporting incidents of overseas regulatory violations, if any, etc. Further, in case of no

violation, banks are required to certify to RBI that no violation on any regulations had been reported/observed in any of the countries where the concerned bank has its branch/office. RBI also carries out On-site inspection of these branches occasionally.

### Deposits in SBI

1973. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deposits of State Bank of India has been decreasing during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SBI has made any study to find out the factors responsible for such trend; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The deposits of State Bank of India (SBI) have been increasing over the past three years as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

As on	Deposits
31.3.2005	367047.53
31.3.2006	380046.06
31.3.2007	435521.09

(c) and (d) In view of the above, the need for such a study does not arise.

### Commercial Banks in the Country

1974. SHRI B. VINOD KIMAR: Will the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural Branches of Commercial banks in the country as on March 31, in 1991, 2001 and 2007;

(b) whether a number of rural Bank Branches in the country have come down during the last few years; and

(c) if so, the reasons for decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of rural branches of commercial banks in the country is 35206, 32562 and 30573 at the end of March 1991, 2001 and 2007, respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While the number of rural branches have decreased from 35206 in 1991 to 30573 in 2007, total number of branches have increased from 60220 to 71548 and semi-urban branches from 11344 to 16273, respectively, during the same period.

Consequent upon updation of population group classification as per 2001 census in March 2006, there have been changes in status (i.e. Rural, Semi-Urban, Urban and Metropolitan) of branches/offices of banks mainly due to upgradation of population group of banked centres from lower population group to higher population group consequent upon growth in the population of centres, as per 2001 census compared to that based on 1991 census. As a result of these changes, a number of banked centres, which were classified previously as rural as per 1991 census, were classified as Semi-Urban, Urban and Metropolitan as per 2001 census.

#### **Harassment to PAN Card Holder**

1975. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether confidentiality of Permanent Account Number is not maintained and the information and data relating to PAN is leaked out thus putting the holder of PAN to a great harassment from bank agents and others; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to maintain confidentiality of the information pertaining to PAN?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Adequate steps have been taken to ensure

confidentiality of information relating to Permanent Account Number. No instances have come to the notice of the Government, wherein data relating to PAN is leaked out, thus putting the holder of PAN to a great harassment from bank agents.

#### **Recovery from Fraudsters**

1976. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fraud took place during disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union as reported in the *Times of India* dated May 12, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has failed to recover money from the fraudsters or the banks concerned after Enforcement Directorate, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence unearth fraud; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Several cases of fraudulent availing of duty drawback in respect of the exports of the goods to Russia under the Rupee-Rouble agreement as reported in the *Times of India* dated 12.5.2007 have been booked by the DRI.

(b) Upon receipt of information with regard to said fraud, RBI investigated and made sample scrutiny of transactions of some Banks wherein it was confirmed that the Banks have followed the various provisions relating to documentary credit and exchange control regulations. As such, there is no further action attributable on the part of RBI.

(c) Necessary action has been initiated against the fraudsters to recover duty/export incentives. DRI has raised demand of Rs. 471.044 crore on account of fraudulent duty drawback made by the fraudsters, out of which Rs. 8.56 crore have been recovered. The Enforcement Directorate has also simultaneously issued 29 show cause notices out of which 6 show cause notices have been adjudicated. Apart from this, Enforcement Directorate has launched prosecution in 8 cases.

12.01 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6785/2007)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Urban Art Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6786/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.861(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, 2004, issued under section 194-A of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6787/2007)

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:

- (i) The Income Tax (4th Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O.762(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) The Income Tax (5th Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O.849(E)

in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iii) The Income Tax (6th Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O.850(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iv) The Income Tax (7th Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O.853(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (v) The Income Tax (8th Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O.1044(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vi) The Electronic Furnishing of Return of Income Scheme, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O.1281(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vii) S.O. 1355(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the bond with the particulars mentioned therein as Zero coupon bond for the purpose of clause (48) of section 2 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

- (viii) S.O. 1356(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the Cost Inflation Index as 551 for the Financial Year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6788/2007)

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under clause 23 C of section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:

- (i) S.O.851(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum authorizing the Chief Commissioners or Directors General to act as prescribed authority for the purpose of sub-clause (iv) and sub-clause (v) of clause (23C) of section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 with effect from 1st day of June 2007.

- (ii) S.O.852(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum authorizing the Chief Commissioners or Directors General to act as prescribed authority for the purpose of sub-clause (vi) and sub-clause (via) of clause (23C) of section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 in relation to any University or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution with effect from 1st day of June 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6789/2007)

- (4) A copy of the Circular No. 2/2007 (Hindi and English versions) dated 21st May, 2007 regarding Option to certify TDS certificates by way of Digital Signatures issued under section 119(2)(c) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6790/2007)

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Prem Chand Gupta I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956—

- (i) The Companies (Director Identification Number) Second Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. GS.R. 265(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2007.
- (ii) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 399(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2007.
- (iii) The Companies (Issue of Indian Depository Receipts) (Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 480(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2007.
- (iv) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 500(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6791/2007)

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshadweep Building Development Board, Kavaratti, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Building Development Board, Kavaratti, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6792/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): 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 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906:
  - (i) The Five Rupees coined to commemorate the occasion of "Mahatma Basaveshwara", Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 312 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th April 2007.
  - (ii) The Coinage of the Five Rupees coined to commemorate the event of "75 Years of Dandi March" Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 320(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May 2007.
  - (iii) The Coinage of the Five Rupees Coin with the Theme "Connectivity and Information Technology" Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 413(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th June 2007.
  - (iv) The Coinage of the Bi-Metallic Coin of Rupees Ten Coined with the theme "Connectivity and Information Technology"

Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 469(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July 2007.

- (v) The Coinage of the Hundred Rupees and Five Rupees coined in commemoration of "150th Birth Anniversary of Lok Manya Bal Gangadhar Tilak" Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.468(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6793/2007)

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

- (i) G.S.R. 528(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to notify the conditions safeguards and procedures for supply of items like tags, labels, print bags, stickers, belts, buttons and hangers produced or manufactured in an Export Oriented Undertaking and cleared without payment of duty to a unit in Domestic Tariff Area for use in the manufacture or processing of goods which are exported to implement the provisions of Foreign Trade Policy-2004-2009 subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) G.S.R. 416(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 2/2005-CE (N.T.) dated the 7th January, 2005.
- (iii) The CENVAT Credit (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 342(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) G.S.R. 516(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing the officers mentioned therein as Assistant/Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise Officers for receiving refund claims filed by diplomatic missions or consulates or diplomatic agents or career consular officers.

- (v) The CENVAT Credit (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2007, published in Notification No.G.S.R.534 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum,

- (vi) G.S.R.530(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 3/2006-CE dated the 1st March, 2006.

- (vii) G.S.R.531 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce excise duty from 16% to 8% on bandages and plasters of paris (pharmaceutical grade).

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6794/2007)

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sections 12, 17 to 19 of the Central Excise Rules, 2002:-

- (i) G.S.R. 182(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in three notifications mentioned therein.
- (ii) G.S.R. 183(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two notifications mentioned therein.
- (iii) G.S.R. 299(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 42/2001-CE (N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (iv) G.S.R. 300(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 45/2001-CE (N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (v) G.S.R. 301(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 23/2006-CE (N.T.) dated the 12th October, 2006.

- (vi) G.S.R. 302(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 26/2004-CE (N.T.) dated the 27th September, 2004.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6795/2007)

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 772(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2007 including Regional Rural Banks under the purview of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Act.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6796/2007)

- (5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation for the year ended the 31st March, 2007 under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6797/2007)

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:

- (i) G.S.R. 364(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in five notifications mentioned therein.
- (ii) G.S.R. 365(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 421(E) dated the 11th June, 2007.
- (iii) G.S.R. 366(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 154/1994-Cus. dated the 13th July, 1994.
- (iv) G.S.R. 485(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2007 together with an

explanatory memorandum notifying the duty drawback rates for the year 2007-2008.

- (v) G.S.R. 529(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (vi) G.S.R. 539(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two notifications mentioned therein.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6798/2007)

- (7) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the following Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March 2007 together with Audit Report thereon:-

- (i) Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jabalpur.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6799/2007)

- (ii) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank, Dharwad.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6800/2007)

- (iii) Solapur Gramin Bank, Solapur.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6801/2007)

- (iv) Gurgaon Gramin Bank, Gurgaon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6802/2007)

- (v) Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank, Varanasi.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6803/2007)

- (vi) Madhya Bharath Gramin Bank, Sagar.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6804/2007)

- (vii) Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6805/2007)

- (viii) Satpura Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chhindwara.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6806/2007)
- (ix) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6807/2007)
- (x) Uttaranchal Gramin Bank, Dehradun.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6808/2007)
- (xi) Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6809/2007)
- (xii) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ambikapur.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6810/2007)
- (xiii) Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kota.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6811/2007)
- (xiv) Nainital-Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Haldwani.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6812/2007)
- (xv) Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6813/2007)
- (xvi) Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank, Rewa.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6814/2007)
- (xvii) Kisan Gramin Bank, Badaun.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6815/2007)
- (xviii) Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Purnia.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6816/2007)
- (xix) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6817/2007)
- (xx) Rajasthan Gramin Bank, Alwar.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6818/2007)
- (xxi) Puranchal Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6819/2007)
- (xxii) Prathama Bank, Moradabad.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6820/2007)

- (xxiii) Baroda Rajasthan Gramin Bank, Ajmer.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT— 6821/2007)
- (xxiv) Pragathi Gramin Bank, Bellary.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6822/2007)
- (xxv) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6823/2007)
- (xxvi) Shreyas Gramin Bank, Aligarh.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT— 6824/2007)
- (xxvii) Wainganga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chandrapur.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6825/2007)
- (xxviii) Vidisha Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Vidisha.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6826/2007)

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Fund) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. 11/LC/GN/2007/2518 in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2007 together with a corrigendum thereto (in Hindi version only) published in Notification No. 11/LC/GN/2007/2518 (133) dated the 29th June 2007.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. 11/LC/GN/2007/2519 in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2007, together with a corrigendum thereto (in Hindi version only) published in Notification No. 11/LC/GN/2007/2519 (134) dated the 29th June 2007.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Merchant Bankers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. 11/LC/GN/2007/2517 in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2007 together with a corrigendum thereto (in English version only) published in



Notification No. 11/LC/GN/2007/2517 (135) dated the 29th June 2007.

- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Bay-Back of Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. 11/LC/GN/2007/2007 in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6827/2007)

- (9) A copy of the Notification No. 136 (Hindi and English versions) containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 1454(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2007, issued under Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6828/2007)

- (10) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Performance Audit of Educational Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes - Union Government (Civil) (No. 14 of 2007) - Performance Audit (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs) for the year ended March 2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6829/2007)

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Performance Audit of Procurement of Stores and Machinery in Ordnance Factories - Union Government (Defence Services) (No. 19 of 2007) - Performance Audit—Ordnance Factories (Ministry of Defence) for the year ended March 2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6830/2007)

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Performance Audit of Functioning of Commercial Wings in the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad - Union Government (Civil) (No. 21 of 2007) - Performance Audit (Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Commerce) for the year ended the March 2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6831/2007)

- (11) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 535(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August 2007, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of partially oriented yarn, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6832/2007)

12.02 hrs.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

### Fifty-first and Fifty-fourth Reports

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2007-2008):—

- (1) Fifty-first Report on "Property Management by Ministry of External Affairs".  
(2) Fifty-fourth Report on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2005-2006)".

12.03 hrs.

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 141st, 157th and 172nd Reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology\*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay this Statement in pursuance of

\*Laid on the Table.

Direction 73A of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha under rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition), to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment and Forests in its 141st, 157th & 172nd Reports.

2. The 141st Report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of the Department of Biotechnology for the financial year 2005-06. I have made Statements on 5.5.2005, 23.12.2005 and 25.8.2006 and informed the House regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in its 141st report. The present statement gives the latest status pertaining to recommendation made in Para 43 of the Report. The details are at Annexure-I.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6833/2007)

3. The 157th Report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of the Department of Biotechnology for the financial year 2006-07. I have made Statement on 25.08.2006 and informed the House regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in its 157th report. The present statement gives the latest status pertaining to recommendations made in Paras 44, 56 & 62. The details are at Annexure-II.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6834/2007)

4. The 172nd Report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of the Department of Biotechnology for the financial year 2007-08. The Committee reviewed the progress with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of DBT in its meeting held on 28.03.2006 and presented its report to the House on 26.4.2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—6835/2007)

5. The report contains 17 recommendations, some of which are advisory in nature. Other recommendations relate to different sectors of Biotechnology: Reorientations of Programmes, Capacity Building in Agriculture Biotechnology, Technologies for Vaccine Development, Animal Husbandry and Public Private Partnership, etc.

6. All 17 recommendations of the Committee have been considered by Department of Biotechnology. A detailed Action Taken Report on the recommendations

has been prepared and has been sent to Rajya Sabha Secretariat for placing before the Committee. The Action Taken Report is detailed at Annexure-III.

12.03½ hrs.

(II) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 162nd Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, Pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology\*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Sixty-second (162nd) Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin - Part II, dated September 1, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests laid their One Hundred Sixty-second (162nd) Report on 14th December, 2006 in the Lok Sabha. In all, there were 34 recommendations in the 162nd Report of the Committee. The present status of implementation is detailed in the Annexure which may be allowed to be laid on the Table of the House.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—6836/2007)

12.04 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce the Government Business

\*Laid on the Table.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

during the week commencing Wednesday, the 29th of August, 2007 will consist of :

1. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:

- (a) The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2007.
- (b) The Inland Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2005 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (c) The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2006, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (d) The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The Government should bring the Bill on Social Security for Unorganized Sector Labourers.
2. The Government should consider to keep the relics of Lord Buddha at Lalitgiri, the very site of its excavation which was kept at the headquarters of ASI at Bhubaneswar for the last 25 years.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The roads made by the public works department in rural areas which are in dilapidated condition should be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. There is a need to start new construction work by including first class roads under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Nirman Yojana. There is a need to start new construction work by including first class roads under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Nirman Yojana.

2. Very few parts of Saurashtra area of Gujarat has been connected with National Highways. So, there is need to provide priority to connect those areas with National Highways.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:

1. 49 casual workers out of which seven already died, are working with FCI at Durgapur unit (West Bengal) on casual basis for the last 31 years since 1976 as a fourth class staff with rice mill of FCI. After closure of rice mill in 1991, they are engaged with FCI as procurement staff till today. Though Industrial Tribunal, Asansol has given order to absorb the casual labour as permanent according to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in the year 1999 but the management filed to the higher court to delay the recruitment. This is very inhuman. This should be discussed.
2. The Namosudra, pond, Maji castes are Scheduled Castes in West Bengal but in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh they are not entitled as Scheduled Castes. Basically, Namosudra are refugee due to partition of Bengal. These castes should be declared as Scheduled Castes by a legislation of the Central Government.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. There is a need to formulate law to ensure that at least one member for all types of selection boards, selection Committees and public service commissions should be from other backward class (OBC).

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh—not present. Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava - not present.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, the following items of public importance may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. There is a very old bridge on the river Kamlabalan between Lohana and Jhanjharpur railway stations in Sakari-Nirmali Railway section under the East Central Railway and on account of the sand deposition on the river bed during rainy season water starts flowing over the bridge obstructing the railway traffic. So, there is a need to construct a new high railway bridge over there in public interest.
2. Laukaha Bazar is the last railway station of Jhanjharpur-Laukha Railway section under the East Central Railway which is located along the Indo-Nepal border. A large number of passengers from Nepal travel from this railway station. There is no retiring room and shades are in a dilapidated condition. There is a need to provide necessary facilities to the passengers at this terminal railway station and also to modernize this station.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harisinh Chavda—not present.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUAMR (Chail): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. There is drought like situation in Uttar Pradesh. The State should be declared drought affected. Water should be released in the canals, fertilizer, irrigation facility and 16 hour power supply should be provided to farmers and the revenue collection should be waived off.
2. Cultivable land should be allotted to the poor farmers, Indira Awas and Antyodaya cards should be provided to them, non functional tube wells should be made operational and free power connection should be provided to private tube wells.

[*English*]

SHRI DUSHYANT SFNGH (Jhalawar): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:

1. Oil Profit sharing royalty issue in the State of Rajasthan.
2. Discuss and debate issues related to NREGA inclusion of all districts in Rajasthan.

12.09 hrs.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE\*

**Situation arising out of continued rise in the prices of essential commodities**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 11, Calling Attention.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I know what you want to say.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, it is a very serious issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You please wait. First of all let three hon'ble Members speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I have given notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No other Member will then participate in it. I am always ready.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to the following matter of urgent public importance and I would request that he may make a statement thereof. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you agree, we can convert it. We can take it up after discussion on the Flood.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : No, Sir, I do not agree.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I am ready.

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\*On submission by some Members, Hon'ble Speaker converted the Calling Attention into Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : But I am not ready.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am ready and there is no problem about that. But I would like to say that I received this particular notice at 9.15 p.m. last night with a message that at 10.00 a.m. I should submit a detailed statement to the Parliament Secretariat. It is a very important issue and the whole House would like to know about it. If in 15 to 45 minutes Parliament Secretariat is expecting a Report from us, I think it is not proper.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I find, it has been delayed. I will find out why it has been delayed. But would you like to give time to him? I find that adequate time has not been given. It is a very vital matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, this matter should be deferred for the next-day.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Can we do it on 29th August?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I am not so inclined to be the mover. You can also be the mover. That is not the issue. The issue is that the price rise is a very pressing issue. ...(Interruptions) I am saying that when this notice has been admitted, let it be discussed. There has been precedents also. Why should you leave it? That is my point.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of leaving it. But the point is, once a Calling Attention is there, it is very difficult to allow a full discussion under Rule 193 on the same subject in this House. Therefore, I believe the Minister is ready for a discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I am ready.

MR. SPEAKER: I think we can take it up on next Wednesday,

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It will be taken up under Rule 193 and the mover will be Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: But there is one problem. Let me very frankly state it in this House. Normally, the discussion under Rule 193 is taken up at the end of the day and if it is taken up at the end of the day, it loses the focus always. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In view of urgency of the matter, we can take it up on Wednesday.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whom do I hear? Nobody is patient?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. It will be taken up at 2 o'clock on Wednesday if the hon. Leader of the House agrees.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, whatever you advice we always follow. We have no objection. My only appeal to them is to accommodate the legislative business of the day after this debate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker Sir, what will happen to the discussion on flood under Rule 193. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please keep it here. It will be taken after this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on the issue of flood will be held today.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have only one submission. The discussion on flood is incomplete and several Members of Bihar especially made a request to me that the discussion may continue till Monday also because most of the Bihar Members are going to Patna

today for their programmes. Therefore, I would request you that discussion on flood may start again today but it should not be concluded today. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It will start immediately.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I have also given a notice for discussion under Rule 193 regarding farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Monday is holiday. The discussion can be held on Wednesday.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It will start immediately.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am only afraid that if it is scheduled to take place in the late hours of the day, then it will lose the focus.

MR. SPEAKER: If I remain the Speaker on Wednesday next, it will be taken up at 3 o'clock.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, you said that it will be taken up at 2 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: There is one Government Bill.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I cannot guarantee about other electronic media, but I assure you on behalf of both—the Lok Sabha Channel which is at your command and Doordarshan which is at my command that they would definitely give the highest focus to the debate. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, this is not a charitable comment. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be some relaxation and some humour in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: We are going to have national conference of our party at Banaras tomorrow and day after tomorrow. Almost all M.P.s of our party have left today. The House is not having its sitting on Monday and Tuesday. Hence, we would like to request that the discussion on flood should conclude on Wednesday.

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion on flood will be held today and now only. Please sit down. There is still some time for the train to leave for Banaras.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave the topic. I do not agree with them.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will see that all the names remain.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, for this discussion, my name is placed at second. So, I should be allowed to speak after Comrade Gurudas Dasgupta. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is to speak after Gurudasji and thereafter he would speak, is it the House of C.P.M. only. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, whose name is first today could initiate and other will be followed as per strength of respective parties.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Calling Attention is now being converted into a discussion under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you cannot question the decision of the Speaker. Keeping in view the importance of the matter this is being converted into a discussion under Rule 193. The mover of the discussion will be Shri Gurudas Dasgupta on 29th of August, 2007.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have suggested that it should start at 2 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a short Bill to be disposed of at 2 p.m.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the discussion on flood situation be on 29th of this month?

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion on flood situation will be today itself.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We will not be present today. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House. Enough is enough. We are trying to help each other. The Bill could be disposed of in very less time, maybe, within an hour. We will complete that Bill. I am saying that I have decided that immediately—if necessary, we will dispense with the Luncheon hour on that date—at 2 p.m. the small Bill will be taken up on Wednesday, the 29th of August, 2007.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot hear anything if all three of you are speaking at a time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, as the Calling Attention is being converted into 193. I should be allowed to speak after the mover of the Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: That will be decided by the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is a precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into that.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, it was tentatively decided that the discussion on the Indo-US Nuclear deal will take place on the 29th of August, 2007.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it has not been decided.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this practice should be avoided that whatever decision is taken in the BAC should not be discussed here in the House. We

shall ascertain the availability of the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Member cannot presume and assume everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matter under Calling Attention is a very important matter. There is a demand from several sections of the House that in view of the importance of the matter it should be converted into a discussion under Rule 193. I am prepared to do that for which the co-operation from all sides of the House is needed. If you do not want a full discussion, then I will go ahead with the Calling Attention. Therefore, please co-operate with the Chair. On Wednesday, which is the next working day, the discussion will take place at 3 p.m. This matter will be taken up under Rule 193. The name of Shri Gurudas Dasgupta will be at number one and number two will be Shri Basudeb Acharia, but when he will speak that will be decided by the Chair.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It should be postponed for 30th. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I said that it will be held as soon as possible.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It has been fixed for 29th in the morning today.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask for it under Rule 193.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is also under 193.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already agreed to it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): It is private member's bill today.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what is happening. The discussion on flood has taken place for over six hours. Sixty six minutes have been consumed by Members from your Party. I am allowing you immediately today. How many Members will speak?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will give you an opportunity to participate in the discussion on flood situation.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We will not be here today. We protest against it. It is the day for private member's bill. How can you conclude the discussion on flood today? It will not be concluded. Is it 29th for the discussion on flood? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The reply to the debate has to be given.

*[Translation]*

This is what I have told but you have not heard it.

...*(interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: How it will be done? Will there be reply to the discussion on flood today?

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any rule that it cannot be replied on Friday?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will private member's bill be postponed to Friday?

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to make an appeal. As many speakers as may like to speak on flood may be allowed to speak. Let them speak on the issue. I have been specially requested for this. I told them that I will convey their request to the hon. Speaker because I cannot take that decision. The hon. Home Minister is prepared to reply on the next day. Since the MPs from Bihar have some queries on this matter and today they are all on their way to Bihar, so debate can continue and if you allow, the reply could be given on the next day. This is subject to your decision.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, I am also saying that it cannot be replied today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on flood will be continued now. Private Member's bill will be taken up at

3.30 p.m.. You may continue to speak as much as you want.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, we have requested you that our national conference is going to be held from 9.00 p.m. tonight and will continue for three days. Almost all M.Ps have left. We are about to leave to catch train or plane. As such we requested you that we the people of Bihar are more sufferer, where more than five hundred people have died. There is no way to go to Bihar. If we are not here and do not have time to be present here, then how will we be able to ask something from hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and seek clarifications. So, we request you to postpone it for Wednesday or the next day, we have no objection. Arrange the discussion for Wednesday and let us have its reply the next day. Please allow us to participate in it. Let the reply be on the 30th. We do not have any objection. It is urgent while there is no urgency for the matter where more than five hundred people have died.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying. I have fixed the time for the discussion on floods from the very first day.

*[English]*

Do not blame the chair. How many hours have been wasted? This is too much.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You have given time and expressed grief on this issue yesterday. But please listen to others as well. It is our grievance.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, allotted time but we did not allow the House to run. Speaker Sir has no problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: On my own, I have allowed discussion on floods as a priority item.

*[Translation]*

It has been discussed for six hours.



[English]

Now you want to special direction because of your party conference. You start immediately and if you want, the hon. Minister is here to reply.

[Translation]

Continue to speak, okay.

[English]

Let us take the discussion on Floods. You may speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, what about zero hour? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, why zero hour will not be taken up. So many important issues are there. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. Please sit down, Shri Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I cannot tackle so many advisors. I am thankful to Shri Dasgupta, Shri Acharia and Shri Chandrappan for they have agreed to my proposal because I have allowed it. But in view of the general sense of the House, I am converting it as discussion under rule 193 seeing the importance of the matter. If there are punches from all sides, how can the Chair function? You have spoken for six hours. I am crossed with the Members. What is to be done now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now take up matters of urgent public importance. I am thankful to the hon. Members whose names figure for Calling Attention.

Now, Shrimati Krishna Tirath may speak on matters of urgent public importance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: One Member disturbing the other Member should be stopped.

[Translation]

Running commentary has to be stopped otherwise I will take action.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today people of Delhi are afflicted by the problem of electricity. The common man of Delhi is badly affected by this problem. The companies which have taken over this work, whether it is B.S.E.S. Yamuna, B.S.E.S. Rajdhani or N.D.P.L. I feel all these companies are like East India Company and have created such a situation in Delhi that all residents of Delhi are repeatedly crying for help. Delhi is surrounded by slum, slum clusters or posh colonies. They do not supply the required quantity of electricity in every area and in the localities where they supply the required electricity they charge so much that people are unable to pay these Bills. Like East India Company, Ambani Group has installed such meters that common man, small employee, small shopkeepers are facing problems to pay its Bill which is more than their full day's earning. I think this company had taken the charge in the year 2002. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Are you speaking against your own Government?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying?

[English]

Shri Kriplani, you are already a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: I am not speaking against the Government. I am talking about power

companies. Earlier, there was DVB or DESU, ...(*Interruptions*). I feel they have purchased you also. Opposition do not comment because it has bribed them. ...(*Interruptions*) They are enclosing twenty years old Bill with these bills and are demanding arrears from the people. It has affected common man very badly and they blame common man for power theft for example if he has some machines in his house then they also count them and prepare Bill according to it. They count every point in each house. If an old lady live in an old house and has 50 points in her house then they prepare Bill according to all points. I would like to state that these companies have taken over our vast infrastructure, big offices but still they want to increase the rates of electricity day by day.

On the other hand, I read in a newspaper yesterday that the rate of electricity was proposed to be increased by 38 percent in five years but it has increased only 16 percent till now. If common man is facing so much difficulty only by 16 percent increase then what will happen to Delhi when it would increase upto 38 percent? Government is providing 50-50 percent subsidy to lessen the burden of common man. I feel that there should be some control over these companies or this work should be handed over, to D.V.B. or DESU again so that common man can get some relief and increasing rates of Bills could be controlled. Electricity Bill should be within the reach of the common man. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra associates with the issue raised by Shrimati Krishna Tirath.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (*Vadodara*): Sir, thank you for permitting me to raise a very important matter which relates to my State. It pertains to decentralisation of National Discipline Scheme.

The Government of India has not released Rs. 19,04,47,879 under the National Discipline Scheme to the Government of Gujarat as yet in spite of submissions of utilisation certificates to the Government for the years concerned.

I urge the Government for early release of the fund.

12.21 hrs.

## OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Calling Attention

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Pawar, the usual procedure is to orally inform the Ministry about a Calling Attention being admitted. Formal communication goes after I sign the file. Yesterday also, in the morning, your Ministry was communicated. Therefore, there was no default on the part of my office.

12.22 hrs.

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (I) Re: Early Implementation of the recommendations of Srikrishna Commission Report regarding Mumbai riots in 1993

[*English*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (*Uluberia*): Sir, I would like to raise a serious matter in the Parliament. I appeal to the Government to take serious note of it. You know, in our country, one of the most barbaric killings was organised in 1993 in Mumbai. Nearly 1,000 people were killed. It was a conspiracy hatched in the whole city of Mumbai. There were protests all over the country against that communal incident.

The Maharashtra Government was kind enough to institute a Commission, Sri Krishna Commission to inquire into that incident. After five years of working, the Commission identified many things and it recommended very meaningful things to the Government. But unfortunately, even after the lapse of nine years after the submission of the Report by the Commission, the Government has not taken any action. It identified 31 police officials as criminals. They were promoted, not punished. Many people who were identified for organising riots or as taking part in the riots, have been named in the Report. But so far, the Government has failed to take any action. It sends a wrong signal to the minorities. They think that they are going to get any justice because in the subsequent case, though there was a delay, there was a punishment given. It is good though it was delayed, punishment was given and justice was not denied. But

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

the incident that happened before that has not been taken care of.

I appeal to the Government to take note of it and assure the nation that Sri Krishna Commission Report will be implemented and the culprits identified by the Commission will be given proper punishment and that the country will be free from such communal menace.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is here. He should respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, the Members from our Party would also like to associate with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you all can associate with him.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Chairperson of the UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, is equally concerned about the implementation of the Srikrishna Committee Report. I had been to Mumbai. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, in my presence, told the media that part of the report has been complied with and about the other part he is aggressively pursuing. No less than our Chairperson of UPA is very sincerely and seriously echoing the tune of rest of the Members of the country and the minority. She is pursuing the matter and we should see that no stone is left unturned in this matter and it has to be dealt with very firmly.

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[English]

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Sir thank you very much for allowing me to raise this urgent matter of public importance.

All over the country, the students belonging to the backward community are agitated. There is an excellent programme by the Central Government extending the Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship to the research scholars in the universities. My urge to the Government is that this scholarship may be extended to the students belonging to the Backward Community. I would request the Government to enhance the scholarship amount for research scholars and students.

I would urge the Government to implement the BC reservation when they are appointing the members to the UGC, CCSSR, CSIR, AICTE and also UPSC. I would also urge the Government to sense the impasse created by the Supreme Court in implementation of the reservations for OBCs in the higher education. Since the Government is giving a subsidy of over Rs. 1,000 crore to the IITs, my urge to the Government is that the same amount of funds which are allocated to the implementation of the OBC quota in higher education may be spent through the BC Welfare Commission. I would also urge the Government to create a Ministry for BCs, and through that extend this financial assistance to the BC students who are applying for the higher education. We also welcome the Government's decision to implement the same financial assistance to the students belonging to the forward community who are poor.

Lastly, I once again urge the Government to look into this matter because the students are very agitated all over the country. The good decision which was taken by the Chairperson of the UPA and hon. Prime Minister as well as by the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development creating an OBC quota in higher education, and by extending this financial assistance can be implemented properly.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chlmur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important matter. The wheat which was imported by the Central Government has been distributed in Vidharbha, Maharashtra. It is substandard and has red colour which is not good for eating. I would like to tell the hon'ble Sharad Pawarji that one cannot prepare chapatti from the flour of this wheat and if one prepares it with difficulty it smells very much. I have got that wheat, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not permitted under the rules.

[Translation]

Please do not show it here. You send it to the Minister.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to defame the Government, I am giving it to you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: According to the rules, it is not permitted. Again, you are doing the same thing. You are a Professor.

[Translation]

Please do not show it here.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: O.K., I will keep it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had shown this wheat to the Collector of Garhchiroli district in Maharashtra. Garhchiroli district is a backward area. I would like to state to the Central Government that this wheat is not fit for making chapattis so he should stop its distribution in the backward districts. Secondly, urea is mixed with it so stringent action should be taken against the people who are responsible for it. This wheat should be withdrawn from fair price shops. This substandard wheat is being distributed among the people living below poverty line. I would urge the Government to immediately take a decision to withdraw this wheat from fair price shops.

12.30 hrs.

- (ii) **Re: Need to bring out a commemorative stamp in honour of the great patriot Khudiram Bose**

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, the hundred years of the heroic death of the revolutionary Khudiram Bose will fall on August 11, 2008. I urge upon the Government to bring out a commemorative postal stamp on the great patriot Khudiram Bose who merrily went into the gallows of British Raj in India at the age of 18. In the Colonial India under British Rule, the 18-year old young patriot showed his generation how to win fear and embrace the martyrdom for the country's Independence.

His sacrifice inspired the youth of India to lay their lives to free the Motherland from the shackles of British Colonial Rule in India.

The famous song *Ekbar biday dema, ghure asi* which means "Adieu my mother, I will come back" still inspires us against colonialism. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I would like to inform the hon. Member and the House that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken up this matter with the Government. The Khudiram Bose Centenary shall be celebrated. We are making special impact on the film in the whole matter. A Group has been formed in this regard. The State Government and the Union Government shall jointly take the initiative to commemorate the Centenary. We are in touch with the West Bengal Government for the joint initiative in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It is including the stamp, I hope.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: We must appreciate it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a matter of urgent public importance. Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards single window post offices which are called sub post offices and now they have been closed by issuing an order. Cities have big post offices whereas these sub post offices are situated in villages and it has only one postman. These post offices do not have even courier services through which they can deliver letters in different places. Government have closed these sub post offices on the plea that these post offices are running into losses so they should be closed. I would like to give an example of Udaipur to the Government which is my parliamentary constituency. It has one sub post office which has 5000 R.D. accounts, accounts of about 300 senior citizens, 700 F.D. and nearly 2000 telephone bills are deposited there every month. Despite that all those sub post offices have been closed on the plea that they are running into losses. Whereas the fact is that it was the best sub post office. People of that area are facing problems due to its closure. If Government close these post offices then the people of that area would not be able to communicate. They used to write letters, used post offices as banks by depositing their money there, they have stopped all these facilities. So, I would like to state through you that Government should pay attention towards this problem and get them restarted immediately.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the matter of urgent public importance. The Haj pilgrims from all over the country, particularly from Uttar Pradesh go abroad in a large number. Sir, through you, I would like to demand that the quota of Haj pilgrims should be increased keeping in view their large number. The second thing is that the formalities, which have to be completed by various Government officers, should be expedited. Not only this, the Haj Pilgrims which are left out should also be included and given priority in issuing passport and visa. Besides this, Government should ensure boarding and lodging arrangements for the Haj pilgrims.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by him.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. It is recorded.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have given notice beyond the time limit fixed for it. You have to have patience.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If anybody disturbs, he will be disqualified.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government that there are 25 villages in Ratanpur Surara area of my constituency where firing range has been made. The army keeps on firing there and firing has been continuing there for the last 25 years. There is an interval of one minute only during two rounds of firing what I intend to say is that you may hold investigation about the number of people who have been rendered deaf, disabled and handicapped due to incessant firing. Recently, three or four large live bombs were found there and later on it was investigated as to whom these bombs belonged to somebody had left those bombs there. Had those bombs exploded, it would have caused destruction in the village. Their lands have been totally damaged. They do not get fodder for cattle and there is not any

compensation for them. It is, therefore, my demand to shift this firing range from this place as condition of these villages is quite pitiable.

Sir, I am speaking it very seriously as three children were killed there because bombs never blast there and children play with those bombs. I mean to say that it should be shifted away from here to a deserted place with no population. People of those 25 villages are demanding that they should be shifted to some other place.

*[English]*

We are ready for that. I would like to submit that this is a serious matter. The Government should take it seriously.

MR. SPEAKER: Three hon. Members have given notices regarding reservation of jobs in private sector and one hon. Member has given notice for suspension of Question Hour. Yesterday a question was put on this matter and it has been replied to by the hon. Minister concerned. Therefore, I am sorry I cannot allow it to be raised again today.

*[Translation]*

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly give me one minute to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday we had discussed it.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me one minute to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are contradicting me, I am sorry I cannot accept.

*[Translation]*

You know that we have a procedure for Half an Hour Discussion. It will not be possible right now just because you insist.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just give me one minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will not get even half minute's time.

*(English)*

MR. SPEAKER: Same matter cannot be discussed everyday. I am not saying that the matter is unimportant, but it cannot be discussed everyday.

*...(Interruptions)*

12.45 hrs.

(III) Re: Reported assault on the Tribal Woman of Varakapalli village, Vishakhapatnam by the Anti-Naxal Squad

*(English)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an important matter.  
*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: With regard to the other matter for which you have given notice, it was raised yesterday.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The hon. Home Minister was not present yesterday. In Andhra Pradesh 11 tribal women have been raped, but no case has been registered so far against anybody. This is a very serious matter. The hon. Home Minister wants to respond.  
*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Don't record anything.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manjunath Kunnur - Not present

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaaidu, why are you speaking? It is not being recorded. Same matter was raised yesterday.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record one word please.

*...(Interruptions)\**

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. I will not allow. If you had listened to me I would have done it. I will not allow it.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have to direct that it should not be recorded by the TV also.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you cooperate with me, I will allow you. You are deliberately defying me.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, some political leaders in Tamil Nadu have announced that they will be blocking the trains coming from and going to Kerala from today onwards. This is a very serious and most unfortunate thing.

We have nothing against the brothers and sisters of Tamil Nadu. We were legitimately ventilating our grievances against the bifurcation of Palaghat Division.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I said on that day. Nobody thinks of the country.

ADV. SURESH KURUP : Sir, I would request the hon. Home Minister to contact the Tamil Nadu Government and see to it that trains are run properly. Otherwise, it is Onam Festival in Kerala. *...(Interruptions)* I have nothing against him.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rashid, whom are you addressing? With whose permission you are talking?

*...(Interruptions)*

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, you are well aware that it is Onam Festival in Kerala and lot of people are coming to Kerala from other States.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the result of incessant fight in this country.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, if the trains are obstructed, it will cause unnecessary hardship to the people. So, I would again request the hon. Home Minister. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, I seek the indulgence of the hon. Home Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaidu, you have to wait for your turn. I would have given you earlier. This is not a very pleasant job to say these things, but I can compelled to do that.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, at any cost, the Government should see to it that trains are run to Kerala. Otherwise, it will cause unnecessary hardship to the people.

MR. SPEAKER: I know it. You have mentioned it.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, I seek the indulgence of the hon. Home Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Why hon. Home Minister?

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, the hon. Home Minister should contact the Government of Tamil Nadu and see to it that trains are run properly. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you fight amongst yourselves.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport that the age of retirement of the employees of all major ports and dock labour boards be raised from 58 to 60 years.

You are well aware that the maritime trade has been increasing by leaps and bounds and those employees play the great role of the maritime trade. It is regrettable to note that when the retirement age in the educational institutions has been raised from 60 to 65 years and the retirement age of almost all the Central Government and PSU employees is fixed at 60 years, these poor employees who have been working sincerely are not getting this benefit. Not only that, when the recruitment in shipping industry has virtually come to a standstill, when the handling of cargo has been increasing day by day and being handled with the depleted workforce, at that time, the employees of the dock board should not be deprived of having their earnings.

It has also been understood that the retirement age in respect of the Central Government employees, including the employees of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and the employees working under some of the undertakings attached to the administrative Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, and most of the State Government employees is 60 years, I think, this is a sheer discrimination against those employees of the major ports and dock board.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very well.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would urge upon the Government to consider the plight of those employees sincerely and take effective measures.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaidu, yesterday an identical matter was raised for quite some time by the hon. Member Dr. Babu Rao. The hon. Minister did not happen to be present. Today, he is accidentally present and because of that you want to raise the same matter again. Then every day it will happen.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can every time, everybody interrupt the Chair?

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The issue is very alarming in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: The only alarming issue is yours! Since the hon. Minister is willing to reply; but I hope in future such requests will not be made and the hon. Minister should also not respond.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I will respond only with your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am giving the permission.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will get the information and examine it properly, and ask the Government of Andhra Pradesh to take appropriate action.

*[English]*

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, Prasar Bharati Corporation was formed with the noble intention of giving functional autonomy to All India Radio and Doordarshan. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The entire business will have to stop.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: But the provision for public funding to these Public Broadcasters was omitted in the Prasar Bharati Act. The result was that the Prasar Bharati was compelled to fend for existence by

commercializing its programme content imitating the commercial channels and sacrificing the ideals of true public broadcasters. The non-commercial nature is a main distinctive function of Public Service broadcasting. So also Public Service broadcasting is primarily cultural or political rather than economic and commercial. The denial of the core principles of public Service broadcasting is part of corporate strategy to ensure the growth of private sector commercial broadcasters.

So it is submitted that the Government may extend sufficient financial support to All India Radio and Doordarshan so as to enable them to discharge their national duties and responsibilities.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Sir, today through you I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the atrocities committed against women in our country.

Sir, our country holds its head high in the world. The voice of India is heard in the world with great respect because our Indian society since time immemorial women are highly respected. Our Indian society believes that 'God is there where women are respected'.

But, unfortunately today women are being treated as second class citizens. Women are raped and criminal assaults on women are on the rise alarmingly. Shockingly, lovers and colleagues throw acid on the face of the ladies. Lives of such unfortunate women have become hell. It is an heinous crime. Therefore, the Government should identify the culprits and punish them severely. Sir, I urge upon the Government to bring stringent measures to check this menace permanently.

With these words I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You should not have mentioned two or three States. It is not right. Only mention some cities. Thank you very much.

...(*Interruptions*)

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): (Not recorded).

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, what are you saying? Have I called you? If I do not call you, you start on your own. Then, you sit down.

First of all delete whatever he has said. Now, Shri Bikram Keshari Deo.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Your interruptions and disturbance are deleted.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Okay, Sir. Now, as you have given me a chance to speak. I am raising a matter of urgent public importance which warrants Central Government's interference immediately.

In Thuamul Rampur Block in the district of Kalahandi, nearly about 30 tribals have died due to water-borne disease and diarrhoea. ...(*Interruptions*) *Ex-gratia* payment should be made to the people who have died due to this epidemic. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing Mr. Athawale? What are you trying to do?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only last week Mr. Thomas had to go out. Do not forget it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: That disease is slowly spreading in the tribal belts and it is going to the districts of Koraput, Nabarangpur and a lot of people have been affected in the KBK area.

The State Government is trying its best by sending a team of doctors but still if the Central Government does not help, this epidemic is going to take the lives of hundreds of people in Thuamul Rampur Block of Kalahandi district. Therefore, I would request you, Sir, to intervene and give a direction, if possible, to the Ministry of Health to send a special team of doctors.

Another problem which has arisen there is that a lot of tribals are not getting the PDS distribution properly.



[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

They are eating mushroom roots and other things, and thereby they are getting affected and dying.

Under the PDS, mobile vans were running in those areas. I do not know why they were stopped. I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for Consumer Affairs to provide five mobile vans for this district so that the public distribution to BPE and tribal people is made at their doorsteps.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Mr. Speaker, Sir, coir industry is one of the major traditional industries in the country. More than 6.5 lakh workers - majority of them are women - are depending on this industry for their livelihood. 'Alappuzha Coir' - the Golden Yarn of God's own country - is very famous in the world. But the coir industry is now moving through a very crisis period. In addition to the inherent problems in the industry, now the coir industry is facing a set back in the coir exports due to the appreciation of Rupee in the world economy which is not only reflected in the exports but also reflected to down-line industry. Coir exporters are at a huge loss since they had made the agreements with the foreign buyers when Rupee had the depreciated value.

Urgent intervention from the Central Government is imperative to tide over this crisis. So, I would request the Government to extend the following measures which are already there in other similar industries to rescue the coir industry:

- (a) To extend the Duty Drawback Support at the rate of 10 per cent of FOB value to all coir products, which is now given for jute, woollen, cotton and other products.
- (b) External Marketing Assistance (EMA) which is now available to jute floorings at the rate of five per cent of FOB value and raised the maximum EMA benefits allowed to a particular beneficiary from Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 20 crore. This should be extended to coir industry also.
- (c) Market Development Assistance (MDA) subject to a limit of Rs. 1,10,000 is given to exporters having turnover up to Rs. 10 crore. This should be increased to Rs. 3,00,000 with turnover up to Rs. 20 crore.
- (d) Re-imburse the cost for ISO certification and other certification.

- (e) Enhance the limit to Rs. 5 crore for availing SSI status for industrial units as in the case of some other industries to the coir industry.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Aaron Rashid.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You do express thanks but also create a lot of disturbance.

...(Interruptions)

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, the month of Ramjan is to commence on 14th of Sept, 2007. It has been our tradition and custom to prepare Gruel and Porridge and give them away to the faith and also to the poor from our Mosques and Masjids. So, there is an increased need for rice and even cooking gas during the month of Ramjan. When the fast is to commence or to be ended everyday, increased cooking has to be done and it is our traditional custom. Considering this, our Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Dr. Kalignar Karunanidhi has announced that more of rice would be supplied through public distribution system during this month. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to increase the allotment of grains, especially rice to Tamilnadu during this month. It is also necessary to increase the supply of LPG, the cooking gas, that is also in short supply in many places. In order to benefit the Muslims and especially the poor among them and also the poor people among the general public, increased supply of rice through Public Distribution System and additional LPG supply may be made available in Tamilnadu. I urge upon the Union Government to look into this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed 16 matters to be raised in half an hour.

Your notice is not there.

[Translation]

Why do you raise your hands?

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I did not receive that. Your name does not appear in the list which I have with me.

[*English*]

Now Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am drawing your attention to a very important matter. To Rajasthan. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manju Nath, I had called your name but you were not there. Please do not disturb him now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: The share of water received by Rajasthan vis-n-vis world-wide availability of water is only 1 or 1.25 %. Moreover, the terrain of Rajasthan comprises of desert and hilly areas and the State is mainly dependent on rain water.

13.00 hrs.

Geographically, Rajasthan is at present the largest State of India. I understand that even Uttar Pradesh is smaller than this. Today, Rajasthan is the largest State in India.

Sir, the Government of India had agreed to allocate 0.60 F.M. water of the river Ravi to Rajasthan under the Ravi Beas agreement but that water is not being released. Canals have been dug and the problem is getting further aggravated due to non availability of water. The Chief Minister of Punjab is engaged in double speak. Sometimes he speaks of releasing water and sometimes he refuses to do so. I would also request the Chief Minister of Punjab to show mercy on Rajasthan. While our canals have been dug, it is very essential to release 0.60 F.M. water to Rajasthan. Sir, I would further submit that not even a single member has been appointed to this Board. I understand that Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara ji has made a lot of efforts in this regard. On a number of occasions the Chief Minister of Rajasthan has also requested the Minister of Water Resources.

I think the State of Rajasthan is very distressed. In Rajasthan there have been floods at some places and at some places there have been no rains. Rajasthan should be provided its due share which has been discussed a number of times. Even, this matter reached the Supreme Court of India and all kind of things have happened. Therefore, if a person is appointed to the Board and 0.60 F.M. of water is sanctioned for Rajasthan, agriculture in Rajasthan will get a boost and the State of Rajasthan will be able to prosper. It is my only request to you. With these words I conclude my speech. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can remove you from Jaipur.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Kunnur. In future, please be on time.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Yes, Sir.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important subject. I had also spoken in this regard about two years back in this very august House. It is regarding Centre's interference on the 4-Lane Road Project on NH-4 between 282-340 kilometres and 340-404 kilometres, between Harihar- Haveri, and Haveri-Hubli. The project on this road was taken up by the Government of India under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme. As per time schedule, it was to be completed in September, 2003. But later on, it was extended up to the year 2006.

But till now, there is no trace of its completion in the near future as the contractor, the ESSAR Company has terminated the work on this stretch on NH-4 in Karnataka. But there is an urgent need to speed up the work of this 4-Lane road on NH-4.

On this stretch, a number of accidents have been taking place all the time; resulting in loss of lives and property; and no safety measures have been followed while laying this part of the road earlier. There are many deviations, curves and potholes on this stretch of NH-4. It is causing a great amount of inconvenience to the people. Thus, throwing the safety measures in the wind, it has resulted in bad patches in most of the places. Water gets clogged and roads become bad due to heavy rains and innumerable potholes can be seen in the entire stretch.

[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to take up the task of completing this project on NH-4 on war footing.

Sir, I may also bring it to your kind notice that the hon. Deputy-Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council has met with an accident just on this road and his spinal chord has been broken.

MR. SPEAKER: So sorry.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: He is now under treatment. It is all because of this bad road that he had an accident.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry about the injury to him.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Sir, this stretch has not been taken care of. I would, once again, urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to complete this road.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry about his accident. I hope, he will recover soon.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to place some important issues relating to Kerala. Agrarian crisis have caused great hardships to the farmers of Kerala as also the farmers of many other States. Many farmers have committed suicide. This may be due to the crop failure, natural calamities or decline in the prices of their produce. Due to the serious situation prevailing in the State, many of the farmers were unable to repay the loans and also the interests.

In view of this serious situation, the Government of Kerala has passed a Bill known as a Debt Relief Act, this year. The cooperative societies and also other financial institutions, which come under the purview of Kerala, have come under this Act. But the national banks cannot be brought under the ambit of this Act. But, at the same time, the national banks are very cooperative to provide relief to the farmers. So, in this connection, I would like to say that a legal provision binding them to provide relief will be helpful. So, I would request the Government to bring an Act, agricultural debt relief legislation, so as to fulfil not only the issues of the farmers of Kerala but also in other States.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Sir, through you, I draw the attention of this august House to the

problems and sufferings that are being faced by the NRI women in Gulf countries. The number of women going abroad, especially to Gulf countries, for seeking their livelihood, is at an increase now. There are so many recruiting agencies in the country for recruitment of workers to Gulf countries. Many of them are fake agencies. These agencies are offering jobs of domestic servants and Ayaas. They are offering air tickets and taking them to Gulf countries. But after reaching the Gulf countries, these women are usually being handed over to some rackets functioning there, and afterwards the entire facilities to contact others are denied to them.

MR. SPEAKER: What the Government can do?

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: There are incidents of exploitation of these women there in several ways. Some of these women are even in the grip of sex rackets.

MR. SPEAKER: What can our Government do?

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: I draw the attention of the Ministry of External Affairs, especially that of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to take urgent steps to stop the unlawful recruitment by these agencies in the country and direct the embassies in Gulf countries to provide security facilities to these women when they are caught by the police. These women are not being provided facilities by the embassies in the Gulf countries. So, I draw the attention of the Ministry of External Affairs, especially that of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to take emergent steps to provide security to these domestic servants as they are not provided social security there. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention as well as attention of the House to the road accidents taking place everyday. Every day there are reports in newspapers about dozens of people falling prey to road accidents on various highways and major district roads. The lives of some of the people meeting with the said accidents could be saved, but owing to lack of good trauma hospitals, well equipped ambulances having oxinators, monitors and intensive care facilities on the highways of the country, such people also could not be saved. Sometimes, post mortem reports disclose that the persons with minor injuries could be saved if they are given timely treatment. So, I would like to request that trauma centres on the

highways should be set up. In my own parliamentary constituency, there are two places namely Behrod & Kishanganj where a number of accidents take place. Through you, I'd like to request that trauma centres, trauma hospitals and trauma ambulances should be provided there.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a good point.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Yes, this is an emergency system as such.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat. Somehow, you did not reach in time.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. You please be brief.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, in Rajasthan there are more than ten thousand units engaged in marble, mining, processing and handicrafts industry on which more than 20 lac families depend directly or indirectly. Mostly, the Adivasis, the people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and the people living below the poverty line, economically weaker sections of the society and the minorities are associated with these cottage & small scale industries. These industries are spread over nearly 20 districts of Rajasthan in one form or the other which form the significant basis of the economy there. The backbone of Rajasthan's economy is stone and marble mining industries since the State has witnessed no rains, faced continuous famines and low agricultural production during most of the times for the last few years.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, has issued import licences to a handful of importers only in respect of marble blocks of various countries. It leads to a great loss to the marble industry of Rajasthan that produces 75 per cent marble. It is proving very harmful. Because of monopoly of these few importers, the marble industry, which provides employment to lacs of people in Rajasthan as well as across the country, is reeling under crisis. Sir, I request the Government through you that the policy relating to licence to import marble should be immediately scrapped as it serves the purpose of a handful of importers. No licence with regard to import of marble blocks should be issued otherwise it is likely to create the problem of unemployment for lacs of people. Besides, I demand that Marble import Licencing policy should be discontinued.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed 23 matters today when we have agreed for only five.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, so kind of you.

MR. SPEAKER : The other matters will be taken up at the end of the day.

The House now stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

13.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past fourteen of the clock*

*[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the chair]*

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country—*contd.***

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We may now take up item No. 12, namely, further discussion on situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country.

Now, I would like to request Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain to speak on this issue. The time allotted to us for this discussion was only four hours, and we have already taken close to six hours and one minute.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak after waiting for so many days. Whatever papers I was preparing for so many days have also been lost. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the flood situation is very grim and in every session we regularly discuss about the flood situation in the country. If we go through the old debates on this issue, we will found that every

[Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain]

time, the ruling party gave the same answers that they are taking such measures and they will take such measures. Several countries in the world have got control over the problem of floods but for us the flood waters which could have been proved beneficial had been turned into a curse. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of Bihar is very alarming. Many hon. Members spoke on Bihar and hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has visited the affected areas.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has promised to recite a couplet.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will recite the couplet later.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I would like to recite the couplet for him. About 20 districts, 200 blocks and 8000 villages in Bihar are affected by floods and near about 1.75 crore population have been totally affected by this situation. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw attention of the Government that an amount of more than Rs. 8611 crore was demanded by Bihar Government. However, the fund given by the Central Government which was mentioned by Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs in this written reply is very less. I do not want to create a controversy, but would like to say that whereas an amount of Rs. 8-9 thousand crore were demanded, you promised to give only Rs. 114 crore. It is a very meagre amount. We are talking about Bihar and want that the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs in his reply should appraise us of the assistance they may provide to the State. It is necessary to have a permanent solution for this problem. The floods faced by Bihar are not caused by rains in Bihar, but by the rains in Nepal. During the regime of NDA Government in the year 2001, when Shri Sethi was the Minister, an agreement was signed between India and Nepal in which it was decided to construct multi-purpose high level dams that would generate electricity as well as control the floods. The dam was proposed to be constructed on river Kosi, on river Kamla near Badah in Kuchah near Shisha Pani in Nepal and on Bagmati near Nunthar. Seven places were selected for construction of the dam, but the work is not yet complete. It was to be opened in 2004 but at one-two places it has not opened yet. Joint efforts should be made in this regard. The 60 percent of proposed DPR was to be constructed by Nepal and 40 per cent by India. However the Government did nothing in this regard. NDA Government have allocated Rs. 30 crore in the year 2004 which was released recently. For the last three years the Government did nothing in this regard, due to which the people in Bihar have to face such devastating floods.

I would like to request that if this dam is constructed 10,000 M.W. electricity can be generated. The matter is only discussed here and thereafter it is closed. Governments come and go, but without politicizing the issue we should find a permanent solution which could give solace to the people of Bihar. The rivers in Bihar, Mahananda, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati, Ghaghra, Kamlabalan, Kosi, Chanan have all been flooded. Just some time back, Bhagalpur from where I am Member of Parliament was not affected by floods, but now it has also been flooded. Today Narayanpur, Nangachiya, Bilpur, Ghodadih, Jagdishpur, Shahkund and Kahalgaoon are badly affected by floods and as we continue the discussion the magnitude of the flood is continuing to increase. We are discussing the flood situation but are unable to give any relief to the flood victims. The Government should immediately release the amount of Rs. 8611 crore demanded by the Bihar Government. Through you, I would like to request that Bihar is already suffering from poverty, with a large number of people are living below the poverty line. The Government should take a decision to provide houses under Indira Awas Yojana to those people whose houses have been washed away by floods, only then they can get some relief. The rivers in Bihar have not filled up in one day. If the hon. Minister of Home Affairs speaks on this subject it can be understood because the subject is related to him, but the Central and State Ministers of Water Resources leveled a lot of allegations which is not expected of them. The people have a lot of expectations from them that they will give a healing touch. I was present at that time and to my query about their action in this matter, they alleged that Government of Bihar is doing nothing.

They made a promise. One poet has said "Bhala Vayade per Uneke kis ko Aitbar aaye, jo Vayada Karke Aksar Apne Vayade Bhool jate hain". They are only making empty promises for the last three years whether the floods have come due to the Nitish Government being in power? Earlier during Shri Laluji's regime, sand got mixed in river waters. Due to this, water in those deep rivers came up and entered the fields. Katarni is a variety of aromatic rice cultivated in Bhagalpur. Hon'ble Minister, Shri Shakil ji must be knowing it. Sand mixed water entered in these paddy fields and affected the crops. We expect from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to announce a package of Rs. 5 thousand per hectare for the benefit of farmers whose fields have been filled up with sand and crops have been damaged due to floods. A sympathetic attitude should be adopted towards Bihar and

politics should not be played into this. When Ministers conduct aerial surveys in Bihar, flood victims sitting on the high lands could only see their helicopters or the vultures. We do not have any objection on their visits. I have been the Minister also. One should have the fondness for getting photographed. Will there be politics on the problem of flood also. The hon'ble Minister visited the affected areas for distributing food packets. Two three Cameramen also accompanied him there. What benefit one can get from that Photograph? Some people landed a helicopter on the road. This is a matter of investigation. The hon'ble Minister's photograph was there on the food packets distributed by the Steel Authority of India. Can his photograph satiate the hunger of flood victims? Only the food items contained in the packets can do so. However, politics is being played on a problem like flood. The political leaders are still not accepting the fact that at the time of natural calamities they should work together cutting across the party lines. The present Government has failed to rise about the politics.

Our allegation is that the Central Government are not providing the desired help to the Bihar Government. Our friend from Rashtriya Janta Dal has passed abusive remarks for Bihar Government in every sentence of his statement. I want to thanks Sh. Nitish Kumar ji for effectively handling the flood relief work during his Chief Ministership in Bihar. There is no parallel example of such relief work after independence. Every day Chief Minister is working for 20 hours to serve the poors. We expect that the Union Ministers will encourage him on this issue. But allegations are being imposed on him. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources has said a thing which I like to answer. He said that the Bihar Government have not demanded anything from the Central Government. The Minister of Home Affairs has said that they have demanded and we are providing it. Other Ministers have said that they have not demanded anything. He wants to score a political mileage. I would like to submit that if India want to become a developed country and world leader by 2020 it should not ignore the 9 crore people of Bihar if it all they do so it may not achieve the desired growth and therefore the projects sanctioned for Bihar may be implemented without any limitations. The country can not become a developed country if the people of Bihar remain poor. Therefore, I request you that the people who were affected by floods and whose houses were destroyed may be provided Houses under Indira Awas Yojana by relaxing the norms, financial package may be given to the farmers whose

crops were destroyed during floods. I once again request you that it should not be politicized. The Minister of Home Affairs is a very good person and we expect some good steps from him. When he will answer this debate we expect that he will give healing touch instead of adding insult to an injury like Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav and Prof. Saifuddin Soj. He will help Bihar State cutting across the party politics. Developmental works in 20 districts of Bihar were undertaken, roads were repaired and there was a ray of hope among people that for the first time a Government has come to the power to do some developmental works. But due to floods all 20 districts were washed away alongwith the hopes of the people. We hope that the Central Government will help the Bihar Government to bring out Bihar from this crisis and take special care of the flood affected people.

With these words I conclude my statement.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, many members from Bihar have presented their views and now all are well aware of the gravity of the situation there.

*[English]*

But the situation bears repetition. Very briefly, I would like to mention that the State is very gravely affected this year; more than ever in the past, half the districts of Bihar are affected. Over 7,000 villages are flooded; 30 lakh families have been affected; countless people have been displaced; five lakh households are under water; seven lakh hectares of agricultural field are water-logged or under floods. This has led to small, medium and even large farmers being severely affected. They have suffered a loss, a damage worth nearly Rs. 1,000 crore.

This, in very brief, is the overall impact on the villages in North Bihar this year. I said just now that this is the situation in North Bihar. This is because it is North Bihar which is the most flood prone area in Bihar. A small bit of statistics is stunning—17 per cent of the total area of the country which is flood prone is located only in North Bihar which means, nearly every 5th flood prone area in this whole country is in North Bihar. Why does this happen?

Before I come to that, what is necessary to understand is that this is an annual event. It is an unfortunate thing, but it is a fact; every year it comes. The State Government is aware of this. My complaint against the State Government is this and there is no

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

politics in this. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh is not present here now; but he did mention when he was speaking, that this is a matter of human misery and it should not be made into a subject of political debate. I agree with him. I am not making it into a political issue. But what I must say however is that when it is known that this is an annual feature, misery is inflicted on the people of North Bihar. It is up to the State Government to make prior arrangements. This year, unfortunately, it was not done. Actual relief and rescue work began only on the 2nd of August this year, after the Chief Minister returned from his foreign trip. What should have been done was medicines should have been stocked; boats should have been kept ready; other relief supplies should have been kept ready; food grains should have been stocked; and they should all have been kept ready to be distributed, the moment floods came.

It is not that floods will come and then, one can start doing all these things. It is not that even a week before this happens, you start doing these things. It is a known thing. As it is, the public distribution system in the State of Bihar is not working very well. Even in the normal days, kerosene oil is not available; at least, it is not available to those who are below the poverty line. The whole intention of providing these essential commodities at reasonable prices to those who are below the poverty line is not being met. So, it is all the more necessary that in areas which are going to be affected by floods every year, this should have been done well beforehand.

Unfortunately, Sir, this was not done. The only good thing that was done was that the Bihar Government's Disaster Management Department approached the Disaster Management Committee or Commission of the Central Government and the Central Government sent the Disaster Response Force to Bihar. This Force was sent well beforehand. This Force spread out in the districts that were expected to become flood prone and imparted training to the villagers. I will come to that later.

What I want to say is that preparatory action was not taken in time with the result when the floods came, relief work could not be taken up as efficiently and as timely as it should have been done, with the result there was agitation and people demonstrated. I would cite two places where the demonstration was really very heavy; one was in Motihari and the other in Madhubani. Police resorted to firing. Police resorted to registration of criminal cases. Sir, in one of the criminal cases registered, our

Chief Spokesman of the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee has been named. If he was there asking the District Magistrate to do something, to provide relief to those who have been affected by floods, was it a criminal act? But, it has been made into a criminal act. He was also named. There have been *lathi* charges, police firing and criminal cases. This approach of the State Government is insensitive. It should not have happened. I would only appeal to the Government of the day that in future they must desist from doing this. This is a matter of human misery and you cannot pile on more miseries on those who are already affected.

I was saying that this is an annual feature. Why does this happen? This happens mainly because the rivers which get flooded all come from Nepal. It is well known. They come from Nepal and come with great speed because they come from a height. They bring with them silt and that silt is deposited in the river beds of Bihar, with the result, over the years the level of the river has been rising. There is a need for de-silting, and dredging. This is not being done. Flood control measures include de-silting. Unfortunately, while the total Budget provided in the 10th Plan was enormous, in Bihar only 29 per cent of that has been put to use. This 29 per cent, especially in the past 17 months has not been used at all. This is a stark fact. Once again, if I say this, there is no politics involved. This is a fact. The amount of money that should have been spent on the flood control measures well before floods came was not spent. This is unfortunate. But, de-silting has to be done.

Secondly, we all know that these are border rivers and in any border river it is important that we take into account the cooperation of the border State. In this case, it is Nepal. Regardless of that, it is possible to build embankments. Sir, 3,430 kms. of embankments are supposed to be built and of this only 27 per cent has been built. Had the embankments been built or at least work on the embankments been taken up in time, a good bit of the damage could have been prevented. This was not done and this is very unfortunate. I cite to you instances of two places where the embankments were breached because the maintenance of embankments was of a very poor standard. Incidentally, both the places where the embankments were breached happen to be in the constituency of the Minister of State for Communications who is present here, in Madhubani district and the villages because of this breach of embankment were flooded. It is these places where people demonstrated. It is at these places where police had to

do *lathi* charge. It is at these places where police even had to register criminal cases. This is something which the State Government should have avoided. It has not done so and I charge the State Government with failure. It must explain as to why this has happened. Why were the embankments not kept under proper maintenance and care?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Leaders should not indulge in instigating people. They are instigating people. ...(*Interruptions*) That's why there were disturbances. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: If I am instigating the people, I can name two places. Kamla Balan and Bhuthi Balan, where embankments were breached. The whole area has been waterlogged.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your turn is also about to come. Then these people will interrupt and at that point it will be not possible for me to control them.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: They are talking about instigating the people but I would like to inform you that Rs. 1775 crore were given and only Rs. 545 crore have been spent out of that. This is less than one third of the sanctioned money. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manvendrajee, they have not asked for your help.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Other persons from your party have also to speak.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I know that, but this is such an important subject, and if the Government consider the facts that I would like to submit, and take action perhaps the problem could be solved. Therefore kindly

\*Not recorded.

allow me to complete my statement. All rivers which flow in Bihar come from Nepal. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

It is necessary to harness these rivers. How do you harness these rivers? For this, you must enter into some cooperation with the Nepal Government. Unfortunately, our very friendly neighbour has not been able to appreciate the long term misery that is being suffered by the people of North Bihar. So, I appeal very earnestly to our own Government and to the Government of our friendly neighbour, Nepal. This is something that has to be seen as distinct from mere national politics. It is important to build dams on these rivers. It is important to start storage project there and it is important also to use them for hydel projects. There are four projects—at Chispani Karnali, at Pancheswar, at Budhi Gandak and at the Sapta-Kosi High Dam. Unfortunately, for Pancheswar a Treaty was signed way back in 1996, which is called the Mahakali Treaty, signed after a great deal of negotiations, it is now 11 years since that Treaty was signed and it has not been implemented yet the work has not been taken up. Apart from this, three other major projects that I mentioned, if those had been done, Nepal would have benefited because this leads to generation of power. A total of over 26,000 megawatt of power could be so generated and Nepal would benefit from it. My only appeal to our Government therefore is that it should persuade the Nepal Government to accept the construction of these projects. These are very important projects.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, now. You have taken more than 15 minutes.

[*Translation*]

9 more members from your party have to speak.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, you once ringed the bell and I came on my seat. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, disaster Response force have done a very good work in Bihar. I would like to thank Central Government for this but this could have been done more effectively if the disaster response force, which is presently an Ad-hoc and borrowed may be given a well structured form as National Security Guard and be located in the areas where you feel that there is possibility of a disaster i.e.



[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

[English]

disaster prone areas which have to be assessed before hand.

[Translation]

You are asking to end my speech early. A flood forecasting system is necessary. You cannot control flood effectively till you have flood forecasting system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, what have to done, we have to do with the help of Nepal. Many years have passed and every year people of Northern Bihar are affected with the devastating floods. I request the Government to save these people from floods. The Government should negotiate with Nepal Government for this and on the basis of the negotiation and with the help of Nepal Government implement the projects related to flood control.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, just like in the past, this year also the country has witnessed the cruelty of nature and has become the victim of the ravages of flood.

Most of the States in the North, East, West and South including Orissa have suffered a lot due to floods. But it is shocking that when people are suffering due to misery caused by the natural calamity, the Union Government is remitting central assistance with political considerations. This is most unfortunate part of our suffering.

Orissa is possessing more than 11 per cent of the water resources of the country but it is an irony that nature is not kind to our State. Orissa has been ravaged by recurring floods, drought and cyclones during the past several years. Many of them were severe in nature. I will give through you the details for the last ten years. I will tell Hon'ble Home Minister through you what has happened in the last decade.

In 1997 and 1998, it was affected by drought; in 1999, it was affected severely by the super cyclone and flood. In 2000, the State witnessed drought. In 2001, there was flood; there was drought in 2002. Again in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 there was flood. In this year

also, namely, 2007, our State is suffering due to flood. So, I have given the position for the last decade. The State has been suffering either due to flood or drought and its economic development has come down. How will a State survive if the Central Government does not come forward to help the State which is suffering due to natural calamities of severe nature for the last decade?

Sir, the western part of our State has been mostly suffering from drought. But this year, the western part is suffering due to flood also. Sundergarh and Sambalpur are also affected. Kalahandi which is a drought-prone district is also affected by flood this year. Mumbai Howrah railway line has been totally washed away. There is no communication for the last seven days. The railway line has been washed away in Western Orissa which has never come across with this type of a flood.

Sir, the State of Orissa has been ravaged by flood in five phases in July-September, 2006. After recession of floods, a final memorandum was submitted by the State Government to the Central Government on 18 September, 2006 requesting for an assistance of Rs. 2382.43 crore out of the NCCF and one lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains as a special component to meet the expenditure, relief and restoration work due to floods. This was the request by the State Government which has witnessed floods last year.

Fortunately, the hon. Prime Minister visited the State last year during monsoon and realizing the severity of flood, he had announced an assistance of Rs. 200 crore from the NCCF. But it is unfortunate that only Rs. 25 crore was released and the balance of Rs. 175 crore was adjusted towards the CRF to the State for 2006 and as advance amount to CRF for 2007-08. It is most unfortunate. That is why, I am telling that the Centre is considering severity caused by natural calamities in a political angle. It is because the Government is not their party Government, So, they are not coming forward to help the State when it is suffering due to severe natural calamities. Except the arithmetic jugglery, physically no amount has been released, in spite of Prime Minister's declaration.

Here is a situation where the Prime Minister has made some declaration, but the Home Ministry and other Ministries are not obliging the announcement of the Prime Minister. This is the most unfortunate part, which I have never come across during my entire political life. This is nothing but step motherly attitude of the Government

towards the sufferings of the people of Orissa. Assistance from NCCF is released only on the basis of political considerations and not on the basis of the severity of calamities.

This year the flood has come in five phases. It was a calamity of severe nature. The water level recorded in Subarnarekha, Bouns, Kansbans, Jalaka, Jaika, Baitarani, Budabalanga, Bansadara, Ruelkalya, Mahanadi, Hatia and their tributaries have broken all past records. It has caused extensive damage to physical infrastructure and livelihood. How will a State survive with this kind of severe nature of natural calamities for so many years?

For managing July and August floods, the State Government has requested assistance from the Government of India. It has sought a financial assistance of Rs. 506.70 crore out of NCCF to complete the relief and immediate restoration measures, caused due to 2007 floods. It has requested for restoration of CRF allocation for 2007-08 to Rs. 319.38 crore, after adjusting the Central share of Rs. 58.66 crore, advanced during 2006-07 as grant. It has also requested for special allocation of 50,000 Indira Awas Yojana houses for flood victims of BPL category whose houses have been damaged due to floods. It has sought immediate sanction of funds and food grains worth 38,600 MT under Special Component under SGRY. These are the requests of the State Government.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are coming forward to help the State which is suffering from this kind of severe nature of natural calamity. The money which is there in the N.C.C.F. kitty is not their money. It belongs to the people of this country. When people of a State are suffering like this, they should come forward to help. If they have no money, they should ask us, the House for sanction we can also provide. But sitting silent without helping the State and without helping the people who are suffering because of these natural calamities is not a good reflection on the Union Government.

My request would be the Government should come forward to help and stand with the people of the State of Orissa.

\*SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): I would like to speak on flood situation in India but since I have election and unfortunately we are facing severe flood in Rampur.

I am unable to attend Parliament so that with your permission I would like to lay the paper on the table. Kindly permit me. Natural disasters are a global phenomenon and no country is an exception to them. In South Asia particularly India is among the world's most vulnerable region to both natural and man-made disasters with 55 per cent of the total land vulnerable to earthquakes, 8 per cent area prone to cyclones and 5 per cent prone to floods. Amongst other natural disasters, floods play more havoc in our north Indian States, causing enormous casualties, disease and death adding to the health, this is adding economic and social burden of the country.

The year 2007 is currently being swept by devastating floods in the northern states that have claimed several lives. 15 fresh deaths were reported in flood related incidents in Uttar Pradesh taking the toll to 122 as major rivers are still on the rise by submerging large areas of land specially in the eastern region.

Sir, I got the information that as many as 2,187 villages in eastern Uttar Pradesh are affected by the flood. Among these 1,091 villages are completely flooded. The floods in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have worsened to more than one crore 40 lakh people affected, 20 states are affected UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, AP and more.

- \* The devastating floods that have almost 3.2 lakh hectares of sown agricultural land have affected almost 2 million people.

We all know that it is not an isolated case of this year. We have had a long history of losses sustained in the northern states due to floods. 40 million hectares or nearly 1/8th of geographical area is prone to flood. The Brahmaputra basin in Assam, the central and lower portions of Ganga basin in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal and the deltaic region of Orissa are the most frequently flood hit.

- \* 76 lakh hectares of land are flooded every year. Over 1,300 lives are lost to floods every year. Worse, the areas affected by flood are rapidly extending beyond the basins of the Himalayan rivers to other parts of the country as well.
- \* The average damage to crop, houses and public utilities from floods during the period 1953-95 was estimated at Rs. 972 crore every year, while

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Jayaprada]

the maximum damage was Rs. 4,630 crore in 1988.

- \* In 1996, flashfloods killed about 100 people in Rajasthan and later in subsequent months more than 1,000 lives were lost due to a malaria epidemic.
- \* In 2000, floods took a toll of 1,262 lives in West Bengal, 400 lives in Uttar Pradesh and 258 lives in Bihar.

The floods not only cause large-scale deaths and disabilities but it could also result in loss of income and possible misery for the entire family. The loss of property and livestock likewise can devastate the earning capacity of a family. During floods, the sea-salt-water contamination of land can lead to the loss of standing crops in large scale.

Further, the secondary result of floods like epidemics could mean a rise in more casualties in rural areas, where poor sanitation and the prevalence of many communicable diseases keep disease rates extremely high. Typhoid, malaria and gastrointestinal diseases are constant threats in flood-hit areas where even clean drinking water becomes scanty for a number of days.

We all know that, it is a natural disaster and human beings cannot prevent such calamities since, we do not have full control over nature. But we have progressed towards in the 21st century to lessen the impact of such disasters. Most of our efforts are basically theoretical because we do not have proper responsive flood control or disaster management policies, so we are still facing such problems. There has been little effort in strengthening of the institutional framework for disaster response at the national, state and district levels. If sincere efforts are prearranged then loss of lives in floods can be minimized. Since epidemics after floods can be minimized to a larger extent so the government can educate and awareness the people about it beforehand. There has been absolutely no focus in our policies to address risk reduction and risk transfer options like insurance, extensive public awareness and education campaigns in vulnerability reduction.

#### Questions to be raised

- \* What the Government so far done to ensure that the existing institutional mechanisms deliver the services they are expected to deliver effectively and efficiently?

- \* Why haven't the government taken the initiative to extensively use the applications of remote sensing, geographical information system, etc.
- \* What are the steps, the central government has taken in disseminating information on issues concerning the floods?
- \* Is there any nodal agency of the government that oversees flood management at the macro and micro level? Why they are not effective?
- \* Has any social audit been undertaken to know what the communities need or aspire during pre and post flood scenarios?
- \* Do we have any proper committee to address the post-flood trauma of the people? In the remote villages to protect them.
- \* Have our policies emphasize the links between disaster mitigation and development plans?
- \* Can the river linking projects in India be able to check the vulnerability? Flood situation in advance.
- \* What communication tools and strategies are being employed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to help out the people of vulnerable area?
- \* Has our government been able to harness modern technology so that people can be informed to take preventive measures beforehand?
- \* Are there any 'healing touch' programmes of the government to help the distress people to overcome the loss of life and property?

Our policies have primarily focused on relief mode mainly providing care after the disaster has struck whereas it should have laid stress on preparedness, prevention and mitigation, as this will be more cost-effective and sustainable. This will have to be implemented through a massive campaign by mobilizing and involving rural people.

- \* Systematic routine exercises and necessary for disaster management are rarely done before flood season.

### **Heavy flood in Rampur District: Administration not serious**

Heavy rain in Uttarakhand has resulted crossing the Danger mark by Kosi and Ramganga rivers of Rampur district. The rise in water level has led to submerging dozens of villages in Rampur district. Roads have been damaged badly and dozens of villages have no connection with outer world. Thousand hectares of crop and fodder are submerged. The cattlefolk is worst affected. Due to flood in villages cattle are not getting fodder. The flood also resulted migration of people from villages as many Kachcha houses have been collapsed. Due to water in the villages, people cannot put fire in their ovens. Rampur bridge over Kosi river is cut off due to damaged approach road.

The rains in the hills have resulted a disaster in plains. The water level in Kosi and Ramganga rivers is alarmingly increasing. Due to increase of water the road between Rampur and Swar is totally cut off. The flood has engulfed Swar, Dadiyal, Saidnagar and Shahabad areas. People of these areas are really facing a tough time. The rivers of Dadiyal of Swar area are on levitate. On 14th August 17509 cusec water was released in Kosi river from Ramnagar Bairag. The release of the water paved the rivers to enter into villages. Dozens of villages on river bankside were worst affected. Around 65000 cusec water is also flowing on Dadiyal dam. The water level has touched 209.60 m mark at Dadiyal dam. In Lalupur Danceghar the water level is as high as 194.45 m. Here the river is above 70 cm of danger mark.

Today evening at 6 PM it is expected that around 14000 cusec water would pass from Ramnagar Bairag. If it does not rain then it is more likely that the water level would not rise. The rise of water in Kosi river has broken old records. In 2003 also around 60000 cusec water passed in Kosi river.

### **Administration is not serious about Flood**

- > Water level is increasing but there are no administrative action have been taken to save people from flood or to take them to safer places.

- > There has been no arrangement of nets etc. on the barrage or cuts made on rivers and canals to save people enmeshed in flood and drifting away.
- > Administration has not taken any action to save foodgrains or any economic measures for people affected by flood area and distribution, of food materials or saving kits by social institutions or Politicians are being banned because there is by-election to be held on 31st of August in Swar Tanda legislative assembly.
- > According to information received on 15/08/2007 there is arrangement to release more water from barrage so more danger is clouding over.
- \* There is lack of adequate planning for flood forecasting. Proper mechanism and appropriate measures can save many lives.

As every year flood affects the lives of thousands of people in India, so the prime objective of the government should be to work out the solutions to the multidisciplinary problems associated with floods in order to improve the methods of protecting people and property. Through proper management and development programmes both the government and civil society can work towards a time-bound disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation.

**In this context, there are certain grey areas that have to be looked into**

Most of the important rivers in the Gangetic plain have their origin in Nepal or beyond and have substantially large catchments therein emerging in the states of India like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Till now, we have not been able to hold talks with the Nepal government for building up large storage reservoirs in Nepal (by constructing high dams in Nepal). This can manage the flood related problems in these states.

- \* In order to minimize the damage, raised platforms above highest level should be constructed in areas liable to flood near villages or government acquired lands. So that people can be brought to these domains during crisis.

The government that can able to manage its flood calamity in time and know what to do beforehand and after a flood hits can significantly help out to reduce human sufferings and property damage.

*[English]*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you.

On the other day, during the course of the debate on this subject, the hon. Minister intervened and referred to a booklet which has been published by the Ministry for our information. I have gone through that booklet. I must thank the hon. Minister for this. I think this is the first time that before starting a debate, we have received a booklet from the Ministry with regard to flood situation. But the situation is worse than what is narrated in the booklet. It talks of the severity of the flood situation between 1st June and 8th August. But even after that in West Bengal and some districts of Orissa witnessed floods twice. I am coming from *Paschim* Midnapore. We have witnessed severe floods after 8th August also.

Sir, in each and every year we used to witness the flood situation, but now the situation is something different. The torrential monsoon rains have lashed the regions and the cloud burst is also happening. The climate change might get some blame for this catastrophic flood. This is the main thing. What is the new thing is the climate change. The flood is not happening only once in the rainy season, it is happening again and again. This is a case of extreme rainfall.

Sir, we, in West Bengal, are witnessing the flood situation in this rainy season at the first part of the rainy season. Then, it follows again and again by severe flood situation. So this should be taken into account. What is your plan? I am not going into details about releasing of funds and assistance etc. in this regard. I am confident that this Government will come forward with more assistance to the States as the States proposed for assistance.

Sir, it is already mentioned in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) that there is availability of funds to the tune of Rs. 723.92 crore. There should be more money in this

Fund. It is a different thing. But I am talking about the preventive measures. What sort of preventive measures the Government is contemplating to meet the situation?

Sir, I would like to quote Shri Unnikrishnan in this regard.

"If we make an investment of one pound in disaster prevention and reduction, that has 100 times more effect than after disaster strikes."

So, this is the main thing. You are sanctioning crores and crores of rupees and this money is required to meet the situation every year. But the most important point is as to how much you are assisting for preventive measures. What is your contemplation and what is your plan? So, this should be cleared before this House. I think the hon. Minister would make it clear before us.

Sir, we have to talk to the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and even with Pakistan and other neighbouring countries. It is because water comes from these countries and flows like anything towards our side.

Secondly, I would like to say something about embankments. The old embankments are in very bad shape. Let me refer to this:

"Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People has logged nearly 100 reports of embankments being breached in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh this year."

All the embankments are in a very bad shape. What is your thinking on that?

Now I come to the National Highways and particularly I am talking about the Golden Quadrilateral. I am coming from the constituency of Midnapore. A part of the Golden Quadrilateral falls in my constituency from Kharakpur to Sonakonia to Balasore. It makes a hindrance for passing the rain water. The drainage system is very bad. This year, it caused heavy floods in that area. So it should be reviewed. A lot of bridges should be constructed on that Highway. The other National Highways are also in the same condition. So this is about the embankments.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I am not talking now because my State Member is speaking. I am only submitting to you that if Members, who are taking part in the Debate, highlight, to justify, how much Plan and Non-Plan support of the State Budget is spent on irrigation and flood management of the State, that will help and we shall be enlightened to understand why this crisis persists. During my short tenure in the Ministry of Water Resources, I saw an amazing and pathetic figure of the State Governments cutting across party lines. Whenever an issue comes up regarding flood management, erosion management or irrigation, the Budget support of the States in respect of Plan and Non-Plan is so meagre that a district cannot be taken care of, forget the State. If that is taken care of, if an objective debate is there, I think a comprehensive approach could be highlighted.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I must thank the Parliamentary Affairs Minister for his intervention. So, I think, he has already held the discussion with the State Governments. If there is some lacuna with the State Governments, I think, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to talk to them. So, I do not know what initiatives have been taken by them. But it is a matter which he has mentioned. I appreciate it.

I am now coming to the situation of the rivers. On the one hand, siltation of the rivers reduces the height of the embankments which are poorly maintained. On the other hand, if you reduce the depth of the rivers, then it is incapable of holding water. My other suggestion is that we should lay emphasis on building shelters on the high ground. That should be emphasized. Further, we should raise the level of borewells so that water does not become contaminated.

Next, we must develop the early warning system. The Meteorological Department is very weak. Sometimes, it creates confusion among the farmers and the local people. So, technologically speaking, that should be upgraded. The officials need to be well-trained.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You have already taken more than 12 minutes.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I will conclude in two minutes. During the flood situation, I have noticed that in different offices, on a Sunday, nobody is found in the office because Sunday is a holiday. So, officers should be trained. Systems should be put in place to deliver food and water. All these points should be taken together. I am not going into other matters which have been emphatically said by other Members. I do support their views. I think the Government should take note of them and the Government should come forward in this regard.

With these words, I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the hon. Members are making very good points. I would very much like to respond to all the points that they are making. But, unfortunately, when I get up here to reply to the debate, probably, the Members who have made the points would not be in the House.  
...(Interruptions) So, again, next year, if unfortunately there is some calamity somewhere, the same points would be repeated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Repetition is everywhere. It is there every year.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My request is that at least those Members who have spoken on this topic should be present here to hear the response by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, are those Members who have not spoken, not good for this job?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I allow you to start your speech, I would like to inform you that I have got more than 14 hon. Members who are yet to speak. Therefore, I would like to request you to take not more than five minutes. I think Members should be allowed to speak for five minutes.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, five minutes time is too less. It is a massive problem. You have to give some time to the second and third speakers.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There has already been a six hours debate on this subject. As per the list available with me, if all the Members are allowed to speak, it will take about further 20 hours.

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission. A large number of Members have already participated in this debate. Certainly few more Members will speak. I have talked with the hon. Home Minister. He will not reply to this debate today. He will reply on the next day when this debate comes up. Some hon. Members from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh wanted to put some queries to the hon. Minister. They may put their queries in a brief way and if everybody speaks briefly, we can accommodate as many Members as possible before we take up Private Members' Business.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The way in which the hon'ble Members are putting forward their views before the House, it will take two more days for discussion. All the Members are requested to present their views before the House only in five minutes.

MOHD. MUKEEM (Dumariaganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a serious subject like flood. I think every year there is a debate on flood in the House but no permanent solution has been hammered out. Every State faces flood now and then but Eastern area of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal are such areas where people face the flood problem every year. I myself come from district Siddharth Nagar in eastern Uttar Pradesh which is situated along Nepal border. Every year there is huge destruction in our district due to flood. This year also the flood caused a huge loss of life, property and crop in our district. As our district is along Nepal border rivers originating from Nepal whether it is Rapti, Banganga, Gorahi or Pura, enter our district. When there is flood in Nepal our district also gets affected. Many of the hon'ble Members in the House have demanded to form a dam on the India and Nepal borders so that we could get rid of the water coming from Nepal which engulfs eastern U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. There was flood this year also and the Uttar Pradesh Government provided the assistance meant to

be provided by it. You also must have read in newspapers about the loss of life occurred due to this flood. In one neighbouring district Maharajganj about 15-16 people were drowned. Our Chief Minister Kumari Mayawati immediately rushed to the spot of the accident and provided assistance to the affected families. With all these things there could be no permanent solution for flood. I would like to submit that the Union Government may provide the special package to the State Government as per its demand so that the flood affected areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh are protected. Special arrangements should be made to save the village houses along the banks of the rivers by strengthening the Kachha dams as they won't break due to flood and there would not be large scale destruction.

15.00 hrs.

Secondly, I would like to say that compensation should be given for the loss of crops and houses as the Home Minister was saying that there is a plan to provide residence to them under Indira Awaas Yojna.

There are so many problems in the guidelines of Indira Awaas. Definition of BPL given in these guidelines should be relaxed as so many people have lost their houses in this flood, large tracts of land has become futile and crops destroyed. I would request the Hon'ble Home Minister to increase the amount of Rs. 25 thousand given under Indira Awaas Yojna to Rs. 50 thousand and it should be given to the people who have lost their houses in the flood and demand from the Union Government to provide compensation to every farmer at the rate of Rs. five thousand per acre according to the crop loss incurred by the farmer.

I hope that the Hon'ble Home Minister would provide special financial package to Uttar Pradesh for flood taking into account my above said demand.

*[English]*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir. I congratulate Shri Ananth Kumar who has initiated this debate under rule 193.

Sir, here i would like to say that every year we discuss about floods or some other natural calamity or earthquake. Sir, in 1980 a Flood Commission, namely, Rashtriya Barh Ayog, was formed to save 40 million hectares of agricultural land from floods and today the area affected by floods has gone up to 45 million hectares

of agricultural variable land. I would like to ask what was the Government doing for all these years. Have they prepared a Master Plan for the same or not? It is a colossal loss and it has become a source of corruption. Though it is a non-partisan issue, the floods, earthquake, drought, etc. have become a source of corruption today.

I would like to cite an example from a CAG Report on Maharashtra. It states, "Though the hon. Minister managed the Latur Earthquake beautifully." He managed the earthquake very well when he was an hon. Member from Latur. So, in those terms, he should also manage the floods because he is a very competent Minister. But, I would like to say something about Maharashtra. On 10th July 2007, the CAG Report on Maharashtra was tabled. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you discuss Maharashtra, others will discuss Orissa and I am expected to reply.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: As a Member of Parliament, I am quoting what is on the papers, what is the public document.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Unless I have the full information about everything that has happened in Maharashtra, I will not be in a position to answer. I am not exposing the States over here. I am not talking about Orissa, Bihar, Maharashtra, UP or other States. Let the matter relating to Maharashtra be discussed in Maharashtra Assembly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Deo, please address the Chair.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, here I would like to say how the funds are misutilised. On 10th July, 2007, the CAG Report was tabled on the floor of the State Assembly. It is a public document.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That should be discussed in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. That is why, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly has been created. Supposing Orissa matter is discussed.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I will come to Orissa matter also.

Sir, as the hon. Minister is pressing me not to put it on the Table, I Will not put it. Anyhow, it is a public document and the whole country knows that the flood control money has been siphoned away by the then Government.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would like to say that we have information about many States, but we are not discussing that information because we do not want to have *tu-tu, main-main* here on the floor of the House.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Same thing happened in Mumbai with regard to Meethi river that funds were misappropriated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to say that let us have some concrete proposals to fight the floods and that solution was given right from the time of Capt. Dastur regarding inter-linking of rivers. Then it was done by late K.L. Rao and when the NDA Government came, we had formed a Task Force for interlinking of rivers.

Today, I am very happy to note that the hon. Water Resources Minister intervened and said that this Government is serious about interlinking of rivers. It has been seen that water is a negative commodity. It is nobody's personal property. It is given by nature. It is basically a negative commodity. So, the Government should come out with a policy, a National River Policy, which will benefit the country.

Secondly, I would like to suggest that like there is Coastal Regulation Zone I, II, III, there should also be a River Regulation Zone I, II, III. Thereby the rivers can be protected, plantation can be done and the flood-prone areas may be made into flood-free zones. For a permanent solution, every year you will dole out money. I remember when the hon. Minister was replying to a debate last time, he had said that the Government's job is to give immediate relief and succour to the people who are affected mentally because of the flood as their life becomes disarranged. That he had said in a debate in the august House. That is a temporary relief. But whatever money is being spent, it should be on a long-term basis for long-term measures so that we do not have floods. We lose crores of rupees, billions of rupees every year, and this year, the flood in India was forecast by the



United Nations also. Such a flood in South-East Asia, India and Nepal has never occurred. This is a matter of serious concern. This adds to our poverty; more people come under the poverty line. Lakhs and lakhs of Indira Awas houses are damaged; lakhs of acres of agricultural land is damaged. It has become a regular phenomenon to discuss this issue in the House. What happens to the money, that we do not know.

I would like to come to my State of Orissa. Orissa has demanded about Rs. 303 crore in the recent flood in various sectors but we have been given only Rs. 30 crore. This morning, during 'Zero Hour' I raised a matter that one tribal block of Kalahandi district - Thuamul Rampur Block - has been so badly devastated by floods that no vehicles were able to go there and people are suffering from malaria, and 30 *adivasis* have died of diarrhoea and malaria. Drinking water has been polluted. This disease is also going to spread to neighbouring districts. I fear that Shri Gamang's constituency or Shri Parsuram Majhi's constituency have got chances of its spreading. There, cases have been reported. Hundreds of people have been affected by this. PDS is not reaching there. Here is the document of the Orissa Government. If you allow me, I would like to authenticate it.

Can I place it on the Table of the House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: This is a document of the State Government, so it will be recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can quote it only.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: The number of districts affected in Orissa is 12; the number of blocks affected is 16; the number of GPs affected is 593; the number of villages affected is 2,703; the number of Urban Local Bodies affected is 16; the population affected is 15 lakhs in the first phase.

Now reports have come that further damage has been done. So, we want immediate help to our people in Orissa. I hope the hon. Home Minister will extend that helping hand to the State of Orissa.

I hope, he has not taken amiss of the Maharashtra thing. It is in the country's interest. That is why I quoted.

It is because we are spending crores of rupees and we should create some assets which we are unable to create. That is my contention. Having been elected to this august House, it is my duty to see that the Government money is saved and it reaches to the poorest of the poor person. That is my duty.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to register my points in respect of the discussion on flood.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is your area also flood affected?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Yes Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Basically the floods originate from there?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Yes Sir, I will name the areas, which are affected by flood. I would like to submit a few points, as there is shortage of time. I would like to thank the Minister of Home Affairs as he brought. Disaster Management Act. But, there are some shortcomings in that act, which I had stated earlier and I will repeat the same today as well. Neither the local MLA nor the local MP is involved in it. You have brought the Act but it is my submission to modify the Act. Local MLA & MP should also be involved therein so that they may have discussion with authorities. The collector and officers use to sit in the chairs but the public representatives who visit every street, village and corner of the Constituency have been ignored in this Act. Until this point is taken into account nothing can be done. There are many facilities provided in the Act. I would like to speak regarding my Constituency. Nothing has been done since the time when the act was enacted, neither advancement has been done nor any benefits thereof has been provided to targeted beneficiaries. It is a relief. I would like to state that a bit change should be made in relief manual. A person who has lost his house completely is compensated with Rs. 200, and 2000 only. What are the criteria? If relief is not provided to a person who has lost his entire property as well as home in the disaster then what is the relevance of this act. On the contrary he becomes frustrated by making so many requests and narrating his stories. He just moves from

one office to another. Patwari and department, all exploit him and ask for money but nothing favourable is done to him. That is why I would like to request that relief manual must be changed.

I would also like to make a suggestion. As you are aware that people have almost covered all the local drains, local rivers and encroachment is increasing day by day. When flow of water is blocked it changes its course, as it is a natural phenomenon; if you sit on its way, you will be certainly washed away. The Government should take care of the system of almighty; the God. You are destroying it, your money, your funds are nothing for the natural water flow, you will not be spared until you pay due regard to the nature's system. Rivers are covered and the trees have been cut down and as a result thereof the rainfall and snowfall is uneven and level of soil in the river bed is raised and the rivers as well as drains are becoming shallow. The soil, which should have been conserved, has been washed away. It is my submission that special attention should be paid in this regard. All our rivers are under Indus water treaty leaving only a single tributary Ravi, called Ucchh for which you can do something. Nothing can be done for the rest of rivers. You can utilize the water of the tributary as a Hydel electricity project. It generates 280 Megawatt and 14,000 acres of land is irrigated by it. Jakhol, Forlane, Borthen, Bhaag are some large areas. How much land do we have, you can understand it better. A land ceiling Act was formulated. As per the act only a small acre of land is left. I mean to say that about 200 acres of our agriculture land has been lost.

I would like to request you to recommend for the river only of your area. Your department is looking after the work relating to water conservation. The Department under Soz Sahab is also affiliated with it. Therefore, I have told that Ouj River does not figure in the treaty. You may use it so that the people may be saved from being washed away. Our projects are constructed and we can have irrigation facility too.

My submission is that nothing can be done until proper attention is paid towards encroachment. Today people are living over drains by constructing hutments over it. People have settled on the river banks. Later on Government comes with the statement that so many people have been washed away and so on. The lapse is not on the part of the Government of India or State Government. No Government wants its people to be washed away but it is only lack of planning which is

your job. I can say that the planning is not done on solid grounds. The funds allocated are misused. They are not being utilized properly. There is no check on such planning. It is my submission that it should be properly taken care of.

Wherever your representatives are sitting, you may depute them to check the mis-utilization of funds allocated for management of flood disaster otherwise they will ask for funds every year in the name of flood. It becomes a game of few people. The people who lost their property in the flood may or may not get something but the others who had not been affected at all have become rich overnight. The flood hit people do not get their share though they are affected every year. It is my submission that proper attention should be paid towards it.

*[English]*

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it has become a ritual for our country to face floods and droughts since three years now. In this regard I would like to know from the Ministry as to what is the amount that we are spending on relief activities, State-wise, all over the country.

As per one assessment, we are spending more on this than to construct the permanent water bodies.

Sir, before touching the aspect of floods, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that Andhra Pradesh had witnessed an extensive hailstorm between 9th and 12th April, 2007. This hailstorm was a precipitated ice piece showers suddenly occurring along with heavy rains causing great damage to the life and properties of people in the seven districts, namely, Ranga Reddy, Warangal, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad and Vizianagaram district. About 42 persons died due to this hailstorm. The estimated loss of property is Rs. 200 crore. Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to treat this natural calamity of hailstorm as a national calamity and to compensate for the losses.

Sir, from 1st June, 2007 to 8th August, 2007, in my State of Andhra Pradesh, heavy rainfall was witnessed. The Meteorological Division of our State is in three parts. In the coastal Andhra Pradesh, the normal rainfall is 295 mm, but we actually witnessed 423 mm of rains during this period. Then, in Telangana, the normal rainfall is 435 mm whereas the actual rainfall was 379 mm during this period, which is 13 per cent less than the normal rainfall

[Dr. Babu Rao Mediyarn]

there. In Rayalaseema, the normal rainfall is 174 mm, whereas it was recorded at 368 mm during this time, which is 112 per cent more.

Sir, though we are lucky enough that our neighbouring States, Maharashtra has given us two rivers—great Godavari and Krishna. But along with these rivers, they are giving us floods also. The increased rainfall in our neighbouring States is leading to the over inflow into Godavari and Krishna basins causing devastating floods.

As also in Orissa, the normal rainfall of Orissa is 660 mm during this period but it received about 802 mm, about 21 per cent more. As a result, the rivers of Vamsadhara and Nagavalli of coastal Andhra Pradesh faced so many difficulties during flood. Totally, there are 14 districts involved in the flood situation. Among the 14, two districts faced severe flood, that is, Kurnool and Prakasam. In Kurnool, there was 383 mm of rainfall as against the normal rainfall of 77 mm. The same thing happened in Guntur also. The total loss we faced is that about 45 people died in 12 districts and 15 fishermen were missing.

Sir, I want to correct one thing. The Home Ministry has published a document on the flood situation of the country. In this, the villages suffered are given as 47. It is not true. The total number of villages suffered is 457, and the houses damaged are more than two lakhs. The livestock lost was about 47,000. The crop affected is about 36 hectares of land and about 942 tanks were damaged during this flood. About 1100 high schools, AP Residential Schools and 60 Social Welfare Hostels were submerged during this flood.

In the last Tsunami, about 6,808 fishing nets were missing. It is a pending issue. They are very costly but it was not compensated through the NCC fund. The most affected district was Kurnool where Tungabhadra, Handri and Kundu rivers were overflowing and damage had occurred.

The entitlement for Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 284.51 crore but we were given, as a first installment, about Rs. 77 crore only. Out of this, the advance of the previous year was deducted. The advance of about Rs. 64 crore was deducted. The Central team visited our State from July 17-19 but no report was given. Hence, I would request the Ministry to release the first installment without any deduction.

The payment of compensation to the houses, subsidy inputs for crop losses, insufficient material supplies and corruption during distribution of compensation and relief materials are to be corrected. My State Government has submitted the details of the total losses of about Rs. 1,538 crore. I would request the Ministry to consider and give the amount.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to bring some of my points to the notice of hon'ble Minister by associating my points with the points raised by our colleague from Orissa.

Generally, the western districts of Orissa never come under the effect of flood, but this time it was a heavy rainfall because of the low depression during second phase resulting in disturbance of Mumbai-Hawrah mainline, which is still out of order. Therefore, the Kaling-Utkal Express connecting that area with Delhi, Gitanjali Express, Bombay mail, Lokmanya Tilak Express, Bokaro-Madras Express, Janewshwari Super Fast Express, Tapaswini Express and other long distance trains are still suspended. You are requested to contact railway department in order to restore the trains and sufficient funds should be allocated for it.

Sir, National Highway No. 215 and National Highway No. 23 falling under my jurisdiction have been totally disturbed due to rainfall and the trains cannot pass from there. As a result, it is impossible for patients and school children to reach their destination. It is therefore, requested that the hon'ble Minister pay special attention to this matter. I would like to again urge the Minister Sir, that Orissa is regularly facing natural calamity in either the form of flood or a cyclone or in the form of drought. Sufficient funds should be given to railways by the Union Government. The Government should pay attention to Mumbai-Hawrah rail line, National Highway No. 23 and 215.

I conclude my speech with these words and thanks you as you have given me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Sir, I want to lay my speech on the Table of the House. Please allow me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you can do it.

\*SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: My parliamentary constituency, particularly in the districts of Dharwad, Haveri and Gadag districts and also in the northern parts of Karnataka, namely, Belgaum, Bagalpur, Davangiri, Shimoga, Uttara Kannada, Raichur, Bellary and Koppla were worst affected in the recent heavy rains and floods which has resulted in heavy loss of human lives, cattle lives and damage to public property.

As per the survey conducted by the Government of Karnataka, 11,29,600 people were affected; 1,412 villages were affected; 22,214 houses were damaged, loss in terms of rupees is Rs. 7.26 crores; 156 Ganji Kendras were opened; 39 precious lives were lost; 834 cattle lost their lives; crop loss was to the tune of 1,84,806 hectares (approximately Rs. 433.05 crores; and approximately Rs. 559.98 crore worth of infrastructure was damaged. To add severity of the situation, flood water has not yet receded. And the above assessment was made when flood water is still stagnant. Needless to add, final assessment is to be made. The hon. Minister can easily visualize the damage caused to Karnataka.

I would like to highlight as to what has happened in my parliamentary constituency, particularly in Shiggaon, Savanur, Hanagal, Haveri, Badagi, Hirekerur and Ranebennur talukas in Haveri District of Karnataka. There are three rivers flowing, namely, Tungabhadra, Varada and Kumadadwathi. A number of Nallas and tanks have been damaged because of unprecedented floods as they were over-flowing resulting in submergence in many years of the said talukas.

Farmers in these taluks have grown cotton, maize, paddy, chillies, etc. but to their dismay, all the crops have been washed away due to heavy rains and floods. Poor farmers are in such a bad shape that they are unable to recover from such devastation caused by heavy floods.

Some of the villages along with Kumadadwami river; Masur and Tippaikopp villages in Jjirekerur taluks; Kuppalur village in Ranebennur taluk; Kudal village in Hanagal taluk; Kunimelli Halli, Kalsur Nadi Neeralgi and other villages along the Varada river have inundated in the flood water. Dhundashi, Honnapur, Tadas, Andaiagi villages have been underwater due to Benni Hall (Nala).

Many villages in Kundugol taluk, Dharwad district along with Benni Hall (Nala) have been waterlogged resulting in washing away of crops.

Itagi, Sasarawad, Balehosur and many villages in Shirahatti taluka in Gadag district have also been immensely affected due to heavy rains and overflow in the Tungabhadra river. The farmers are in a very bad shape. Their situation has taken a ugly turn. Compensation given to the farmers by both the Central and State Governments as per the guidelines is nothing but adding salt to injury.

It is pertinent to point out that the relief paid to the farmers as per the Calamity Relief fund and National Calamity Contingency fund by the Central Government is not only very less but it utterly insufficient when we take into account the number of lives lost and the number of cattle lost in the flood disaster. As the amount received by the affected farmers and people is very meager when compared to the loss of acres and the amount of loss of crops. There has been a hue and cry for revising the guidelines of CRF but nothing has been done to attend to the genuine demands of the affected people due to floods.

According to me, the compensation paid for crop loss and damages to house, in particular, is very less and it should be revised without any further loss of time. My suggestion is on these lines. At least a sum of Rs. 10,000 per acre should be paid to those who lost their drought land due to floods; and a sum of Rs. 20,000 per acre should be given for irrigated land when it is affected by heavy rains and floods.

Likewise, when there is huge damages to the houses, they are given a paltry amount. This should be revised to a minimum of Rs. 25,000 and where the entire house is collapsed, the same should be valued properly by the technical experts and engineers and accordingly compensation should be paid taking into account the market value so that the affected person can build a new house. Otherwise, it would be very difficult for the poor farmers who live in rural areas and who are the backbone of this country. Is it not the responsibility of the Central and State Governments to render justice to the poor farmers when they are in distress, down and out and their hour of need.

The compensation being given to those who lost their family members and those who lost their cattle should be doubled.

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

There are only 156 Ganji Kendras in Karnataka. When such devastation has befallen on the people of Karnataka, it is the bounden duty of the Central Government to come to the rescue of the State Government. In this regard, I would like to request that more Ganji Kendras should be opened as flood water is yet to be receded and they are in need of more such Kendras.

As the hon. Members are aware, floods have not only affected Karnataka but also many other States like Bihar, Assam, Goa and Maharashtra. In these States too, compensation should be revised as farmers have lost all their earnings.

It would be shocking to know that no fund has been released to Karnataka in spite of such vast devastation. I take this opportunity to request the Central Government to immediately extend relief by releasing a sum of Rs. 500 crore to Karnataka to stem the damage caused by heavy and special relief package should be given by Government of India.

I would also like to reiterate that the norms of the National Calamity Contingency Fund and National Relief Fund should be revised without any further loss of time taking into consideration the real amount of damage caused to the affected States. I hope the Government would consider my genuine request.

As per CWC, 71 large reservoirs monitored by the central water commission, 41 have gone above 20 percent of the total storage capacity. Major rivers like Ganga, Indus, Godavari have more water than the average of the last 10 years.

United Nations described as the Flood situation in India and Bangladesh is the worst in living memory.

The Centre has not released any money so far. The Government of Karnataka has submitted its memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and honourable Home Minister but no relief is given so far.

Hence I would request the Government of India to give immediate relief.

15.26 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per records of the Government nearly Rs. 3,213.42 crore

were lost due to floods and 11 lakh people were shifted to safer places. I feel that when 11 lakh people were shifted to safer places then 50 lakh people might have been affected by this flood. The Government has fixed provision of Rs. 21,333.33 crore for five years to tackle calamities like flood. Floods cause such huge destruction. The floods come in three situations. One, it comes through rivers. Water reaches rivers from hilly areas. Then water reaches sea through the courses made by rivers. We have figures to state the quiescent capacity of rivers in various months. But it is a matter of regret that in spite of spending thousand crores of rupees by the Government the situation has remained unchanged. As previous speakers stated that the Government have no concrete plan to prevent floods. Rivers with more water normally get this water in the months of June, July and August. If this water is diverted to dry areas through small-big canals then these people can utilize this water. The Government need to make concrete plan for the same. If the Government work on these lines, the money which is spent on tackling floods can be saved and farmers in dry land will get water. If we will not have any such plan then this accumulated water will take the shape of flood and cause destruction. Water Resources Ministry should formulate such scheme. If it works on a feasible scheme then flood problem can be controlled.

I would like to state one point about my constituency also. The flood destruction figures provided by the Government does not include Bijnor. My district is adjoining Uttaranchal (Uttarakhand) border. The boundary of district Bijnor begins after Balawali and it has heavy water flow in Ganga. In the last 15 years nearly seven-eight kilometres of soil erosion has taken place due to flow of Ganga. This has caused loss of thousands of acres of land to farmers.

I went to my constituency on the 27th of last month. There more than 20 villages were affected by soil erosion due to Ganga, but it seems that Uttar Pradesh Government has not sent any figures of Bijnor district to Union Government. I regret for the same. It has smaller rivers like Kho, Malaan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: It has many small rivers. These rivers get water for only two months, due to more water crops get wasted, but Uttar Pradesh Government has

also not mentioned the same, for which I regret. The flow of Ganga river has caused erosion of nearly seven-eight kilometre in Bijnor district.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, now you please conclude because its 3.30 p.m. and we have to start Private Member Business. You have a written speech. You can lay the remaining part on the Table of House.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: O.K.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This text speech will be treated as part of House proceedings.

\*SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent Bijnor constituency, adjoining Uttarakhand border in Lok Sabha. Ganga, Malaan, Gangan, Kho, Nakatha, all these rivers pass through my constituency. Large quantity water in all above rivers destroy crops of small farmers of my constituency. It ruins them. For example Ganga has changed its old course by nearly 8-10 kilometres, which has left farmers landless. Due to this poor farmers have houses only on paper but in reality they do not have land. Hence in order to bring back Ganga on its old course, there is a need to clean it by desilting it. I feel that the money spent on clearing this sand can be recovered many a time by selling the sand. Similarly barrages at Bijnor and other places are completely filled with sand which should be cleared by providing a special package. The place of water has been taken by sand, it should be cleared. Along with that one embankment should be constructed from Bijnor barrage to Balawali so that poor farmers of this area are not affected.

The place where Malaan river meets Ganga, should be changed by constructing a parallel canal and taking its water a little ahead so that water of Ganga cannot cause flood.\*

15.30 hrs.

**MOTION RE: TWENTY-SEVENTH, TWENTY-EIGHTH AND TWENTY-NINTH REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON THE PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

[*English*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I beg to move the following:—

\*....\*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

"That this House do agree with the—

- (i) Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 9 May, 2007, subject to modification that para 4 and sub-para (ii) of para 5 of recommendations thereof, relating to allocation of time to Resolutions, be omitted;
- (ii) Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 16 May, 2007; and
- (iii) Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 16 August, 2007, subject to modification that para 4 and sub-para (ii) of para 5 of recommendations thereof, relating to allocation of time to Resolutions, be omitted."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the—

- (i) Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 9 May, 2007, subject to modification that para 4 and sub-para (ii) of para 5 of recommendations thereof, relating to allocation of time to Resolutions, be omitted;
- (ii) Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 16 May, 2007; and
- (iii) Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 16 August, 2007, subject to modification that para 4 and sub-para (ii) of para 5 of recommendations thereof, relating to allocation of time to Resolutions, be omitted."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.32 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—Introduced**

**(i) Right To Work Bill, 2007\***

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the right to work and for allowance till such time as appropriate work is provided to any citizen, for establishment of Right to Work Fund, for creation of Right to Work Insurance and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

\*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 24.8.2007.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the right to work and for allowance till such time as appropriate work is provided to any citizen, for establishment of Right to Work Fund, for creation of Right to Work Insurance and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.32½ hrs.

**(II) Child Development Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for all-round development of children and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for all-round development of children and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

**(III) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007\***  
**(Amendment of the Schedule)**

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

*The motion was adopted.*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I introduce the Bill.

15.33½ hrs.

**(IV) Constitution (Andaman And Nicobar Islands) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007\***  
**(Amendment of The Schedule)**

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1959.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1959."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

**(V) Basic and Primary Education (Compulsory Teaching In Mother Tongue) Bill, 2007\***

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory use of mother tongue in imparting basic and primary education to children in all educational institutions and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory use of mother tongue in imparting basic and primary education to children in all educational institutions and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.8.2007.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.8.2007.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.34½ hrs.

**(vi) Agricultural Produce (Remunerative Prices) Bill, 2007\***

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of remunerative prices fixed on the basis of cost of production of the agricultural produce to the farmers, compulsory purchase of the produce through Governmental agencies and compulsory market intervention by such Governmental agencies in cases of bumper crops and for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the purpose and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of remunerative prices fixed on the basis of cost of production of the agricultural produce to the farmers, compulsory purchase of the produce through Governmental agencies and compulsory market intervention by such Governmental agencies in cases of bumper crops and for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the purposes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

**(vii) Widows (Protection and Maintenance) Bill, 2007\***

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the measures to be undertaken by the

State for the protection and maintenance of neglected, abandoned and destitute widows by establishing a Welfare Board for such widows and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the measures to be undertaken by the State for the protection and maintenance of neglected, abandoned and destitute widows by establishing a Welfare Board for such widows and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.35½ hrs.

**(viii) Trust Corporations Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of Trust Corporations for further development of enterprises with social obligation and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of Trust Corporations for further development of enterprises with social obligation and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

**(ix) Private Schools (Regulation) Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of private schools and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.8.2007.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 24.8.2007.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.



MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of private schools and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.36½ hrs.

**(x) Provision of Communication Facilities in Every Village Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the facilities of telephone and post and telegraph office in all the villages of the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the facilities of telephone and post and telegraph office in all the villages of the country and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

**(xi) Rural Electrification Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Rural Electrification Authority to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to farmers for their agricultural activities and at least one single point light connection to every household in rural areas and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Rural Electrification

Authority to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to farmers for their agricultural activities and at least one single point light connection to every household in rural areas and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

**(XII) Child Welfare Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of children and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of children and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item Nos. 26, 27 and 28 - Shri L. Rajagopal-Not Present.

15.39 hrs.

**(xiii) Backward Areas Development Board Bill, 2007\***

*[English]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the overall development of economically backward areas of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the overall development of economically backward areas of the country."

*The motion was adopted.*

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.8.2007.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.8.2007.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

15.42 hrs

15.40 hrs.

(xiv) Rural Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 2007\*

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a rural labour welfare fund for the welfare of the rural labour employed in the agriculture and other rural occupations and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a rural labour welfare fund for the welfare of the rural labour employed in the agriculture and other rural occupations and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

(xv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007\*  
*Substitution of new article for article 371(H)*

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : I introduce the Bill.

(xvi) Special Financial Assistance to the State of Arunachal Pradesh Bill, 2007\*

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and other sections of the people of the State and for the development and exploitation of its natural resources.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and other sections of the people of the State and for the development and exploitation of its natural resources."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : I introduce the Bill.

15.43 hrs

(xvii) Euthanasia (Permission And Regulation) Bill, 2007\*

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compassionate, humane and painless termination of life of individuals who have become completely and permanently invalid and/or bedridden due to suffering from incurable disease or any other reason and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compassionate, humane and painless termination of life of individuals who have become completely and permanently invalid and/or bedridden due to suffering from incurable disease or any other reason and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : I introduce the Bill.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.8.2007.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.8.2007.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item Nos. 34 and 35 - Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh - Not present.

Item Nos. 36, 37, and 38 - Shri Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir—Not present.

15.44 hrs.

**(xviii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007\***  
***Amendment of article 244 etc.***

*[English]*

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI TAPIR GAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

**PROMOTION OF SELF EMPLOYMENT BILL,**  
**2006\*—*contd.***

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have come to another discussion. This proposal is in item No. 40 "that the Bill to provide for the promotion of self employment among educated unemployed youth and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

This subject has already been under discussion. Today we have to continue the same because there are some Members who want to speak on the matter and they have already given their names in this regard, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate hon'ble Member Shri Chandrakant Khairi who introduced an important subject before the House through 'The Promotion of Self-Employment Bill, 2006'. Unemployment

is one of the major problems of the country. Population of the country has reached to 110 crore since independence. No doubt the country has made remarkable progress but the way unemployment has increased is an alarming factor which needs serious consideration. If we look at the data we find that unemployment prevails among the illiterates in the rural areas but this problem is more serious among unemployed educated youths. What will be more tragic than this situation when the parents bring up their children imparting them the best education for their graduation, B.Ed., doctors, engineers and professionals. But it is irony of fate that today their children are roaming aimlessly with their degrees in hand. From the many services the fact clearly emerges that in such circumstances illiterate persons are comparatively in better position because they can earn their livelihood through toil and labour as agriculture is the largest self-employment generation sector in rural India and an illiterate person knows from the very first day that he was to earn his livelihood through agriculture. He can generate employment through dairy sector by rearing one or two milch cattle. After Independence educated persons considered government service as their ultimate job. We are all aware that how much job opportunities Government can generate. It is a very important question. Today there are large numbers of unemployed people between age group 18 to 35. They constitute 25% to 29% of the total population. There is separate categories of employment among these educated youth, some of them are chronic unemployed. They are running from pillar to post in search of job since the day they got their degrees, but they were not got any job till date. They take Money from their parents and go to face interviews but they don't get the result of their interviews. Sometimes they got contractual and petty jobs in factories or in any Government organisation but they could not continue the same as factory owner didn't find them suitable. Unemployment ratio is higher among educated youth of rural areas. Ours is a faulty education system. Children who complete their education in cities have better opportunities as they speak fluent English, they have better communication skill, therefore, they can work at call center after passing 10+2. In this way they get job in Noida, Gurgaon and Delhi. But the children who are backward and belong to downtrodden society and study in villages school get only bookish knowledge there. Though they have good but due to lack of practical knowledge and communicative skill they are unable to express their views properly. They are not able to get job with the degree. So our youths from villages are in trouble due to unemployment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per a survey in Employment Exchanges of our country you will find that nearly three

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and a half to four crore youths are registered in Employment Exchange. Out of this, nearly 50 lakhs are those who are graduate or have acquired higher education. Remaining three crore people are under graduate. But fifty lakh people are graduate or have got higher education. But these figures of Employment Exchanges do not show the real picture of the whole country. Because there are so many people in the country who do not register their names with Employment Exchanges. But this figure could increase substantially if the Government decide to provide unemployment allowance to youths and educated unemployed. So, the situation is alarming and creates a lot of questions. Out of 50 lakh registered unemployed graduates in Employment Exchanges, nearly 21 lakh are those who are graduate in arts. I, therefore, emphasise upon the fact that B.A. degree has no relevance, therefore Government should discontinue this degree course. In view of that I am of the opinion that there is no need to impart such education and we should not have history or geography in curriculum as there is no use of acquiring such degrees which do not provide job.

Besides, there are at least 10 lakh science graduates. I used to think that youths studied in science stream will get better job but they are also unemployed. B.Sc. degree holder are looking for jobs. Likewise there are least 7 lakh commerce graduates. Liberalisation was implemented and new engineering colleges were setup in the country during the last few days. We need engineers as our country needs technical graduates for our growing economy. That is why several engineering colleges were opened. Sir, you know that such situation is prevailing in the country that youths are not able to get admission in various Science courses. But the parents of students, who get 55 per cent, 50 per cent and 45 per cent marks also want their children to become engineer and give capitation fees for it. Some parents deposit capitation fees, some approach you and some will even approach me for getting admission. As a result, we have large number of engineers in India but among them more than 2 lakh engineers are unemployed in the country. In comparison to it, the number of unemployed doctors is less. But even some doctors are unemployed today.

Today, nearly 50,000 doctors have no proper employment and are compelled to do petty jobs. Before bringing technical courses, we should think as to whether the education we are providing is employment oriented?

*[English]*

Are we training engineers, nurses, doctors and compounders. Are we creating jobs for these people.

*[Translation]*

On the one hand we say that we have shortage of nursing staff and on the other the boom in construction industry is so sharp that we need a large number of civil engineers. But with regret I would like to state that Government also exploit people. Whether it is Rajasthan or Delhi or any other Government they have nursing jobs but they do not advertise it regularly. These Governments appoint them on contract and pay 4000-5000-6000 rupees, in this way the number of educated unemployed youths are increasing. The U.P.A Government has tried to take stock of situation and I would like to state that this sector should be given priority because these educated unemployed youths can prove very dangerous for the country. Naxalism was not promoted by illiterate people of the villages. Rather, person behind the growth of Naxalism were thinkers and products of reputed universities, who felt that they would not get anything from this degree and so, they will have to start revolution. They are misguided I respect their thinking but today it is not creating Naxalites rather, it is creating terrorists.

I would like to narrate a sad incident of my area. There are 5-6 boys who have motorcycles and want good food but have no employment, they ask for money from their families and presently they are involved in the thefts of motorcycles. The incident of crime involving thefts, dacoities, pick-pocketing, chain snatching etc are on the rise and these are not being committed by illiterate people only.

*[English]*

Most of them are the people who are educated, who are frustrated and who have gone here and there for jobs.

*[Translation]*

Then they fall in wrong hands. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should pay attention towards educated unemployed youths in the interest of our country. We should concentrate on our education policy and try to open maximum number of I.T.I.s. Today, our country has 7000 ITIs. China, with whom we are

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

competing in the field of education, has five lakh ITI Knowledge Commission's figures also show that we need ITI in every village. Training for educated people is needed for increasing their skill so as to make them motor mechanic, construction worker, brick laying worker. Once I had gone to Germany for excursion where a group of students was roaming. This incident is 20 years old. I asked a boy as to what was he doing? He replied very proudly that

[English]

"I am doing a course in brick-laying."

[Translation]

I could not understand this point because there is no such course of brick laying in our country. Our labourers get trained traditionally and start constructing houses. Unless we start such courses of carpentry, diesel mechanic, motor mechanic, construction worker, our education can not be job oriented and we cannot solve the problem of unemployment. Now-a-days youths are taking admission in B.B.A. (Bachelor of Business Administration) and B.C.A (Bachelor of Computer Applications) and M.B.A. etc. Person completing these courses get good jobs. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this and I am happy to state that hon. Labour Minister is here who is going to announce the programme of the Government this month. Skilled Development Mission is to be implement by Planning Commission, Prime Minister Office and his Department and it will create atleast 10 lakh jobs every year during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Our country needs such skilled development initiative.

16.00 hrs.

The boys should be trained such a way that they could do their respective courses and get employed. On the basis of the Bill Shri Chandrakant Khairi has brought, possibilities of self-employment should be expanded. The Government have some schemes, the boys who get some or other skill, should do something on their own. Hon. Khairi Sahib has given some suggestions to regulate all these things such as where to install a small unit, where to get finances for that from, who will provide site, whom to contact for power connection, whom to sell manufactured goods.

[English]

There shall be a Self-Employment Officer in each district.

[Translation]

If one is skilled, unskilled or unemployed, the Employment Officer can provide him job accordingly such as fruit or vegetable vending or can provide some small business or PCO or some other job. If he is capable of making industrial ancillary parts, he can be given that job. Apart from this, people from rural areas prefer to drive taxi in the cities. They should not wander for jobs rather, they should engage themselves in such works and continue to do these jobs and they should not treat them as mean jobs. They can run a PCO. Let the people understand dignity of labour concept. It is the responsibility of the Government, the Parliament, the society and all of us that the children who are getting education today may not remain unemployed, they should get good employment and contribute in the upliftment and development of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I, once again, support the Bill presented by hon. Chandrakant Khairi and thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank you for expressing your views in a decent manner.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Sir, today I rise to speak on a very important Private Members' Bill presented to the House by Shri Chandrakant Khairi.

I represent the youth in Parliament.

[Translation]

I would like to thank all those who elected me and sent me to the Parliament. I am here because of them and being a Member of Parliament I am expressing their feelings as a citizen of this country. My brothers and sisters burn midnight's oil to complete their school education, then move to college, and university. When they come out from there and do not get good jobs, they get frustrated.

[English]

Since 1991, there has been a considerable change in the service sector and in the Indian industry. The economy has seen a complete face-lift and the same level of expertise and knowledge should be given to our youth. The Tenth Plan envisages to give larger job opportunities to our youth and the growth is targeted towards labour intensive sector. The labour intensive sector includes agriculture and its allied services, agro

forestry, energy, plantation and promotion of small and medium enterprises. The most important part is to provide better health and family welfare and provide good education for our youth to get knowledge and skill to attain proficiency and do well in their career. I will give further emphasis on the above topic which I will be mentioning in my speech.

*[Translation]*

A lot should have changed in these 60 years in the country, but not changed. I will not go into detail of its reason and the persons responsible for it. We are in the Parliament.

*[English]*

We must work together in totality to make some changes. After 60 years of Independence, hon. Khaire has mentioned that about 30 millions are unemployed in our country.

How can we remove this hurdle? Shri Khaire has mentioned in his Bill that each district should be given a DM level officer to interface with the unemployed who are competent youth to be part of channelising them, to identify and improve their skills and making a good future for them and to coordinate them with different avenues like the commercial banks.

There are regional rural banks in our villages. There should be co-ordination with district level officers. For that, a district-level officer must be there.

As we are elected to this august House, we must take new initiatives to make special programmes to make our youth talented. Successive Governments have tried to assess the common man on the 25th of September, 2001. Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojna was launched merging two schemes. Jawahar Lal Gram Smriti Yojana (JGSY) and Employment Assurance Scheme were linked together. I am mentioning these things because I am making it sure that it leads to my final arguments.

Sir, the objective of the programme was to produce additional wage employment in the rural areas as food security and health social upliftment infrastructure-wise and to help the local youth. It was followed by successive Governments and the present Government has brought forward the National Food for Work Programme which

led on to Employment Guarantee Scheme which was launched in 2005. Basically, we must see how to improve our professionals and how to make our youth professional.

I must mention that we must look at the vocational training system in our country. Please look at the ITIs in our country. We have to take a glance at our history. Our present Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram, mentioned in his Budget speech this year for a Rs. 50 crore grant to public-private partnership for Vocational Education Mission. We urge that this happens quickly to help the common man. In his Budget speech, he also mentioned about increasing the number of ITIs, specialise them and making them superior so that youth studying technical courses become professionals in their fields,

We also have the Ministry of Small Scale Industries which is a very important sector in our country. The Ministry of SSI has the Khadi Village Industries Commission, the KVIC, under it.

Sir, large part of our population is based in the villages. As they are based in the villages, they are primarily dependent on agro works and agro improvement programmes. I must say that through KVICs, we can target the common man at the bottom level and help them improve their productivity. Yojanas such as Neem Yojana and Khas, the Vettiver, Yojana were there in the past under the previous NDA Government. We urge the present Government to work for the people and think of new policies and improve the KVICs. The KVIC's programme for Neem Yojana in my parliamentary constituency is being shut down by the present Government. I urge them to think about us and improve the KVIC programme in all areas in the country.

I represent Jhalawar parliamentary constituency in this august House. By taking initiatives through the NGOs and the rural youth, we have created new vistas in programmes, in helping the common man.

I had an opportunity to visit Dharamsthala in Karnataka. I must say that all Members of Parliament should take the time and the effort and go down to Karnataka in South India.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): When I got elected like you, I was the one who initiated that.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : I went to Dharamsthala in Karnataka. I must, at this stage, say that the Dharmadhikari, Shri Devendra Hegde, has done a phenomenal job in Dharamsthala. Every Indian should be proud of him. They have created a SKDRP Charitable Trust in Dharamsthala under the aegis of the Dharmadhikari, where the unemployed youth get job opportunities by getting trained in their institution. They get trained to make juices, etc. and they acquire skills in other trades too.

Another important aspect they take care of is the micro financing. The middleman aspect which happens in the Regional Rural Banks, has been scrapped and the lending is done by the SKDRP Charitable Trust. They had gone further and link it from the production line to the selling line. They have created a model called Siri. That model we are creating in my parliamentary constituency in the near future. I would go further and say that Self-Help Group model should also be thought of. The CIG model should also be thought of. In Hauti region of Rajasthan, special focus is on Kotadoria works of sarees. Top end fashion designers had come there and worked on specialized clusters of Kotadoria and made Kotadoria world famous. The world famous fashion designer called Ms. B.B. Russel was there. She has known the place better. She has got this place into new arena.

Large part of our population are farmers. I must go back to that. I must focus on that. I think the entire House will agree with me on that point. We must focus on the food processing industry. It is a vital industry for our economic turn around and to give boost for the common man. For the food processing industry, the Union Government has given specialized focus. The hon. Minister of Food Processing is not present here now. But he visited my parliamentary constituency. The focus on food processing is immense. We must have such avenues where we can change the unprocessed food and make it processed. We need to move and help the livelihood of the common man.

Sir, on this I must give you an example. In the region of Bharatpur-Dholpur area, there is a high cultivation of mustard. The production of mustard also assists in honey cultivation which in turn helps the common man. The honey bee boxes are kept nearby the mustard field. The bees work on the mustard flower and the processed thing is changed back and each one gets remuneration. We must think of that line and also about increasing the per-capita income of common man.

Sir, I must end by saying that there are a few aspects which I have mentioned in my speech. Firstly, the successive governments have come back on this. They must focus on the youth of India. A large part of our population in the present day is the youth population. We have to have the specialised focus and the self-promotion of youths. How is it possible? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am concluding within two minutes. We should educate our youth to improve their skills and talents plus give them the most important aspect, viz., the apprentice training. They might have book knowledge, but they do not have apprenticeship and training. It has to be linked together like a hotel industry where you have experience in class rooms and then you have on-the-field training.

Sir, to improve our banking system, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance and his team to give us a loving hand, a blessing to help the common man and to change the framework of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The Regional Rural Banks are the most corrupt centres and these centres should be changed and a centre of micro-finance, which I worked in places like Andhra Pradesh and in Karnataka, should be adopted and to be used for as a specialized system.

Sir, I must go on to say that we must also improve our agriculture. We must learn from other countries about the new techniques of agriculture. Our farmers should go to other countries. For example, I would say about Israel—how they can save water by conservation and to see how we can improve the seeds and improve the cultivation level. We must improve our industrial training institutes to a new level.

Lastly, I must say that we are all Indians first. We have come together in the whole House and we must be proud of our country. As we are proud of our country, we must, cutting across party lines and cutting across community lines, work together and make our India a new India.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on Self Employment Promotion Bill presented by Shri Chandrakant Khaire in the House.

Shri Oscar Fernandes, hon. Minister of State for Labour and Employment is considered a senior and

sincere Minister. This topic has been discussed a number of times in the House earlier and so many points have been raised during the Question Hour particularly. Shri Punnu Lal Mohale, Member of Parliament had raised a question. According to the reply to the question given on behalf of the Government, more than half of the population was unemployed which means 58 per cent people of the country are unemployed. Statistics show that about 2 crore 80 thousand people are registered in employment exchanges till 31.12.2005. As I am from Uttar Pradesh, I am observing the situation there. The number of registrations are believed to be about 15 lakhs. Huge amounts have been released to the States under Pradhan Mantri Swarozgar Yojana for educated unemployed person. If statistics are to be believed, banks are not achieving their targets well in time. According to available employment data in the country, about 2 crore 28 thousand 908 persons have been registered and for 3,43,362 person, jobs have been created. As per the figures of 2007, the banks have cleared 46,784 cases of Self employment scheme in Uttar Pradesh. The estimated creation of employment is 610176. During the year 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 388.87 has been provided about which it is said that the State Government has not informed. It makes clear if the situation in Uttar Pradesh is such then, what would be the situation in other States?

Sir, the figures of National Sample Survey Organization reveal that the problem of unemployment is more serious in urban areas than rural areas. Highly qualified persons are more unemployed than less qualified and they are wandering aimlessly carrying degrees in hand. As Karan Singh Yadavji has just said. As per data, women are facing problem of unemployment more than men. The Government should pay attention to it also. We have made progress to the extent that there is no discrimination between men and women. People encourage their kids whether it is a boy or a girl to study and move forward. In urban areas, the ratio of unemployed is 48 to 1,000 and in rural areas it is 17 to 1,000. if figures are to be seen, every 955 persons are employed against 1000 and every 983 are employed against 1000 in rural areas. According to NSSO, only 42 per cent people could get employment so far. The figures are indicative of the situation which is going to be worse in future. Out of the total population. 44 per cent in rural areas and 37 per cent in urban areas are employed. 28 per cent people in urban areas are in various jobs as business, hotel and restaurant etc. In rural areas, 64 per cent men and 45 per cent women

are literate. It has been seen that in urban areas 81 per cent men are literate while 69 per cent women are literate. According to figures there is noticeable increase in unemployment. At the end of Tenth Five Year Plan, the number of unemployed persons is more than 4 crore. According to NSSO and Ministry of Finance the report sent to Planning Commission has reported that poverty is increasing in the country every year.

As per the figures of 1999 it was 26 per cent and in the year 2004 it went up to 28 per cent. I think, in the month of March next year it is likely to be around 5 crores. The Central Government have formulated a scheme keeping in view the figures given by him which was called as 'Skills Scheme' which aims at giving training to the rural educated and unemployed youth on the lines of heavy industries. They have opened four centres at Noida, Goa, West Bengal and Trichy for this purpose. Keeping in view the numbers of unemployed people I think that if he gives admission to 200-400 persons it will not be possible to cover all of them and provide employment to so many people. Right from rural to urban centres where there is widespread unemployment, we need to make provisions for such things. Many a times there has been a debate in this House that banks should come forward to promote the youth to engage in self employment. All types of people apply for loans in the banks, we talk about the farmers loan, but as far as unemployed youths are concerned as sometimes such instances come before us in which the youth complain that if they apply for the loan even under 'Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana' then they have to make several visits to the bank and no one pays any attention to them and it has also been noticed that there are some agents who work between the banks and the unemployed youths and in case a youth applies for a loan of Rs. One lakh, he will get only Rs. 90000 and remaining of Rs. 10,000 will go into the pocket of the Agent. This matter has been raised several times before the Finance Minister also but he stated that if we have any specific case then give its details to him and enquiry will be conducted in that matter. But the actual position is that such cases take place whether they are Regional Rural Banks or the private banks and all other such banks who are not able to achieve their targets also indulge in such practices. Under such circumstances how an unemployed youth who does not have sufficient money even to purchase a form to apply for a job and securing a bank draft will be able to mobilize the funds. There are such types of difficulties. The former President, Dr. Abdul Kalam has also stated that our youths after getting educated have to run in



[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

search of an employment. Rather the educated youths should be encouraged to engage in self employment by giving some incentives so that they can provide employment to some other youths also but it is unfortunate that we have not formulated any such schemes in this regard. If there have been some schemes, they have been riddled with so many problems and lacunae that the unemployed youths get utterly frustrated to complete the formalities. This is the main reason why our youth take to the wrong path and become a Naxalite or terrorist. Our young generation is facing these problems today.

These figures indicate that by the year 2020 there will be around 21 crore unemployed youth in our country. On the one hand, we are constructing huge shopping malls, flyovers in the urban areas to make development on the other hand, our population is constantly increasing and we need to control it somehow. Being a welfare State, it is the duty of our Government to provide education, health and employment to all. The Government from time to time have implemented several schemes for instance there has been a scheme namely National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, but the factual position is that if we happen to visit a village then several unemployed youths of the village especially the landless workers complain that they have not been provided the job cards. Besides, if any work is being done that is being done with the J.C.B. Machines, therefore, they are not getting any employment. Under such a situation they are forced to migrate to the urban areas and gather at a place in search of work without any guarantee of the work. This is the problem before us. The then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Hon'ble Mulayam Singh Ji following the socialist ideology of Samajwadi Party and slogan of Dr. Lohia i.e. 'Employment for all', started giving unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth. The present Government has discontinued that scheme. This is the present situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to appeal the Hon'ble Minister to have a debate on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Today, it is the need of the hour that we provide employment and in case we are not able to provide employment to the educated youth, then we should give the unemployment allowance, only then we can make development.

With these words, I conclude. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I support the spirit of the Bill. The idea behind the Bill is great because it deals with one of the most vital problems of our country, the problem of growing unemployment. He is suggesting that by providing more opportunities for self-employment, probably, the problem to some extent could be solved and there is a scheme in the Bill, which is laudable.

Now, when we speak about self-employment schemes, there are a lot of schemes the Government itself is promoting. But I do not know whether the Government is reviewing those schemes occasionally so that we know to what extent they have produced positive results should have been assessed. Also, there are schemes for training students for getting themselves equipped for obtaining self-employment.

I have received a letter yesterday from district Cherthala. It says that there is a community poly-technique where three batches of students are trained in four months' course every year. The scheme is abandoned. The students say that in the midst of the course, the scheme has been abandoned. I will pass on the letter to the hon. Minister. I do not know why such things are done. The schemes which are useful, with which the kind of skilled labour they become, then they get some employment and that scheme is mindlessly abandoned by somebody. This kind of thing should not happen.

Apart from this, there is a very big concern today about the policy of the Government by which a large number of self-employed people, probably, the biggest number of self-employed people in our country could become unemployed. I am referring to the scheme of FDI in retail sector.

There were many statistics. I do not want to load with all the statistics. I would like to quote the figures that the hon. Minister himself has given in reply to a question in Lok Sabha on 18th December 2006. Shri Oscar Fernandes while replying to the question has stated, 'the estimated number of workforce employed in the retail trade, not all retail trade, except of motor vehicle, motor cycle repair, personnel and household goods, as per usual statistics basis was estimated to be of the order of 33.51 million in 2004-05.'

Sir, 33.51 million was the estimated number of people self-employed, running shops. Now, the estimated number of workers engaged in the self-employment of our economy as a whole has gone up from 21 crore in 1999-2000 to 26.1 crore in 2004-05. This is the statistics provided by Mr. Fernandes himself.

Now, this policy is being pursued. Today's newspaper states, in U.P., the shops run by Reliance are running vegetable shops. Well, it is interesting that new big companies are entering the field of vegetable selling. The people ransacked it and the Government decided to stop the functioning of those shops. Probably that is a sign of what is in store in the coming days.

When we are discussing about self-employment and all that, instead of creating new possibilities, if you are destroying the existing possibilities by your policy, I think that is a kind of reckless action. I think, from that kind of policies the Government should come back or should have a rethinking about it. I think the Congress President Shrimati Sonia Gandhi wrote a letter to the Prime Minister expressing her concern about this decision and its consequences on the common people. I do not know how the Government has reacted. But I would like to inform this House that the people who are engaged in retail trade are small people who are investing. Even a *thelawala* is a retail seller. One shop is there; he is doing some little selling. That means, at least, he himself and his family are living reasonable well working. In certain cases they provide employment to many other people also. But now by adopting these kinds of policies the fate of the largest number of people, who are self-employed in our country, is at stake. I would request you that you may have to rethink thousand times about it. Probably you may withdraw these kinds of proposals.

Coming to other aspects, in the Budget proposal the Finance Minister has said that he is going to upgrade the ITCs, the ITIs. I was telling about the decision about one ITI. If we upgrade these ITIs and better quality training is provided to students, that will enable them to get a reasonable employment, self-employment in their own life. Probably, if the Government wants to encourage that, maybe thousands of such ITCs must be promoted and more people are given training. Here I would like to say a word about our education which is very much connected with this. Our education as it is, probably many Commissions have been appointed. If I remember, Kothari Commission made a recommendation that at the level of 10th class, the students should be encouraged to choose

a career. May be that he may choose some employment, may be a self-employment. Then he should be provided training of that type; may be training in agriculture, training in small techniques or technologies for which these kinds of institutes—ITCs or ITIs are helpful. That kind of development is not taking place. Education means after 10th class, a student goes to 12th class and then goes for a degree. We have enough graduates; they are millions in number. Probably they can be a clerk. That is all. They will now be mostly unemployed. So, education itself should have an orientation to provide training. I support the previous speaker's idea that more apprenticeship facilities should be provided so that these people will enable themselves to get some kind of employment of their own.

Sir, the discussion on this Bill would help all of us to think in terms of better education and training and also to get an opportunity to request the Government not to indulge in adventurous activities like FDI in retail trade and make more people unemployed.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Promotion of Self-Employment Bill, 2006 moved by my colleague, Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

Every time, at the time of election, the political parties declare that they would provide employment to the unemployed youths in this country but after the election, no political party bothers about them. They are assured of employment during the election but they are neglected and highly ignored after the election is over. The youths are having tension and fatigue. They are spending a lot of money for getting admission in engineering colleges and medical colleges. They are somehow maintaining their life because of the mushroom growth in technical education. They are paying heavy fees, lakhs of rupees now-a-days. I have seen in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and even in Orissa that they are spending about Rs. 20 lakh or Rs. 30 lakh to become a doctor. People are even selling their properties for getting admission of their children in engineering and medical colleges by paying Rs. 20 lakh or Rs. 30 lakh. Naturally, when they are forced to spend so much of money, they will become corrupt. It happens in the urban areas.

In the rural areas, at the time of election, unemployed youth join the political parties and become political workers, and they get money from the political leaders. This is creating havoc in the society. In the rural areas,

[Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

some youths have already joined the Naxalite movement because they are unemployed. Some unemployed youths have joined the Pakistani extremist groups and they are heavily paid. They do not care about their lives. This is a human loss. They are bombing not only our nation but the whole world. They have destroyed the world economy. They are the criminals and they are killing the humanity. We are losing crores of rupees due to their criminal activities. Had that money been allotted for providing employment to the unemployed youths, the country and their lives could have been saved. Some unemployed youths joined the naxalite movements for a particular ideology. Because of poverty and unemployment, they do not even bother to get themselves killed. It is not the fault of the naxalites. Until and unless their poverty is eradicated, the naxalite movement cannot be wiped out.

We are not conscious about our society, our life and our nature. We are poisoning our own country. Take the developed countries like Austria. There are two 'Ms' one is medicine and another is music. In Austria, some youths played piano. On hearing the sweet melody of piano, the dolphin has started dancing on the shore of the ocean, and they are getting lakhs of dollars. It is a type of small scale industry. Take Switzerland, where the youths involve themselves in manufacturing watches. It is a cottage industry. Through that cottage industry, their country has grown up. In Austria, youths are producing blankets and other costly winter dresses with the help of goat hair. They are self employed. In a village, Raghunathpur in Puri District, the youths are employed in creating beautiful arts, paintings through palm leaves and dry coconut. They are not educated but they are so talented. Their talent must be recognised. They are indulging themselves in creating this art and they are so creative.

In Naranagarh, which is in my constituency, our ancestors and forefathers had constructed Konark Sun Temple and they provided stones for constructing Konark Sun Temple. Those artists even now, are collecting the magnificent stones from the mountains, processing them, and then making idols. They are selling them into the market. Those artists are having high heritage of traditional values. Their children are also involved in constructing such beautiful items. But their talents should be given due recognition.

Sir, those artists, who are residing in the villages are leading a very miserable life. They do not have proper shelter; they do not have proper food. They should be provided with these things, and their talent should be

utilised. They are very creative and genuine people. They must be involved, they must be encouraged and they must be patronized.

Through this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister—he is a very upright and knowledgeable Minister—that his name would be reckoned with history, if he takes up some artists, those who are living in the villages and see that their life is upgraded.

With these few words, I conclude and support this Bill.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Private Member Bill brought by Shri Chandrakant Khaire is certainly a welcome step and it is related to a very sensitive issue.

Sir, several theories prevalent in this country are weakening the foundation of democracy in this country. The extremism, terrorism, communism and the problem of Naxalism which is particularly afflicting our State Chhattisgarh, these four issues are misleading our young generation which is already frustrated to some extent. It is a matter of regret and surprise that highly educated youths having the degrees of B.A, M.Tech and even Doctors have been found involved in terrorist and naxalite activities. What are the actual reasons which inspire these educated youths to take to such path and get afflicted of this contemptible mentality. The unemployment among educated persons is a very big problem of this country. Sometimes, it appears that the colleges, polytechnic institutes and IITs opened by the Government during the last 15-20 years are merely playing a role of increasing unemployment in the country. When our unemployed educated youths seek employment they find themselves unable to get a job in this era of computerization and machines. The bill introduced by Shri Chandrakant Khaire will certainly prove to be an important bill whether it comes out in the form of a Government bill or in any other form.

Sir, the nuclear energy is a burning issue today in the entire country. There is a countrywide debate as to whether the Government will remain intact or fall. The politicians are engaged in different types of politics. The entire country is linked to the electronic media and the people are watching these developments. I think energy of our youth is more important than this nuclear energy

but unfortunately we are not exploiting this energy. There has been a debate on running or toppling the Government over the issue of nuclear deal, we are having debates at national and international level regarding nuclear deal, but it is unfortunate that we are not able to formulate any scheme to develop the energy of our youth which is the biggest strength of our country. It is a fact that provisions incorporated by Shri Khaire Ji in this bill may prove to be very effective but such things have been tried in past also. 'Pradhanmantri Rozgar Yojana' was implemented. The targets were fixed for the districts under the direct funding from the centre. But when it comes to implement the scheme the youth have to make countless visits to the office of Collector and District Industry Centre but no loan is sanctioned to him.

He is asked to go for training if his loan is sanctioned. He is not able to attain full training as the trainer who has been assigned this task gives training only twice a week. Even if somehow he manages to take training in self employment and goes to the Bank for obtaining loan, loan is not released to him by the field officer or manager of the Bank without taking commission in advance. The main reason for failure of the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojna was that the amount was released in instalments. Every time the young man had to pay bribe to the Bank officers when he would go to the bank to get instalments released. One of the reasons for failure of this scheme was that a target was fixed for the District Collector to choose a specific number of unemployed youngmen and disburse loans to them under the scheme. In order to meet the target, loans were disbursed to even those people who were otherwise not eligible.

This scheme started a new vogue wherein the task was assigned to the voluntary and non Government organizations to give fillip to self employment in the country. Highly influential persons, politicians and I.A.S. officers formed their own personal N.G.O.s and they are getting money in the name of imparting training in self employment as a result of which the young generation is not able to get benefits under the scheme. An institution namely CAPART imparts training in self employment. It was allocated crores of rupees for the purpose. I would like to ask the hon'ble Members to find out as to where the funds allocated to CAPART by the Central Government are being spent. Those funds are grabbed by the people working in CAPART and no training is imparted.

I agree to some of the provisions contained in the Private Member's Bill introduced by Khaire Sahib. He has stated that it would be better if an I.A.S. officer is deputed for this, but I have reservations to it that when an I.A.S. officer is assigned the task of providing employment in the district he will depute the most reluctant person for the job. In this way that person suffering from complex will not do any thing and give nothing to the young people.

Our hon'ble Minister Oscar Fernandes Sahib is sitting here. I would like to point out that it was Rajiv Gandhi who had for the first time conceived the idea of self employment for the youth of this country 22 years ago. It was the misfortune of our country and our youth that he became victim of terrorism so early. He had conceived, this idea and he had taken effective steps to implement the same. The hon'ble Minister has had the opportunity to work with him and he knows well how close the youths were to his heart.

I would like to submit that the Private Member's Bill which has been introduced is very good. But, need of hour is to introduce such an effective Bill on the pattern of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act enacted by the Government for the sake of rural poor. Government has to show firm political will power and enact a law like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and implement it in the districts which are considered nodal by it. In this way, you may establish a centre for self employment and appoint an officer thereto. You may lay down a time limit for acknowledgement of application and disbursement of loan in the Bill itself. There should also be a time limit for providing training. Besides this you should make efforts to ensure marketing of the products manufactured by the people under the self employment scheme. At present four things are essential in this regard. First, the loan should be sanctioned with cooperation of the Bank, Secondly, he should be provided a suitable site where he can establish his enterprise. Thirdly, there should be a provision for marketing of their products and fourthly, it should be endeavour of the Government to give them a helping hand by purchasing their products.

I would like to give a suggestion. It should be an endeavour in the country to promote the concept of self employment. Before enacting legislations in this regard we should ask the State Governments to allot the work worth less than Rs. 10 lakhs to the unemployed and diploma holder engineers under the ongoing projects of various departments like the P.W.D. or Water Resources etc. in the rural areas. With this suggestion I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri B.K. Deoji, the next Bill is similar to it. I would therefore, like you to be very brief so that the Bill may also be introduced and the House may listen to your remaining speech on that Bill too. That is why I would like you to be brief.

*[English]*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. This Bill is to provide for promotion of self-employment among educated unemployed youth and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration. This is a welcome measure. It is about the future of the nation. The educated youth who get educated, go to school, go to college with a vision that they will do something for the country, they will do something for themselves. But when they come out, when there are no opportunities created by the Government, they are lost and they lead to anti-social activities and other activities and to Left extremism and all these things.

Therefore, here I would like to say that on the one side there are the self-employed youth, who gets a degree and on the other side there are other youth who do not have a degree but have the skills. For example, there are people who know about making carpets, pottery, development of handicrafts. Who certifies them and how can they be self-employed? These people are left in the dark and in the lurch. They do not have anywhere to go. It is only after you get a degree from an arts college or a crafts college that that he is recognized. But a person, a villager, an artisan who has got the skills of carpet-making, weaving etc., who have got the skill, want to be self-employed.

How do you authenticate their skill and give them a degree? That should be our primary aim. Otherwise, their skills are not recognized by banks. They want degrees from a college or a school. I am talking about the small artisans of the village who comprise the second-largest employment in the country. I mean to say about the small-scale sector, the micro industries sector and the agro-industries sector which is the second highest employer in the country. Therefore, I want the Government to clarify on this.

With the FDI coming in now, with large investments from foreign countries for using state-of-the-art machinery

what is happening is that the human employment is coming down. We have to make our youth compatible with the investment coming. We are very happy that they are going to upgrade the ITIs. It is a welcome measure. But only upgradation of the ITIs is not sufficient. You are going to upgrade 247 ITIs. That is not sufficient. We want more mini-tool rooms because it has been seen by experience that with mini-tool rooms and tool rooms the employment grows from 102 to 104 per cent. It is a more specialized vocational trade where they can get direct employment and assured employment.

Regarding Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, I do not want to make a repetition. But here I would like to say for their payment there should be a single window system where the entrepreneur or the unemployed youth does not have to run from the door or the house of the manager to the banker. A proper convergence with the District Industries Centre has to be created. We have been repeatedly saying about it. That is why one of the biggest failures in your Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana is that there is a lack of convergence.

Sir, the Government gives credit guarantee for all these schemes of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and other small-scale schemes. The credit guarantee is there. So, why would the Government or the Government official at the district level or the officer sitting in Mumbai be so rigid about it? The credit guarantee is already there by the Government of India. He should be more liberal. By that you could get enough of employment created.

A very pertinent thing here is the unemployment allowance. The unemployment allowance should be started on a national scale. Some States are giving it like U.P. and other States which are giving unemployment allowance. I think it should be made a universal thing and for all unemployed youth some type of token payment should be made throughout the country.

17.00 hrs.

Our youth is the strongest force because we have 40 million youths in the country. They should be channelised properly. They are not being channelised properly in the right vocations. So, specialisation of courses, as rightly pointed out by Shri C. K. Chandrappan, as per Gadgil Report, should start from 10th standard. After a child passes school, his specialisation should start.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving an opportunity to all hon'ble Members to speak. I would like to thank Shri Chandrakant Khaire ji also as he has provided us an opportunity to speak on such an important matter.

17.01 hrs.

[*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair*]

Discussion is continuing on the most important subject of employment in the country and we need to make utmost efforts in tackling this issue. Then only the young men will get the employment opportunity. I would like to thank all hon'ble Members who have participated in this discussion. We shall, of course, incorporate suggestions of those Members who could not get a chance to speak and we are also ready to hold a special discussion. We shall convene a meeting to invite suggestions of all hon'ble Members and seek their suggestions individually. You have also told about the Mini Tool Room. It is a very good suggestion. We shall certainly try to implement it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all points are required to be covered. I, therefore, have to read out my speech.

[*English*]

I am thankful to Shri Chandrakant Khaire, the hon. Member of Parliament, for introducing this Promotion of Self-Employment Bill, 2006. The main intention of the Bill is to draw the attention of the Government to the self-employment and unemployment problem being experienced by the youth in the country.

In this connection, I would like to mention that the Government is taking all the necessary steps to deal with the problem of unemployment by promoting growth of labour-intensive sectors such as construction, real estate, housing, transport, tourism, small-scale industries, modern retailing, information technology-enabled services and a range of other new services which need to be promoted through supportive policies.

Besides taking planned initiative, the Government has also taken special measures like implementation of various

employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes. Some of these are Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Rural Employment Generation Programme of Khadi and Village Industries Commission, and various schemes of handloom and handicraft sectors for generation of self-employment.

In order to ensure consistency between requirement and availability of skill, greater emphasis has now been laid on skill development. Keeping this in view, it has been proposed to upgrade 500 ITIs in various parts of the country as Centres of Excellence, which would produce world-class craftsmen.

Recognising the serious problem of unemployment, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been enacted by the Government to provide for enhancement of livelihood security to the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. In this Act, a provision has also been kept to provide unemployment allowance in the event of failure of employment guarantee.

[*Translation*]

If we are not able to provide employment of 100 days, then we have made provision for payment of unemployment allowance.

[*English*]

The hon. Prime Minister has announced the scheme of Bharat Nirman, wherein six critical areas of rural infrastructure, namely, irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, electricity and telecom connectivity will be covered.

[*Translation*]

According to that you will not be able to notice any difference between rural and urban areas. The Prime Minister has chalked out a special scheme to provide those facilities in rural areas. Which are proposed to be provided to urban areas. It will benefit all.

[Shri Oscar Fernandes]

*[English]*

This will not only enhance the better living standards of the rural population, but would also create infrastructure that will ultimately enhance the economic activities in the rural areas and generate significant employment opportunities for the rural people.

The Approach to the 11th Five-Year Plan aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process, and devises strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment, but also of wages of the poorly paid. The creation of 70 million new job opportunities would be one of the monitorable socio-economic targets during the 11th Five-Year Plan. Additional employment opportunities will be generated in future mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors.

Thus, it may be seen that the Government is already taking necessary measures for generation of employment opportunities for the unemployed persons. Besides the initiatives taken by Central Government, the State Governments are also side by side taking various measures for additional employment generation.

It is not possible for the Central Government alone to provide employment or self-employment to all in view of the limited scope of the Government to provide direct employment. The primary responsibility is of the State Governments both to design and implement the programmes for employment generation.

The pace and pattern of employment generation depends on the rate and structure of the overall growth of the economy. The country is not in a position to incur huge expenditure involved on the unemployment allowance. The Government is, therefore, of the view that the payment of unemployment allowance to all the unemployed youth would divert substantial resources from the development programmes towards the non-developmental activities. The resources of such a magnitude have to be used for developmental activities, which would generate substantial productive employment rather than being used on unproductive activities like unemployment allowance. Therefore, the Government is not in favour of payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed.

It is entirely the prerogative of the educated unemployed youths to either go for wage-paid jobs or for self-employment. Every unemployed youth does not have

the aptitude for taking up self-employment. Wage-paid job is the best option for the unemployed youths. Keeping in view the labour market scenario, wage-paid job is sustainable—through skill development and skill upgradation—as per the demands of the labour market. Provision of guarantee for self-employment may not be in the best interest of eligible unemployed youths.

I would thank the hon. Members who have raised various issues on unemployment situation in this House. The UPA Government has accorded high priority to the unemployment problem and has been taking all possible steps for promotion of self-employment among the educated youths. You will all agree that the problem of unemployment is of great concern to all of us. Our Government is very serious in making all possible efforts to solve this problem. I would, therefore, request hon. Member Shri Chandrakant Khaire, the mover of this Private Members' Bill, to withdraw it.

At the same time, I would like to mention that the Government is thinking of taking up another 1396 Government ITIs for upgradation. They are being upgraded in private-public partnership mode by providing an interest free loan up to Rs. 2.5 crore per ITI. This is the scheme which we are bringing in to upgrade the 1396 ITIs, other than the 500 which we have mentioned, in public-private partnership mode. New multi-skill courses are being introduced in all these ITIs to make the graduates better employable.

Another scheme titled Skill Development Initiative is also being started with an outlay of Rs. 550 crore.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : After the skill development which you do, what type of certification will you give them? Can that certification get them jobs inside or outside the country?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: This is a very pertinent question. It is an all-India certificate that we are giving. With this all-India certificate, they can enter the world market and get a better placement.

This scheme titled Skill Development Initiative is being started with an objective to train one million persons in the next five years, and thereafter, one million every year. There will be short-term modular courses with multi-entry and multi-exit options and flexible delivery schedule. These trades identified are in accordance with the requirement of the industry and, therefore, we expect that these will

offer decent employment opportunities to millions of youths in our country.

[*Translation*]

Some suggestions have also been made with regard to Employment Exchange and some suggestions have been made with regard to place of posting of Employment Officer and about re-setting or re-modeling of Employment Exchange. To deal with this problem, we are discussing in the department. With regard to the future shape of Employment Exchange and simultaneously we shall also take the suggestions of the Members and try to give benefits to youth. I would like to say that hon'ble Prime Minister has specifically mentioned in his Independence Day speech about it.

[*English*]

Hon'ble Prime Minister is very much concerned.

[*Translation*]

He said that presently only 5% people are technically qualified at this level in the country and a scheme is to be formulated to increase this upto 50%. UPA, President, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is discussing in this regard and strengthening this scheme. There is also a mention about Rajiv ji that he helped to strengthen the youth and I would like to bring this in record. With this I thank all Members of this House.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): I congratulate the hon'ble Minister that he tried to speak in Hindi.

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I seek a clarification. I was supposed to take part in debate on this Self-employment Bill moved by Shri Chandrakant Khaire. I do not know why my privilege to take part in the debate has been curtailed.

Why have we not been allowed to participate in that debate? This has to be clarified, because today is the Private Members' day. We have the privilege and we are entitled to enjoy the privilege by participating in the debate. According to the rules, we have given our names. Our privilege have been curbed and curtailed. If anybody sitting in the Chair misuses the power, then, it is really regrettable.

Now, I am demanding the quorum of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Shri Chowdhury, on this issue, another Bill is coming up. You can participate in that.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : It is very much the freedom of the Members. Without any clarification or reason, our privilege has been curtailed. Our rights have been taken away. It is regrettable. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated.

The hon. Minister has replied. Shri Khaire is not present to reply to the debate on this Bill.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : I am on a point of order. As the hon. Member who moved the Bill is not present here, let the Bill be sent for eliciting public opinion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no rule like that at all.

Now, I put the motion for consideration of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the promotion of self-employment among educated unemployed youth and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was negatived.*

17.17 hrs.

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004 (Insertion of new Article 16A)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration".

Sir, Shri Chandrakant Khaire had presented a Bill in the House which was about wiping out unemployment among youth. I would like to present a similar Bill which is about inserting 'Right to Employment' in Fundamental Rights of the Constitution of India. The insertion of 16A

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\*Moved with the Recommendation of the President.



[Shri Mohan Singh]

will provide remunerative employment to each capable citizen who has attained 18 years of age. Unemployment is emerging as a big problem in India. The clauses in the Directive Principle of the State policy with regard to providing employment to all cannot be made functional unless these are made part of Fundamental Rights of the citizen. The number of identified unemployed people in India is more than four crores. But the State Governments are not worried about such a large number of these unemployed youth and due to this criminal tendency is increasing among them and they are either committing suicide or getting engaged in criminal activities. The incidents of kidnapping for ransom are also on the increase. As long as the problem of unemployment is not solved, it is difficult to have social equality. In this condition the State should make its administration economical and the amount saved in this manner should be distributed as unemployment allowance so that the youth can be engaged in creative works. If the Constitution of India is read properly then on the one hand there is an Article on Fundamental Rights and on the other hand there are Directive Principles of the State Policy and all policies of State Administration of our country should be operated under the Directive Principles. The makers of the Constitution had expressed their intention in such a manner and a gist of their intention is reflected in Section 39 of the Constitution of India.

[English]

"Citizen, men and women equally, have the right to adequate means of livelihood."

[Translation]

This is the duty of the State to make available each man or woman citizen all resources for his/her livelihood and the second thing which was said further that.

[English]

"The ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to be subserve the common good".

[Translation]

We will use our resources in such a manner that these resources are available equally to all.

[English]

"The operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment."

[Translation]

We should operate this country in such a manner that money does not get concentrated in the hands of a few people so that it can be distributed equally. What type of society is emerging in our country!

The population of our country is increasing. The rate of increase is about 2%, but the rate of increase in employment opportunity is around one and a half percent. This unfortunate situation is going to be present in this country. A few days back one leading newspaper of this country published a news item that there are 82 crore such people who live life with a daily earning of only twenty rupees. Are we going to make such a type of India which will provide comfort to only 20-22 crore people who would possess all the resources and rest of the people would be without resources? If we would like to make such a type of India, then definitely I would like to say that we do not want to do this work according to the concepts visualized during 60 years of our independence. The rate of employment generation has reduced and presently it is below one percent in public sector. The rate of employment generation in public sector is 0.80 per cent age. The biggest opportunity of employment generation lies in public sector. Employment has increased a little bit in private sector. Ten years ago there was only 0.44% increase in employment in private sector. Now, there is a negligible increase of 0.10961%. But, all opportunities of employment are on the decline in the organized sector of our country. Ten years ago, the rate of increase of employment was 1.2% in the organized sector. But, now there is only 0.38% increase in employment. How can we give employment to people? Even if people are getting employment, it is half employment, not full employment but a partial one.

It would not cater to our requirement for livelihood. We dream of a quality life of the people and our country ranks 127th in this matter in the world. It means that the basic facilities are not being made available to people. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the government to provide employment to people so that they could lead a quality life. I hence, suggest to include right to employment in the fundamental rights of the people and then it will become duty of the Government to provide employment to them. And, if the Government is not able to provide employment, then unemployment allowance should be provided to them so that they could lead a decent life. I therefore, have introduced this Constitution amendment Bill seeking inclusion of provision to this effect. I hope

that this Bill will get support of all Hon. Members and then the Government will bring a Constitution Amendment Bill separately so that the right to employment could be included into the fundamental rights provided in the Constitution of India.

*[English]*

"Equal pay for equal work for both men and women."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration."

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir. May I commend Shri Mohan Singh for his extremely important piece of legislation that he would like to see this House appear for the benefit of the Nation?

We are all aware that the youth today faces a grave situation in terms of its education not being relevant to the opportunities that the child may have in terms of his growth. Sir, the paradox is that while the Ministry of Human Resource develops the curriculum and the desire in the youth of this nation, the desire to know, it is left to the Ministry of Labour to see that these young people acquire the capability to do. It is surprising that the Ministry of Human Resource is not present on such an important discussion that affects the youth of this country. What gets further compounded is that the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industry bring to this nation limitless possibilities that this nation has in terms of its position as a global nation, in terms of the opportunities that the universe today provides us. And, it is this mismatch, between the responsibilities that various segments of the Government have in shaping the destiny of the youth of this nation, in terms of capability, in terms of employability, in terms of the skills that are required, which has led to the situation that now prevails. Perhaps, if we do not remedy this situation and leave it to segmental solutions, to complexities of the solutions that the people require, we will continue to have this debate.

It is timely that Shri Mohan Singh has brought in an element that maybe, in a way inadvertently enables the Government to try and find the solution. If we give an Unemployment Allowance, there will definitely be an impetus on Government to find a solution to the mismatches that are prevailing. But I would definitely like to

commend the hon. Minister for Labour who has taken enormous time first to discuss the whole issue of self-employment and now to discuss the matter that relates to employability, the employment of the youth of this country.

Sir, as a person who has been committed to young people, as a person who has spent more than three decades in the field of education, let me tell you that the problem lies perhaps in the educational system. Gandhiji, more than five decades back, had very succinctly pointed out that there needs to be an element of skill cultivation in young people together with the education they get in our schools. For some reason, we found that perhaps that was too primitive in its construct. We did not look at it in terms of its holistic solution and today we have educated unemployable young people.

So, I would like to mention, would like to emphasise and I know that the Knowledge Commission as well as the NCERT have begun to look at the possibility of making this purely academic schooling system and the educational opportunities to blend them with mechanisms that will build in skills and competencies together with the acquisition of instructions or you can call it knowledge. I do not think they really get knowledge. They just get some sort of information which they seemingly say, 'consequently they are educated'.

But if we look at what the aspirations the young people have for this great nation, the responsibilities they have to take this nation forward, I do think that we need to understand a holistic commitment. And, therefore, the need for the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Human Resource as well as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce working together on a common endeavour that creates the platforms that will give not only a momentum to the opportunities of our people but will also give a very focused delivery.

Since the hon. Minister is here, what I would like to suggest is that there needs to be an understanding and a mapping of what are the basic generic skills that are required for young people and how they can be integrated into the curriculum system that we have. Those should be basic to the opportunities and in terms of schooling that prevails. From there, we will begin to understand what it is to be on a hands on process that will enable competencies and capabilities to develop.

[Shri Francis Fanthome]

Why I am saying this is that somehow because of this streaming between vocationalisation of education and the academic orientations that some, perhaps more privileged of the nation has, there seems to be some denigration in the minds of a lot of people that vocationalisation of education is perhaps not the way to go. Therefore, self-employment and the employability at early age is perhaps not the way forward. But I would like to say that if we blend these two platforms and create a commonality that there is going to be a certain basic attitude to labour and attitude to understand that working with your hands is not a diminishing thing and that the mind is not the only delivery mechanism that enables possibilities to prevail. It is there that we will begin to build a nation that we would like for ourselves and translate the vision of Mahatma Gandhi into a realisation that this nation would like to have. Therefore, may I say that while we are looking at what Shri Mohan Singh has very ably put forth and which I support, that we provide a certain basic strength that when one attains the age of 18, you get the education that you want and then from there if you do not get a job, you will, at least, get a certain basic support from the State.

Let me also mention to the Minister that with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan unfolding itself, we are wanting about 95 per cent of our nation's children in schools. We have already had about 7 years of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. We are also going to see that the secondary level is now a comprehensive opportunity for our young people. With this kind of platform and more of the same happening, we will find that problem of unemployable educated young people is going to compound itself. Therefore, there is need to be a solution immediately as to what these young people are going to have when they enter the possibilities that this nation would like to provide.

So I would like to leave the hon. Minister with the thought that there needs to be a blending, and there needs to be a certain understanding. If we want all our youth educated, we must assure them that we will provide them with the rightful opportunities.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Constitution Amendment Bill 2004 introduced by Hon'ble Mohan Singh Ji. In this Bill, he has asked for inclusion of right to employment in the

fundamental rights provided in the Constitution and it has also provision to provide unemployment allowance if one does not get employment. I support it wholeheartedly. Sir, I would submit about the youths of today that :-

"Nikale hain kahan jaane ke liye,  
Pahuchenge Kahan yeh Maaloom Nahin,  
In rah mein bhatakne walon ko manzil  
Ki deesha maaloom nahin."

The kind of education being provided is aimless and solely theoretical while we are of the view about education.

[English]

Education is an all-round, integrated and well balanced development of the personality of the child.

[Translation]

Education means all-round and balanced development of the personality of a child. Attention should be paid to education being provided in the schools and colleges. Let us leave the education of Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges, IITs or IIMs alone but attention should be paid towards general schools and colleges. There is a small example, I asked a boy, "What are you doing?" He said, "I have become an MP." I said, "you an MP?" An MP is a Member of Parliament, he said "I have become Matric Pass." I said, "Very good, with which-division you have passed?" He said, "you do not know division", Royal division! I said, "What do you mean by Royal Division?" He said, first division with two body guards. It makes us laugh but if we think deeply, then it is third division, third division supplementary promoted or pass with grace. I asked a youth studying in a college why was he studying because there is no knowledge without college. He said, my parents want so, so I am studying. He does not get a job so he goes on getting education without any objective and finally when he gets degree of B.A. or B.Com. or Doctor or Engineering and comes out of college he finds himself in a situation where everywhere there is darkness. The education that is being imparted should be helpful in building character, and inculcating the feeling of morality and patriotism and doing something and becoming independent then it can be called good and it can be said that at least this feeling has developed among the youth and students that "Khudi ko kar itna buland ki har takdir se pehle khuda bande se khud puchhe ki bata teri raja kya hai". But, today, everyone wants employment after getting education to

lead a comfortable life and for that purpose he visits employment exchange frequently. As a result, the problem of unemployment is compounding day by day after independence. It is like a proverb that the ailment increased further with increasing medication. The problem went on compounding as we tried to find a solution, whether it is rural areas or urban areas, or people of villages come to the city or people living in slums. He has rightly stated in the statement on the object and reasons that if a youth does not get a job after getting education then he becomes a criminal.

"Hum Un kul Kitabo Ko Kabile  
Japti Samajhte Hain,  
Jinhe Padhkar Bete Baap Ko  
Khapti Samajhte Hain."

Which means such valueless education should not be imparted to youth by which they do not pay respect to their parents. Man is a social animal. He should do something for society, nation, for himself, his family and for his parents. We have to glorify the nation. In the age, when a youth study in the college to become a cultured citizen he goes astray from his path and indulges in anti-university activities and resorts to insulting his teachers. The youth are exploited under the guise of strikes. Consequently unemployment keeps on rising like a story goes in the Ramcharit Manas. When Hanuman Ji wanted to cross the sea, a monsteress named Sursa appeared for his test. It is a mythological story. There Tulsidas Ji writes "Jas-Jas Sursa Badnu Badhawa, Tasu Dun Kapi Roop Dikhawa." As Sursa spread her mouth to eat Hanuman Ji, in the same way Hanuman Ji enlarged his body. Such a description has been given there. What I want to say is that the problem of unemployment is rising rapidly. As the Government tried to find a solution to this problem, it kept on rising. Today, he is saying that there are four crore names registered with employment exchanges. This is the number of the people whose names are registered with employment exchanges, but there are many unemployed youth in the villages. When we go to villages, we find youths playing cards. When we ask them, "you were doing B.A., what happened to that?" They reply, "we do not get employment, what should we do."

Sir, when they do not get a job, they try to get some employment and do it. It will be an ideal situation when they will be

*[English]*

loyal to profession, dedication and devotion.

*[Translation]*

when these three things will be there in him towards his employment or profession then only that young fellow will work with dedication. But when he is forced to do a job, I think, he will not be able to do justice to that.

When he will not get a job as per his likings then we can imagine what his behaviour will be. So, I want to support this Bill.

Sir, extremism, terrorism and naxalism is on the rise in the country people want to get everything in a short-cut method without doing anything. As I have said the reason behind it is the education without any values. If he is given the education that "Jaisi Hogi Drishti Vaisi Karega Srishti, Jaisi prapt hogi Shiksha, Vaisi prapt hogi deeksha aur Jaisa hoga Vichar, vaisa Banega Aachar", then he will behave properly. The conduct of a person depends on his thoughts. His thoughts will get shape according to the kind of literature that he studies. But when he sees the situation of unemployment in the country, then he becomes ready to take AK-47 in his hands and kill his own people even. He becomes ready to go for a dacoity in the bank so that he could get some money but the result is that he is put behind the bars.

Sir, through you I want to request the Government and Hon. Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes that succeeding Governments have been giving assurances and making a lot of efforts and 60 years have elapsed since we got freedom. Despite that the situation is apparent and we know it. We cannot escape from the fact that so many slogans like "Garibi Hatao", "Yuvaon Ko rojgar Denge", Unemployment allowance to unemployed people and vocational education etc. have been sloganised, but nothing substantial has been done to provide employment to youth.

Sir, I am aware of the position of vocational education. I have been a teacher in a Senior Secondary School. I have been a third grade, second grade, a first grade lecturer. I have worked as a master, lecturer and principal. I have received state award also. I have seen everything. What I have seen is that the miserable state of vocational education does not find any comparison. In schools, children do not get vocational education as they know its marks will not be included to count the division. Later on, they go to ITI, Engineering Colleges or polytechnic colleges and there they learn somehow or the other but they do not get expertise. So, I strongly support this proposal moved by Shri Mohan Singhji. We

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

have so far seen the plight of directive principles of state policy enshrined in our Constitution. The directive principles of State policy, be it the a matter of implementation of the official language Hindi, be it the a matter of dedication or a matter of spread of education. So the right to give employment should also be included in fundamental rights like the right to work anywhere in the country or the right to education have been included. Youth should be given work after channelizing their ability, their tendency and their aptitude. If they are not given work, then they should be given unemployment allowance till they get work otherwise we know the consequences that an empty mind is devil's workshop. So it is quite easy to say something but it is really very difficult to do that.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing. We have started 'Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana'. Under the scheme we give loan to youth through banks for starting their own work. We attend meetings called under the Swarn Jayanti Swarajgar yojana and see that so many people are selected. Industry officer selects and sends them for training. They get training through an institute under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. But later young people are seen approaching the banks again and again. In the process they become so depressed that neither they are paid loans by the banks nor are they able to do any work because unless they offer some commission or bribe in the banks they cannot get anything from the banks. This is a fact.

Sir, I am concluding and I am going to sum up. I would like to say that if the youth do not get job, then they should have self employment as we had been discussing earlier. They will succeed in self employment only when they will do it themselves. If, labour is victory self help is best help. They will be ready to dig a well themselves and quench their thirst. If we will imbibe such values in the minds of our youth, then they will start their own business after obtaining loan, then they will not feel shy to become a vegetable vendor even. They will not feel shy to work hard. They would not be looking for comforts of fan air. They will be ready to work on road if required under the self employment guarantee yojana.

Our youth will be attracted towards such work only if we provide them value based education and teach them to be self dependent. So through you, I would request the Government that effective measures should be taken to remove unemployment. You have suggested that it should be made a fundamental right under the Constitution. Rajasthan Government has started giving

unemployment allowance. The Government also started giving unemployment allowance to the unemployed. Now the people have started hoping but mere giving unemployment allowance will not be enough. We will have to create the opportunities of employment. We will have to ensure their participation in the private sector so as to bring them on their own feet. With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I support the right to employment Bill presented by Mohan Singh Ji. It is a very important Bill. I would like to tell a story in this regard. You know it very well that at the time of birth of a child in the family, the mother, the father, grandmother (paternal) and grandmother (maternal) all feel very happy and later on they spend all their money to bring him up. They give him their own bread their share of protein and calorie. They provide the child with the best qualitative education within their means. Mother gives the child food with love and care after he comes from the school. And after the child completes his education and training, parents get a suit tailored for him with the hope that their son will get employment and go to office. Thereafter what happens is that he goes from one office to another alongwith his certificates in order to get employment. He submits a lot of applications and approves a number of photocopies. There are so many schemes of Government e.g. IRDP, TRYSEM, SITRA, SGRY, NREP, RLEGP, JRY, NF, FWP, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act etc. and in the hope of getting opportunity in any one of them, he applies to all the schemes and he thinks that he would be able to take the benefit of one or the other scheme. His mother distrusts him and abuses him when he returns home in the evening. As a result the young people go astray. Then the drunkards, drug addicts and exploiters trap him in their net. Thus beginning with the search of a job, he ends up in jail. We call him criminal, rogue, gunda. But who is responsible. I would like to say that until you make sincere efforts and implement things properly, nothing will happen. Whichever Government occupies treasury benches, be it our Government or the Government of any other party. They make schemes in their name and think that they have supplemented the schemes but what is their contribution in the real sense of the word.

[English]

You see the young men, young Engineers, Doctors, Computer Engineers, ICWA graduates, the agricultural trade, the ITI people etc.

[*Translation*]

Children are seen having good vocational and professional education. But on the other hand, the standard of education in our country is very low. Here we have 3-4 types of education. The State Board is different and C.B.S.E. have syllabus. One is luxury education and another is competition. On the one hand a child is in trouble, frustration and in stress because he could not get basic facilities like chalk, straw-mat, teacher, etc. in a school and he has to compete with another child whose parents were mature, influential and rich and they sent their child where everything was available and you make these three face a common competition. Tell me, when you will not correct basic things in your system, then what will happen, so

[*English*]

You must change the education system.

[*Translation*]

I would like to say that there is a need to end this vocational drama.

My submission is that when one educated young man studies in matric or ninth standard and people ask him about his future action, he says.

[*English*]

I become this and I become that.

[*Translation*]

He never says that I shall be a peon and he never says that he will be unemployed, sometimes he says that he will become a doctor or engineer or pilot and he thinks about entering some other lucrative career, but ultimately when he is left with only broken sleepers because his parents also do not have money to back him up for an indefinite period because they are poor, and also because they have exhausted all their resources while providing education to their son or daughter. I want to know if that person has any future. I would like to say that ultimately he also appears in interview for class-IV job. His qualification is M.Sc., Ph.D and M.Phil. He is compelled to compete with persons with qualification like under-matric or matriculate because he is hungry and desperate for job. When he used to study there was glow and beauty on his face and his hair, face and clothes presented a decent appearance. But, due to

unemployment for two to four years, his appearance clothes and personality becomes pitiable. At that time, he again faces competition in interviews with those persons who have completed their education recently and obviously he is unable to compete with better qualified job-seekers. I would like to ask

[*English*]

You must see the practical side of it.

[*Translation*]

The people of Lok Sabha are practical people.

[*English*]

They know well. We belong to grassroots. We are seeing the ground reality.

[*Translation*]

But while sitting here we do injustice with our children? I say that we are bigger culprits.

[*English*]

We are the culprits of the society. We are here. We are representing the country. We are representing the young men in India.

[*Translation*]

The majority of Indians are young.

[*English*]

Young comprises more than 70 per cent population of India.

[*Translation*]

And the position of the youth.

[*English*]

You see personally. You are a very nice, very simple Minister. We have every hope on you.

[*Translation*]

We expect so much from you and these opportunities do not come time and again. This is an opportunity and you should avail this opportunity. The people have given us this opportunity to serve them and you have more

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

opportunity because you are a Minister and this is the responsibility of the Minister to find out any practical solution to remove unemployment of the youth.

You feel it when you read stories, gossips and theory. When any person visits any industry or department, the Industry Manager tells him stories. He asks him about the details of the factory which he wants to install. He shows him dreams in which he owns telephone, car and office etc. After that when he is told about formalities, he exhausts all his energy in fulfilling the criteria and formalities. The industrialist who guides him to the dream world does not have the power to help him financially, on the other hand he expects something from him. There are various types of managers like credit manager or technical manager or any other manager. The Manager promises him to show something special. He is exploited by all. My submission is that our elders have inserted this provision in Directive Principles of State Policy. They have told us that in future, we shall have to insert it as part of Fundamental Rights. Why will you not give employment. You are responsible for this. How can you withdraw from your responsibility? If anybody requests me in my constituency in Jammu and Kashmir to help him in getting employment and I show my helplessness in doing so, then the entire process will look like a drama. This place is doing some concrete work. There is no scope for relaxation. This is the practical field. My submission is that the bureaucrats, with our permission have formulated a very good plan. You should take suggestions from the parliamentarians about ways to generate employment. We shall give practical suggestions to solve the problem of unemployment? When we make castles in the air, it will not be fruitful. I have so much hope from the hon. Minister and I hope that he will take care of unemployed people. The issue of Vaishno Devi has not been discussed. This issue will come up for discussion next time.

With these words, I support the Bill presented by Mohan Singh ji and conclude now. Thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I rise to speak on the points under discussion being held on the insertion of a new article 16 (a) to the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2006 introduced by Shri Mohan Singh. You have just taken note of the feelings of a young man. It is a fact that we want India to progress and become a happy nation after 60 years of her independence and

in the 21st Century. By way of this Bill, I am reminded of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of our country. He fixed the age for the Right to Vote at 18 years. Today, hon'ble Mohan Singh ji has expressed in detail the meaningful views in the article 16 (a) of this Bill. The Right to Vote has been given to be exercised at the age of 18 years. The discussion is being held to provide employment to those youth who attain this very age of 18 years. Just prior to this, Chandrakant Khaire introduced a Bill that was aimed at unemployment; it is aimed only at providing employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shailendra Kumar Ji, you may continue your speech later.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up matters of urgent public importance.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to introduction of air services at the Chakrabhatta air strip in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. The Bilaspur district is second to the Capital Raipur and the NTPC factory worth Rs. 1200 crore is located in this district. There is a thermal power plant in Korba. Their staff have to travel for hours to reach Raipur. The HCL is also headquartered at Bilaspur. There is Guru Ghasidas University there wherein a number of students pursue their studies. There are the High Court, Bilaspur District Commissionerate, fertilizer and cement companies also. Keeping in view this, I would like to point out that there is no air service available there to visit the Capital Raipur. Earlier, 12-seater airbus service was available there that went to Madhya Pradesh and other places. That service has been discontinued. That causes inconvenience to the people there while going to and fro. Travellers face inconveniences while going to Chennai, Mumbai & Kolkata etc. There are people suffering from illness etc. who travel by trains for hours. They have got several facilities today. Services of Air Deccan and other airlines and several facilities of other types have been made available in the Capital Raipur and are reaching across the country.

I would like to request you to provide Bilaspur air service at Chakrabhatta. The air strip for air service has

been put in place. The State Government has made full arrangements. So, air service at Chakrabhata air strip may be introduced, be it of some private airline or any other airline so that people from Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai or other cities could get this facility directly. The staff as well as ordinary people engaged in business and those who are in Government service there go to and fro. The public representatives also go to & fro. Keeping in view all these significant things, air service at Chakrabhata in Bilaspur should be introduced.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a 'Minar' like the Qutub Minar in tehsil Kalpi, also the birth place of Ved Vyas, in my Lok Sabha Constituency Jalaun in Uttar Pradesh. Its length and height are the same as that of the Qutub Minar. The residents of that area and nearby people know that 'Minar' as 'Lanka'. That 'Lanka' is in a very dilapidated condition. Every year fairs are held there and lacs of people visit there. Through you, I would like to ask that the Union Government may please ask the Archaeological Survey of India to bring that 'Minar' under their jurisdiction and arrange to preserve that. It should be got repaired so that it may be saved from being ruined. I see that there is the Qutub Minar in Delhi and in my constituency there is a 'Lanka'.

Through you, I again demand that the Central Archaeological Department should bring that under their jurisdiction and the said structure be got repaired.

*[English]*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Thank you Sir. It is very unfortunate that I have been giving notices for the last three days and this evening I have got this chance to speak. I dropped the notice at about 0830 hours, but did not get a chance. I do not know, this way how a Member can raise the matter in the House.

Sir, the fact is that an agreement was signed between the DVC and the Government of West Bengal when MTPS, Mejia Thermal Power Station, acquired the land in my district Bankura in West Bengal in the year 1987. It was decided that three units will be launched. At that time, the agreement was that 520 land losers, who have lost 80 per cent of their land, will get the chance.

Three units have already been commissioned; four units have already been commissioned. Fifth and sixth units are going to be commissioned. In spite of that, out

of 520 land-losers, still 240 land losers have not got the chance to get jobs there. So, there is failure of agreement on the part of the DVC's Mejia Thermal Power Station. So, I would like to again request. It is because I have already raised this issue not only in the 14th Lok Sabha but also in the 12th and 13th Lok Sabhas. So, I would again remind. The Power Minister is not here. I would convey my message to him through the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that the power sector, the DVC, is not recognising the agreement of the State of West Bengal. In between the State Government and the Central Government, they have already an agreement. But still 240 land losers are not getting chances. They have lost their lands.

It is not only that. There is perennial nature of work; some contractors are there. What I would request to the Management is that when you give the work to the contractors, please tell the contractors - there is a list of land-losers in the MTPS, in the BDO office, and also in the DM office - to see the land-losers first, and then the members will get a chance there; not from outside. It is not happening there.

I would again like to convey my message through our Parliamentary Affairs Minister to the Power Minister of the Union Government that he may please see as to how the people will be engaged there. It is because at that time there were only three units. Now sixth unit is going to be commissioned—there are seventh and eighth units also - in the Month of July. The Minister was present there at the time of laying of the foundation stone. I was also present. A reminder was given to the Power Minister. Still it is not happening. So, I would again request to the hon. Minister that it should be done.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I will bring it to the notice of the hon. Power Minister.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, would like to raise a very important issue concerning to the State of Gujarat which faces acute shortage of power.

Recently, the Government of India, the Power Ministry, has reduced the quota of Government of Gujarat from unallocated quota by about 210 MW in February 2006 and diverted the same to Maharashtra and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Since Gujarat is also facing acute shortage of



[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

power, the Government of India has been requested many times by our Government - CM has requested; we have raised this issue - to restore the original unallocated quota. In spite of several requests, the Government of India has restored only 55 MW in January 2007.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government—I would request the Power Minister through our Parliamentary Affairs Minister—to restore the remaining quota of 155 MW power in Gujarat as immediately as possible. I hope that the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister will definitely convey feelings of the Government of Gujarat to the Power Minister which has reduced our quota of electricity, which we were getting for many years. But they have

reduced it to 210 MW. Only 55 MW has been restored. Still 155 MW is yet to be restored which requires to be restored as early as possible.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I will bring it to the notice of the hon. Power Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Wednesday, 29th August 2007 at 11 a.m.

18.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 29, 2007/Bhadra 7, 1929 (Saka)*

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## ANNEXURE I

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