

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Sixth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 23, 2005/Pausa 2, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, Q. No. 442.

World Bank Assistance

*442. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seeking aid/assistance from the World Bank to finance its various social welfare schemes like education, employment guarantee scheme, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has failed to assess the fund requirements for implementation of these schemes;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make funds available for implementation of the social welfare scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the projects that have been posed to the World Bank for assistance in sectors such as Education, Health, Women and Child Development, and Poverty Alleviation are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount (in Rs. Crore) (Approx.)
1	2	3
1.	Vocational Training	450

1	2	3
2.	HIV/AIDS III	900
3.	Tuberculosis Control II	765
4.	Reproductive and Child Health II	1575
5.	Karnataka Health Systems	589
6.	Karnataka Panchayats Strengthening	675
7.	Orissa Health Systems	675
8.	West Bengal Health	337
9.	Vector-borne Disease Control	900

In addition, assistance from the World Bank has been sought for Swashakti II project, which envisages empowerment of women through self-local groups. The amount is yet to be decided for this project.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Funds are made available for implementation of social welfare schemes as also other purposes taking into account the availability of funds—domestic as well as external, inter-se prioritization and phased fund requirements over the implementation schedule.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part (a) of my question is this. Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to say that whether any Project Report has been prepared of any negotiations are going on, whether any consultants have been appointed or any pre-appraisal mission has been completed for the nine projects that have been posed to the World Bank?

Part (b) of my question is this. The original question was about Employment Guarantee Scheme. Will the Government pose funding for the Employment Guarantee Scheme to the World Bank which they have not done so far?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not able to understand the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Owaisi, what really do you want from the Minister?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There are nine projects which have been posed to the World Bank for assistance. Now, the practice is that for the Government of India and, if it is a State-specific project for the State Government to jointly mount a team to hold discussions with the World Bank. At this stage, there is no question of appointing any Consultants. The World Bank, of course, will send its team. Then, the State Government will be taken on board. The Government of India will conduct the negotiations. Therefore, these are the projects which have been posed to the World Bank. In the normal course, we expect that some of them will be approved.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Many of the State Governments have posed various social sector projects to the World Bank for funding. Will the hon. Minister kindly enlighten us about one thing? The point is that a Memorandum has been issued by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance on the 25th of October. That Memorandum says that 11 States have been barred from going for external funding. There are many States. For example, my State of Andhra Pradesh has posed to the World Bank for a structural adjustment loan, for the third tranche. Will the hon. Finance Minister look into this Memorandum? I say this because the Memorandum has been issued by the Finance Ministry. The social sector funding is sought by the State Governments. Will the hon. Minister look into this Memorandum?

MR. SPEAKER: How can he? I do not know whether he can do that.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: The Memorandum that has been issued by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance has barred 11 State Governments from going for external funding.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether Andhra Pradesh comes in it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I cannot recall it. I am sure, the hon. Member has some piece of paper in his hands. But I cannot recall any Memorandum which bars a State Government from going for external funding. External funding is something which the State Government

has to come to us, to the Government of India. It is the Government of India, if it is satisfied, that will pose it to the external agency. Please pass on the Memorandum to me. Let me look into that.

As far as Andhra Pradesh Government's structural adjustment loan is concerned it is under consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given any details of funding under Employment Guarantee Scheme in his reply while there is so much unemployment in the country. I want to know from the hon. Minister about the steps to be taken to provide employment to the graduate unemployed youth of rural areas and also the amount to be provided for this purpose.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Does not arise out of this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this question concerns assistance from the World Bank. We have no proposal, at the moment, to seek World Bank assistance for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Will the hon. Finance Minister be pleased to state whether there are any conditionalities in seeking assistance from the World Bank?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, on any loan there are conditions relating to repayment period, interest, commitment charges etc. but if you are talking about any other political conditionalities, there are no political conditionalities.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Verma—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the country's heartland but are very backward regions and a lot of work is needed there in the sectors of Education, Health, woman and child Development and Poverty Alleviation. The reply given by the hon. Minister shows the World Bank assistance in the Education and Health sectors for Karnataka, Orissa and West Bengal. I am not against

the interests of any state but whether the Government would take initiative to seek World Bank assistance for the pending proposals in different sectors of U.P. and Bihar so that these states too can be assisted in their programmes and make progress?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Too general exploratory question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there are a number of projects for which World Bank assistance is being availed of, which concern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Take for example, the ongoing social sector projects. I have DPEP phase-III for Bihar. We have the UPDPEP under the education sector; we have a UP Health System Development project under the health sector. We have other non-State specific projects which include UP and Bihar. I have a long list of 64 projects in our current portfolio and many of them, both in the health and education sectors, as well as in other sectors, there are projects in UP and Bihar. If you want a UP specific list or a Bihar specific list, I will be happy to furnish it to you.

[Translation]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Several proposals of Maharashtra sent through are pending with the World Bank. They include schemes on rural development and rural water supply. Many proposals pertaining to drinking water, road construction, irrigation and health schemes in my region Marathwada are also pending. Whether these proposals of Maharashtra would get World Bank assistance?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Specific matter, I do not know.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, proposals concerning virtually every State are in the pipeline. So far as Maharashtra is concerned, there is a Maharashtra water sector improvement project and a Maharashtra rural livelihood project which are in the pipeline.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, I have gone through the written reply placed before the House. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether any projects with regard to irrigation from my State, that is, Andhra Pradesh

are being posed to the World Bank.

MR. SPEAKER: It is better to find out from your State Government.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it would have been much simpler if he wrote me a letter and I would have replied. But nevertheless, I will answer this question.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there is an Irrigation and Water Management Project, there is a rural Water Project, there is an Urban Water Project and there is a Livelihood Project. All these are on the pipeline and these are under consideration.

Private Participation In Transmission of Power

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

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) proposes to offer majority stake to private power generating companies in some new power transmission projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether PGCIL is already having joint venture with private parties in transmission project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):
(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has sought the entry of private companies in setting up a few transmission facilities through joint venture and 100% private sector participation (i.e. Independent Transmission Company) route. Details are enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Details of the transmission projects being implemented by M/s. PGCIL on the joint venture route with Private Companies are given in Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Details of the transmission projects of PGCIL which are in various stages of discussion for setting up of Joint Ventures

1. 400 kV AC Transmission Project to evacuate power from 750 MW Gas based Combined Cycle Power Project being developed by IL and FS/Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at Pallatana in Tripura. Estimated cost of the transmission project is approx. Rs. 1700 Crore. The expected commissioning schedule of the project is 2008/2009.
2. 400 kV AC Transmission Project to evacuate power from 1500 MW (2x750 MW) gas based Generation project being developed by Essar Power Limited at Hazira near Surat in Gujarat. Estimated cost of transmission project is approx. Rs. 690 Crore. The expected Commissioning schedule of the project is 2008/2009.
3. 400 kV AC Transmission Project to evacuate power from 100 MW (4x250 MW) Karcham-Wangtoo Hydro Power Project being developed by Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. in Himachal Pradesh. Estimated cost of the transmission project is approx. Rs. 500 Crore. The project is expected to be commissioned by April 2011.
4. 400 kV AC Transmission Project to evacuate power from 1095 MW generation project being developed by Torrent Power Generation Company Ltd. (TPGL) near Surat in Gujarat. Estimated cost of the transmission project is approx. Rs. 220 Crore. The project expected to be commissioned in 2008.

Annexure-II

Details of the transmission project of PGCIL which are under implementation/proposed to be implemented under Joint Venture route

1. **Specific Transmission Lines associated with Tala HEP, East-North Interconnector and Northern Region Transmission System.**

PGCIL and TATA Power are implementing this

transmission project on Joint Venture Route, holding 49% and 51% equity respectively in the Joint Venture Company. Approved estimated project cost of JV portion, based on 1st quarter 2005 price level, is Rs. 1612 Crore with POWERGRID's equity contribution of Rs. 237 Crores (49% of equity) based on debt equity ratio of 70:30. The Transmission project is advance stage of implementation and likely to be commissioned by 2006.

2. **Specific Transmission Lines associated with Parbati-II (800 MW) HEP and Koldam (800 MW) HEP.**

M/s. Reliance Energy Limited has been identified as the prospective Joint Venture Partner for this project. POWERGRID and M/s. Reliance Energy Limited small hold 26% and 74% equity respectively in the Joint Venture Company, which is expected to be formed shortly. The estimated cost of the above the transmission project on JV portion is Rs. 660 Crores based on 2nd quarter, 2005 price level. The Transmission project is scheduled to be commissioned by 2008/2009.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Power Grid Corporation of India was created to evacuate power from both thermal as well as hydel power stations. So long as evacuation of power is being done by the Power Grid Corporation, it is good. It has many success stories also. In reply to the question, the Minister has stated that on certain projects 100 per cent stake is being handed over to private companies, 51 per cent is being handed over in some cases and in some other cases 74 per cent is being handed over to them. When the Power Grid Corporation is itself capable of erecting transmission lines to evacuate power—it has done that in the past also—I would like to know from the Minister as to why there is a proposal to hand over 100 per cent stake is being handed over to private companies for implementing transmission projects.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Member, through you, for his compliments to the Power Grid Corporation for doing good work in the past.

Sir, the overall power scenario in the country has to be understood by the hon. Member and the House. While we have an ambitious target to have add 1,00,000 megawatt of generation by 2012, we also have to take into account how to transmit it throughout the length and breadth of the country. For this purpose, there is resource constraint and 100 per cent resource generation by the Power Grid Corporation is not possible at this stage. Therefore, the Electricity Act, as amended, did open the door initially in 1991 for private participation in power generation to the extent of 49 per cent and later on to the extent of 100 per cent. Then, it was done in the case of transmission also. I would like to convey to the hon. Member, through you, that while we found in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the 10th Plan that we need to invest Rs. 20,000 crore from the Power Grid Corporation and get Rs. 10,000 crore from private participation, in the Revised Estimate we found that we need to invest only Rs. 20,000 crore in which Rs. 18,000 crore will be borne by the Power Grid Corporation and Rs. 2,000 crore would come from private participation. The initial project was started as a joint venture with Tata Power and we are confident of doing miracle with Tata Power, but there also, the shareholding by Power Grid Corporation and Tata Power is to the tune of 49 per cent and 51 per cent respectively. The policy envisages opening of the door for 100 per cent private participation. We are more concerned as to how to transmit power after evacuating it from the original source. The policy is permitting us to go in for private participation. Therefore, it is not that the Power Grid Corporation has accepted its incapability. The Power Grid Corporation has accepted that our resource generation capacity is not in tune with the dimension in which power should be transmitted throughout the country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, if one rupee is spent for generation, one rupee should be spent for transmission of power also. But in our country that is not being done. As a result of that there are some areas which are surplus in power and there are some areas which are deficit in power. We are not in a position to evacuate power from deficit areas to surplus areas.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): It is the other way round.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, from surplus areas to deficit areas and not deficit areas to surplus areas.

When a target of one lakh megawatt was finalised, the target of one lakh megawatt for transmission and evacuation of power was also finalised. These are after thoughts that a public sector company will not be able to transmit the entire one lakh megawatt of power, which will be generated by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. We have the experience of private companies. You know about Enron Company.

I would like to know, why in case of joint venture also the majority share is with the private companies.

Secondly, the Eastern region is now over burdened.

MR. SPEAKER: Over burden with what?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Over burdened with sub-stations. A number of sub-stations have come up during these days after creation of the Eastern region, the Headquarters of which is now at Patna.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not asking about the transmission loss.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there is a proposal to bifurcate it and to have another Headquarters. I would like to know whether the proposal to bifurcate has been finalised and to have another Headquarters of Eastern and North-Eastern region at Kolkata.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, first of all, I would like to respond to the first part of the question of the hon. Member as to why 100 per cent participation of the private companies or private capital is encouraged. As I replied in the beginning, it was within the framework of the policy and now we are stepping in the direction to see why it is possible to have the ratio of 49:51, why it is possible to have the ratio of 40:60 and why it is possible to have 100 per cent. It is because we need resources.

All the State Governments have accepted this principle that this is the only route by which we can transmit the power system from deficit to surplus areas

or surplus to deficit areas. For example, the most productive unit is Talcher....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is busy with your interest rate.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The productive unit of Talcher, which is having 3000 megawatt capacity is transmitting power from Talcher to Kolar and the transmission is 2000 megawatt. Therefore, you understand the capacity how it works and how it is doing good work.

I would also like to inform the hon. Member that we are very confident and the performance shown in the Mid-term Appraisal states that more than 9,400 megawatt transmission capacity is being done already. Now, at the end of the Tenth Plan, it will be 16,000 megawatt and at the end of the Eleventh Plan, the transmission capacity will be 37,000 megawatt. Therefore, you can evaluate that the jump is not in terms of 20 per cent or 30 per cent, but it is more than 50 per cent in some cases.

In regard to question pertaining to Headquarters bifurcation, it is not linked with the transmission question. However, the hon. Minister has put the question, I will get the facts about it and inform him.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not yet a Minister. He has refused to be a Minister. But nobody is asking about whatever is the transmission loss.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, coalbed methane is one of the sources of electricity generation and one such project is in Gujarat which is a joint venture of Coal India Limited and D.N.G.C. Is there another proposal of such a project in the country? There is abundant methane stock in Madia region of Rajasthan. Whether the Government propose to set up a project in that region?

MR. SPEAKER: What about methane? Do you mean its transmission?

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Sir, transmission can only be possible after its generation.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, the generation aspect doesn't pertain to this question. We are discussing the question on transmission. Albeit, as the hon. Member want to know about Gujarat, I would like to inform him that we are running power projects in Hazira and Basana of Gujarat where from electric supply will be available. As for Rajasthan, the Ministry will intimate him after collecting information in this regard.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know as to how my state Jammu and Kashmir will be connected through transmission line?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: How do you include Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, so far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, there is tremendous prospect of the hydel project, which is already going on in full capacity. Insofar as the other issues of programme generation is concerned, it is not yet finally fixed in the sense that wherever we have substantial coal deposits, there it is better to carry power cost wise. The power is transmitted through Inter-State and Inter-regional grids. The Northern Grid is taking care of Jammu and Kashmir fully.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, in spite of the success story of Power Grid Corporation and its capability of having the issue, the Government handed over some four projects totally at a cost of Rs. 3,110 crore and other two private sectors like Tata and Reliance to the tune of Rs. 897 crore.

Sir, in spite of all these things, the transmission loss till today runs about to tens of thousands of crores of rupees every years.

MR. SPEAKER: I am glad that you are raising it.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, we have seen that the common man who dreams for even a *kutir jyoti* or even a connection for his pump set is not able to realise that dream in spite of all our efforts. But still this is being handed over to more or less private persons like Reliance to the tune of 74 per cent and Tata to the tune of 51 per cent.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is taking any steps to augment the situation by speeding these projects. He has said in his reply that it will be commissionable only by 2008 to 2011. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he is planning to speed up these projects.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in so far as the projects are concerned pertaining to the transmission losses, I can only inform the hon. Member that it is true and that even before the Eighth Plan, the overall transmission losses were substantial, marginally improved in the Ninth Plan and the Tenth Plan story is quite good. It is in the sense that now the high voltage transmission losses are only three to four per cent, which is at par with the world average and that too of Europe. But more substantial measures are being taken. The State Governments are considering them and some of them have adopted the stringent provisions against the power theft, hooking, etc. They are booked very strongly under the provisions of the law.

But insofar as the accepted projects of Eleventh Plan or the projects which are likely to be commissioned by 2009 to 2011 are concerned, the mechanism of joint venture is there to ensure private participation and also ensure that transmission losses are minimum.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Minister for good performance of Power Grid Corporation in Bihar but still it falls short to extend the benefits of its efforts to the targeted population. The Rohtas and Bhojpur districts of Bihar are not getting power under DPAP and DM schemes despite good work of Power Grid Corporation. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to implement this scheme in the said districts?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, currently the information asked for by the hon. Member district-wise is not available with us. Information about these districts of Bihar would be collected and made available to the Member concerned in due course.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in today's newspaper it is reported that the hon. Prime Minister will bring a new policy regarding power to come out of the shortage in every state. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to what are the salient features of this policy, and how long it will take for its implementation.

MR. SPEAKER: Policy on what?

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Policy on electricity of power.

MR. SPEAKER: This Question is regarding transmission. Put a specific question on transmission. Under this, you cannot ask for the entire policy matters.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: It is declared by the hon. Prime Minister. It is there in today's newspaper. I have read it. That is why I am asking him about the salient features of the policy, and the implementation of the policy.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not come under this. Whatever relates to transmission, you can say.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is not linked with transmission. Had the question been specific, about the policy I would have only answered that after UPA Government came in office, the most laudable programme we have launched is the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana where 90 per cent grant is being ensured by the Government for the first time after Independence, and 10 per cent loan is being given that too at the rate of interest of 5.5 per cent. This is the only noble thing we have done; it is only linked with transmission.

MR. SPEAKER: It is the only noble thing you have done!

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is the only noble thing we have done in the power sector which had not been done earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: It is for transmission.

[Translation]

Statement**Senior Citizen Savings Scheme**

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*444. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have recently fixed one per cent higher rate of interest on deposits by the senior citizens under Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of senior citizens benefitted during last one year, bank-wise, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any nationwide survey to ensure better services to the senior citizens in the public sector banks and to provide benefit of loan services and other facilities made available to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) The Senior Citizens Savings (SCS) Scheme, 2004 is a small savings instrument of Government of India, being implemented through post offices and designated bank branches. The deposits under the scheme carry interest at a uniform rate of nine per cent per annum payable on quarterly basis. This is higher than the interest available on any comparable savings instrument in the market. All senior citizens of 60 years of age and above and retired persons of 55 years of age and above but less than 60 years are eligible to invest under the SCS Scheme, 2004. Since an eligible investor can open more than one account subject to the deposits in all accounts taken together not exceeding the maximum deposit ceiling of Rs. 15 lakh, it would not be feasible to indicate precisely the number of senior citizens benefitted under the scheme during last one year, bank-wise, State-wise. However, the State-wise number of accounts opened under the scheme in some of the public sector banks is given in the enclosed Annexure.

(d) and (e) Further, in terms of RBI's Monetary and Credit Policy, banks have been permitted to formulate fixed deposit schemes specifically for senior citizens offering higher and fixed rates of interest as compared to normal deposits of any size. Different banks are also providing various credit facilities to senior citizens viz. loans against pension, loans to meet medical expenses, housing loans, vehicle loan, etc. in addition to dedicated counters for payment of pension.

Annexure*Number of Accounts Opened under Senior Citizens Savings Scheme*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Banks							
		State Bank of India	Punjab National Bank	Bank of Baroda	Bank of India	Allahabad Bank	Canara Bank	State Bank of Saurashtra	State Bank of Hyderabad
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10685		65	85				12638
2.	Assam	1878							

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3. Bihar		354	14			22			
4. Chhattisgarh		1282							
5. Delhi		40565	5584	1050	1446			59	259
6. Gujarat		9146	137	10900	4272			231	43
7. Haryana		1928	801	10					202
8. Himachal Pradesh		60	147						
9. Jammu and Kashmir		61	137						
10. Jharkhand		3795	110			17			
11. Karnataka		3716	104	370			1289		3514
12. Kerala		1558	78	25			226		260
13. Madhya Pradesh		2352	61		108				486
14. Maharashtra		29598	528	12800	22003			37	7997
15. Meghalaya		27							
16. Orissa		3606			58				223
17. Punjab		842	114	10	191				
18. Rajasthan		805	531	60					640
19. Tamil Nadu		9570	206	585				12	2642
20. Tripura		22							
21. Uttar Pradesh		15314	897	190	54	81			1209
22. Uttaranchal		1184	231			6			
23. West Bengal.		6421	233	2100		314		34	2215
24. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		4							
25. Chandigarh		782	382	25					
26. Goa		695							
27. Pondicherry		125		1					121
Total		146375	10235	28191	28217	440	1515	373	32449

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government propose to extend the benefit-rates under banks, LIC and all saving schemes in post offices for each senior citizens in a fixed time frame in all the states of the country? If so, by when it is likely to be done?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We have announced a Senior Citizens Savings Scheme. We have announced a hand some rate of interest of 9 per cent. Accounts can be opened in banks and in post offices. I would urge all the senior citizens to open accounts. There is nothing more that I have to do. Senior citizens must take advantage of the special accounts for senior citizens.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the details of periodic saving schemes and the rates of interest thereon. Whether the Government propose to increase the interest rates for senior citizens and those for small investors on the lines of china where there is a huge savings stock following the same measures? Whether the Government propose to adopt the same model?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The current rate of interest on the various small savings schemes, relative to the current rate, is quite attractive. There is no proposal to increase the rate of interest in any current small savings schemes.

MR. SPEAKER: Anirudh Prasad *alias* Sadhu Yadav—not present.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large part of population in Rajasthan lives in villages. I am just giving through the table annexed with the written reply given by the hon. Minister. It contains details of the figures state-wise and shows that in Rajasthan only 2000 senior citizens have yet opened their accounts. There are no banks in the vicinity of the

villages there and those people fail to open their accounts even if they wish so. I want to request to the hon. Minister through you, sir, that there may be such arrangement at the Panchayat Samiti headquarters that the senior citizens of the rural areas who are unable to visit the town frequently, can get their account opened there itself or at the nearest post office. Whether the Government is giving to make any such arrangement for the rural population in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about the facilities in rural areas.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we have information of Senior Citizens Savings Scheme State-wise from some public sector banks but not of all public sector banks. That will take a lot of time to collect. But just going by the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Allahabad Bank, Canara Bank, State Bank of Saurashtra, State Bank of Hyderabad and the post offices, in Rajasthan my figure shows that 17,001 accounts are opened. But if you take all the other banks, the number will be more. But the scheme is a common scheme to the whole country. It is available. It is easily accessible. The account can be opened without any fuss and the interest rate is attractive. It is now for the senior citizens to take advantage and open the account.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the rural areas?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Every bank branch will open the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme. If you go to a rural branch and ask for an account to be opened, they will open.

MD. SALIM: Sir, my supplementary arises from the reply just given by the Minister. The main body of the answer says that this scheme operates through post offices and certain designated bank branches. It is not in all the banks and in all the branches. If you see the list annexed with the reply, the regional and State-wise figures are not proportionate. In that case, to make the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme more attractive, will the Minister ask more banks and also the other banks which are not covered under the scheme to operate this scheme through more branches?

It is because there is a large number of complaints that we receive. The senior citizens go to the private mutual funds and they lose their money. There are greedy elements also. Normally, we write to the Minister but there is no separate Cell. Simultaneously, I would also like to ask whether he will also have a Cell in the Ministry or in the Banking Department or in the Department of Company Affairs, wherever it is, where these complaints can be heard and remedy can be given.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: When the scheme was first implemented, it was implemented only through the post offices. In November, 2004, we extended the operation of the scheme to designated branches of public sector banks. Now we have extended it to four private sector banks. It is not for me to tell the senior citizens where they should put their money. But the point is, I have not received any complaint that a senior citizen is unable to access a bank branch to open an account. In fact, my information is that all the public sector banks are covered.

In each public sector bank, it is possible that some branches are not offering the facility. I am urging all the banks to extend it to as many branches as possible. I have not got a complaint so far that a senior citizen is unable to access either a post office or a public sector bank branch. I think it is available to all the senior citizens but I will ask the banks to extend it to more branches.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to ask a supplementary. My supplementary relates to part (d) of Q. No. 444. It is regarding common facilities. Senior citizens generally go to the bank, at least, twice a month to see—if they are the pensioners—whether the pension is deposited, and to withdraw the money from the bank for their livelihood. There is a long queue in the bank because the bank provides so many facilities like collecting taxes, electricity bills, etc. So, I want to know whether some priority will be given to them or a separate queue will be maintained for the senior citizens or they will be given separate seating accommodation because they cannot stand and wait for more than 5-10 minutes because of their physical condition. Can such a small and useful facility be provided? It is because some of

the banks have got small accommodation and they are on the first floor. It is very difficult for the senior citizens to stand and wait. So, I would like to know whether such a small cursory benefit could be given as a facility to senior citizens.

MR. SPEAKER: I think younger members in the queue should help them.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am sure that banks are sensitive to the requirements of senior citizens. Some facilities are being given to senior citizens and I will give a snapshot of that. For example, senior citizens have been provided with exclusive dedicated counters of some branches. I think, in most branches, senior citizens are given priority if there is a queue. These days, I can hardly find long queues in smaller branches. Senior citizens are also given half a per cent higher interest rates on term deposits. Then some banks have opened exclusive fixed saving deposits scheme with life and health cover. I will certainly pass on these ideas to the bank management. But I am sure they are sensitive. There is such intense competition that today everybody is vying for accounts and clients. I will pass on this information.

[Translation]

Tariff on Export Items

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*445. DR. CHINTA MOHAN

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian textile industry is facing too many difficulties in exports due to the tariff related barriers created by the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other kinds of barriers have also been created for Indian textile exports by various developed countries, particularly the US;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken remedial steps for removal of these barriers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Indian textile industry is facing tariff barriers like tariff peaks, tariff escalation and high tariffs in the developed countries. In addition, the developed countries have granted preferential duty access to some of India's competitors through Regional Trading Arrangements (like NAFTA) and Preferential Schemes (like EU GSP). With the result the Indian textile exporters are facing huge price disadvantage due to differential duties.

(c) and (d) The textile exports to USA are also facing some Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) like labeling/marketing requirements, compliance with labour and environmental standards, security parameters, verification of visas, etc.

(e) and (f) The issues of NTBs, tariff peaks, tariff escalations and high tariffs are being addressed through Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in respect of import of textiles and apparels in the developed countries including USA. The objective is to have elimination of textile tariff peaks, tariff escalations, high textile tariffs and NTBs of developed countries at the earliest.

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: In spite of several trade tariffs, China is dominating the world trade textiles. Our objective should be to reach that level. To reach that level, what are our plans?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the question of tariff is concerned with both the developed countries and developing countries; China has its own production and quantity of the production is giant but the rules that apply for China also apply for India. It is a fact that our export under WTO was completed by

January 2005 and the Chinese export is remaining for further two years; but the barriers imposed by developed countries like America and European countries create major problems for our exports. There is no major difference between China and India.

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Keeping in view several export tariffs, how are you going to protect handloom and powerloom sectors?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is not the question of handloom and powerloom sectors only rather it includes whole textile sector, apparel and other exports. I would just tell that in America and European countries our export has increased 26 percent and 15 percent respectively but there are problems of non-tariff barriers in those countries and the high tariffs imposed by these countries specially by America create major problem for us in other exports. I am talking of total exports, which include handloom and powerloom also. Recently we had a meeting with American representatives in Hongkong to discuss the tariffs imposed by America on total export of handloom and powerloom. We are discussing these matters with other countries also. We got some benefit in this regard alongwith other countries but we have major pressure of high tariff barriers imposed by America.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman—not present.

Shri Kashiram Rana.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has accepted that Indian textile industry has been prey to tariff barriers and this has resulted in serious impact on our export. Hon'ble Minister has also said that it has not much impact on our export. But I would like to say that our export is decreasing rapidly. He has not given any concrete suggestion as to how to

eliminate or remove the existing barriers. He has just said that there is World Trade Organization, through it there is non-agricultural market access; these issues will be solved through it. My point is that whether the Government or the Ministry would try to impose counter barriers on our part. He mentioned about WTO. But I have information about WTO meeting held in Hongkong, there the issue of textile was not discussed much. Not only this, European Union and China have given relaxation in their agreement so that their export may not be affected. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to whether we have only one solution that only WTO will solve our problem, whether we have not any other means so that we can take concrete steps to check these barriers being imposed by them.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the question of our export. America and European countries impose high tariff so that our exports do not increase there; this is correct in their view point. They provide liberal concession to their friend countries. The tariff pressure of America on us is upto 32 per cent but they consider for India and China separately in this regard. Our problem is that non-tariff barriers and other tariffs may be discussed. We had meeting with America, European countries and other countries in Hongkong where we notified non-tariff barriers through which these tariffs will further reduce.

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: What steps are being taken by the Government to eliminate them?

[Translation]

No response has been received. What the Government is doing; whether we shall have to follow the decisions of W.T.O.?

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Whatever should be done, is being done by our Government on behalf of India in the WTO. The Ministers of Commerce who attended W.T.O. meeting put up their viewpoints regarding textile and other things forcefully and became

discontinue cotton subsidy being given to their farmers in due course. The matter of cotton is also related with textile.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I think, the Government is conscious about the fast growing eco-friendly consumer market in different parts of the world. What steps are being taken by the Government to adjust to this new growing market and to have better amenities and opportunities in such markets?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: As far as eco-friendly and golden jute is concerned, jute export is on the boom and I would like to let you know that jute export to America has increased by 26% and to European Countries it has increased by 15 per cent. So, we also try to sort out the local problems of domestic merchant, traders and exporters with the help of the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce. I am sure that our export will increase more in the coming days.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is taking to tackle the anti-dumping measures against our textile goods in the American and European markets. It is affecting the textile industry of our country. So, I would like to know what steps are being taken by the Government towards anti-dumping measures.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not related to the main Question.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: This is related to tariffs on exports.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Particularly China is conducting its dumping operations all over the world,

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: What anti-dumping policy do you have of your own to check anti-dumping steps taken by them?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: We impose import duty over anti-dumping of other countries in our country. Whatever we have to do, [English] We are doing whatever is required to be done [Translation] But America has to take decision that what action they will take. Even after this they are concerned that import figures should not increase. If our import figure increases about 12 per cent, then perhaps European Countries would not import further. This is their problem. We impose import duty over whatever China dumps in our country within the parameters based on the surveys conducted from time-to-time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 446. Shri Shishupal Patle—Not present.

Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar—Not present.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Russia

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*447. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether India and Russia have signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of science and technology;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to India therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. India and Russia have concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation in June, 1994.

(b) The salient features of the agreement are as under:—

- Exchange of scientists and technical experts
- Exchange of scientific and technological information
- Transfer of scientific and technological knowledge and experience
- Organization of seminars, symposia, conferences and scientific and technological exhibition on problems of common interest
- Implementation of joint scientific and technological research and developments within the framework of the Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation (ILTP) in Science and Technology between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation and on the basis of other bilateral programmes, projects, agreements and contracts in specific areas of S and T
- Creation of joint science and research centres, laboratories, scientific groups and design bureau
- Any other forms of the S and T cooperation mutually agreed by the Parties.

(c) The Agreement has provided an access to Indian scientists to work in Russian laboratories and also invite Russian scientists to work in India on problems. We have also established several centres of excellence of mutual interest, which are aiming at focused collaborative R and D in their respective thematic areas.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked how India is likely to be benefited by Indo-Russia agreement. Hon'ble Minister has stated in his written reply that this agreement has provided an opportunity to the Indian scientists to work in Russian workshops inter-alia to invite the Russian scientists to

work on Indian problems. We have established many Centres of Excellence also for the benefit of mutual interest whose objective is to do focused cooperative research and development in our related areas. This answer is totally incomplete and that is why I am asking for information from him through you. Russia had assured India that it would provide full co-operation to fulfill all the energy requirements alongwith civil atomic energy requirements. What about the commitment made in regard to the joint development of multipurpose transport aeroplanes and the fifth generation fighter planes for the uses of both the countries.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have, in fact, several joint projects between us and Russia in several areas of Science and Technology, whether it is in the area of Accelerators or in the area of Laser for Medical Use. Collaboration work on Microtron, High Nd (Nidbium) Concentration Laser Glass, Development of Streak Camera, Joint development of High Energy Gama Ray telescope etc. I can go on and on. We have collaborations in huge areas. If the hon. Member wants to know about any specific area, I will be happy to answer.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had recently visited Russia. I would like to ask from the Hon'ble Minister that what is the number and nature of the agreements reached between both the countries?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is asking in the area of Science and Technology.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: As far as Science and Technology is concerned, the agreement that was signed was way back in 1994. It was renewed in 2002.

As far as the ITLP programme was concerned, the long-term programme was signed in 1987 and was renewed in 2000 for another ten years. There is no Science and Technology agreement signed this time when the hon. Prime Minister visited Russia.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister that he has given a brief answer to it. In October 2000, an agreement had been reached between the Russian President Mr. Putin and the then Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji that India and Russia will conduct talks at summit level every year. It was provided under this agreement that co-operation in the field of security, technology and to promote the peaceful use of atomic power and active co-operation in the field of space science will be extended. I would like to know that after the proclamation of such co-operation, what achievements have been made so far.

Indo-Russia agreement can play an important role in the field of atomic power. I belong to Rajasthan and it lacks hydel resources and for this reason it has to bring coal from other states and atomic energy can play an important role in meeting our the energy requirements of the state. Atomic Energy Plant is functioning at Rawat-Bhata in Rajasthan to meet out its requirements. I would like to know whether the Union Government has any plan to establish atomic power plant in any part of Rajasthan? There are many such important places in Rajasthan, where atomic power plant can be established Atomic Power Plant can be established at Udaipur also. My question is whether the Government have any plan to establish atomic power plant in any part of Rajasthan? I want to know that because private sector has also important role in the Indo-Russian co-operation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about Atomic Power Stations under collaboration with Russia.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It is the hon. Prime Minister's subject the Questions deals with Atomic Energy. It does not come under Science and Technology.

As far as other areas of cooperation are concerned, if the hon. Member wants any information, I am ready to give it here and now.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: The base of Indian Science and Technology is well-known world over. It is

true that from 1994 a joint collaboration with Russia is continuing. It was proposed that a number of joint research centres and research laboratories also would be developed.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister that from 1994 how many joint research laboratories have been developed in our country or jointly with Russia and how these centres are functioning.

What is the major age of differentiation in functioning? That means, how do our own traditional science research laboratories work and how these joint laboratories are working? Which is better? How is it assessed?

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any joint labs?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact we have had around 360 joint R and D projects way back since 1987. There are about 112 projects which are still on-going. We have had, in fact, about 500 projects which are joint in nature. Other than that, we have, in fact, established centres of excellence in various fields of science and technology and they are doing fabulous work. In fact, a large number of these centres of excellence supply high technology items at the high end of high technology, for example, in space research, in launching of satellites, in metallurgy, in powder metallurgy etc.

For example, if a metal gets eroded at high temperatures how do you deal with that metal? There is now a powder metallurgy centre which is run jointly in terms of which we actually treat that metal to prevent corrosion. So, all those centres have been established in the area of medical instrumentation, in the area of building glass pipes for channelisation of laser beams etc. All these technologies are being developed and we have established centres of excellence.

In fact, as far as traditional knowledge is concerned, we have set up a centre in Russia in respect of *Ayurveda* as to what is the impact of *Ayurveda* on children who are incapacitated. So, those centres have also been established. So, it is in multifarious areas in which we are working with the Russians. In fact, it is one of our largest and one of our most exciting programmes.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I would like to have the details of it.

MR. SPEAKER: You may put a further question.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RAICHOD: Sir, though I have got the answer of my question, even then I would like to know that more than a decade has elapsed after the agreement was entered into in 1994. Many agreements are entered into, but hardly any action is taken thereon for years. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether this agreement contains something, which is worthwhile mentioning.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is too vague. He has already answered it elaborately.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I have answered it. We have an advanced research centre of super computing. The PARAM computers that we have set up, in fact, are being transferred and used by the Russians. We have huge skills in computing. We build the super computer. We are working on ceramic materials, on surface engineering, centres of biotechnology, gas hydrates etc. You know that there is a lot of methane gas at the bottom of the ocean. We have a project with the Russians to collect that methane gas which is the cleanest form of fuel. We have a huge project with the Russians. In fact, we have developed much more than any other country in the world in this area.

MR. SPEAKER: We are really grateful to our scientists. They are doing wonderful work.

Independent Regulatory Commission for Power Sector

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*448. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is extending any assistance to the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions for enhancing their performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated and released to each State Electricity Regulatory Commission under various incentive schemes of the Ministry during the last three years;

(d) the achievements made by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions through the Central assistance;

(e) whether it is mandatory to set-up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions in States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):
(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 the responsibility for constitution and establishment of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission Fund vests with the State Government.

Section 166(2) of the Act provides for constitutions of Forum Regulators by the Government of India. The Chairperson of this Forum is Chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Chairpersons of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions are the Members of the Forum. The Government of India has constituted the Forum of Regulators. Recently financial Assistance to the tune of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government of India to the Forum for Development of Regulatory Information Management System (RIMS). This would enable the Regulatory Commissions to collect the desired and relevant data to improve the quality of regulatory process through effective decision making.

(e) and (f) Section 82 of the Electricity Act provides that every State Government shall within six months from the appointed date constitute for the purposes of this Act, a Commission for the State to be known as the (name of the State) Electricity Regulatory Commission. The Act also saves the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions constituted under the Electricity Regulatory

Commissions Act, 1998 or under the State Reforms Act. As per the available information, all States except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have notified/constituted their State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is stated in the reply of the hon. Minister that the Government of India has constituted the Forum of Regulators. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the brief details of this Forum namely its Terms of Reference etc. and if this Regulatory Commission can assist the State Commission for providing uninterrupted power supply to the agricultural sector and other areas in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this Forum is primarily a kind of coordination between the SERCs and the CERC. They would sit together and understand whether the Act and the Rules framed in the States and the Centre are being complied with properly or not. Besides this, for any question on any selective State, I need a separate notice.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister that the financial viability of most of the State Electricity Boards is at stake. Under these circumstances, is there any method of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission to oversee the performance of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions as to reduce the losses being incurred by the State Electricity Boards?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, actually this matter is dealt with on a State to State basis. Some States have already enforced the reform package and the SERC is one of the legally constituted instruments as per the State's own regulations to look into this aspect, where the generation losses, power theft as well as cost of production are being evaluated, including the manpower deployment. So, there is no flat answer to it. It depends on the nature of the State and the case of their own State.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajit Jogi. It is nice to see you. You are welcome.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, every State

should set up Regulatory Commission according to the guiding principles of the Government. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there are certain states, which have not set up Regulatory Commission yet? If so, what action will be taken by the Union Government? I would also like to know if it is not possible to provide electricity to the deprived section of the society particularly Scheduled Tribes, Schedule Castes and poor peasants at the subsidized rates after the formation of the Regulatory Commission, whether the Government of India will provide subsidies to those states where a sizable number of SCs, STs and poor peasants reside?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: So far as the matter of setting up of Regulatory Commission is concerned, it has been formed in every state except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. So far as Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland are concerned, they are also in the process of setting up of Commission and it is likely to be completed soon. So far as Backward Section, STs and Weaker Sections are concerned the Centre will not provide them mere subsidy but a far more important step taken by the UPA Government is that under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme every household in the villages and small towns will be provided electricity by the year 2009 and more funds will be provided for SCs, STs, Tribal's and backward areas under this scheme and they will benefit the most and get electricity at lower rates and even there will be a provision of free electric connections for SC and ST households.

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, a part of my question has been answered. As per the recommendations of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, some of the States have performed very well in rural electrification while some other States are not performing well. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is proposing to give any incentive to such States which have done very well in Rural Electrification Programme.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing to do with this Question.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, it is a fact that most of the States have to have a regulatory mechanism in the field of electricity. They have done also. It was also mandatory that some of the smaller States in the North-East which could not afford to have a regulatory commission of their own could have a joint regulatory commission. How many of these smaller States have had a combined regulatory system? How are they functioning? What are the difficulties that they are facing? We had made this recommendation in the Report of the Standing committee that the problems, which will arise, will have to be sorted out. What are the problems and how are they sorting them out?

One of the problems that the CESC and SESC's have not be able to solve is of the availability-based tariffs.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. Otherwise, you will not get the reply.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I want to know about the ABT. What are the problems and how are they sorting them out?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please in the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this Government pays special and specific attention towards the North-Eastern States, not only with respect to power but many other respects also, as well as Jammu and Kashmir and some other backward regions of this country. However, in regard to the specific question of the North-Eastern States, I am to inform, through you, to the hon. Member that Mizoram and Manipur have a joint Electricity Regulatory Commission which is working very satisfactorily.

In so far as the problems of specific States, as he mentioned, are concerned, they are all depending, as I stated earlier, on the nature of the problem of each States, which is dealt with totally, and vested totally in the hands of, the SERC. In spite of that, if they feel some problem, they bring it to the knowledge of the CERC and this forum deals with it effectively.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Handicraft Training Project***446. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:****PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:**

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any training scheme for benefits of artisans/weavers has been started under the Small Handicraft Training Project (SHTP) launched during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the total number of artisans/weavers trained so far, State-wise; and

(c) the total amount spent so far on the said scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Special Handicrafts Training Project (SHTP) was launched during the year 2002-03 with a view to upgrade the skill of existing as well as new craftspeople/carpet weavers, to enhance employment opportunities, to transfer skill of Mastercraft persons to new trainees and also to increase the production base of crafts having high market demand.

(b) and (c) The total number of artisans/carpet-weavers trained and amount released under the scheme since 2002-03 and upto November, 2005, State-wise are given below:—

Number of trainees trained and amount released State-wise since 2002-03 and upto November, 2005 under Special Handicrafts Training Project (SHTP)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Trainees Trained	Amount released (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	75	17.28
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	—	10.26
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	2.94
4.	Assam	2390	119.07
5.	Bihar	75	7.91
6.	Chhattisgarh	90	6.19
7.	Chandigarh	—	—
8.	Delhi	—	2.02
9.	Goa	15	1.28
10.	Gujarat	60	9.11
11.	Haryana	45	7.20
12.	Himachal Pradesh	170	20.29

1	2	3	4
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	1390	59.79
14.	Jharkhand	30	5.40
15.	Karnataka	75	11.03
16.	Kerala	105	7.94
17.	Madhya Pradesh	45	6.82
18.	Maharashtra	15	14.06
19.	Manipur	—	15.76
20.	Meghalaya	40	2.10
21.	Mizoram	120	1.62
22.	Nagaland	765	26.02
23.	Orissa	80	7.35
24.	Punjab	105	6.06
25.	Pondicherry	15	12.70
26.	Rajasthan	30	3.42
27.	Sikkim	—	—
28.	Tamil Nadu	60	44.60
29.	Tripura	45	7.78
30.	Uttar Pradesh	3785	239.42
31.	Uttaranchal	180	21.95
32.	West Bengal	150	16.79
Total		9985	714.16

Gold Reserve

*449. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the major thrust area of activity of Geological Survey of India (GSI) identified for the Tenth Five Year Plan in the country;

(b) whether the GSI has in a survey estimated deposit of about 95 tonnes of gold worth Rs. 6,000 crore found in Bhukia Patii area of Banswara District of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA):

(a) The major thrust area of activity of the Geological

Survey of India (GSI) identified for Tenth Five Year Plan in the country are as follows:—

- (i) Creation and updating of national geoscientific information and knowledge base.
- (ii) Identification and preliminary assessment of mineral resources.
- (iii) Geoscientific input to water resource development, transport, natural disaster and hazard management and civil engineering projects.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. GSI has established the possibility of approximately 95 tonnes of gold metal in Bhukia gold prospect in Banswara district of Rajasthan.

Brian Drain

*450. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has a shortage of brilliant scientists of international standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) the steps taken/being taken to check the trend of scientists going abroad;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a long term policy to encourage scientists to pursue research in the areas of their interest without any constraints in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) India has produced many brilliant scientists of international standard. However, considering the goals and ambitions of our country in transforming ourselves into a developed nation by the year 2020, there is a need for a larger number of brilliant scientists.

Currently, the number of scientists engaged in active research in India is 120 per million as compared to 2691 for U.K. However, any comparison of these

numbers and conclusion drawn will be unrealistic in view of the resources and infrastructure available in developing and developed nations.

(c) In view of the global nature of the scientific enterprise the government is of the view that scientific mobility should not be disturbed. The scientists move overseas in view of better opportunities available for higher education and employment in the emerging area of S and T. Increasing opportunities in India has attracted many scientists to return to India particularly in some of the high-tech areas like IT. Availability of Indian diaspora overseas has also been of great help in undertaking joint research projects/ventures in the country. Government has taken a number of initiatives and measures in order to improve the working conditions of scientists to encourage their retention/return in the country.

(d) and (e) Government has framed policies and various schemes to encourage scientists to pursue research in the area of their interest in the country. The various measures taken from time to time are:—

Policies:—

- Science and Technology Policy, 2003.
- Increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plans.
- Enhancement in the retirement age of scientists to enable them to pursue their research interest for longer duration.
- Delegation of advanced administrative and financial powers to S and T institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

School centric programmes to attract school children:—

- Children Science Congress.
- U-PROBE (Introducing meteorology in schools).
- Schools on mathematical modelling in earth system sciences.
- National Science Olympiad Programme.

- Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY).
- SERC Schools in emerging areas of science and technology.
- CSIR Programme on Youth for Leadership in Science (CPYLS).

Programmes targeted towards young scientists:—

- Swarnajayanti Fellowships.
- Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists.
- SERC Visiting Fellowships.
- Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology (BOYSCAST) fellowship to visit international laboratories and institutions.
- Mission HOPE (Higher Education—Opportunities for Promoting Entrepreneurship) with the aim of converting aspirations to real enterprises (CARE).
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up R and D as a career.
- Junior/Senior research fellowships, research associateships and senior research associateships.
- Diamond Jubilee Research Interns Award Scheme, JRF-GATE and Entrepreneurship support to research scholars.
- Early Faculty Induction Programme, which aims at attracting bright and young under-graduate students in Engineering and Technology/ Pharmacy/Architecture, etc. to take teaching as their career.
- S and T based training for entrepreneurial development.

Programmes targeted towards performing scientists:—

- The Ramanujan Fellowships.
- The JC Bose National Fellowships.

- The Ramanna Fellowships.
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships.
- SERC Individual Projects.
- Financial assistance to scientists to participate in international conferences and training programmes.
- Opportunities to distinguished scientists of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S and T.
- Post-doctoral Fellowships in Biotechnology and Life Sciences.

Infrastructure Development Programmes:—

- Internsification of Research in High Priority Areas (IRHPA).
- Fund for Improvement of S and T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST).
- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities and academic institutions.
- Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.
- Creation of new scientific Departments/ Organisations.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power Plants

*451. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prescribed the quality of coal to be supplied to the Thermal Power Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether coal of the prescribed grade is being supplied to the Thermal Power Plants, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government purposes to take any action for ensuring supply of proper quality coal to the Power Plants; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The thermal power plants are designed for the quality of coal available from the linked sources. As per notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), power stations situated in specified locations as mentioned below are to use raw or beneficiated or blended coal with an ash content not exceeding thirty four per cent (34%) on annual average basis with effect from 1st June, 2002:—

- The power stations which are located beyond 1000 kilometer from pit-head; and
- The power stations which are located in urban area or sensitive area or critically polluted area irrespective of their distance from pit-head except any pit-head plant.

There are 35 such thermal power plants in the country.

(c) to (f) Coal of the required quality is generally supplied to the Thermal power plants all over the country, including the state of Madhya Pradesh. However, none of the 4 power plants situated in Madhya Pradesh comes under the criterion specified in the aforesaid notification of MOEF. In Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh Power Generating Company and National Thermal Power Corporation are having joint sampling and analysis agreements with the companies supplying Coal. This ensures regular quality audit of the coal supply to the power stations and payment by them according to the analyzed grades of coal. However, whenever oversize coal or coal with extraneous matter is received at any thermal power plant, the matter is

taken up with the coal companies/Ministry of Coal for suitable action.

[English]

Counterfeit Credit Cards

*452. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of counterfeit credit cards has led to sizeable loss to the public sector banks in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government/Nationalized Banks have adopted any policy to check such frauds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that a few instances have come to their notice where credit cards have been counterfeited/duplicated by using illegal technological means. Banks are reporting, individually, cases of frauds involving Rs. 1 lakh and above to RBI. The specific data on frauds committed by using counterfeit credit cards, as reported by Public Sector Banks, during the calendar year 2004 and upto end of November, 2005 is as under:—

Name of the Bank	No. of instances	Amount involved (in lakhs)
SBI Cards and Payment Services Pvt. Ltd.	5	9.36
Andhra Bank	1	19.50

(c) and (d) Banks have, inter alia, been advised by RBI vide circular dated 12th May, 2001 to set up internal control systems to combat frauds such as: fraud at application stage, misues of lost/stolen cards and cards not received by genuine applicants, counterfeit/ altered cards etc.

Fraud prevention committees/task forces are in existence in individual banks which formulate ways to prevent frauds and take proactive fraud control and enforcement measures.

[Translation]

Tax Payers

*453. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of income-tax payers as on date;

(b) whether the number of tax payers has decreased during each of the last three years as compared to the increase in the population of tax payers during the same period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) steps proposed to be taken to educate the public for paying Income Tax and also file the Income Tax Returns;

(e) whether the outstanding amount of tax of the tax payers is continuously increasing;

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years in this regard; and

(g) the steps taken to recover the outstanding amount of tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to statistics maintained by Income Tax Department, the number of Income-tax assesses as on 31st October 2005 is 3.02 crores.

(b) No, Sir. The number of Income-tax assesseees is increasing continuously. The figures for the last three years are as follows:—

Financial year ending	Number of assesseees (in crores)
31st March, 2003	3.00
31st March, 2004	3.02
31st March, 2005	3.08

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

(d) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to educate the public to pay their Income-tax and file their returns. Some of the steps taken in this regard are as follows:—

- (i) Public awareness campaigns through print and electronic media to educate the public regarding their responsibility for filing of returns, payment of taxes and consequences of non-compliance of these obligations.
- (ii) Establishment of call centre, known as Aaykar Sampark Kendra (ASK) accessible from all over India through phone for various queries of taxpayers.
- (iii) Help Centres have been established at many cities to educate and encourage small taxpayers to file their return of income.
- (iv) Helplines are already functioning for redressal of public grievances.
- (v) The Department's web-site www.incometaxindia.gov.in provides various material and information aimed at educating and helping the public.
- (vi) Publication of booklets titled "Taxpayers Information Series" for benefit and information of the taxpayers.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The outstanding amounts of tax at the end of last three financial years were as under:—

Financial year	Amount of tax outstanding (In Rs. crore)
2002-03	72,290
2003-04	87,885
2004-05	98,912

(g) Apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under

the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank account, debtors, etc., attachment and sale of immovable property, etc.) the following special measures are also being taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears:—

- (i) Monitoring of recovery of arrears in large cases by a Task Force.
- (ii) Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose off such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during the current financial year itself.
- (iii) Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254(2A) of the Income-tax Act.
- (iv) Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose off high-demand cases expeditiously.

[English]

Studies on Coastal Region

*454. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Coastal Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS) has been launched by the Government for conducting studies in the coastal regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated/expenses incurred on the COMAPS since its launching, year-wise;

(d) the important studies undertaken by COMAPS so far; and

(e) the benefits derived by studies carried out, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. The Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS) was launched during the year 1989-1990 to collect data on the levels of Marine Pollutants in the coastal waters of the country.

(b) The main objective of the programme is to analyse the trend of decrease/increase of pollutants in the coastal waters off major cities, towns and other locations of industrial importance. Collection of data on 25 pollution and other related parameters (such as Biochemical Oxygen Demand, pathogenic bacteria, toxic metals like cadmium, mercury and lead in sediments) at 81 locations was carried out.

(c) The year-wise details of funds allocated/expenses incurred on the COMAPS since its launching are given below:—

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Year	Fund allocated	Expenditure incurred
1	2	3	4
1.	1989-90	50,00,000	36,33,000
2.	1990-91	50,00,000	61,77,000
3.	1991-92	1,00,00,000	1,04,99,000
4.	1992-93	1,00,00,000	1,57,40,000
5.	1993-94	1,20,00,000	1,31,95,000

1	2	3	4
6.	1994-95	1,20,00,000	1,78,78,000
7.	1995-96	2,00,00,000	1,99,38,000
8.	1996-97	2,00,00,000	1,60,79,000
9.	1997-98	2,00,00,000	1,98,64,000
10.	1998-99	1,50,00,000	1,49,81,000
11.	1999-2000	1,50,00,000	1,62,00,000
12.	2000-01	2,05,00,000	2,25,00,000
13.	2001-02	4,05,00,000	2,15,00,000
14.	2002-03	2,00,00,000	1,92,22,000
15.	2003-04	2,00,00,000	1,75,00,000
16.	2004-05	2,00,00,000	1,99,98,970
17.	2005-06*	2,50,00,000	78,70,477

*Expenditure status as on 15th December, 2005.

(d) As a result of the systematic monitoring of the coastal areas, health of our seas could be assessed and areas of low, medium and high concentrations of pollutants could be identified. The areas of high concentration of pollutants are being monitored intensively. Details of these locations are:—

(i) Areas of clean sea water quality:

The sea approx. beyond 1 Km along the coastline of India except off Mumbai is clean and conforms to quality of clean waters. In Mumbai, the sea off 5 Km is clean. This is primarily due to the fact that the levels of dissolved oxygen and other parameters fulfilling the requirements of clean seawater.

(ii) Areas of no concern:

In Vadinar and Kandla of Gujarat, Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, Mandovi and Zuari in Goa, Mangalore Port in Karnataka, Cannanore and Calicut in Kerala, Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu and the West Bengal coast, the concentrations of dissolved oxygen was fairly good

and other toxic elements like ammonia, heavy metals in sediments and biota were slightly higher (about 15%) than the clean waters.

(iii) Areas that need intensive monitoring:

In Porbandar, Damangana estuary, and Vapi industrial estate in Gujarat, Mangalore coast in Karnataka, Kochi backwaters, Quilon, Paravur in Kerala and Tuticorin and Arumuganeri in Tamil Nadu, Puri in Orissa the levels of dissolved oxygen were moderate to normal and however some of the elements like ammonia, pathogenic bacteria in sea water and heavy metals in sediments showed higher concentration (about 25%) than the normal values. Due to the definite source of pollutants and chances of increase in concentration are likely to be high, these areas need intensive monitoring.

(iv) Areas of Concern:

In Veraval Port in Gujarat, Versova Creek, Mahim Bay and Thane Creek in Maharashtra, Veli in Kerala,

Visakhapatnam Harbour and Kakinada Bay (canal) in Andhra Pradesh, the concentrations of dissolved oxygen were nil to low during low tide period and improved their levels only moderately (30-50%) during the high tide period. Further, the levels of toxic metals like cadmium and lead were high in sediments in some locations (like Thane creek) and pH was very low (Veli). If no control measures are exercised now, the areas will become regions of high concentrations of pollution in another 5 to 6 years.

Levels of Organochlorine pesticides like Hexachloro-cyclo-hexane (HCH) and Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) were analysed in 32 species of marine fish collected at various locations along the east coast of India. The levels of both the chemicals were very much lower than those observed in the terrestrial animals and other food items. These levels are very well below the limits (5 parts/billion is the safety limit) set by the Health authorities. This would indicate that the marine fish is not contaminated with the pesticide residues in the locations from which the samples were collected.

(e) Benefits on data collected from the COMAPS programme.

- The data collected have formed as a baseline data, which is very useful in conducting Environmental Impact Assessments studies for industrial and port projects to derive the impact of water quality in the proposed projects in future.
- Active interaction with State Pollution Control Boards, especially bringing the levels of pollution in highly polluted areas such as Mumbai, Veraval Port, Veli and Puri, has promoted establishment of appropriate treatment plants in Mumbai and Puri which has improved the seawater quality of Puri and the same is likely to be achieved in near future in Mumbai.
- The data on pollution levels have helped the Pollution Control Boards to plan for type of industries/industrial estates that can be located in an area in future.

- The programme has brought out the present status of levels of pollution in the coastal areas of the country especially by identifying areas of clean sea water quality from the coast to the offshore. Such an information is useful to the fisheries and salt pan industries. This helps in promoting mariculture, as a resource augmentation technique to improve the livelihood of the coastal communities.

MoU Between India and China

*455. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have signed an MoU for the joint ventures in other countries and set-up a framework to promote cooperation in the field of metallic and non-metallic-mineral research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) seeks to exchange information on mining investment, legislation and exploration, promote cooperation in research, policies and regulations, technical assistance, training programmes and joint ventures in third countries.

(c) I has been agreed that the subordinate organisations like Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines shall identify the projects of mutual interest with their Chinese counterparts to implement the MoU.

Impact of Tsunami

*456. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the impact of Tsunami in the coastal regions and high seas around Peninsular India and Antarctic region;

(b) if so, the findings in regard to marine life from both botanical and zoological point of view;

(c) whether there is a perceptible change in the sea-bed and sea-life under deep waters in Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean after Tsunami that hit Indian Coasts in December last; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Scientific assessment of the impact of tsunami has been conducted by various institutions and Government Departments on the infrastructure and environment in the coastal areas of Peninsular India and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Observations with regard to seabed and shore line changes, water quality, beach mineral contents, coral reef and biological organisms were made during the studies. The Department of Ocean Development's vessels ORV Sagar Kanya and FORV Sagar Sampada were deployed for studying the impact of tsunami on ocean environment and its resources in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea during January-February 2005. The multi disciplinary and multi parameter data collection was so planned as to cover areas for which pre-tsunami data was available and also to collect new data in new areas.

The tsunami waves have caused changes in the biological community of the coastal areas by transporting biological organisms from one area to other area along the same coast. These changes were short-term. The coral reefs of South Andaman Islands have been found to be damaged and covered with debris, mud and sand. However there has been no damage to coral reef in Gulf of Mannar where Tsunami impact was minimal. There has been no significant impact on demersal fisheries. Coastal water quality investigations have indicated enrichment of nutrients and contamination by bacteria in the near shore waters of Tamil Nadu. Reverse trend was observed for water quality along Kerala Coast.

Acquired data indicates changes in the seabed in the vicinity of Andaman ridge. The subduction trench line has been observed to be broken and dislocated to the west.

National Transmission Plan

*457. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has formulated a National Transmission Plan with a specific target for achieving inter-regional power transmission capacity;

(b) if so, the details of the capacity aimed to be achieved thereof; and

(c) the period by which it is targeted to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Towards the fulfillment of the requirement as mandated in Section 3 (4) of Electricity Act 2003, CEA has prepared the "Draft National Electricity Plan—Transmission" covering planning issues and Transmission Programme during the 10th and 11th Plan period. The draft Plan has set specific targets for inter-regional power transmission capacity and also the corresponding strengthening in the regional transmission systems, to achieve a strong National Grid. The draft Plan has been made available to all stakeholders for receiving their comments/views before its finalization. It has also been placed on the CEA website.

(b) and (c) The growth plan of Inter-regional Transmission Capacity in the country, as envisaged in the draft National Transmission Plan prepared by the Central Electricity Authority is shown in the enclosed Statement-I. At present, the total inter-regional transmission capacity of 220 kV and above level links is 9450 MW (details are given in the enclosed Statement-II). The program is to achieve inter-regional capacity of 16450 MW by the end of 10th Plan (details are given in the enclosed Statement-III) and about 37150 MW by the end of 11th Plan (details are given in the enclosed Statement-IV). The target date for completion of each of the works in Statement-III and Statement-IV is also given therein.

Statement-I**Growth Plan of Inter Regional Transmission Capacity**

Inter Regional Transmission Capacity					All figures in MW
Year	2002	2005	2007	2010	2012
765 kV	0	0	1100	2200	9200
400 kV	1000	2400	7800	11400	16400
HVDC bi-pole	0	2000	2500	2500	6500
HVDC b-t-b	2000	3000	3000	3000	3000
HVDC mono-pole	200	200	200	200	200
220 kV	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850
Total	5050	9450	16450	21150	37150

Statement-II**Present Inter-Regional Transmission Capacity of 220 kV and above**

Existing Capacities		Power Transfer Capacity (MW)	
Name of System	At the end of IX Plan i.e. end of 2001-02	Addition during X Plan (upto Nov. 05)	Existing Capacity (upto Nov. 2005)
1	2	3	4
ER-SR:			
Gazuwaka HVDC back to back	500	500	1000
Balimela-Upper Sileru 220 kV S/C	100		100
Talcher-Kolar HVDC Bipole		2000	2000
ER-SR total	600	2500	3100
ER-NR:			
Dehri-Sahupuri 220 kV S/C.	100		100

1	2	3	4
Sasaram HVDC back to back		500	500
ER-NR total	100	500	600
ER-WR:			
Rourkela-Raipur 400 kV D/C (without series compensation)		1000	1000
TCSC on Rourkela-Raipur 400 kV D/C		400	400
Budhipara-Korba 220 kV D/C+S/C	400		400
ER-WR total	400	1400	1800
ER-NER:			
Birpara Salakati 220 kV D/C	250		250
Malda-Bongaigaon 400 kV D/C	1000		1000
ER-NER total	1250		1250
NR-WR:			
Vindhyachal HVDC back to back	500		500
Auria-Malanpur 220 kV D/C	250		250
Kota-Ujjain 220 kV D/C	250		250
NR-WR total	1000		1000
WR-SR:			
Chandrapur HVDC back to back	1000		1000
Barsur-L.Sileru 200 kV HVDC mono pole	200		200
Kolhapur-Belgaum 220 kV D/C	250		250
Ponda-Narajhari 220 kV D/C	250		250
WR-SR total	1700		250

Statement-III*Programme for Inter-Regional Transmission Capacity by the end of 10th Plan***Additions During 2005-07**

Name of System	Power Transfer Capacity MW	Target date
ER-SR:		
Upgradation of Talcher-Kolar HVDC Bipore	500	June 06
ER-SR total	500	
ER-NR:		
Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur 400 kV D/C (Quad Moose) with series compensation	2000	June 06
Biharshariff-Balia 400 kV D/C (Quad Moose)	1200	March 07
Patna-Balia 400 kV D/C (Quad Moose)	1200	March 07
ER-NR total	4400	
ER-WR:		
Ranchi-Sipat 400 kV D/C (40% Series Comp.)	1000	March 07
ER-WR total	1000	
NR-WR:		
Agra-Gwalior 765 kV S/C line-1 400 kV operation	1100	March 07
NR-WR total	1100	
Total All India (addition during 2005-07)	7000	
Inter-regional capacity targeted by end by 10th Plan (2006-07)	16450	

Statement-IV**Programme for Inter-Regional Capacity by the end of 11th Plan****Additions During 11th Plan**

Name of System	Power Transfer Capacity MW	Target date
1	2	3
NER-NR:		
Biswanath Chariyali-Agra HVDC Bipole at \pm 600 kV	4000	2009-10
NER-NR total	4000	
NER-ER:		
Bongaigaon-Silliguri 400 kV D/C	1000	2009-10
NER-ER total	1000	
ER-NR:		
Barh-Balia 400 kV D/C (Quad Moose)	1200	2008-09
Sasaram-Fatehpur 765 kV S/C (40% Series Comp.)	2300	2010-11
ER-NR total	3500	
ER-WR:		
Rourkela-Raipur 400 kV D/C line-2 (with TCSC)	1400	2008-09
North Karanpura-Sipat 765 kV S/C	2300	2009-10
Hirma-Sipat 400 kV D/C*	1000	2011-12
Hirma-Raipur 400 kV D/C*	1000	2010-11
(*—Tentative as Hirma generation project is yet to be finalized)		
ER-WR total	5700	

1	2	3
NR-WR:		
Agra-Gwalior 765 kV S/C line-1 (operation at 765 kV)	1200	2009-10
Agra-Gwalior 765 kV S/C line-2	2300	2011-12
Kankroli-Zerda 400 kV D/C	1000	2010-11
RAPP-Nagda 400 kV D/C	1000	2011-12
<hr/>		
NR-WR total	5500	
<hr/>		
WR-SR:		
Parli-Raichur 400 kV D/C	1000	2011-12
<hr/>		
ER-WR total	1000	
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All India (addition during 11th Plan)	20700	
<hr/>		
Inter-regional capacity targeted by end of 11th Plan (2011-12)	37150	
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Distribution of Wasteland amongst Poor

*458. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether distribution of wasteland has been one of the key strategies of land reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the policy framed by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the States are not following any uniform policy while distributing the wasteland to the rural poor;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the instructions issued by the Government to various States; and

(e) the extent to which the rural poor, including farmers, have been or are being benefited by the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) Land and its

management come under the jurisdiction of the State Government as provided under Entry No. 18 of the List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The Government of India plays an advisory and coordinating role in the field of land distribution. Distribution of Government wasteland has been one of the key strategies of land reforms in the country. It has been the accepted Policy of the Central Government that wastelands at the disposal of the State Governments should be distributed amongst eligible rural poor. The State Governments have been advised to speed up the allotment of Government wastelands and to take effective measures towards removing bottlenecks hampering the pace of distribution. There is no uniform pattern of distribution of Government wastelands in all the States/ Union Territories of the country. So far, an area of 59.70 lakh hectares of Government wastelands have been distributed amongst landless rural poor. State-wise details of distribution are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**Distribution of Government Wastelands**

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UT	Area Distributed in Lakh Acres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42.02
2.	Assam	5.89
3.	Bihar*	13.21
4.	Gujarat	13.81
5.	Haryana	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.17
7.	Karnataka	13.72
8.	Kerala	4.57
9.	Madhya Pradesh #	0.79
10.	Maharashtra	10.23
11.	Manipur	0.32
12.	Punjab	1.10
13.	Orissa	7.26
14.	Tamil Nadu	2.07
15.	Tripura	1.32
16.	Uttar Pradesh @	24.89
17.	West Bengal	4.32
18.	Goa	0.05
19.	Mizoram	0.74

1	2	3
20.	Rajasthan	0.93
21.	Delhi	0.06
Total		147.47 (59.70 lakh hectares)

* Including Jharkhand

Including Chhattisgarh

@ Including Uttaranchal

Bio-Gas Development Programme

*459. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides direct subsidy to consumers under National Bio-Gas Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated by the Government during 2004-05 and 2005-06 to each State under the said programme; and

(d) the number of persons benefited by the said programme during the period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government continue to provide Central subsidy for setting up of family type biogas plants under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Biogas and Manure Management Programme. The rate of Central subsidy varies according to capacity of plants and category of areas and beneficiaries as mentioned below:—

Category	Amount of Central subsidy per plant	
	One cubic metre capacity plant	2-6 cubic metres capacity plant
North Eastern Region States and Sikkim (except plain areas of Assam)	Rs. 11,700/-	Rs. 11,700/-
Plain areas of Assam	Rs. 9,000/-	Rs. 9,000/-
Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal (excluding terai region), Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu; Sadar Kursoong and Kalimpong sub-divisions of Darjeeling district, Sunderban (West Bengal) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Rs. 3,500/-	Rs. 4,500/-
Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes, desert districts, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, terai region of Uttaranchal, Western Ghats and other notified hilly areas	Rs. 2,800/-	Rs. 3,500/-
Others	Rs. 2,100/-	Rs. 2,700/-

(c) The information is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) State-wise information on number of family type biogas plants installed during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (April to October 2005) is given in the enclosed statement-II. Assuming that a biogas plant is benefiting a family of an average of five members, a total of 6.40 lakh persons are estimated to have been benefited by setting up of about 1.28 lakh plants during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (April to October 2005).

Statement-I

Funds released to different States and agencies during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (April to 15th December, 2005)

Amount (Rupees in crore) released

State/Agency	2004-05	2005-06 (April to 15th December 2005)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	2.42	4.32

	1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	0.51	0.30	
Chhattisgarh	0.39	—	
Gujarat	1.19	1.98	
Haryana	0.21	—	
Himachal Pradesh	0.11	0.06	
Karnataka	0.04	—	
Kerala	0.81	—	
Madhya Pradesh	1.53	—	
Maharashtra	2.66	—	
Manipur	0.27	—	
Meghalaya	0.13	0.13	
Mizoram	0.28	—	
Orissa	1.68	—	

1	2	3
Punjab	0.26	0.29
Rajasthan	0.05	—
Sikkim	0.62	—
Tamil Nadu	0.39	—
Uttar Pradesh	1.49	—
Uttaranchal	0.06	—
West Bengal	2.46	0.18
Agencies (KVIC, etc.)	4.38	—
Total	21.94	7.26

KVIC—Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Statement-II

State-wise number of family type biogas plants set-up during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (April to October 2005)

State/Agency	Number of biogas plant set up	
	2004-05	2005-06 (April-Oct., 2005)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	15648	2500
Arunachal Pradesh	168	—
Assam	1000	—
Bihar	426	—
Goa	113	—
Gujarat	6974	1000
Haryana	1342	455
Himachal Pradesh	262	65

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	26	—
Karnataka	12517	—
Kerala	5476	1890
Madhya Pradesh	11306	4107
Maharashtra	10146	2761
Manipur	21	—
Meghalaya	600	—
Mizoram	123	—
Nagaland	325	25
Orissa	8950	55
Punjab	2195	190
Rajasthan	1	—
Sikkim	500	71
Tamil Nadu	2172	753
Tripura	40	—
Uttar Pradesh	8625	1405
West Bengal	15073	2510
Chhattisgarh	3420	1114
Jharkhand	400	40
Uttaranchal	1390	164
Total	1,09,232	19,105

Sale of Land of NTC Mills

*460. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to reviving the sick mills placed under the National Textile Corporation (NTC), the

Union Government had decided to permit sale of large areas of land lying unused with these mills;

(b) if so, the total areas of land with such mills identified and set apart for sale, State wise;

(c) the area of land sold so far, State-wise;

(d) the amount earned therefrom; and

(e) the steps taken to modernize and revive the NTC mills in the country and success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. Board of Industrial Financial Restructuring (BIFR) has approved

Rehabilitation Schemes for NTC companies consisting sale of surplus lands for generating funds for rehabilitation of the companies.

(b) to (d) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Government have decided to modernize 22 mills of NTC using the resources generated by sale of the mills' assets, and to revive 29 mills through Joint Venture with private partners. The Company has generated by sale of assets the resources required for modernization. The tender for purchase of new machineries and add-on-items for the renovation of the existing machineries have been floated after the recommendations of the Technical Committee.

Statement

Details of Land of NTC Mills Identified for Sale, Area and Price at which the Land have been Sold

Sl. No.	Name of the Subsidiary/ State/Mill	Total Area of land available for sale (in acres)	Area of land actually sold (in crores)	Price at which land sold (Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5
Land				
NTC (APKK and M) Ltd., Bangalore				
(a) Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Netha Mills, Secunderabad	10.84	9.83	24.02
2.	Netraj, Mills, Nirmal	70.00	70.00	2.31
3.	Tirupati Mills, Reningunta	47.36	—	—
4.	Anantpur Mills, Tadapatri	9.25		—
5.	Azam Jahi Mills, Warrangal	200.25	65.69	18.22
6.	Adoni Mills, Adoni	7.17		—
(b) Karnataka				
7.	Mysore Mills, Bangalore	27.79	18.69	79.16

1	2	3	4	5
8.	MSK Mills, Gulbarga	205.32	165.20	17.08
9.	Sree Yellamma, Tolahunse	98.80		—
10.	Minerva Mills, Bangalore	30.00	28.37	80.41
(c) Kerala				
11.	Algappa Textile Mills	8.06	1.96	0.49
12.	Kerala Luxmi Mills, Trichur	30.11	14.19	2.15
Total		744.95	373.93	223.84

NTC (DP and R) Ltd., New Delhi**(a) Delhi**

13.	Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi	8.98	4.54	67.01
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(b) Punjab

14.	Khara Textile Mills, Kharar	26.38	8.28	1.05
15.	Suraj Textile Mills, Malout	7.05	7.05	0.56
16.	Dayalbagh Mills, Amritsar	9.84		—
17.	Panipat Woolen Mills, Kharar	20.29	7.69	12.50

(c) Rajasthan

18.	Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur	29.77	29.77	15.12
19.	Edward Mills, Beawar	18.28		—
20.	Mahalaxmi Mills, Beawar	5.17		—
21.	Bijaynagar Cotton Mills, Bijaynagar	7.83	7.83	1.95

Total		133.59	65.16	98.19
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NTC (Gujarat) Ltd., Ahmedabad**Gujarat**

22.	Ahmedabad NewTextile Mills	7.45	—	—
23.	Rajkot Textile Mills, Rajkot	8.72	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills, Ahmedabad	22.44	—	—
25.	Jehangir Textile Mills, Ahmedabad	16.30	—	—
26.	Rajnagar Textile Mills No. 1 Ahmedabad	12.11	—	—
27.	New Manekchowk Mills, Ahmedabad	8.99	—	—
28.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills, Bhavnagar	16.32	—	—
29.	Himadri Textile Mills, Ahmedabad	7.22	—	—
30.	Petlad Textile Mills, Petlad	29.28	—	—
31.	Virangam Textile Mills, Virangam	50.91	—	—
32.	Fine Knitting Mills, Ahmedabad	8.38	—	—
Total		188.12	—	—

NTC (MN) Ltd., Mumbai**Maharashtra North**

33.	RBBA Mills, Hinghanghat (Plot No. 1 with old bungalow Ginning and processing Factory	5.95 5.95		
34.	Savatram Ram Prasad Mills, Akola	0.52	0.10	0.09
35.	Vidarbha Mills, Achalpur (Plot No. 1-2) (Plot No. 6)	17.05	4.99 0.89	0.50 0.36
36.	Model Mills, Nagpur Model Mills (Plot No. 2) Model Mills (Plot No. 1) Near S.T. Stand	33.31	0.21 6.98	0.36 9.50
37.	RSRG Mills, Akola (Plot No. 3) Plot No. 1 Plot No. 2	15.81	1.96 1.10 1.06	0.45 0.25 0.30
38.	Tata Mills, Mumbai	10.62	4.40	13.75
39.	Indu Mills No. 1, Mumbai	8.71		—

1	2	3	4	5
40.	Indu Mills No. 6, Mumbai	4.57		—
41.	Indu Mills No. 2, Mumbai	16.04		—
42.	Jam Mills, Mumbai	7.99		—
43.	Indu Mills No. 4, Mumbai	7.79		—
44.	Sita Ram Mills, Mumbai	8.43		—
45-46.	Kohinoor Mills No. 1 and 2, Mumbai	14.55		—
47.	Kohinoor Mills No. 3, Mumbai	4.84	4.84	421.00
48.	Indu Mills No. 3, Kalachowki, Mumbai	5.40		—
Total		167.53	26.53	446.56
NTC (MP) Limited, Indore				
Madhya Pradesh				
49.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	79.10	—	—
50.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills, Burhanpur	42.85	—	—
51.	Indore Malwa Mills, Indore	103.80	—	—
52.	Hira Mills, Ujjain	69.20	—	—
53.	Kalyanmal Mills, Indore	33.57	—	—
54.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Indore	15.32	—	—
55.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills, Rajnandgaon	52.10	—	—
Total		395.94		
NTC (SM) Ltd., Mumbai				
Maharashtra South				
56.	Barshi Mills, Barshi	36.50	1.87	0.12
57.	Dhule Textile Mills, Dhule	12.80	10.28	2.52
58.	Challisgaon Mills, Challisgaon	17.54	9.54	3.40
59.	Apollo Mills, Mumbai	9.96	7.43	180.00

1	2	3	4	5
60.	Gold Mohur Mills, Mumbai	6.52		—
61.	Madhusudan Mills, Mumbai	18.05		—
62.	Mumabi Textile Mills, Mumbai	23.83	16.62	702.22
63.	Jupiter Textile Mills, Mumbai	10.91	10.91	276.60
64.	Elphinstone Mills, Mumbai	8.91	8.49	441.75
65.	Bharat Mills, Mumbai	8.37		—
66.	New Hind Mills, Mumbai	8.33		—
67.	Digvijay Mills, Mumbai	9.33		—
68.	Aurangabad Mills, Aurangabad	15.74		—
69.	Podar Process, Mumbai	2.39		—
70.	Nanded Mills, Nanded	91.42		—
Total		280.62	65.14	1606.25

NTC (TN and P) Ltd., Coimbatore**(a) Tamil Nadu**

71.	Pankaja Mills, Coimbatore	11.07	0.34	0.69
72.	Omparasakthi Mills, Coimbatore	14.25	14.25	4.50
73.	Kalleswarar 'A' Mills	16.06	0.19	0.54
74.	Sri Rangavilas Mills, Coimbatore	17.20	6.21	7.82
	Sri Rangavilas Mills, Coimbatore	—	3.46	8.00
75.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills, Coimbatore	2.31	0.85	1.89
76.	Kothandaram Mills, Madurai	2.66		—
77.	Krishnaveni Mills, Coimbatore	4.52	4.52	5.20
78.	Balramvarma Mills, Shencattah	20.20		
79.	Somasundaram Mills, Coimbatore	7.43		—
80.	Sri Sarda Mills, Coimbatore	3.45		—
81.	Coimbatore Spg. and Wvg. Mills	20.49		

1	2	3	4	5
(b) Pondicherry				
82.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Pondicherry	53.30	53.30	32.55
83.	Sree Bharti Mills, Pondicherry	—	15.12	13.08
Total		119.64	98.23	74.27
NTC (UP) Ltd., Kanpur				
Uttar Pradesh				
84.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	12.62	6.43	3.20
85.	Bijli Cotton Mills, Hathras	7.56	5.82	4.69
86.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	55.86	4.76	11.73
87.	Lord Krishna Mills, Saharanpur	24.70		
88.	Swadeshi Mills, Maunathbhanjan	9.20	4.80	3.15
89.	Atherton Mills, Kanpur	20.70		—
90.	Luxmi Rattan Mills., Kanpur	13.48		—
91.	New Victoria Mills, Kanpur	29.67		—
92.	Muir Mills, Kanpur	37.28		—
93.	Sree Vikram Mills, Lucknow	8.14		—
94.	Raibareilly Textile Mills, Raibareilly	30.43		—
Total		249.64	21.81	22.77
NTC (WBABO) Ltd., Kolkata				
(a) West Bengal				
95.	Luxmi Narayan Textile Mills, Rishra	14.83		—
96.	Rampooria Textile Mills, Serampore	30.60		—
97.	Bengal Luxmi Tex. Mills, Serampore	27.97		—
98.	Bangashri Textile Mills, Sukhchar	29.08		—
99.	Central Cotton Textile Mills, Belur	11.67	11.67	13.35

1	2	3	4	5
100.	Shree Mahalaxmi Textile Mills, Palta	11.24		—
101.	Bengal Fine Textile Mills No. 2 Kattaganj	19.44		—
102.	Bengal Fine Textile Mills No. 1 Konnagar	18.83		—
103.	Aarti Cotton Textile Mills, Howrah	6.25		—
104.	Manindra B.T. Tex. Mills, Cossimbazar	35.28		—
105.	Jyoti Weaving Factory, Kolkata	4.29	4.29	11.55
(b) Assam				
106.	Associated Industries, Chandrapur	50.00		—
(c) Bihar				
107.	Gaya Cotton Textile Mills, Gaya	32.77		—
108.	Bihar Cooperative Textile Mills, Mokameh	22.20		—
(d) Orissa				
109.	Orissa Cotton Textile Mills, Bhagatpur	62.17		
Total		376.62	15.96	24.90
Grand Total		2709.95	666.76	2496.78

**Area Officers Scheme for
Rural Development**

*461. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced any Area Officers Scheme for Rural Development;

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

(c) whether Area Officers have visited the allocated States during 2004-05;

(d) if so, the details of the observations made by them in regard to the implementation of Rural Development Programmes;

(e) whether all the States have furnished their action taken reports on the issues raised by the Area Officers during 2003-04 and 2004-05

(f) if so, the names of the States yet to furnish such report; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check the mal-practices in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (g) 1. The Ministry of Rural Development has introduced Area Officers' Schemes w.e.f. 1-1-1994 which aims at Monitoring the major programmes of the Ministry with special reference to quality, adherence to implementation guidelines, flow of funds, proper utilization of funds and

achievements of physical and financial targets etc., through field visits. Senior Officers of the level of Deputy Secretary and above are assigned specific districts of the States for periodic visits and monitoring.

2. 26 Area Officers of the Ministry have visited their allocated States during 2004-05. The brief observations of the Area Officers are given in the enclosed statement.

3. While sending the observations and issues brought out in the report of the Area Officers, the State Governments are requested to furnish the Action Taken Report. The Action Taken Reports have not been received from the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura, Meghalaya, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Orissa for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05. The Ministry has regularly advised the State Governments to furnish these reports.

4. In order to check mal-practices, the Ministry has evolved a comprehensive system of monitoring the execution of the Programmes through periodic Progress Reports received from the States/UTs., field visits by Area Officers of the Ministry and discussions with the State Secretaries and with the Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies/Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishads/Panchayats, monitoring by the District Level Monitoring agencies and National Level Monitors. The Ministry has adopted a four pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes (ii) transparency (iii) people's partnership and (iv) accountability which helps to reduce lapses in programme implementation.

Statement

The main observations of the Area Officers are given below:—

- On the whole, programmes are being implemented in almost all the Districts in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- The rural poor have been benefited and a number of them have crossed the poverty line over the years.

- The Area Officers have documented a number of success stories in regard to micro-enterprises development, provision of self employment, improvement in quality of life of people, solidarity of Self Help Groups etc.
- A large number of durable community and social assets have been created under the wage employment programme in several districts of the country. These assets, by the large, have proved useful to the community.
- In several States houses built under IAY has been very useful in improving the quality and living environment of the rural poor. Beneficiary selection under IAY has also been largely made by the Gram Sabhas.
- People's participation in programme implementation is seen in almost all the States.
- There is a visible improvement in the socio economic life of the village community.

The Area Officers have also brought out certain deficiencies in programme implementation which are as follows:—

- In some cases wrong selection of beneficiaries/swarozgaries is reported.
- In a few cases there is delay in release of State share to the Implementing Agencies.
- There is bunching of loan applications under SGSY/delay in disbursement of loan to the SHGs.
- At times there is lack of coordination among various Implementing Agencies/Line Departments.
- In a few cases the need to strengthen the monitoring arrangement is felt.
- Shortage of staff in Block and Districts is reported.
- There is wage differential in the male and female workers in some cases.

- Distribution of foodgrains under SGRY sometimes is delayed mainly because of the low priority accorded by the FCI in supply of grains under this programme.

Subsidy on Raw Cotton

4487. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handloom sector which employs a large number of workers is not being provided with satisfactory subsidy on raw cotton yarn in comparison to mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Textile is implementing the Mill Gate Price Scheme, under which the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), a Government of India Undertaking is arranging supply of all types of yarn required for the handloom weavers and their organizations at Mill Gate Price. The expenditure for transportation of yarn from the Mill Gate to the godown of the handloom agencies is being reimbursed by NHDC to the handloom agencies and then by Government of India to NHDC.

[Translation]

IT Relaxation for Patients of Thalassaemia

4488. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given any relaxation in income tax for patients of Thalassaemia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar relaxation has been/is being extended to patients suffering from other kinds of diseases; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Section 80DDB of the Income-tax Act, 1961 provides for a deduction from income up to Rs. 40,000 (Rs. 60,000 in the case of senior citizens) to an individual or Hindu undivided family for the treatment of Thalassaemia.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The same benefit is also available for the treatment of the following other diseases:—

- Dementia
- Dystonia Musculorum Deformans
- Ataxia
- Chorea
- Hemiballismus
- Aphasia
- Parkinsons Disease
- Malignant cancers
- Full Blown Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- Chronic Renal failure
- Hemophilia

[English]

VAT for UT Administrations

4489. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have changed Value Added Tax (VAT) regulations in respect of Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue generated/likely to be generated by the Centre due to the change in VAT regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under Entry 54 of List II (State List) of the Constitution of India, State Sales Tax (as also State VAT, which has replaced the State Sales Tax) is a State subject. An

Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) has been constituted to deliberate upon and decide all matters concerning State VAT. The EC has decided design of VAT (including the structure of rates of tax) under the State VAT implemented w.e.f. 01 April, 2005. All the States/Union Territories have broadly followed the VAT design approved by the EC. As far as the Union Territories are concerned, only the NCT of Delhi, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu had implemented VAT w.e.f. 01 April 2005. Out of these, NCT of Delhi has passed a separate Delhi VAT Act, through their State Legislature. In case of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, VAT Regulations were finalized by the Government of India, as per procedure and the same have been implemented by the respective UT Administrations.

(c) As per the provisional figures of tax collections furnished by the Union Territories, the tax revenues have shown an increase during first six months of the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The percentage of increase works out to about 28% for NCT of Delhi, about 69% for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and about 60% for Daman and Diu.

[Translation]

Proposals from MP

4490. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the capital outlay grant;

(b) the action being taken by the Union Government on these proposals;

(c) the reasons for not taking decision on the proposals sent by the State Government several times over half years back;

(d) the time by which the approval is likely to be given on the aforesaid proposals;

(e) whether the Union Government has passed any proposal regarding such schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Closure of CE and C Offices in Kerala

4491. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to close some of the Central Excise/Customs Office in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The issue of reorganization of Central Excise ranges in the Kerala Zone is under examination. A Study Team has been constituted to examine the issue in consultation with all the interest groups. The Study Team is expected to submit its report after examining all the pros and cons in detail.

Geological Survey of India

4492. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to downsize the working strength in Geological Survey of India (GSI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The steps taken by the Government to maintain the present strength in GSI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): On the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC), an Expert Committee was constituted in 2002 to assess the requirement of personnel in various disciplines/groups in the Geological Survey of India (GSI). GSI, being a Scientific and Technical organization, the Expert Committee recommended optimization of staff requirement in its various disciplines/groups and these

recommendations have been accepted by the Government of India. While the committee recommended increase in Group A and Group B posts from 3147 to 3820, it recommended reduction in non-gazetted posts from 13155 to 7600. The revised strength of posts, as recommended by the Expert Committee, is to be achieved in a phased manner. The sanctioned posts in GSI are filled up as and when required as per Recruitment Rules and Government instructions.

[Translation]

Recommendations of Exim Banks

4493. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether EXIM Bank dealing with export-import business, has recommended Government to evolve an independent strategy and regulatory system for the small scale and medium term industries;

(b) whether EXIM Bank has also recommended the Government to streamline the financial system for small industries and to solve their problems related to infrastructure on the priority basis; and

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

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

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Funds under SPV

4494. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State of Tamil Nadu for funds under Special Purpose Vehicle;

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

(c) the action 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) Do not arise.

Special Purpose Vehicle

4495. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any infrastructure projects have been identified for funding by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV); and

(b) if so, the details thereof with financial allocation made for each project and the targeted date for their completion, State-wise, project-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Interest Rate on Post Office Savings

4496. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make changes in the interest on Post Offices Savings Bank accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined the recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee on the subject;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The interest rates on small savings schemes are being reviewed from time to time. The last revision of the interest rates on these schemes was made with effect from 1-3-2003 on the basis of recommendations of an Expert Committee (2001) chaired by Dr. Y.V. Reddy, the then Dy. Governor, Reserve Bank of India. There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government to change the interest rates on small savings schemes.

The Rakesh Mohan Committee had inter-alia, recommended that the interest rate on small savings

schemes may be benchmarked to the average yields on Government securities of comparable maturity in secondary market as recommended by the Reddy Committee, but that the average yields over a period of two years may be taken as against the average annual yields recommended by the Reddy Committee. The rates of interest on small savings schemes have, however, continued unchanges since 1-3-2003.

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

4497. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the districts of each State have been covered under Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) 288 districts have been taken up so far for implementation of IREP. State-wise breakup of districts under IREP is given in the enclosed statement. Additional districts may be taken up subject to availability of funds in the Central Sector and provision of counter-part funds by the States.

Statement

State-wise number of districts taken up for implementation of Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. Districts taken up
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5

1	2	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	16
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Haryana	19
6.	Himachal Pradesh	12
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
8.	Jharkhand	7
9.	Karnataka	27
10.	Kerala	14
11.	Madhya Pradesh	48
12.	Manipur	9
13.	Meghalaya	7
14.	Mizoram	6
15.	Nagaland	6
16.	Pondicherry	1
17.	Punjab	17
18.	Tripura	2
19.	Uttaranchal	13
20.	Uttar Pradesh	50

[Translation]

Role of NABARD in RRBs

4498. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) in the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs);

(b) whether the RRBs are given loans at lower rate by the NABARD;

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

(d) the efforts being made by the Government for simplifying loans of RRBs and sufficient availability of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Role of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been defined under various Sections of Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. As per the Provisions of RRB Act, 1976, consultation with NABARD is necessary in the matters such as location of Head Office of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), increase or reduction in Authorized/Issued Capital, appointment, termination and salary/allowances of Chairmen of RRBs, Amalgamation of RRBs and powers to frame Rules and Regulations. Besides this, as a matter of practice, NABARD exercises supervisory and developmental role in relation to RRBs.

(b) and (c) NABARD provides refinance Assistance at uniform rates of interest to eligible banks including RRBs. The rate of interest charged by NABARD depends upon the size and purpose of loans.

(d) NABARD issued necessary guidelines to RRBs in June 2004 for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture sector in the next three years as also for extending relief to farmers in distress/arrears by way of rescheduling/restructuring their loans, relaxing NPA norms, fixation of realistic range of scale of finance and providing for One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for small and marginal farmers, with a view to enabling disbursement of fresh loans to the farmers. Besides this, the introduction of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and financing of agriculturists and other target groups through self-help Groups are some of the other measures recently introduced to streamline/simplify rural credit delivery.

[English]

Human Genome Project

4499. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India missed the great opportunity in

partnership in the human genome project and thereby lost the utility of right type of data;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No Sir. India has not missed the great opportunity by not participating in the international Human Genome Project. However, the Department of Biotechnology with large number of experts from the country, analysed the position and decided that it would be worthwhile to take up an Indian programme on genome sequencing that is more relevant to country's specific needs and would be economically feasible. The data generated from Human Genome Project is available in public domain and is accessible. The Department has established large number of bioinformatics centres including four mirror sites to collect and utilize the right type of data to develop technologies for identifying the human mutations in specific genetic disorders in Indian population to reduce the genetic disease burden in the country.

The Department has implemented several projects including eighteen genetic diagnosis cum counselling units in different parts of the country with major programmes in the area of Functional Genomics, Human Genome Diversity, Pharmacogenomics, Microbial Genomics, Computational Genomics etc. Several families including tribal population, got benefited from genetic diagnosis cum counseling units for common genetic disorders like thalassemia, sickle cell diseases, Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy, haemophilia, cystic fibrosis etc.

Women Self Help Groups under SGSY

4500. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) stipulate that 50 per cent of the Self Help Groups formed in each block would be exclusively for women;

(b) if so, the total number of Groups formed so far and the number out of them meant exclusively for women, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government to ensure that the guidelines are strictly followed; and

(d) the total number of women beneficiaries under the scheme as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement showing number of Self Help Groups formed, Women Groups formed, Women Self Help Groups Assisted, Women Individual Swarozgaris Assisted and Total Women Swarozgaris Assisted under SGSY so far, State-wise, is enclosed. To ensure proper and effective implementation of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as per guidelines, a

comprehensive system of monitoring has been adopted. The programme is monitored from the Central level down to the grass-root level. At the Central level, the Central Level Co-ordination Committee (CLCC) monitors and reviews the implementation of the Programme and lays down policy guidelines for all aspects related to credit linkages for the SGSY. The Performance Review Committee of the Department of Rural Development also reviews the implementation of the SGSY. At the State level, a State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) monitors the Programme. In addition, the progress under the SGSY is monitored periodically through reports and returns submitted by DRDAs/States. Detailed monitoring formats for reporting progress of the Programme have been circulated to all the DRDAs. Implementation of the Programme is monitored and reviewed through the Project Directors' Workshops and periodic meetings with the State Secretaries. At the Block/DRDA level, monitoring is done through field visits and physical verification of assets.

Statement

Physical Progress for Women under the SGSY since inception (1-4-99) upto till date

Sl. No.	States/UT	No. of SHGs Formed	Women Groups Formed	Members of SHGs Assisted	Women Individual Swarozgaris Assisted	Total Women Swarozgaris Assisted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	447827	548135	398129	52152	450281
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	279	19	868	2698	3566
3.	Assam	114414	67063	127300	4688	131988
4.	Bihar	85584	37988	104388	95015	199403
5.	Chhattisgarh	47053	19027	19475	12124	31599
6.	Goa	518	296	952	683	1635
7.	Gujarat	85658	25908	15249	36853	52102
8.	Haryana	8874	4787	25404	30574	55978
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5099	3394	24148	6292	30440

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6693	3678	18195	3405	21600
11.	Jharkhand	24632	17663	83859	25127	108986
12.	Karnataka	35480	37859	159179	19363	178542
13.	Kerala	51884	2569	66820	40155	106975
14.	Madhya Pradesh	241868	119868	93600	45186	138786
15.	Maharashtra	113971	79452	156512	87237	243749
16.	Manipur	1548	593	292	2	294
17.	Meghalaya	3775	2174	6901	1446	8347
18.	Mizoram	1241	286	4719	327	5046
19.	Nagaland	1368	0	4610	1540	6150
20.	Orissa	140731	106222	146156	51978	198134
21.	Punjab	3390	2763	11820	7144	18964
22.	Rajasthan	23726	10402	14853	82002	96855
23.	Sikkim	857	588	1660	1914	3574
24.	Tamil Nadu	212474	176626	373204	16574	389778
25.	Tripura	16958	11414	13609	14600	28209
26.	Uttar Pradesh	321678	68118	165246	90246	255492
27.	Uttaranchal	19164	7827	21435	5130	26565
28.	West Bengal	130843	86589	61352	37935	99287
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	344	77	983	196	1179
30.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	5	5
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12	0	26	88	114
32.	Lakshadweep	4	2	1	14	15
33.	Pondicherry	1088	1076	3264	437	3701
Total		2150035	1442463	2124209	773130	2897339

[Translation]

Discontinuance of Water Supply Programme

4501. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the rural water supply programme based on targets allocations by next financial year;

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

(c) the manner in which drinking water is likely to be supplied in such habitats where the supply is inadequate;

(d) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds separately for the incomplete rural water schemes and fresh rural water schemes involving huge cost;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether drainages system for the waste water flowing out of wells, hand pumps and tap water has been provided under Total-Sanitation Campaign in rural areas; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to discontinue the allocation based Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been decided to cover all the remaining uncovered habitations of CAP-1999 and address slippage and water quality problems in a period of four year (2005-09).

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Provision for drainage of contaminated water flowing from the wells, hand pumps and tap water schemes exists under the relevant Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, but not under the Total Sanitation Campaign.

[English]

Job Oriented Schemes for Flood Hit Areas

4502. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive policy to provide more jobs for flood hit areas;

(b) if so, the extent to which the new policy is likely to be beneficial in providing jobs to poors in various States especially in Gujarat;

(c) whether certain States particularly Gujarat has requested the Government to allocate additional assistance to implement the various job providing schemes in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, State-wise; and

(e) the number of poor people benefited by such schemes during the last three years and the current years so far, State-wise?

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) The Ministry of Rural Development provides foodgrains free of cost to the States for creation of additional wage employment in the natural calamity affected rural areas including flood hit areas under the "Special Component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)". This covers all the States of the country including Gujarat except Delhi and Chandigarh. The foodgrains are released by this Ministry as per the recommendation of the High Level Committee (HLC) headed by the Minister of Agriculture/Home Affairs and after due notification for natural calamity affected

areas by the State Government concerned. High Level Committee has recommended release of 32,300 MTs of foodgrains to Gujarat (floods, 2005). The State Government has been requested to send a copy of notification for floods affected areas during 2005 alongwith district-wise requirement of foodgrains.

(e) The number of people benefited under Special Component of SGRY is not maintained at the Centre. However, the details mandays generated during last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Special Component of SGRY

Sl. No.	State	2002-03 Mandays Generated (in lakh)	2003-04 Mandays Generated (in lakh)	2004-05 Mandays Generated (in lakh)	2005-06 Mandays Generated (in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh		NR	0.00	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2825.97	2138.00	NR	NR
3.	Assam		NR	28.87	
4.	Bihar			NR	
5.	Chhattisgarh	546.51	546.51	NR	NR
6.	Gujarat	439.07	156.67	0.00	
7.	Haryana	20.81	0.00	0.00	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22.92	0.00	0.00	
9.	Jharkhand	NR	0.00	0.00	
10.	Karnataka	1083.50	1351.44	741.17	
11.	Kerala	NR	NR	NR	NR
12.	Madhya Pradesh	436.75	482.40	33.71	NR
13.	Maharashtra	NR	NR	NR	
14.	Meghalaya			NR	
15.	Mizoram			NR	
16.	Orissa	469.20	550.17	0.00	44.27
17.	Rajasthan	2373.00	1697.00	897.00	625

1	2	3	4	5	6
18. Sikkim				2.90	
19. Tamil Nadu		176.16	949.73	51.18	NR
20. Uttar Pradesh		59.08			
21. Uttaranchal		57.21			
22. Andaman and Nicobar					NR
23. Jammu and Kashmir					NR
24. Pondicherry					NR

NR=Not reported

Wind Energy

4503. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether wind mills association has demanded that utilities to buy atleast 25% of power produced from renewable sources.

(b) if so, whether the matter has since been taken up by the authorities concerned.

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

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) One of the proposals in the letter by Indian Wind Power Association to Ministry of Power was that the utilities should buy atleast a minimum of 25% of power from renewable energy for their pool.

(b) to (d) One of the functions of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions as laid down under section 86 of the Electricity Act, 2003 is to promote cogeneration and generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy and, inter-alia, also specify, for purchase of electricity from such sources, a percentage of the total

consumption of electricity in the area of a distribution license.

Shortage of Stamp Papers

4504. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the acute scarcity of stamp papers particularly of rupees fifty and one hundred in the market;

(b) if so, the reason for these scarcity; 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) and (b) No Sir. There is no report of scarcity of stamp papers of Rupees fifty and hundred denominations from any State Governments/consignees.

(c) Does not arise.

EFC Grants for Karnataka

4505. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested for the release of instalment towards 11th Finance Commission Grants for the period 2004-05;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by the Union Government and present status of the request;

(c) the quantum of assistance being released; and

(d) the time by which the request is likely to be cleared and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) In respect of Grants-in-aid, other than Incentive Grant, claims received within the prescribed period have been considered and grants released. No further grants can be released as Eleventh Finance Commission award period was over on 31-3-2005. However, the release of the Incentive Grant for 2004-05 is under consideration and depends upon the performance of the State on consolidated revenue account.

[Translation]

Security to Engineers Engaged in PMGSY

4506. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engineers associated with the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) who have been killed during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken a decision to provide security guards to the engineers of the agencies engaged in construction of roads under the said Yojana;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of engineers of different agencies who have provided with security guards so far along with the places where the work has been undertaken by them; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Government to provide cent-per-cent security to the engineers?

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 (e) 'Rural

Roads' is a State subject and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is implemented by the State Governments. No report has so far been received by the Ministry of Rural Development regarding killing of any engineer associated with execution of PMGSY. The responsibility of engaging engineers for implementation of PMGSY is with the States, as also their security as part of maintenance of 'Law and Order'. The information on the number of engineers who have been provided with security by the States for road works under PMGSY is not maintained at the Central level.

[English]

Awards for Young Scientists

4507. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposals to institute special annual awards for young scientists and technocrats falling under particular age groups;

(b) whether for institution of such award Government is acting upon any recommendations of a committee set up for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Government in order to promote and improve the science and technology research in the country has instituted several prestigious national fellowships/awards for scientists including young scientists. These include 'Ramanujan Fellowships' to attract brilliant scientists from all over the world, 'JC Bose Fellowships' to recognize active scientists who have a proven outstanding track record, 'Ramanna Fellowship' aimed to support outstanding performers on continuous basis, 'Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships' targeted at post-graduate talented students, 'CSIR Diamond Jubilee Technology Awards' for innovators for developing technology of the highest benchmarks of competitiveness and excellence and for inventions of

school students, "Women Scientists Scheme": instituted to provide opportunities to women scientists, Indian National Science Academy and Indian Academy of Sciences Young Scientist's/Young Associateship Awards 'Swarnajayanti Fellowships': for outstanding young scientists, Postdoctoral fellowship in Biotechnology, Bioscience Awards for career development, CSIR Young Scientist's Award etc. All these initiatives are aimed at providing encouragement to young scientists to pursue S and T research in the country.

Committee on CSIR

4508. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Abid Hussain Committee has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations and action taken thereon;

(c) the annual budget of CSIR;

(d) whether the Government is considering to set up a new committee to review the working of CSIR; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the main recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee were:—

1. CSIR to take-up programmes for Technology Mission and Generic Technology, Social Mission, Sponsored Research and Basic Research;
2. External earnings to be increased to 1/3rd of Government budgetary support and Zero-based budgeting to be implemented;
3. Changes in the structure or composition of Governing Body (GB) and Research Councils (RCs);

4. Technical Secretariat at CSIR Headquarters to be strengthened with technical groups to assist DG, CSIR regarding R and D Planning, Technology Development and Human Resource Development;
5. Deputation of Scientists to other organization;
6. Supporting and strengthening of research in Universities;
7. Restructuring and modernization of CSIR laboratories;
8. Consolidation and mergers of selected CSIR institutes for better focus;
9. closing of selected Field, Extension and regional Centres which are not viable;

The recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee were approved by the CSIR Society in its meetings held on 2-2-1998 and 24-2-1989.

(c) The annual budgetary estimates of CSIR for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 1503.43 crores.

(d) and (e) No Sir. CSIR has its own internal system of periodically reviewing the working of its laboratories. CSIR in 1999 has introduced a new organ in its structure called the Performance Appraisal Boards (PABs) to critically review the performance of each laboratory once in every five years. CSIR of its own subsequently in the year 2003 has also constituted a committee under the chairmanship Dr. Vijay Kelkar to assess and evaluate the outcomes of the CSIR activities.

Central Silk Board

4509. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board is implementing several Central and Centrally sponsored schemes in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of main activities of Central Silk Board in the State;

(c) the details of various sericulture Schemes and

projects launched by the Central Silk Board (CSB) in Tamil Nadu during the last three years; and

(d) the employment generated in Tamil Nadu after inception of various schemes of Central Silk Board?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main activities of Central Silk Board (CSB) in the state of Tamil Nadu are:—

- The CSB has established a Regional Sericulture Research Station in Salem. This unit alongwith the network of Research Extension Centres provides required research, training and extension support for the development of sericulture in the state;
- The Basic Seed Farms and Silkworm Seed Production Centres of CSB functioning in Krishnagiri, Yalagiri Hills, Dharmapuri and Tirupattur alongwith a network of sericulture service centres produce and supply quality basic and commercial silkworm seed to the farmers in Tamil Nadu in coordination with the state government of Tamil Nadu;
- In order to provide support to the silk industry sector, the CSB has established Silk Conditioning and Testing Centre at Kancheepuram and Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre at Dharmapuri;
- The Regional Development Office of the CSB functioning in Chennai coordinates the development of sericulture activities with the state government; and
- The Central Sericultural Germ Plasm Resource Centre of CSB functioning in Hosur explores, collects and introduces mulberry and germ plasm and supplies sericulture germ plasm to the needy organizations.

(c) The following sericulture schemes and projects have been launched by the CSB in Tamil Nadu during the last three years:—

- **Catalytic Development Scheme:** The CSB is implementing the Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) during the X Plan period in collaboration with different state governments including Tamil Nadu. Under the CDP a provision of Rs. 181.00 crores has been made during X Plan for providing assistance to sericulture farmers/reelers in the country including Tamil Nadu in form of subsidy/incentive to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity. The support is provided mainly towards development of improved mulberry plantation, drip irrigation, construction of rearing houses and chawki rearing building, incentives for procuring disinfectants and improved rearing appliances, support for producing quality bivoltine cocoons, procurement of improved reeling-cum-twisting devices, spinning wheel to produce quality yarn etc. The CSB has released an amount of Rs. 381.23 lakhs to Tamil Nadu during last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) under the CDP schemes.
- **Bivoltine Sericulture Technology Development Project with the assistance of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA):** The CSB is implementing this project in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to promote development of bivoltine silk of international quality. The third phase of the project is presently under implementation during the X Plan (2002-2007). The third phase of the project focuses on strengthening the extension system for bivoltine sericulture. The following units of the Department of Sericulture, government of Tamil Nadu have been strengthened under this project:—
 - * Basic Seed Farm, Avalapalli;
 - * Grainage, Coimbatore;
 - * Sericulture Training School, Hosur; and
 - * Technical Service Centres at Hosur, Krishnagiri, Padireddypathy and Sathyanagala.

(d) Majority of the CSB's schemes/project are implemented through the concerned state sericulture departments to supplement their efforts in the development of sericulture. The table below indicates

the improvement in the sericulture industry in the state of Tamil Nadu during the year 2004-05 as compared to the previous year.

Details	2004-05	2003-04	% increase
Mulberry area (ha)	5073	4025	26.04
Raw silk production (MT)	443	285	55.44
Employment (no. of perons)*	1,62,894	1,29,243	26.04

*@13 persons per acre.

Duty Evasion by Oil Majors

4510. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) evaded payment of duty of Rs. 713.17 crore on the indirect sale consideration received in the form of subsidy from the Government on sale to petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the duty from the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. Although in Mumbai-I Central Excise zone, Central Excise Revenue Audit (CERA), has observed that Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have evaded duty payment of Rs. 713.17 crores on the indirect sale consideration received in the form of subsidy from the Government on slae of petroleum products, the objection however is not admitted by the Department since subsidy is not includible in assessable value.

(b) Details of the cases are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) In case of administered prices, the contribution by the Oil Pool Account (Subsidy) cannot be added to the assessable value. Hence no recovery is warranted.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Duty involved (Rs. in crores)
1.	M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	498.91
2.	M/s. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	166.43
3.	M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	47.83
Total		713.17

Refund of Duty

4511. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Numaligarh Refinery was entitled to get refund of duty paid on mineral based goods in pursuance of issue of notification dated 8-7-1999 as amended on 9-2-2000 while refund was withdrawn by another notification dated March 1, 2002 with retrospective effect;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-recovery of Rs. 748.04 crore refunded to M/s. Numaligarh Refinery in Shillong Commissionerate on clearances of petroleum products between February, 2000 and February 2002 alongwith interest thereon;

(c) the details of all such other companies who were also granted refunded amount with interest are pending; and

(d) the steps taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Notification No. 33/99-CE dated 8-7-99 was amended vide Notification No. 3/2000-CE dated 9-2-2000, to allow the benefit of refund, on the goods cleared from M/s. Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. M/s. NRL was getting refund under the said Notification upto 28-2-2002. Notification 33/99-CE was further amended retrospectively w.e.f. 8-7-99 vide Section 142 of the Finance Act 2002 to exclude the petroleum products from the exemption as was incorporated in the schedule of the Notification in the relevant period. M/s. NRL was beneficiary by virtue of the amending Notification No. 3/2000-CE above, which was not withdrawn by the Sec. 142 of the Finance Act 2002 but by a separate Notification No. 11/2002 dated 1-3-2002, which was not given the retrospective effect. The benefit of refund was available to M/s. NRL during the material period and the question of recovery of Rs. 748.04 crore does not arise.

On the objection raised by the C and AG of India observing that an amount of Rs. 667 crore was recoverable from M/s. NRL as petroleum products were kept out of purview of Notification No. 33/99, the Board has accepted the Department's view as mentioned above and not admitted the audity objection raised by the C and AG.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Except Numaligarh Refinery there is no such case.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Complaints against Customs Officers

4512. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received so far especially from foreign diplomats against customs duty officers deployed at various International Airports in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) action taken on each such complaints; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure free passage for law abiding travellers through such airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The number of complaints received at International Airports during each of the last three years are as follows:—

Year	From foreign diplomats	From others	Total
2003	01	59	60
2004	01	73	74
2005	01	44	45
Total	03	176	179

(b) In so far as complaints from foreign diplomats are concerned, the three complaints made by the foreign diplomats were relating to delay in clearances and misbehaviour. In the first case, the foreign diplomat was explained the reasons for delay to his satisfaction and the complaint was closed. In the second case of complaint, the concerned officer complained against was transferred from Airport duty to a non-sensitive place, while in the third case, the concerned officer was cautioned suitably.

In so far as complaints from others are concerned, action on each of such complaints is taken keeping in

view the gravity of the allegations, nature of the complaints, and the evidences available, in accordance with law and instructions on the subject.

(c) The steps taken by the Union Government to ensure free passage for law-abiding travellers through such airports are as follows:—

- (I) For the purpose of Customs clearance of arriving passengers, a two channel system has been adopted by the government at such International Airports;
 - (i) Green Channel for passengers not having any dutiable goods;
 - (ii) Red Channel for passengers having dutiable goods.
- (II) All law-abiding travellers, not having any dutiable goods with them are given free passage under Green Channel.

Group Insurance Scheme

4513. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched group insurance scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof?
- (c) the criteria adopted to cover persons/institutions under the said scheme; and
- (d) the number and names of the institutions benefited therefrom during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A group insurance scheme, namely, "Janashree Bima Yojana", was launched by LIC of India on 10-8-2000 freezing its precursor "Social Security Group Insurance Scheme" for the benefit of people below or marginally above the poverty line. Shiksha Sahayog Yojana as an add-on was launched on 31-12-2001 for the benefit of children of members of Janashree Bima Yojana. The

criteria adopted to cover persons/institutions under the scheme are as under:—

Members aged between 18 and 59 years of any of the 43 approved vocation or occupation groups with a minimum membership of 25 are eligible to be covered under the scheme. The benefits are Rs. 20,000/- on natural death and Rs. 50,000/- on death/total permanent disability due to accident and Rs. 25,000/- in case of partial permanent disability due to accident.

Under the Shiksha Sahayog Yojana (SSY), children studying in 9th to 12th standard (including ITI courses) whose parents are insured under Janashree Bima Yojana are covered. A scholarship of Rs. 300/- per quarter per child is paid for a maximum period of 4 years. The benefit is restricted to two children per family.

(d) The list of the approved occupational group is enclosed as statement. The coverage under Janashree Bima Yojana for the last 3 years is as under:—

Year	JBV (Number of lives)
2002-03	11,58,239
2003-04	25,07,024
2004-05	35,39,654

Statement

List of Approved Occupational Groups for Benefit under Janashree Bima Yojana

1. Papad Workers attached to 'SEWA'
2. Physically Handicapped Self Employed Persons
3. Primary Milk Producers
4. Rickshaw Pullers/Auto Drivers
5. Safai Karamcharis
6. Salt Growers
7. Tendu Leaf Collectors

8. Scheme for the Urban Poor
9. Forest Workers
10. Sericulture
11. Plantation Workers
12. Beedi Workers
13. Brick Kiln Workers
14. Carpenters
15. Cobblers
16. Fishermen
17. Hamals
18. Handicraft Artisans
19. Handloom Weavers
20. Handloom and Khadi weavers
21. Lady Tailors
22. Leather and Tannery Workers
23. Mineral products like earthen toys manufacturers
24. Agriculturists
25. Transport Drivers Associations
26. Transport Karamcharis
27. Rural Poor
28. Construction Workers
29. Fire Crackers' Workers
30. Coconut Processors
31. Aanganwadi Teachers
32. Kotwal
33. Chemical Products like candle manufacture
34. Toddy Tappers
35. Powerloom Workers

36. Hilly Area Women
37. Foodstuffs like Khandsari/Sugar
38. Textile
39. Manufacture of Wood Products
40. Manufacture of Paper Products
41. Manufacture of Leather Products
42. Printing
43. Rubber and Coal Products

[English]

Fake Currency Notes

4514. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India, Kanpur have received fake currency notes from currency chest at State Bank of India, Noida;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up any inquiry committee to ensure into such marketing of fake notes and their printing;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action has been taken against the persons involved in this fraud;

(f) whether any survey has been conducted in other branches of State Bank of India in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Issue Department, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Kanpur had received remittance of soiled notes of Rs. 100/- and Rs. 500/- denomination from Currency Chest at State Bank of India (SBI) Noida. On examination of the same during the period March 1, 2005 to May 18, 2005, fake notes were detected, details of which are as under:—

Denomination of the bank note	No. of pieces received/ examined	No. of fake notes detected
Rs. 100	12,76,000	266
Rs. 500	40,000	2

(c) and (d) No inquiry committee has been constituted in this regard by RBI. The notes were forwarded on August 25, 2005 to the Senior Superintendent of Police Gautam Budh Nagar along with a request to file FIR with the police station concerned.

(e) Forged notes received from SBI, NOIDA, have been debited to the extent of the value of the forged notes detected, in addition to the penalty levied. Further, Bank has been instructed to investigate and look into the staff accountability in such cases.

(f) and (g) RBI conducts inspection of currency chests at periodic intervals based on assessment of risk and risk management policies while ensuring that each currency chest is subjected to inspection atleast once in two years and a currency chest is inspected immediately on detection of forged notes and/or reporting of frauds/major irregularities. Over and above this, inspection is also conducted by the SBI's own inspection team.

Irregularities in Foreign Exchange

4515. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has demanded the report from ICICI Bank relating to the irregularities committed by its treasury management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the losses occurred to ICICI Bank in deal of Euro Currency;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the officers held responsible for same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In August 2005, the ICICI Bank had suspended three dealers working in its Treasury and two officials working in the middle office in connection with unauthorized foreign exchange transactions which resulted in exceeding the RBI approved Net Outstanding Open Position Limit of Rs. 300 crore. The bank has incurred a total loss of Rs. 2.40 crore on account of foreign currency transactions entered into by the concerned dealer. RBI has reported that after carrying out a detailed investigation of the above incident, the bank has strengthened internal processes and systems to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Cases in the Call Book

4516. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of cases had been kept in the Call Book, even though they did not fall under any of the categories specified for this purpose;

(b) if so, the number of cases entered into the call book in violation of the prescribed norms;

(c) the number of cases not have been kept in the call book in which no appeals are pending for seeking clarifications/decision from the Central Board of Excise and Customs cases no longer being in contest with audit etc. together with amount involved in those cases;

(d) number of age-wise pendency of the cases in the call book together with the amount involved therein commissionerate-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to reduce pendency of cases in call book and to recover the dues and action taken/propose to be taken against the officials responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Database of Educational Institutions

4517. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has a database of private educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such institutions are found to have evaded tax;

(d) if so, details thereof for the last three years;

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to recover tax arrears and punish the guilty in connection with tax evasion by such private educational institutions; and

(f) achievements made there from?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Income-Tax Department does not maintain a centralized database on an All-India basis in respect of private educational institutions.

(c) and (d) Instances of tax evasion by private educational institutions have come to the notice of the Department during the course of searches, surveys and scrutiny of Income Tax Returns. The quantum of tax evaded by such institutions is ascertainable only after due process of law, including Appellate Tribunals and/or Courts, is completed, which may take several years.

(e) and (f) After additional tax demand is raised during the assessment proceedings, appropriate action is taken under the Income Tax Act, 1961 to recover the outstanding demand. This action is taken by the Assessing Officers and Tax Recovery Officers stationed all over the country. The Department does not maintain

any centralized information base of such action taken in respect of private educational institutions.

Assistance from DFID

4518. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State which have received assistance from the Department for International Development (DFID) during the last three years;

(b) whether the State of Uttar Pradesh is also a receipt of DFID assistance;

(c) if so, the total amount of DFID assistance received by the Government of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(d) whether the amount so allocated to the State Government has been properly utilized;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal have received assistance from the Department for International Development (DFID) for implementing various State sector projects during the last three years.

(b) to (f) No State Sector project in the State of Uttar Pradesh received any DFID assistance during the last three years. The State of Uttar Pradesh was also allocated funds under certain Centrally sponsored schemes, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), however, since these schemes are supported by multiple external agencies, the amounts cannot be specifically attributed to DFID alone.

Foreign Post Office

4519. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign post office located in New

Delhi remains the favoured route for smuggling narcotics from India;

(b) whether the Government proposes to probe the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Cases of smuggling of narcotic drugs have been detected at the Foreign Post Office at New Delhi. The details of such cases are below:—

Year	No. of Cases	Description of Narcotics	Quantity in (Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2003-04	5	Charas	8.965	0.09
2004-05	42	Charas	32.34	0.32
2005-06 (upto October-05)	51	Charas	18.95	0.19
		Heroin	7.710	7.71
		Cocaine	4.745	2.37

(b) and (c) Strict watch is being kept at the New Delhi Foreign Post Office and the officers/staff have been alerted to thwart attempts to smuggle out narcotic drugs.

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

[Translation]

UTI Unit Scheme

4520. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court held the UTI responsible for the small investors of UTI not receiving their maturity amount for their units in September, 2005 and has also directed that it should again re-issued cheques to such investors for their maturity amount;

(b) if so, whether U.T.I. has sent cheques of maturity amount to investors for their units in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(e) the time by which cheques of maturity amount to investors for their units are likely to be sent by UTI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) has informed that Hon'ble Supreme Court dismissed the Special Leave Petition filed by erstwhile Unit Trust of India (UTI) against the orders passed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, whereby the Commission had directed UTI to pay to the investors who had not received cheques/income distribution warrants which were fraudulently encashed by imposters. As a consequence of this order, UTI was required to pay to 76 investors. Out of these, payment was made to 16 investors prior to the passing of orders by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the balance 60 investors have been paid after the orders.

[English]

Tax Rebate for Equity Linked Savings Scheme

4521. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a Tax Rebate for investments made in mutual funds under the Equity Linked Savings Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any limit for this rebate; and

(d) if so, the extent to which such rebate can be availed of by an individual?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PÁLANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Section 80C inserted in the Income-tax Act by the Finance Act, 2005 provides for a deduction up to Rs. 1 lakh, from the income of an individual or Hindu undivided family, for investments made in the schemes specified therein. These savings schemes include Equity Linked Savings Scheme, 2005 notified vide S.O. No. 1563(E) dt. 3-11-2005 and amended vide S.O. No. 1755(E) dt. 13-12-2005.

[Translation]

Allowance to Unemployed Youth

4522. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide employment allowance to Unemployed Youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the proposals received by the Union Government from the State Governments to provide employment allowance to Unemployed Youth; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been laid down under the National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 that if a worker who has applied for work is not provided employment within fifteen days from the date on which work is requested, an unemployment allowance shall be payable by the State Government at the rate and prescribed by the State Government as procedure specified in the State scheme. The rates and conditions of payment of unemployment allowance shall not be inferior to the rate and conditions prescribed in the Act.

(d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested for providing central assistance for making payment of unemployment allowance to the educated unemployed.

(e) The Central Government is not in favour of payment of unemployment allowance excepting as provided under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

[English]

Economic Development of HR

4523. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve bank of India has stressed the need to increase allocation of funds by the Central Government to States for Economic Development of Human Resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) steps taken/proposed to be taken therefrom;

(d) achievement made till date, State-wise; and

(e) the policy of the Government with regard to harnessing the human resource potential in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Annual Report 2004-05 in its Assessment and Prospects states that "Improvement in State finances will enable the States to step up their expenditure on education and health

with a beneficial impact on the quality of life and the country's ranking in terms of Human Development Index. In the recent years, exports of services such as software and ITES-BPO services have recorded strong growth. For this growth momentum to be maintained, it is necessary that public expenditure on education should reverse its declining trend: total expenditure by the State Governments on education is budgeted to decline from 2.5 per cent of GDP in 2003-04 to 2.3 per cent in 2005-06. Moreover, given the demographic profile, the demand for education is slated to increase further. Accordingly, the improvement in State finances will enable the States to increase their expenditure on education and other social services and thereby improve the quality of overall social infrastructure so that India can realize its potential".

(c) to (e) Development of Human Resources forms an integral part of our overall economic planning and ongoing economic reforms. An education cess of 2 per cent on all direct and indirect Central taxes has been imposed through the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004. The proceeds from the cess are available on a rollover basis for the schemes of basic Education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Cess on Textile

4524. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of Textiles Cess is to be recovered from the textile processing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to withdraw/review the Textiles Cess; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 1104.95 lakh is outstanding against 428 textile processing units as on 30-11-2005, as per the

assessment carried out by the Textile Committee. Most of the processing units have filed appeals before the Textile Committee Cess Appellate Tribunal. The Tribunal has ruled in favour of the Textile Committee in respect of 238 processing units involving an amount of Rs. 427.66 lakh. Recovery proceedings have been initiated against them under the provisions of Textile Committee Act and Rules. The hearing of appeals of the remaining 190 assesseees is yet to be completed, involving an amount of Rs. 677.29 lakh.

(c) and (d) A proposal to withdraw the Textile Committee cess is under consideration of the Government, with a view to rationalise the tax and cess burden on the Indian textile industry and to improve its competitiveness in the global market in the post-quota regime.

Maheshwar Power Project

4525. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rehabilitation of villages which are likely to be affected due to implementation of Maheshwar Hydro Power Project, has been done;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any irregularity/misuse of funds has come to the notice of the Government in implementation of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) to (e) Maheshwar Hydro Power Project was under hold and till March, 2004, Rs. 27.7 crores has been spent towards Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R and R). Under the revival package, Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB) has been requested to carry out this work on behalf of Shree Maheshwar Hydro Electric Project.

Under the revival package, special trust account has been created and developers are required to submit reconciliation statement periodically to ensure proper utilization of funds.

Supply of Gas to NTPC

4526. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) had contracted to supply gas to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Gandhar-Kawas gas based power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RIL has sought deviations in contract terms, which will have adverse commercial implications for NTPC; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the contractual objection of RIL?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had accepted the offer of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for supply gas for stage-II Expansion Gas Based Power Project at Jhanoor-Gandhar and Kawas (1300 MW) in Gujarat. Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) is to be formally signed.

(c) Yes, Sir. RIL is seeking major deviations relating to (a) Limitation of Liability, (b) Force Majeure, (c) Gas Supply Obligations, (d) Development Plan and Production Plan under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) to have overriding priority to RIL's gas supply obligations.

(d) Ministry of Power has written to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for initiating administrative measures for enforcing the contract entered by RIL with NTPC as well as for taking appropriate steps for revising their Production Sharing contract. NTPC has also been directed to taken legal course for enforcing the above contract with RIL.

Import Duty on Cotton

4527. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to raise import duty on cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee Visit

4528. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee visited some parts of Salem and Nammakkal districts of Tamil Nadu to monitor the BT cotton;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the Committee;

(c) whether Rasi hybrids exhibited the highest degree of problems in terms of germination failure;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Committee have demanded investigation by GEAC and State Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Sir, the Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee (MEC) constituted by the Department of Biotechnology under the provisions

of Rules-1989 of Environment (Protection) Act (EPA)-1986 had never visited any parts of Tamil Nadu to monitor the Bt cotton during Kharif-2005.

(b) to (f) Do not arise, in view of the above.

**Task Force on Recombinant of
Pharma Sector**

4529. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force on Recombinant Pharma Sector for streamlining the procedures for Recombinant Pharma Industry;

(b) whether the said task force has submitted its final report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to address the taxonomic issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, the "Task Force on Recombinant Pharma Sector" under the Chairmanship of Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (DG, CSIR), New Delhi was constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoE and F) in April, 2004.

(b) and (c) The Task Force has submitted its report to MoE and F in September, 2005. The Task Force has concluded in its report that the regulatory objective of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) should be confined to regulation of proposals, which involve the large-scale use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) from environmental angle; evaluation of the product safety, efficacy, clinical trials, market authorization and post market surveillance should be the mandate of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI); and has

rationalized the regulatory procedure under five categories for the use of LMOs.

(d) There are no taxonomic issues involved in the mandate of the Task Force as per its terms of reference.

Financial Aid to other Countries

4530. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of financial aid extended to various countries by the India during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the purpose for which the financial aid has been granted, country-wise;

(c) the manner in which the Government ensure that the financial assistance utilized for the purpose for which it was given;

(d) whether the Government has received any request for Assistance/Aid from any other country particularly from Afghanistan;

(e) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The details of financial aid extended to various countries Government of India from 2002-03 to 2005-06 (till date), country-wise, alongwith purpose thereof are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The financial assistance from Government of India was mostly extended to the governments of receiving countries; purpose of the aid was specified to them; utilization was made by concerned country and monitored through diplomatic channels.

(d) to (f) Prime Minister has announced in August, 2005 assistance of US\$ 50 million for reconstruction project in Afghanistan. During the visit of the Indonesian President to India in November 2005, India agreed to assist in setting up a vocational Training Center in Aceh province of Indonesia.

Statement

Details of financial aid extended to various countries by Government of India from 2002-03 to 2005-06 (till date), country-wise, alongwith purpose thereof

Name of the Country	Expenditure (In Rupees/Dollars) Financial Year				Purpose for which financial aid has been granted
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06-till date	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bangladesh	Rs. 0.49 crore	Rs. 0.54 crore	Rs. 1.36 crore	Nil	The financial aid has been focused at development projects, training programmes and building national capacities in various sectors.
Sri Lanka	Rs. 5.78 crore	Rs. 5.65 crore	Rs. 14.61 crore	Nil	—do—
Myanmar	Rs. 1.51 crore	Rs. 2.55 crore	Rs. 4.41 crore	Nil	—do—
Maldives	Rs. 1.71 crore	Rs. 3.20 crore	Rs. 3.50 crore	Nil	—do—
Bhutan	Rs. 881.43 crore	Rs. 1028.13 crore	Rs. 1193.72 crore	Rs. 750.08 Crore	Budgetary support for five years plans and for funding projects like Tala Hydroelectric Power Project and Detailed Project Report of Punatsangchu-I Hydroelectric Power Project undertaken in Bhutan with GOI assistance.
Nepal	Rs. 45.93 crore	Rs. 57.68 crore	Rs. 59.82 crore	Nil	Indian aid has been extended in the areas of infrastructure development, health, rural and community development, education, etc.
Pakistan	Nil	Nil	Nil	US \$ 25 million	In order to assist the people of the earthquake affected areas in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and in Pakistan.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Afghanistan	Rs. 156.00 crore	Rs. 94.00 crore	Rs. 272.00 crore	Rs. 189.55 crore	Assistance Projects for rebuilding Afghanistan.
DPR Korea	Nil	Rs. 1,64,17,681	Rs. 2,53,44,000	Nil	Aid-supply of rice.
Vietnam	Rs. 2.5 lakhs	Rs. 2.87 lakhs	Nil	US\$ 115000	In the Year 2002-03 and 2003-04 medicines for flood victims. 2004-05—participation in India International Trade Fair, 2005.
Cambodia	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 2 million	For traditional Asian Textile Museum in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Grant in aid towards Khmer Rouge Trials.
LAO PDR	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 17,043	Assistance for Supply of Conferencing facilities at the Kaysone Phomvihan Academy of National Defence.
Indonesia	US \$ 100,000	Nil	US \$ 1 million	Rs 3.08 crore+ US\$ 2 million	For flood and earthquake victims.
Thailand	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 5 Lakhs	Aid for Tsunami Victims.
Philippines	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 50,000	Medicines for cyclone victims.
Kiribati	Nil	Nil	Nil	Australian \$ 15983	For purchase of Orthotic components and materials and Physiotherapy Rehabilitation and Exercise Equipment.
Papua New Guinea (PNG)	Nil	Rs. 36,00,114	Nil	Nil	Aid for Medicines, Computers accessories and construction of Training and Resource Center for HIV/AIDS.
Vanuatu	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 7,850	Aid for Computer accessories.
Tuvalu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 41,87,298	Aid for Computer Accessories and Medicines.
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 48,796	Aid for buying machines for extracting Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO).

Republic of Marshall Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 3,42,500	Aid for buying solar equipment and recovery of fresh ground water from Pacific Islands aquifers.
Palau	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 1,49,841	Aid for buying hospital equipment.
Nauru	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 28,47,203	For participating and to assist in UNGA during the current financial year.
Iraq	Nil	US\$ 5 million	Nil	US\$ 5 million	The assistance is for reconstruction of Iraq and is channelised through the United National and the World Bank.
Tajikistan	Rs. 10,26,789	Rs. 4,30,94,111	Rs. 9,25,32,938	Rs. 4.52 Lakhs	Purchase of books, Military Training Team, Fruit processing plant, wheat, rice, sugar, tea and 10 Buses.
Kyrgyzstan	Rs. 92,51,550	Rs. 1,93,750	Rs. 1,58,025	Nil	Gift of 10 Tata Safari Jeeps, Computer CTV and DVD.
Turkmenistan	Rs. 34,57,497	Nil	Nil	Nil	Tool Room Center, Ashgabat.
Russia	US\$ 30,000	US\$ 30,000	US\$ 30,000	US\$ 30,000	Indian studies in Universities
Uzbekistan	Nil	Rs. 32,690	Rs. 8,47,62,417	Nil	Gift of Satellite Dish Antenna
Armenia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 4.52 crore	Supply of 60 Tractors.
Palestine	Nil	Nil	Rs. 2 crore	US\$ 15 million	Supply of TATA Safari, Medicines and Development and Reconstruction Projects.
Sudan	Nil	Rs. 0.20 crore	Rs. 0.02 crore	US\$ 10 million	Supply of Medicines. MOS (EA) pledged the financial aid at Oslo Donors' Conference in April, 2005.
Algeria	Nil	US\$ 5 million	Rs. 2.1 crore	Nil	For earthquake victim.
Djibouti	Nil	Rs. 4.6 crore	Nil	Nil	Supply of rice, wheat and medicines.
Sierra Leone	Rs. 6,46,997	Nil	Nil	Nil	22,500 bottles of indelible ink donated.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Togo	Rs. 2,06,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	6,000 bottles of Indelible Ink donated.
Benin	Rs. 12,81,000	Nil	Nil	Rs. 3,19,33,000	40,000 bottles of Indelible Ink donated, supply of tractors.
Cote D' Ivoire	Nil	Rs. 15 crore	Rs. 45 lakhs	Nil	Aid-Rice, Sugar, Anti HIV medicine.
Guinea	Nil	Nil	Rs. 5,92,54,000	Rs. 3,83,72,000	Aid-Food Grains and donation of Anti HIV Medicine.
Senegal	Nil	Nil	Rs. 1.5 crore	Rs. 31.23 lakhs	Feasibility study of Railway Line Visit of Specialist to West Africa.
Chad	Nil	Nil	Rs. 9 crore	Nil	Aid-Food Grains
Cameroon	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 2,95,48,000	Aid-Tractors
Congo	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 3,19,33,000	Aid-Tractors
Zimbabwe	Nil	Rs. 55,26,28,539	Nil	Nil	Aid-Rice and Computers
Zambia	Rs. 2,48,60,441	Rs. 94,911,951	Nil	Nil	Aid-Rice and Medicine.
Ethiopia	Nil	Rs. 11,37,47,964	Nil	Nil	Aid-Wheat.
Eritrea	Nil	Rs. 4,23,81,306	Nil	Nil	Aid-Wheat.
Namibia	Nil	Nil	Rs. 7,47,25,000	Nil	Aid-Rice.
Lesotho	Nil	Rs. 22,23,054	Rs. 14,36,25,000	Nil	Aid-Rice, Wheat, Medicine.
Tanzania	Nil	Nil	Rs. 14,25,49,643	Nil	Aid-Rice, Wheat, Computers.
South Africa	Nil	Nil	Rs. 10,223,579	Nil	Computers, Ambulance and Donation to Nelson Mandela Foundation.
Zanzibar	Nil	Nil	Rs. 2,01,375	Nil	Aid-Computers
Seychelles	Nil	Nil	Rs. 18,89,424	Nil	Aid-Medicines.

Kenya	Nil	Rs. 18,89,424	Nil	Nil	Aid-Medicines
Uganda	Nil	Rs. 17,97,252	Nil	Nil	Aid-Medicines
Mauritius	Nil	Rs. 8,45,43,750	Nil	Nil	Construction of ICC Centers.
Bahamas	Nil	US \$ 50,000	Nil	Nil	Aid-Medicine.
Grenada	Nil	US\$ 50,000	US\$ 50,000	Nil	Aid-Medicines, roofing material.
Guyana	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 1.6 million	Construction of Cricket Stadium. Supply of Medicine.
Haiti	Nil	US\$ 10,000	Nil	Nil	Aid-Medicines.
Jamaica	Nil	Nil	US\$ 200,000	Nil	Aid-Medicines.
St. Vincent and Grenadine	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 1,00,000	Computer Equipment and HIV Medicines.
Suriname	Nil	Rs. 20.62 Lakh	Nil	Nil	Aid-Medicines.
Belize	Nil	Nil	Rs. 9 Lakhs	Nil	Gifting of Three Wheelers.
Costa Rica	Nil	Nil	Rs. 10 Lakhs	Nil	Gifting of Three Wheelers.
Dominican Republic	Nil	US\$ 50,000	Nil	Nil	Medicines.
Ecuador	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 2 Lakhs	Medicines.
El Salvador	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 10 Lakhs	Gifting of Three Wheelers.
Guatemala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 21 Lakhs	Gifting of Three Wheelers.
Honduras	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 15 Lakhs	Gifting of Three Wheelers.
Nicaragua	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 10 Lakhs	Gifting of Three Wheelers.
Panama	Nil	Nil	US\$ 50,000	Rs. 10 Lakhs	Gifting of Three Wheelers, Medicines.
Chile	Nil	Nil	Nil	US\$ 30,000	Computers and related equipment.

*[Translation]***Loans from Banks**

4531. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks provide soft loans on soft terms to the general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some banks particularly ICICI Bank do not provide such loans to some sections of the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Banks frame their own loan policies keeping in view the guidelines on Risk Management and Risk Exposure and other prudential norms prescribed by Reserve Bank of India.

(c) No such instance has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***World Bank Assistance for Drinking Water Projects**

4532. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of drinking water projects of certain States particularly West Bengal are pending with the Government for special assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations for which they are meant for, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for their pendency indicating the details of such projects completed recently in the rural areas of each State; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) So far as World Bank funding is concerned, no proposal in respect of rural water supply for West Bengal is pending. Three Rural Water Supply and Sanitation projects have been posed to the World Bank for possible funding. These are:—

- Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project II—proposing to cover all districts in the State to benefit 1.5 million rural populations in about 1000 Village Panchayats.
- Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project II—proposing to cover all districts in the State comprising 12,618 Village Panchayats encompassing about 82,000 habitations.
- Punjab Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project II—proposing to cover 17 districts to benefit 10 million rural populations in about 8000 Village Panchayat.

A rural water supply and sanitation project, at an estimated cost of Rs. 1800 crores and seeking assistance for Rs. 610 crores, was also received in July 2005 from Jharkhand government. The project has been forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) for posing to the World Bank.

The details of the World Bank funded Rural Water Supply and Sanitation projects completed in the rural areas are as follows:—

- Kamataka Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project costing US\$ 117.8 million. The project implementation started in 1993 and was completed in September, 2000.
- Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and

Environmental Sanitation Project costing US\$ 140.8 million. The project started in March 1991 and was completed in June, 1998.

- Uttar Pradesh Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project (Swajal) costing US\$ 71.0 million. The project implementation started in August 1996 and was completed in May, 2003.

[Translation]

Subscription to LIC Policies

4533. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of insurance policies subscribed sharply dropped during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 due to presence of private insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether subscription of LIC policies has increased during 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As informed by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the number of insurance policies have decreased from 26951919 in 2003-04 to 23959703 in 2004-05. The reduction in number of policies has taken place due to reduction in the strength of Development Officers, the enhancement of minimum sum assured to Rs. 50,000/- and perceptible shift to Unit Linked Policies in the insurance market.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. LIC has informed that the number of insurance policies have increased from 11229273 as on 15-12-2004 to 13827411 on 15-12-2005.

[English]

Dabhol Power Corporation

4534. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Bechtel Corporation had lately issued a fresh warning regarding recovery of its Rs. 26,000 crore claim from Government of India with respect to Dabhol Power Corporation;

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

(c) whether M/s. Bechtel proposes to disassociate with regard to completion of the second phase (1,444 MW) of the project till all its claims are settled; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (c) As per the settlement concluded with Bechtel, payment of US\$ 160 million was made to them on 12th July, 2005 by Maharashtra Power Development Corporation Ltd. Government of India has not received any communication from Bechtel since then seeking any further recovery or proposing to disassociate with regard to completion of the power plant.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Selling of NPA

4535. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are selling their 'non-performing assets' to other companies at a discount of upto 60%;

(b) if so, the names of the banks which have sold their non-performing assets at more than 50% discount to different companies, company-wise;

(c) the number of companies in the country engaged in realising the non-performing assets; and

(d) the minimum and maximum discount offered by the banks for realising the non-performing assets during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) ARCIL has reported that as on December 15, 2005, 26 banks/FIs have sold NPAs having principal dues of Rs. 8,531 Crore at ARCIL's acquisition price of Rs. 4,068 Crore. That is, at an average discount of 48% to the principal dues.

(b) The names of the banks which have sold their NPAs at more than 50% discount to ARCIL are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has so far issued Certificate of Registration to three ARCs viz. Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (Arcil), Asset Care Enterprise Limited and ASREC (India) Limited. ARCIL is the only company that has commenced its operations in realizing the non performing assets.

(d) Each Bank/FI will make its own assessment of the value offered by Securitisation Company/ Reconstruction Company for the financial asset and decide whether to accept or reject the offer.

Statement

Banks/FIs which have sold NPAs at a discount of more than 50% to Arcil

Seller	Acquisition price (Rs. in Crore)	Principal debt acquired (Rs. in Crore)	% of discounted price to Principal debt
1	2	3	4
Andhra Bank	6.04	27.50	78%
Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait B.S.C.	0.57	10.00	94%
Bank of Maharashtra	1.30	21.43	94%
Bank of India	51.02	184.81	72%
Canara Bank	9.22	65.68	86%
Centurion Bank	1.39	11.29	88%
Development Credit Bank	2.20	24.65	91%
EXIM Bank	0.49	1.16	58%
ICICI Bank	697.38	2,273.34	69%
IDBI	89.50	242.12	63%
IFCI	65.83	225.39	72%
Karnataka Bank	7.37	44.05	83%
Karur Vysya bank	1.59	7.33	78%
Oriental Bank of Commerce	5.62	13.52	58%
Punjab National Bank	47.15	371.48	87%
SBBJ	4.40	16.42	73%

1	2	3	4
State Bank of Hyderabad	8.21	47.30	83%
State Bank of India	285.31	1,191.87	76%
SBICIB	1.55	10.00	85%
State Bank of Mysore	4.67	34.67	87%
State Bank of Travancore	4.74	27.76	83%
Syndicate Bank	5.50	15.66	65%
The South Indian Bank Ltd.	3.49	25.78	86%
Total	1,304.54	4,903.20	

[English]

Independent Directors in Companies

4536. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

MOHD. MUKEEM:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has revised norms for appointment of independent directors in the companies;

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

(c) the stipulated number of independent directors required in the Board of Directors in each company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Government have not revised the norms for appointment of independent directors in companies. However, SEBI by Circular No SEBI/CFD/DIL/CG/1/2004/12/10 dated 29-10-2004 has directed revision of clause 49 of the Listing Agreement of the stock exchanges. The revised clause 49 provides that in the case of companies

where the chairman is executive, at least half of the Directors on the Board of Directors should be independent. In case of companies where the chairman is non-executive, at least one third of the Board of Directors should be independent. The Listing Agreement applies only to entities listed on the stock exchange.

As per SEBI, the revised clause 49 is scheduled to come into effect from January 1, 2006 and would also apply to entities seeking listing for the first time as also to existing listing entities which were required to comply with pre-revised clause 49. SEBI has further indicated that persons who are independent directors on the Board of such companies are expected to ensure that such companies are run in a smooth manner consistent with the interest of all the stakeholders and not only the promoters.

[Translation]

Medicated Mosquito Net

4537. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently detected evasion of customs duty in the import of medicated mosquito nets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No case of Customs duty evasion in the import of medicated mosquito nets has come to notice of the Government.

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

[English]

Duty on Life Saving Drugs

4538. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to cut excise duty on drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present rate of duty on drugs, item-wise, levied by the Government and the proposed reduction of duty; and

(d) the likely impact on the pharmaceutical companies as a result of the cut in excise duty on drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) At present, medicines attract excise duty @ of 16% *advalorem*. Specified Life saving drugs, however, are exempt from levy of excise duty. In view of the ensuing budget, no comment is offered on change in duty rates.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply above.

Collection and Allocation of Amount under PMGSY

4539. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected from each State of the country by way of cess of Rs. 1/- per litre on diesel during each of the last three years and current year; and

(b) the amount allocated for providing connectivity to new habitations in rural areas and improvement of thorough routes of Core Network of rural roads during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Ministry of Finance have intimated that they do not maintain State-wise data on collection of cess on diesel. The cess collected on diesel during each of the last three years and current year, as reported by them, is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Cess collected on High Speed Diesel*
2002-03	4074
2003-04	5966
2004-05 (Provisional)	7441
2005-06 (Upto August 2005) (Provisional)	3472

*Diesel cess was introduced in Budget 1999-2000 @ Rs. 1/- per litre with effect from 1-3-1999. From 01-03-2003 it was increased to Rs. 1.50/- per litre. Again from 01-03-2005 the rate has been increased to Rs. 2/- per litre.

(b) The amount released to the States from the share of cess earmarked for construction/upgradation of rural roads under PMGSY during the last three years and current year till date, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**Release of funds to States under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	219.29	100.00	88.97	187.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.51	0.00	0.00	52.00
3.	Assam	74.92	170.02	164.52	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	150.00	29.58	191.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	159.60	110.00	164.92	230.21
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	51.70	44.35	0.00	69.01
8.	Haryana	44.75	7.99	28.04	20.11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	104.57	66.35	12.65	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	35.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	123.87	0.00	57.96
12.	Karnataka	97.74	59.00	0.00	140.55
13.	Kerala	11.43	10.38	10.39	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	450.39	290.90	213.00	295.14
15.	Maharashtra	114.58	75.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	18.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	50.88	20.78	46.40	0.00
19.	Nagaland	22.23	21.44	18.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	170.09	175.00	175.00	97.75
21.	Punjab	20.39	27.35	0.00	48.90
22.	Rajasthan	241.74	190.16	451.40	425.14
23.	Sikkim	17.81	20.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	80.32	85.00	79.78	0.00
25.	Tripura	25.00	0.00	0.00	19.79
26.	Uttar Pradesh	240.54	335.27	315.00	503.88
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	70.41	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	159.52	135.00	270.00	0.00
Total		2469.00	2288.27	2105.65	2349.25

[Translation]

Power Finance Corporation

4540. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is delay in sanctioning loans by the Power Finance Corporation;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to expedite the procedure of the sanctioning of loan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

**Shifting of Foreign Department of
SBI Kolkata**

4541. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to shift/down size the foreign department of SBI, Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations from employees against the decisions taken; 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) and (b)
To consolidate its treasury operations in foreign as well
as Indian currency at one place and to derive optimum
benefit by quick decision making having regard to other
related operations of the banks at the corporate center,
State Bank of India plans to shift some of the operations
at its Foreign Department, Kolkata to its Treasury
Department in Mumbai.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The banks enjoy managerial autonomy which,
inter-alia, permits them to decide the place of their
operations. However, the representations received in this
regard have been referred to the bank.

Special Schemes for SCs/STs/OBCs

4542. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister
of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nationalised Banks have special
Scheme/project/proposal for granting financial assistance,
loan or training for the Self-employment of the
entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled
Tribe or Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details of the special projects during
the last three years; Bank-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Under the Central Government Sponsored Poverty alleviation and self-employment Schemes, Public Sector Banks are providing loans/financial assistance to SCs/STs/OBCs. The details of reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs beneficiaries as provided under the major Centrally Sponsored Schemes are as under:—

(i) **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):** Under the scheme, in rural/semi urban areas, not-less than 50 per cent of the families assisted should belong to SCs/STs. Further, beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST are entitled to subsidy of 50% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/-

(ii) **Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY):** The objective of the Scheme is to provide self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth with a 10 years relaxation in the upper age limit for SCs/STs. A reservation of 22.5% for SCs/STs and 27% for OBCs has been provided under PMRY. No third party guarantee or collateral security is necessary for projects upto Rs. One lakh.

(iii) **Swaranjayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY):** The Scheme is in operation in all urban and semi-urban areas of the country. It has two sub-schemes where bank credit is involved, namely Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) and Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA). SC/ST

are to be financially assisted by banks, at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength in the local population. Under the Scheme, Projects costing up Rs. 50,000/- are to be financed by banks.

(iv) **Differential Rate of Interest Scheme (DRI):** Under the Scheme all scheduled commercial banks provide loans up to Rs. 6,500/- at a concessional rate of interest of 4% p.a. to the weaker sections of the community for engaging in productive and gainful activity. At least 40% of the total DRI advances should be granted to SCs/STs. Members of SCs/STs satisfying the income criteria of 7,200/- can also avail of housing loans upto Rs. 5,000/- per beneficiary at concessional rate of interest of 4% over and above the loan of Rs. 6,500/- available under the Scheme.

(v) **Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS):** The objective of the Scheme is to liberate and rehabilitate scavengers and their dependants and to provide them with alternate occupations. Under the scheme, projects up to Rs. 50,000/- can be financed. Subsidy is available to borrowers at 50% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/-. All loans up to Rs. 6,500/- are to be treated as DRI loan at concessional rate of 4%.

(b) Bank-wise details of loans to SCs/STs under the above Schemes are given in the enclosed statement I to V.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) Bank-wise figures as on March, 2003, 2004 and 2005

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Public Sector Banks	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Total No. of SC/ST Assisted	@ of loan disbursed to SC/ST	Total No. of SC/ST Assisted	% of loan disbursed to SC/ST	Total No. of SC/ST Assisted	% of loan disbursed to SC/ST
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of India	40432	26.50	94894	28.03	55928	24.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	1486	21.58	1632	24.39	606	5.38
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	854	4.73	937	5.37	34206	114.27
4.	State Bank of Indore	3250	27.00	4182	20.84	755	7.21
5.	State Bank of Mysore	219	5.99	1164	29.99	10026	114.67
6.	State Bank of Patiala	1266	44.31	1944	56.33	774	18.91
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	462	29.77	425	24.30	690	35.71
8.	State Bank of Travancore	595	25.21	1449	33.98	143	1.71
9.	Allahabad Bank	22331	42.15	28062	64.63	31758	73.41
10.	Andhra Bank	1496	10.43	355	2.52	4482	17.42
11.	Bank of Baroda	4099	42.64	3288	12.65	28919	53.21
12.	Bank of India	5338	15.36	7370	13.44	1898	5.42
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	8537	79.82	8423	77.84	9834	71.98
14.	Canara Bank	3147	11.46	2554	8.21	3175	6.44
15.	Central Bank of India	6503	13.00	16517	31.65	5329	7.86
16.	Corporation Bank	1278	24.46	1292	23.74	1596	31.72
17.	Dena Bank	2241	54.70	1407	18.08	962	13.02
18.	Indian Bank	1490	2.72	1467	3.11	1199	1.89
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	17919	47.03	19824	44.32	19044	30.25
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1003	19.84	581	12.06	1408	30.72
21.	Punjab National Bank	8594	12.70	7764	9.91	6403	4.37
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	72	6.62	63	7.44	17	2.81
23.	Syndicate Bank	1162	7.14	970	5.52	832	5.95
24.	Union Bank of India	4830	15.45	4602	14.97	5188	15.33
25.	United Bank of India	4920	12.84	10791	28.92	13201	29.95
26.	UCO Bank	11626	42.46	27448	48.12	36611	48.40
27.	Vijaya Bank	492	30.83	335	15.89	207	5.63
Total		155642	22.53	249740	25.95	275191	26.08

Statement-II

Detail of Loan to SC/STs and OBCs under PMRY for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005

Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) 2002-03												2003-04			
Name of the Bank	Loans Disbursed to SC/ST		% of ST/ST	Loans Disbursed to OBC		% of OBC	Loans Disbursed to SC/ST		% of ST/ST	Loans Disbursed to OBC		% of OBC			
	No. of A/c	Amt. Disbursed		No. of A/c	Amt. Disbursed		No. of A/c	Amt. Disbursed		No. of A/c	Amt. Disbursed				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
Public Sector Banks															
State Bank of India	12439	8699.00	24.03	12072	8382	23.32	8687	5715.00	20.67	8106	5057	19.29			
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	735	371.64	17.25	746	380.82	17.51	1118	623.29	22.73	977	526.68	19.87			
State Bank of Hyderabad	1512	854.69	29.29	1262	680.15	24.44	1599	970.15	25.24	1514	888.65	21.69			
State Bank of Indore	370	284.21	9.25	504	369.44	12.60	276	193.13	11.14	303	192.57	12.33			
State Bank of Mysore	432	242.00	20.53	240	155.5	11.41	394	236.67	15.29	0	0	0.00			
State Bank of Patiala	732	436.31	24.35	534	340.51	17.76	579	348.17	17.90	326	215.63	10.08			
State Bank of Saurashtra	0	0.00	#Div/01	0	0	#Div/01	50	24.74	8.17	110	49.12	17.97			
State Bank of Travancore	722	326.33	26.36	810	286.06	29.57	529	236.10	12.33	1424	627.44	33.18			
Allahabad Bank	1265	953.93	16.05	1728	1231.69	21.92	1689	1210.61	23.93	2118	1575.81	30.01			
Andhra Bank	0	0.00	#Div/01	0	0	#Div/01	0	0.00	#Div/01	0	0	#Div/01			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bank of Baroda	1981	1087.65	13.33	1836	1105.49	12.35	1585	830.54	11.12	1658	915.82	11.63
Bank of India	1647	935.54	14.37	2089	1263.67	18.23	2182	1555.67	16.80	3020	1866.41	23.25
Bank of Maharashtra	580	332.76	13.18	860	471.88	19.54	959	499.17	15.43	1516	801.53	24.29
Canara Bank	1351	690.83	17.61	2097	1070.72	27.34	1972	930.08	19.98	2558	1301.54	25.92
Central Bank of India	0	0.00	#DIV/0!	0	0	#DOV/0!	2059	1332.55	18.64	2253	1357.99	20.40
Corporation Bank	193	109.50	11.63	617	370.24	37.83	280	150.03	13.20	665	370.46	31.34
Dena Bank	544	277.68	17.61	482	245.24	15.60	603	336.45	20.89	602	350.37	20.85
Indian Bank	821	330.26	18.57	2273	945.11	51.40	1024	423.18	17.36	3025	1218.27	51.29
Indian Overseas Bank	0	0.00	#DIV/0!	0	0	#Div/0!	1947	967.84	45.84	1131	580.89	26.63
Oriental Bank of Commerce	496	280.96	10.33	711	435.19	14.75	718	425.38	13.67	1009	593.18	19.49
Punjab National Bank	3035	1719.41	16.69	2199	1297.6	12.10	3466	2288.67	16.58	2156	1309.56	10.32
Punjab and Sind Bank	112	57.28	5.39	102	58.75	4.91	257	144.40	13.57	133	75.4	7.02
Syndicate Bank	938	480.16	12.89	2407	1315.06	33.07	1291	690.45	17.12	2596	1469.55	34.42
Union Bank of India	1394	938.99	13.65	2731	1638.64	26.74	1649	1049.43	15.95	2460	1555.8	23.78
United Bank of India	240	159.53	11.15	203	146.5	9.43	781	431.96	17.61	218	154.06	4.92
UCO Bank	830	482.72	13.29	1114	734.18	17.84	609	441.78	8.87	704	448.92	10.25
Vijaya Bank	315	165.95	10.74	1204	699.86	41.05	376	222.12	10.91	1408	855.58	40.86
Total	32686	20218.34	17.92	38821	23624.3	21.29	36679	22277.56	18.01	41850	24358.2	20.55

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

2004-05						
Name of the Bank	Loans Disbursed to SC/ST	% of ST/ST	Loans Disbursed to OBC	% of OBC		
	No. of A/c	Amt. Disbursed	No. of A/c	Amt. Disbursed		
1	14	15	16	17	18	19
Public Sector Banks						
State Bank of India	13655	8869.00	24.52	11356	7318	20.40
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	849	449.29	19.29	735	393.91	16.70
State Bank of Hyderabad	1303	716.08	25.44	1258	777.67	24.58
State Bank of Indore	420	264.31	11.16	541	410.92	14.37
State Bank of Mysore	636	428.13	26.14	586	385.35	24.09
State Bank of Patiala	647	396.42	20.68	439	310.68	14.03
State Bank of Saurashtra	10	4.14	1.35	10	4.93	1.35
State Bank of Travancore	747	379.42	19.28	1625	828.67	41.94
Allahabad Bank	1687	1209.74	18.67	2124	1568.31	23.51
Andhra Bank	1045	630.61	29.47	878	548.42	24.76
Bank of Baroda	1862	914.59	12.64	1632	839.64	11.08
Bank of India	2261	1343.48	19.97	1150	699.37	10.16
Bank of Maharashtra	687	348.52	13.23	1055	568.49	20.31

1	14	15	16	17	18	19
Canara Bank	1334	620.96	16.17	2244	1139.75	27.20
Central Bank of India	1765	1216.48	17.49	2598	1468.39	25.75
Corporation Bank	224	112.22	12.94	627	371.56	36.22
Dena Bank	253	130.03	10.44	291	144.74	12.01
Indian Bank	887	396.02	18.41	2487	1169.92	51.63
Indian Overseas Bank	0	0.00	#DIV/0!	0	0	#DIV/0!
Oriental Bank of Commerce	588	350.99	12.17	879	524.88	18.20
Punjab National Bank	3015	1890.76	15.36	2428	1473.2	12.37
Punjab and Sind Bank	215	135.63	10.26	88	51.92	4.20
Syndicate Bank	1055	549.81	13.02	2795	1473.58	34.50
Union Bank of India	1552	924.20	14.98	2421	1525.43	23.37
United Bank of India	681	469.24	26.37	515	347.63	19.95
UCO Bank	709	492.82	9.77	786	509.19	10.84
Vijaya Bank	393	207.19	12.72	1238	758.29	40.06
Total	38480	23450.1	18.48	42786	25612.8	20.55

Statement-III

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)
Bank-wise loans disbursed to SC/ST as on March, 2003, 2004 and 2005

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Public Sector Banks	March 2003			March 2004			March 2005		
		No. of Accounts	Amount	% Disbursed to SC/ST	No. of Accounts	Amount	% Disbursed to SC/ST	No. of Accounts	Amount	% Disbursed to SC/ST
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	State Bank of India	5081	1581.8	30.90	4015	1274.0	33.68	3629	1171.9	34.74
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	275	53.8	16.11	338	72.88	19.81	328	75.79	18.30
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	956	212.82	35.82	1079	243.76	46.13	380	140.79	26.54
4.	State Bank of Indore	259	145.82	29.87	154	57.7	19.18	140	60.1	25.18
5.	State Bank of Mysore	172	42.78	18.66	88	19.77	19.66	154	43.84	23.26
6.	State Bank of Patiala	198	64.17	26.47	244	87.76	26.29	239	82.61	42.23
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	59	26.87	16.34	100	27.8	27.32	32	13.00	7.64
8.	State Bank of Travancore	105	19.43	36.84	2	18.2	16.98	117	30.97	21.31
9.	Allahabad Bank	326	112.98	25.17	444	133.75	28.72	0	00.00	0.00
10.	Andhra Bank	347	56.14	34.25	610	98.44	35.00	740	118.21	34.71
11.	Bank of Baroda	1009	214.43	26.40	981	235.73	29.61	754	186.16	30.64
12.	Bank of India	663	237.96	29.93	785	312.36	31.24	764	350.39	30.83
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	289	57.69	25.37	478	99.88	29.27	533	156.66	27.96
14.	Canara Bank	2161	523.39	33.26	1311	274.75	28.78	791	184.45	26.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15. Central Bank of India		984	248.82	28.53	769	569.3	23.63	891	235.12	26.03
16. Corporation Bank		90	18.9	12.71	61	13.46	12.84	46	10.81	14.11
17. Dena Bank		263	68.13	20.34	194	58.00	15.60	416	94.6	33.23
18. Indian Bank		0	0	0	594	119.7	37.10	304	63.08	26.41
19. Indian Overseas Bank		1003	263	66.60	2080	470.6	64.52	191	49.62	41.34
20. Oriental Bank of Commerce		151	44.48	17.89	221	50.48	28.85	245	57.84	30.10
21. Punjab National Bank		2693	1102.4	35.04	1104	528.39	24.69	902	269.33	24.20
22. Punjab and Sind Bank		0	0	0	28	11.11	8.97	65	20.05	26.42
23. Syndicate Bank		692	141.51	25.13	455	136.86	23.61	271	67.7	21.29
24. Union Bank of India		640	165.14	24.45	566	157.78	27.22	789	254.93	33.21
25. United Bank of India		302	79.68	21.71	259	71.7	19.07	252	66.74	32.98
26. UCO Bank		0	0	0	404	78.01	29.61	183	45.11	29.33
27. Vijaya Bank		157	36.21	25.45	187	46.69	25.62	175	49.07	28.18
Total		18875	5518.36	29.45	17631	5268.86	30.84	13331	3898.88	28.33

Statement-IV*Bank-wise Advances to SC/ST Under DRI Scheme as on March, 2003, 2004 and 2005*

(A/C in Lac and amount in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Public Sector Bank	March 2003		March 2004		March 2005	
		DRI advances of which to SC/ST No. of Account	% of advances SC/ST to DRI advances	DRI advances of which to SC/ST No. of Account	% of advances SC/ST to DRI advances	DRI advances of which to SC/ST No. of Account	% of advances SC/ST to DRI advances
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of India	0.22	4.77	0.33	9.11	0.02	6.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	0.13	23.20	0.06	24.00	—	0.00
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	0.07	49.92	0.04	40.67	0.15	49.65
4.	State Bank of Indore	0.03	94.30	0.01	33.89	0.01	38.36
5.	State Bank of Mysore	0.02	97.90	0.01	94.53	—	—
6.	State Bank of Patiala	0.05	67.91	0.04	67.08	0.06	65.49
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	—	16.67	0.00	45.45	—	32.43
8.	State Bank of Travancore	—	—	0.04	67.31	0.05	73.68
9.	Allahabad Bank	0.71	68.02	0.41	74.33	0.47	72.55
10.	Andhra Bank	0.03	65.06	0.18	91.30	0.31	66.91
11.	Bank of Baroda	0.08	57.77	0.06	56.57	0.05	78.05
12.	Bank of India	0.12	46.00	0.03	52.08	0.03	18.75
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	0.01	5.37	0.00	6.78	—	24.24
14.	Canara Bank	0.03	38.10	0.14	73.68	0.15	81.16
15.	Central Bank of India	0.03	37.36	0.02	62.50	0.03	82.52
16.	Corporation Bank	—	33.33	0.00	8.33	—	100.00
17.	Dena Bank	—	98.95	0.00	71.99	—	94.06
18.	Indian Bank	0.02	59.00	0.02	58.90	0.02	58.73
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	0.06	93.15	0.08	87.11	0.08	91.07
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.01	1.44	0.00	1.05	—	0.02
21.	Punjab National Bank	0.16	28.64	0.08	34.92	0.12	51.29
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	0.01	95.73	—	76.79	0.01	96.91
23.	Syndicate Bank	0.01	47.52	—	43.54	—	35.79
24.	Union Bank of India	0.05	59.92	0.04	54.04	0.04	37.65
25.	United Bank of India	0.01	17.50	0.01	16.58	0.02	17.96
26.	UCO Bank	0.05	5.88	0.01	28.57	0.01	5.88
27.	Vijaya Bank	0.01	71.32	0.00	81.43	—	75.47
Total		1.92	48.48	1.61	48.45	1.63	49.20

Statement-V

Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS)
Bank-wise loans disbursed to SC/ST as on March, 2003, 2004 and 2005

(Amt. Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Public Sector Banks	March 2003			March 2004			March 2005		
		No. of A/C	Amount Disbursed	% SC/ST to Total	No. of A/C	Amount Disbursed	% SC/ST to Total	No. of A/C	Amount Disbursed	% SC/ST to Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	State Bank of India	526	124.61	67.61	354	80.62	63.67	441	88.38	66.92
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	83	12.93	100.00	809	147.61	100.00	610	189.99	100.00
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	250	23.04	60.39	16	2.20	69.57	196	29.49	51.17
4.	State Bank of Indore	156	46.19	87.64	141	27.99	68.12	297	82.80	84.62
5.	State Bank of Mysore	267	57.70	71.01	278	68.75	48.52	158	53.10	86.81
6.	State Bank of Patiala	240	95.51	94.49	153	45.16	100.00	54	18.07	100.00
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	793	19.69	82.43	1119	23.14	80.10	1423	28.30	79.85
8.	State Bank of Travancore	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
9.	Allahabad Bank	120	19.58	98.36	265	30.45	95.67	240	46.14	92.31
10.	Andhra Bank	180	54.76	84.91	225	68.98	83.33	47	11.05	75.81
11.	Bank of Baroda	584	105.52	99.83	627	112.00	88.43	469	94.24	90.37
12.	Bank of India	358	69.28	88.18	328	59.85	85.64	210	44.26	79.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13. Bank of Maharashtra		35	6.45	72.92	27	5.21	75.00	54	11.20	98.18
14. Canara Bank		203	23.52	77.78	266	46.48	92.68	184	34.06	81.78
15. Central Bank of India		529	164.59	100.00	476	119.40	100.00	569	187.11	97.10
16. Corporation Bank		51	13.85	82.26	26	6.76	100.00	63	9.05	100.00
17. Dena Bank		249	63.26	100.00	106	31.00	68.39	204	54.50	94.00
18. Indian Bank		79	15.97	98.75	73	13.94	96.05	61	15.23	76.25
19. Indian Overseas Bank		3362	454.31	88.54	186	21.37	100.00	54	8.80	79.41
20. Oriental Bank of Commerce		108	15.56	94.74	79	16.23	98.75	106	19.64	93.81
21. Punjab National Bank		266	55.76	82.61	282	59.79	88.96	367	71.71	99.73
22. Punjab and Sind Bank		32	8.13	100.00	30	6.26	100.00	76	19.37	100.00
23. Syndicate Bank		380	56.28	100.00	107	22.12	96.40	254	56.61	92.36
24. Union Bank of India		372	82.13	77.82	418	110.76	95.65	380	112.91	85.20
25. United Bank of India		44	7.68	100.00	50	8.28	100.00	113	13.61	100.00
26. UCO Bank		384	87.77	64.76	87	20.52	56.86	230	60.72	96.23
27. Vijaya Bank		105	18.73	97.22	75	14.54	100.00	161	39.61	100.00
Total		9756	1703.00	85.08	6603	1169.61	84.09	7021	1399.95	85.53

Loan to Customers in Rural Areas

4543. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that nationalised banks are not providing loans to their customers in rural areas;

(b) whether there is high difference between deposit and advances in maximum Nationalised Banks in rural areas in Bihar; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the disparity for grant of loans/advances to the customers/farmers in rural areas in Bihar through Nationalised Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Banks have been providing loans in rural areas. The gross outstanding advance of rural and semi-urban branches of scheduled commercial banks in India have increased

from only Rs. 461 crore in June 1969 to Rs. 2,43,875 crore in June 2005. The amount of credit disbursed by the banking system in the country agriculture alone, during the last three years, is furnished below:—

Year		Credit Flow (Rs. Crore)
2002-03	—	69,560
2003-04	—	86,981
2004-05	—	1,24,122

In the current financial year, the flow of credit to agriculture by banks till September 2005 has been Rs. 83,502 crore.

(b) and (c) The Credit Deposit Ratio of Nationalised Banks in Bihar in rural areas is 32.33% as on June, 2005. However, the credit flow is dependent upon various factors such as level of infrastructure development, level of entrepreneurship, availability of bankable projects, general law and order situation and credit absorption capacity.

Indian Economic Summit

4544.SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Economic Summit was held in the last week of November, 2005 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the deliberation at the Summit; and

(d) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The India Economic Summit 2005, jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the World Economic Forum was held in New Delhi from November 27, 2005 to November 29, 2005. The Summit was attended by more than 700 participants from overseas

and Indian companies, government, media and social organizations. The deliberations encompassed a wide range of topics which included, inter alia, foreign direct investment, infrastructure, global challenges and India, reinventing manufacturing, financial services, energy security, environment and the gender gap. Policy making is a continuous process and such wide ranging deliberations are an important input in policy making.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

4545. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of non-banking companies/plantation companies against whom complaints regarding non-payment of hard earned money of investors have been received or noticed by Reserve Bank of India/Company Law Board during each of the last three years alongwith their locations;

(b) the number of complaints received so far against each company and the details of financial implications thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against these companies;

(d) whether several such companies have changed their names or converted into Nidhi Companies and still running their business with the permission of Reserve Bank of India; and

(e) if so, the reasons for permitting them to run their business by changing the names or to convert them into Nidhi Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their regulation is confined to only deposit acceptance activities of non-banking financial companies under the provisions of RBI Act, 1934 and directions issued thereunder. The information available with RBI about the companies defaulting in payment of deposits is restricted to those companies where legal action has been initiated. So far RBI has filed winding up petition against 76 NBFCs and criminal proceedings in 58 cases. Further police complaints have been filed in 27 cases.

(b) As and when complaints are received against companies, the matter is taken up with the company concerned. As the complaints are varied in nature, it cannot be translated into financial implications.

(c) In case of default in repayment of deposits, the depositor has access to Company Law Board (CLB) for redressal. If the company does not comply with the order of CLB, RBI can initiate winding up petition and also file criminal complaint against the directors.

(d) and (e) Nidhi companies are regulated by Ministry of Company Affairs (MCS) and they have to approach MCA for grant of nidhi status under Companies Act, 1956. The MCA has taken over complete regulation of nidhi companies. Every NBFC has to obtain prior permission of RBI before approaching the Registrar of Companies for change of name.

[Translation]

Raids on Provident Fund Office

4546. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether action has been taken against the persons found guilty after conducting raids on the premises of Provident Fund Office during the previous month;

(b) whether Development Officers and the Officers of the branches were found involved therein; and

(c) the details of the action taken so far in this regard and the amount recovered therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment in Hydro Power Projects

4547. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any provision for investment in Hydro-Power Sector in the country;

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

(c) the percentate of increase likely to be effected in Hydro-Power generation as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A provision of Rs. 43,350 crores was made for investment in hydro power in the Central Sector during 10th Plan.

(c) A target of hydro generating capacity addition of 14,393 MW was programmed during 10th Plan, which included 7,842 MW in the Central Sector. As per assessment made during mid-term appraisal of 10th Plan, 11,125 MW of hydro generating capacity is anticipated to be added during the 10th Plan, which includes 6,177 MW in the Central Sector. The installed hydro generating capacity is likely to increase by 42.35% by the end of 10th Plan as compared to the hydro generating capacity at its beginning.

[English]

Target for Growth of Deposits

4548. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks have projected lower targets for growth of deposits, advances and reduction on non-performing assets (NPAs) during current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such lower targets than previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The banks plan their business strategy taking into consideration various factors viz. prevailing macro-economic conditions, competition from other market players, etc. Public Sector Banks have, however, submitted to the Govt. a 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals' for the financial year 2005-06 indicating quantitative and qualitative targets on various

performance parameters viz. Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR), Earning per share, Growth in business, Priority Sector Lending, NPAs, Profitability, Improvement in risk management practices, Use of technology, Special efforts in reaching out to the under-privileged etc. The Statements of Intent on Annual Goals submitted by the PSBs are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Wherever the progress is found to be lagging behind as compared to the Annual Goals, the banks are advised to take effective steps to ensure achievement of the target.

[Translation]

Incentive Schemes

4549. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nationalised banks have started any special incentive scheme for providing loans to the farmers;

(b) if so, the targets fixed for the purpose during 2005-2006;

(c) whether some commercial banks have also initiated this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Government made an announcement on 18th June 2004 on doubling the flow of agricultural credit in three years by Commercial Banks. There has been a growth of 32% in credit flow to agriculture in 2004-05 over the actual disbursement during 2003-04. An overall target of Rs. 1,41,000 crore have been set for Credit Flow during 2005-06 for the agriculture sector.

The June 2004 announcement also envisaged debt restructuring for farmers in distress/arrears, one time settlement for small and marginal farmers and extension of loans to farmers indebted to informal sources. An amount of Rs. 11,710 crore was provided as debt relief during 2004-05, and 16,758 farmers indebted to informal sources were provided a credit of about Rs. 57 crore in 2004-05.

Import of Food Products

4550. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether import of several food products in the country is taking place without any test check;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard to ensure that people of India do not suffer from any diseases; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result of the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Phase IV Proposals under PMGSY

4551. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently sanctioned several crores for the rural road projects under Phase-IV proposals of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction of rural roads in States have been assigned to several Central agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress of rural roads in the PMGSY till-date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Since the

year 2000, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is under implementation. In Phase IV, project proposals for 6661 number of road works having road length of 22885.96 kilometers, amounting to Rs. 4804.28 crore have been cleared.

(c) and (d) In view of the slow progress of work, the Government of Bihar requested Ministry of Rural Development to engage on its behalf certain Central agencies for implementation of PMGSY in Bihar. The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with the State Government, invited certain Central Public Sector Units (PSUs), Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and State Level PSUs for preliminary discussions. Now, tripartite agreements have been signed by Government of Bihar, Ministry of Rural Development and four central agencies, namely, M/s. IRCON International Ltd., M/s. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited,

M/s. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd., and M/s. National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. for execution of PMGSY work in Bihar. 33 of the 37 districts of the State (Araria included in Purnea) have been assigned to these Agencies. Agreement has also been reached with Central Public Works Department. 4 districts have been assigned to CPWD. These Agencies have mobilized and have commenced the implementation process.

Similarly, an agreement has been signed by Government of Tripura, Ministry of Rural Development and M/s. National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. for execution of PMGSY works in some districts of Tripura.

(e) The progress of rural roads since the inception of the PMGSY is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise progress of rural roads from 2000-01 to 2005-06

(Rs. in crore, Length in km)

#	State	Value of proposals	Amount Released	No. of road works	Length of road works	No. of road works Completed (upto Sept. 05)	Length of road works completed (upto Sept. 05)	Exp. upto Sept. 05 (Restricted to value of proposals)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1312.16	1011.47	4340	11753.36	3350	7626.00	823.74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	233.68	179.46	403	1361.77	330	993.33	127.13
3.	Assam	1099.69	564.46	1098	3386.63	506	832.56	432.50
4.	Bihar	952.75	520.60	1104	3553.19	441	1109.00	350.32
5.	Chhattisgarh	1534.86	855.76	1463	7964.30	662	3824.34	725.42
6.	Goa	9.72	10.00	90	178.16	72	158.70	5.32
7.	Gujarat	313.24	284.87	1183	2486.30	927	1930.66	219.72
8.	Haryana	258.08	156.07	111	1575.51	70	1029.43	139.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	715.41	315.66	953	4583.95	373	1431.91	267.30
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	171.69	75.00	178	635.27	31	66.05	43.82
11.	Jharkhnad	472.10	421.88	501	2752.90	341	1863.57	353.22
12.	Karnataka	556.83	506.24	1742	6054.26	1372	4502.51	374.09
13.	Kerala	150.65	79.56	366	679.98	179	309.90	66.83
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2627.28	1715.07	3065	14860.72	1782	8329.11	1556.23
15.	Maharashtra	857.21	454.29	2158	5146.84	1466	3080.99	337.68
16.	Manipur	120.71	98.00	790	710.64	434	539.89	74.04
17.	Meghalaya	145.72	115.67	347	811.43	285	659.91	90.18
18.	Mizoram	211.24	164.51	80	1032.50	61	894.41	138.35
19.	Nagaland	124.23	106.95	185	1606.29	165	1508.11	99.13
20.	Orissa	1891.49	972.54	2623	8325.56	1402	3884.00	812.59
21.	Punjab	217.90	176.30	516	1282.78	385	749.23	115.45
22.	Rajasthan	1935.99	1598.53	3773	14174.33	3184	11178.04	1195.21
23.	Sikkim	149.37	70.97	115	1589.21	51	1316.72	55.04
24.	Tamil Nadu	550.51	432.92	2230	4196.89	1663	2957.99	348.49
25.	Tripura	116.19	96.39	254	700.60	205	449.27	57.77
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2572.35	2063.91	10900	19762.34	7688	13086.65	1349.06
27.	Uttaranchal	257.96	201.04	213	1227.39	121	476.03	127.13
28.	West Bengal	1356.71	849.17	906	4958.03	533	2667.41	730.59
Grand Total		20916.12	14097.29	41687	127351.13	28079	77455.72	11015.38
Union Territories								
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32.39	10.59	18	0.00	0	0.00	0.58
30.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	9.95	5.00	37	0.00	0	0.00	8.00
31.	Daman and Diu	15.00	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
32. Delhi		5.00	5.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
33. Lakshwadeep		4.89	4.89	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
34. Pondicherry		12.40	5.00	86	0.00	66	0.00	4.65
Total		79.63	35.48	142	0.00	66	0.00	18.15
Grand Total		20995.75	14132.77	41829	127351.13	28145	77455.72	11033.53

Uniformity in Implementation of Watershed Development Programme

4552. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to revise the Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) in order to bring uniformity in implementing the Watershed development programme in the country;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether swot (strength, weakness, opportunity, threat) analysis is likely to be done in regard to various programmes of watershed management;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether community participation and involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is likely to be increased in these schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (f) The watershed development programmes of the Ministry i.e. the Desert Development Programme (DDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) are already being implemented through common

guidelines of Watershed Development with community participation and involvement of Non Governmental Organisations, where required. However, the Ministry has set up a Technical Committee on DPAP, DDP and IWDP to inter alia, address vital issues viz; convergence, equitable sharing of resources, peoples, participation, public-private partnership, etc. The Committee is to take in-depth stock of the strengths and deficiencies in the existing approach and recommend viable strategies/mechanisms for more meaningful implementation of these programmes.

[Translation]

Power Supply to Delhi

4553. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has approved any project regarding supply of power to Delhi from Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Union Government has approved a transmission scheme for supply of power upto Delhi from Tala Hydro Electric Project in Bhutan in July, 2003.

(b) Details of the scheme are given below:—

Tala Hydro Electric Project, located in Bhutan with a capacity of 1020 MW (6x170 MW), run of the river type, is being executed by Tala Hydro Power Authority. The transmission system for Tala HEP includes high capacity transmission lines originating from generation project in Bhutan to Delhi crisscrossing Eastern and Northern Regions. Main transmission elements of the system are as follows:—

- Tala HEP (from Bhutan Border)—Siliguri 400 kV 2x D/c line.
- Siliguri-Purnia 400 kV D/c (quad) line.
- Purnea-Muzaffarpur 400 kV D/c (quad) line.
- Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur 400 kV D/c (Quad) line.
- Gorakhpur-New Lucknow 400 kV D/c line.
- Lucknow (New)-Unnao 400 kV D/c line.
- Bareilly-Mandaula 400 kV D/c line.
- Gorakhpur (Powergrid)-Gorakhpur (UPPCL) 400 kV D/c line.
- LILO of Dadri-Ballabgarh 400 kV D/c line at Maharani Bagh in Delhi.
- New 400 kV Sub-stations at Muzaffarpur, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Maharani Bagh (Delhi), besides extension at other sub-stations.
- Fixed and Thyristor Controlled Series Capacitors on Purnea-Muzaffarpur and Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur 400 kV line

(c) The Transmission scheme is likely to be commissioned by June, 2006.

[English]

* Q. No. 4554.

*The Question tabled by Shri Paras Nath Yadav, M.P. was deleted vide corrigenda to List of Questions issued on 5-5-2006.

Utilisation of Mineral Resources by States

4555. SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments can utilize the available mineral resources according to their priority under the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government intends to deprive the State Governments from their rights;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is prepared to pay 75 percent Production Link Payment (PLP) in case bidding process is implemented;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) State Governments grant mineral concessions for all minerals except petroleum and natural gas under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). However, prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for grant of mineral concessions by the State governments in case of the minerals specified in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act.

(c) There is no such proposal with the Central Government at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no provision under the MMDR Act or any bidding process.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Pabbar Valley Corporation

4556. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned

Rs. 4.53 crores to the Pabbar Valley Corporation in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which the said amount is likely to be given to Himachal Pradesh so that Corporation may start its work at the earliest;

(c) whether the local people will be given preference at the time of making recruitments by the said Corporation; and

(d) if so, the ratio according to which the said recruitments are likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned a loan worth Rs. 453 crore to the Pabbar Valley Power Corporation for execution of Sawra Kuddu Kydro Electric Project (4x36.67 MW) in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) First instalment of Rs. 15 Crores has already been released to the Pabbar Valley Power Corporation Limited on 30th March, 2005. The balance amount will be released progressively as per requirement of the project for its implementation. The loan closing date for utilization of the balance amount is 30th April, 2011.

(c) and (d) Pabbar Valley Power Corporation Limited is a Company promoted by Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB) and the staff working in the Corporation has been deployed by HPSEB out of its existing staff. As informed by HPSEB, preference

will be given to the local people if any recruitment is made by the Corporation.

Loan to Farmers by Private Banks

4557. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any assessment in regard to the loans provided by private sector banks to the farmers;

(b) if so, the percentage of loans provided by the public as well as private sector banks during the first half of the year; and

(c) the number of farmers provided loans by banks during the current year so far, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The flow of credit to Agriculture by Commercial Banks including Private Sector Banks is monitored by the Government on a continuous basis. The flow of credit to Agriculture and Allied Activities by Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks during the period 1st April to 30th September 2005 is as under:—

	Total Disbursement (Rs. crore)	Percentage to total
Public Sector Banks	47,489	56.9%
Private Sector Banks	8,175	9.8%
Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks	27,838	33.3%
Total	83,502	100%

(c) State-wise data relating to number of farmers financed is not readily available. However, 68.72 lakh farmers have been financed by public sector and private sector commercial banks during 2005-06 (1 April to 30 September 2005).

[English]

Pension Funds for the Aged

4558. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to promote old age income security by establishing, regulating and developing pension funds under any new pension system both in urban and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also introduced any scheme which offers a risk free avenue of investment with attractive returns to senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill, 2005, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21-03-2005, aims to promote old age income security by establishing, regulating and developing pension funds, to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and for related matters. The Authority proposed under the Bill will regulate the New Pension System (NPS) and any other pension scheme not regulated by any other enactment. The NPS is mandatorily applicable to new entrants to Central Government service, except to the Armed Forces, in the first stage with effect from 01-01-2004. It will also be available, on a voluntary basis, to all persons including self employed professionals and others in the unorganised sector.

(c) and (d) Government has introduced a Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, 2004, which effect from 2nd August, 2004, with a view to providing a secure and regular income to senior citizens and pensioners. The Scheme provides for interest at the rate of nine per cent per annum payable quarterly which is higher than the

interest available on any comparable savings instrument in the market.

Loans under SGSYS

4559. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Rural Development has requested the Reserve Bank of India to take action against the branches of banks with zero lending and performing poorly in loans under the Swamajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana Scheme (SGSYS);

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified such branches;

(c) if so, the precise action taken by Government against those branches for abysmal performance and the steps taken to tone up those branches; and

(d) the targets fixed for disbursement of loans by those branches during the last two years and the achievement therefrom?

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

(c) The Reserve Bank of India convened a meeting with Chairmen/Managing Directors of Scheduled Commercial Banks in April, 2005 and reviewed the performance of these banks and the branches concerned. The Government also instructed the Public Sector Banks to ensure that all branches achieve targets under Swamajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana Scheme (SGSY). RBI and NABARD have instructed Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks/Cooperative Banks respectively to initiate concrete steps to scale up the pace of credit flow under the programme of SGSY. Banks were also advised to consider proper delegation of powers to the Branch Managers for sanction of loans without a need to refer to higher authorities.

(d) Under SGSY programme, the Government of India fixed State-wise targets for disbursement of loans by institutional agencies which is being allocated amongst different institutions at the state level and branch-wise allocations are made at the respective Zonal/State level of the banks. The branch-wise information about targets and achievements for last 2 years is not readily available.

Proposals from Karnataka

4560. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has forwarded proposals to the Ministry regarding funding by JBIC for Cauvery Water Supply Scheme, Stage IV, Phase-II, Sanction of slum improvement and rehabilitation Projects in 21 cities in Karnataka seeking financial assistance from JBIC;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by the Union Government;

(c) the details of the allocation sought by the State Government; and

(d) the time by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

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

(b) to (d) 'Cauvery Water Supply Scheme Stage- IV, Phase-II' was posed to Government of Japan at an estimated cost of Rs. 3384 crores for JBIC ODA loan package 2004. One part of this proposal was taken up by JBIC in the name 'Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project (II-1)'. The loan agreement for this part was signed on 31-3-2005 for an amount of Japanese Yen 41,997 million. The remaining part of the project was posed to Government of Japan as 'Bangalore Water Supply Project Phase-II' for JBIC ODA loan package 2005 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1062 crores. This has also been considered by Government of Japan and appraisal by JBIC has been completed.

The other proposal namely 'Slum Up-gradation and Development Programme for 21 Class-I cities of Karnataka' with an estimated cost of Rs. 753.27 crores was not suitable for JBIC loan assistance and, hence, it was taken up for World Bank assistance. World Bank has suggested that this proposal can be dealt under National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM). Accordingly, the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation has been asked to take a decision to proceed with this project under guidelines of NURM.

Power Shortage in Daman and Diu Islands

4561. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute power shortage in Union Territory of Daman and Diu;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) During the period April-November, 2005, there was no energy and peak shortage in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu.

(c) Does not arise.

Distribution of Money to NGOs

4562. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended the General Financial Rules for distribution of money from central exchequer to NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NGOs are bound to follow the Government norms of job reservation;

(d) if so, the total number of NGOs at present receiving grant from the Union Government and likely to be reduced after new GFR 2005 in the name of social justice; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain amendments have been made in General Financial Rules, 2005 (a published document) for sanctioning grants to voluntary organizations by Ministries/Departments.

(c) The grants sanctioning authority is required to

include a suitable clause in the terms and conditions under which the grants-in-aid are given, for providing reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or OBCs in posts and services under such organizations or agencies, in terms of the parameters laid down in Rule 209 (6)(xii) of GFRs, 2005.

(d) and (e) Grants are released by the respective Ministries/Departments to the voluntary organizations, operating in their sphere. The total number of NGOs receiving grants from these Ministries/Department is not maintained centrally.

Mineral Exploration

4563. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the actual target and achievements of mineral exploration during the last three years;

(b) whether target has not been achieved for the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the fixed targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The actual target and achievements of mineral exploration during the last three years of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are as under:—

GSI Mineral Exploration

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
Large scale Mapping (Sq. Km.)	1189.54	1254.80	105	1021.05	1027	100.5	922.135	1041.05	112.9
Detailed mapping (Sq. Km.)	30.316	32.286	106	30.745	36.26	118	27.237	34.772	127.7
Drilling (metre)	92797.60	93388.78	100.6	88540.70	81995.90	92.6	87129.44	82209.86	94.4

MECL Mineral Exploration

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
Drilling (m)	200000	119994	60.00	165000	172281	104.41	165000	173144	104.93
Developmental Mining (m)	5000	3372	67.44	5000	3357	67.14	6000	7525	125.42

(c) The shortfall in achieving the annual targets of GSI in drilling was owing to breakdown of rigs, unexpected difficult strata conditions, etc.

The shortfall in achievement of the physical target by MECL was mainly owing to non-availability of sufficient promotional work.

(d) GSI has geared up its entire process of prioritization and procurement to achieve the targets.

As far as MECL is concerned, close monitoring of projects, timely logistic support, obtaining more contractual work for effective deployment of the available resources has resulted in improvement of performance and the targets during the year 2004-05 were achieved.

[Translation]

International Fusion Electricity Project

4564. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the energy production principle on which International fusion Electricity Project is based;

(b) whether India, China, Japan and South Korea from amongst the Asian countries have associated themselves with the said project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the work being carried out in this regard in India;

(e) whether the Government of India is inclined towards associating itself with the said international project keeping in view the quality of renewable electricity generation through fusion technology which is free of any adverse effects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) a fusion reaction is a nuclear reaction between light atomic nuclei, producing a heavier nucleus with the release of considerable energy.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A consortium of China, EU, Japan, India, Russia, South Korea and the US is planning to build an International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor at Cadarache, France to demonstrate that large amount of fusion power can be produced in a controlled way. India joined the consortium on December 6, 2005.

(d) The Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), a fully Aided Institution of Department of Atomic Energy is engaged in Fusion Research. The IPR has been carrying out experiments in tokamak device, ADIT, a magnetic bottle that can hold multi-million degree hot plasma for a fraction of a second. IPR has also designed, fabricated and assembled an advanced Super Conducting Steady State TOKAMAK device, which is ready for commissioning. When put into operation, it will be one of the first machines in the world to produce a thousand second long diverter plasma discharge.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Details are given in part (c).

Use of Fly Ash

4565. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertaking NTPC has formulated any action plan to supply the ashes emanating from its coal based Thermal Power Plants to the rural farmers as reported in the Dainik Jagaran dated November 26, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the said company has conducted tests in respect of the usefulness of such ash;

(c) the total quantum of ash in terms of tones used during the year 2004-05 and the amount earned there from;

(d) the total quantum of ash produced by coal based Thermal Power Plants each year;

(e) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the usefulness of such ash in farming for rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) Yes, Sir. NTPC has plans to promote use of ash in agriculture through Kisan Melas in the vicinity of its thermal power stations in association with nearby located Agricultural/Research Institutes. Guidelines for promotion through Kisan Melas have been prepared.

NTPC at present supply ash to industries for manufacture of cement, construction of road embankment and low lying area development, raising of ash pond dykes, filling of open cast mine, manufacture of bricks etc.

(b) For use of ash in agriculture, demonstration studies have been carried out at NTPC's Rihand Power Plant in association with Regional Research Laboratory, Bhopal. At NTPC's Farakka and Ramagundam Power Plants, similar studies have been done in association with Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad.

(c) About 127.38 lakh tones of ash has been utilized by NTPC during the year 2004-05. In line with the provisions of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOE and F) Gazette Notification dated 14-09-1999 and its amendment dated 27-08-2003 on ash utilization, ash has been issued by NTPC "Free of Cost" and no amount has therefore been earned from it.

(d) Year-wise quantum of ash generated by thermal power stations (including Captive and Co-generation-about 120 units reporting) is given below:—

Year	Generation (in Million Tonnes)	
1	2	
1999-2000	—	89.8
2000-01	—	95.6
2001-02	—	98.8

1	2	
2002-03	—	103.3
2003-04	—	106.6
2004-05	—	111.3

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Based on the review carried out by MOE and F, Indian Council of Agricultural Research has reviewed a large number of studies/field level projects done by Fly Ash Mission and various other agencies. The result of the study indicate that applications of fly ash increases the yield and quality.

[English]

Requests from Karnataka for Computerization

4566. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for financial assistance for computerization and inter-linking of all the treasuries at the district and block levels in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the financial assistance has already been released for this purpose;

(d) if so, by when and the amount has been released so far; and

(e) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released?

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

(b) Government of Karnataka has requested Government of India to bear, inter alia, 50% of the capital cost of Rs. 37 crore incurred for their "KHAJANA" project for computerization of treasuries.

(c) to (e) During the current financial year (2005-06) there is a provision in the Union Budget for National E-Governance Action Plan (NEGAP). However, releases cannot be made for the expenditure already incurred

by the State Governments in the earlier years. Ministry of Finance has not yet finalized the scheme for treasury computerization specifying the content and financing component. Once the scheme is approved, the proposal received from the States would be considered for assistance.

Extension of TUFs

4567. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether wind Power Mills Association has requested the Government to extent Textiles Technology upgradation funds scheme to cover installation of wind Generators in Textile units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a representation from Indian Wind Energy Association for re-inclusion of wind mills in the list of eligible equipments under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) on the ground that energy should be covered under the scheme for 5% interest reimbursement.

(c) The matter had been placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for its approval. However, it directed that the matter may be considered, in the first instance, by the Committee of Secretaries (COS). A COS note has been sent to Cabinet Secretariat on 21-11-2005 for placing it before the COS.

[Translation]

Cases Pending for Liquidation

4568. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of companies under his Ministry for essential liquidation at present;

(b) whether these companies are handed over to the liquidators associated with high Courts after the required formalities;

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

(d) the details of the cases of serious fraud being probed alongwith the time by which the aforesaid cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Setting up of Appellate Tribunal for Power Sector

4569. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up appellate tribunal for power sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Under the provisions of section 110 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Government is required to establish the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity to hear appeals against the orders of the Adjudicating Officer or the Appropriate Commission under the Act.

(b) Central Government has established the Tribunal at Delhi. The Chairperson and all other three Members have been appointed and the Tribunal has become operational from 21st July, 2005.

World Bank Assistance to AP

4570. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has approached the World Bank for assistance for implementing reforms in power sector in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of project proposed to be implemented from the assistance;

(c) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of a above do not arise.

**Senior Central Government
Standing Counsel**

4571. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister
of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for appointment of Senior
Central Government Standing Counsel and Additional
Central Government Standing Counsel in various High
Courts;

(b) the number of members appointed in the
present counsel and the vacancies if any, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government received any
representations for appointment of new members to the
above Counsel;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to
reconstitute the existing counsels;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a)
The Senior Central Govt. Standing Counsel (now re-
designated as Assistant Solicitor General of India) and
Additional Central Govt. Standing Counsel (now re-
designated as Central Government Counsel) are
appointed on the basis of their experience and standing
at the bar.

(b) The Government has appointed or upgraded
or extended the term of 1390 Counsel in different High
Courts since May 2004. A statement indicating the
number of counsel appointed in each High Court is
enclosed. There are no vacancies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) As stated above, the Government has
appointed or upgraded or extended the term of 1390
Counsels in different High Courts since May, 2004.

(f) Appointment of new Government Counsel is a
continuous process.

Statement

*Number of Counsel Appointed or Upgraded or Term extended in the various High Courts and
its Benches w.e.f. May, 2004 Till 19-12-2005*

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	2004	2005	Total Nos.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh High Court	33	34	67
2.	Allahabad High Court	69	41	110
3.	Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court	55	13	68
4.	Bombay High Court and its Benches	66	58	124
5.	Chhattisgarh High Court	03	06	09
6.	Calcutta High Court	34	99	133
7.	Delhi High Court	69	71	140

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Gujarat High Court	29	04	33
9.	Guahati High Court and its Benches	21	18	39
10.	Himachal Pradesh High Court	09	Nil	09
11.	Jammu and Kashmir High Court and its Benches	19	10	29
12.	Jharkhand High Court	11	06	17
13.	Karnataka High Court	12	29	41
14.	Kerala High Court	24	51	75
15.	Madras High Court	85	120	205
16.	Madurai Bench, Madras High Court	22	14	36
17.	Madhya Pradesh High Court	21	05	26
18.	Orissa High Court	11	25	36
19.	Patna High Court	35	21	56
20.	Punjab and Haryana High Court	33	15	48
21.	Rajasthan High Court and its Benches	44	27	71
22.	Uttaranchal High Court	15	03	18
Total		720	670	1390

Performance of States under NFFWP

4572. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain States particularly Uttar Pradesh has performed poorly in the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) by lifting only 14% of its quota of foodgrain and spending a merely 23% of total money in 15 chosen districts;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure cent-per-cent performance by States under NFFWP?

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 the programme, an amount of Rs. 2019.45 crore alongwith 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were released during 2004-05. Out of Rs. 2019.45 crore, bulk of the release i.e. Rs. 1721.54 crore (85.25%) was made during the last week of January and March 2005. As such, the Districts were able to utilize these funds during the current year. This was compounded as the programme was new and the implementing agencies took some time to get in tuned with the provisions of the Programme. The Ministry through rigorous monitoring and constant follow up has persuaded the States to step up the pace of utilization of resources. As a result, the pace of utilization has picked up. The State-wise percentage of lifting to total authorization of foodgrains and percentage of utilization

to total available funds (Opening balance, release during the year and miscellaneous receipts) including the State of Uttar Pradesh during 2005-06 (till November 2005) as reported by the State are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the States	%age of Utilization of Funds Against Total Avail. Funds	%age of Foodgrains Lifted against Total Authorization
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.21	56.38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.99	NR
3.	Assam	46.80	6.15
4.	Bihar	30.87	22.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	25.77	41.07
6.	Gujarat	72.04	184.53
7.	Haryana	63.39	100.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	63.54	77.96
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	41.88	29.19
10.	Jharkhand	26.93	36.79
11.	Karnataka	40.24	71.40
12.	Kerala	28.72	2.34
13.	Madhya Pradesh	50.01	64.76
14.	Maharashtra	NR	NR
15.	Manipur	66.71	50.04
16.	Meghalaya	9.17	100.00
17.	Mizoram	51.76	100.00
18.	Nagaland	NR	NR
19.	Orissa	42.54	61.84

1	2	3	4
20.	Punjab	0.68	47.40
21.	Rajasthan	29.79	67.50
22.	Sikkim	20.27	NR
23.	Tamil Nadu	35.65	74.45
24.	Tripura	94.02	100.00
25.	Uttaranchal	19.64	44.64
26.	Uttar Pradesh	26.86	11.32
27.	West Bengal	28.11	61.35
Total		37.39	44.73

NR: Not Reported by the State Government.

Gas Based Power Project

4573. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to abandon the Gas based power project (280 MW) of Monarchak of Tripura;

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

(c) whether the government of Tripura objected the move of the Union Government and urged for continuation of construction work of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) In view of the decision of Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Government of Tripura and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services to jointly set up a 750 MW Combined Cycle Gas Based Project in the vicinity at Palatana, South Tripura District in Tripura and on the advice of the Ministry of Finance, it has been decided to keep in abeyance the 280 MW Combined Cycle Gas Based Project of North Eastern

Electric Power Corporation at Monarchak, West Tripura District in Tripura.

(c) and (d) The request of Government of Tripura to construct the 280 MW Combined Cycle Gas Based Project of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation was taken into consideration by the Government, but due to issues relating to availability of gas and as sufficient viable options are available in the North East for alternate power generation, the said decision has been taken.

Patents by CSIR

4574. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR has applied and secured a large number of patents from foreign countries for its inventions;

(b) if so, whether CSIR evaluated adequately the commercial value of inventions before applying for patents in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the number of patent applications filed and outcome thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN

DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, CSIR is the leading entity in the country in filing patents. CSIR has a share of about 60% of the total US patents granted to Indians excluding foreign assignee during the last several years. The patents filed and granted in foreign countries during the period 2001-02 to 2004-05 is as follows:—

Year	Filed	Granted
2001-02	560	90
2002-03	735	188
2003-04	508	219
2004-05	500	272

(b) CSIR does evaluate the commercial potential and strategic value of its inventions before applying for the patents which has resulted in the development of key portfolios in the areas of bio-informatic products, leather, optical fiber, drugs and pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, nanotechnology, polymers, food products and processes, herbals and plant varieties by CSIR.

(c) The number of applications filed and patents granted to CSIR in US, Europe and other countries is as follows:—

Year	US		Europe		Other Countries		PCT Filing
	Filed	Granted	Filed	Granted	Filed	Granted	
2001-02	237	69	34	06	161	15	128
2002-03	254	148	34	12	280	28	167
2003-04	196	141	23	16	123	62	166
2004-05	131	142	25	28	257	102	87

TCIDS

4575. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated under the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) during the last three years of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government is considering to enhance the financial assistance under TCIDS; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to achieve the desired progress under TCIDS?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) For upgrading

infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, the 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)' was launched. Under the TCIDS, 18 projects have been sanctioned with an estimated support of Rs. 270.80 Crore from Government of India. Amount released for these sanctioned projects are as under:—

(In crore Rupees)

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto November, 2005)
10.92	10.00	34.21

(b) and (c) With the objectives of imparting a focused thrust to set up apparel units of international standards and upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, the Government had launched the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES), and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS). However, after reviewing the implementation of these two schemes, a new scheme, namely, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks has been launched by merging the two schemes. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and would equip the industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units to meet international environmental and social standards. Government of India support under the scheme by way of grant or equity shall be limited to 40% of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore. The new scheme, viz. SITP, is implemented through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), where Industry Associations/Groups are the main promoters. The SPVs shall have operational autonomy so that they do not become surrogate Public Sector Enterprises or be controlled by Central/State Governments. Role of the Government is that of a facilitator only.

Duty Evasion

4576. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transaction value includes all elements such as equalized freight, freight and insurance, dealer's margin, service licence fee, excess freight charges recovered, retail outlet charges, pre-delivery

inspection charges, service charges, installation charges etc., which add value to the goods before they are marketed:

(b) whether most of the companies are not including the transaction value to evade duty;

(c) if so, whether the Government inquired into this and if so, the number of companies found evading duty on this account and the quantum of duty evaded by them; and

(d) the action taken to recover the dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) All amounts (except tax, duty etc.) charged by the manufacturer from its customers in the transaction on sale are includible in the transaction value. Therefore, any charges collected by the manufacturer, which add value to the goods before they are marketed, forms the part of transaction value.

(b) No, Sir. However, some cases of non-inclusion of the elements in the transaction value have been detected.

(c) the Government is aware of this and a total of 723 cases have been detected involving a duty of Rupees 621.92 crores.

(d) Action is being taken under the Central Excise Act, 1944 and the rules made there-under to recover the duty involved.

Small Savings Scheme

4577. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have informed that they are no longer interested in tapping into Small Savings Schemes to finance their plans;

(b) whether these States have informed the Union Government that they do not want loans against small savings mobilized by them;

(c) if so, the names of these States;

(d) whether the Government has considered the request of these States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The net small savings collections are shared with the States through investment by the National Small Savings Fund in the special securities issued by the State Governments. Pursuant to the recommendations of an Expert Committee chaired by Dr. Y.V. Reddy, the then Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, 100 per cent of the net small savings collections in a State are being transferred with effect from 1st April, 2002 to the concerned State Governments. No State Government has informed that it does not want any share at all of the small savings collection mobilized by it. However, suggestions have been received from State Governments from time to time on various issues relating to small savings including the sharing of the net collections mobilized by them. These suggestions have provided valuable inputs to the Central Government in deciding these issues. For the current financial year, the share of the State Governments continues to be 100 per cent of the net collections mobilized by them.

VAT on Petro Products

4578. **SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:**

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been different rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) on various petroleum and natural gas products in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any representations to reduce the VAT on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) which is successful in controlling the pollution in various major metros;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on such representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under Entry 54 of the State List of the Constitution,

State VAT, being a 'tax on purchase or sale of goods within a State', is a State subject. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) has been constituted to deliberate upon and decide all matters concerning State VAT. The EC has decided the design of VAT (including the structure of rates of tax on various commodities) under the State VAT. The EC has decided different rates for various petroleum and natural gas products. Motor Spirits (including Petrol, Diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel) are non-Vatable and subject to 20% floor rate of tax (except that the floor rate for Diesel is 12.5% in case of North-Eastern State, Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir). States may levy taxes at rates higher than the floor rates for these items. The rate of tax for Cooking Gas (LPG), Natural Gas, Naptha, Lubricants, Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is 12.5% under VAT. PDS Kerosene is taxable @ 4%.

(c) to (e) Regarding VAT on CNG, almost all the States except NCT of Delhi are levying tax @ 12.5% as decided by the EC. The NCT of Delhi has exempted CNG for use in transport sector from levy of VAT. The issue of promotion of use of CNG in transport sector in Uttar Pradesh (Noida and Greater Noida) and Haryana (Faridabad and Gurgaon) came up recently in a writ petition filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. In this case, the issue of exempting sales tax/VAT on CNG also came up. However, since sales tax/VAT is a State subject, it is for the EC or the States concerned to take a decision in this regard.

Slipping Indian Economy

4579. **SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Institute of Management Development, Switzerland rankings for the year 2002, of the most competitive economies of the world reveals that India has slipped to 42nd from 38th in 1998;

(b) if so, the main reasons put forward by them in the report;

(c) whether the Government's efficiency, which reflects the extent to which Government policies are conducive to competitiveness, is also taken into consideration;

(d) if so, whether the Government has examined the report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) As per the rankings of the International Institute of Management Development, Switzerland, India's ranking for the year 2002 was 42nd. The ranking for the year 1998 was 41st. Annual ranking is based on an analysis of 314 criteria, covering four major factors including economic performance, government and business efficiency and infrastructure. Improving competitiveness of the economy is a continuous process and necessary steps are taken in this regard.

Request from Andhra Pradesh

4580. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to extend guarantees to raise debt, finance, annuity payment, irrigation bonds and commercial bonds;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures being taken to improve financial position of the State and extend financial help to complete the pending projects in the State?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Depository Receipts Abroad

4581. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has amended American Depository Receipts (ADR)/Global Depository Receipts (GDR) norms to allow companies to go for simultaneous listing of their shares in the domestic and foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this step has been taken after continuous demand from the Indian Industry;

(d) if so, whether these guidelines are on the guidelines of SEBI on the domestic issues; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the Indian companies are likely to be benefited by issuing simultaneous listing of their companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The scheme for "Issue of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds and Ordinary Shares (Through Depository Receipt Mechanism) Scheme, 1992" was notified to allow Indian companies to access the global capital markets.

Revisions/modifications in the operative guidelines of the Scheme are made from time to time by the Government. The Government had amended the Scheme on 31st August 2005, inter-alia, to bring the ADR/GDR pricing guidelines in alignment with Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000 and prior or simultaneous listing of unlisted companies seeking to access the above route for raising capital.

The Scheme was also amended on 17th November 2005, wherein companies going in for an offering in the domestic market and a simultaneous or immediate follow on offering (within 30 days of domestic issue) through ADR/GDR issues wherein ADRs/GDRs are priced at or above the domestic price, would be permitted to do so.

The above two amendments were undertaken to ensure that the SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000 are adhered to and to bring the ADR/GDR guidelines in alignment with SEBI's guidelines on domestic capital issues.

[Translation]

Employment to Blinds in Banks

4582. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court have directed the

banks to treat the blind persons at par with other normal persons in recruitment for the posts of officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the banks which are following this directive of the Supreme Court and which are not following it, separately; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against those banks which are not following the above said directive of the Court?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Fiscal Arrangement to Attract Investment

4583. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal to bring in stability in direct and indirect taxes to make India more attractive for investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government action in this regard;

(c) whether Government has any proposals to merge CENVAT scheme with VAT and for abolition of Central Sales Tax for positive impact on the business; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard alongwith details of proposals received in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per information available, no proposal has been received to bring stability in direct and indirect taxes to make India more attractive for investors.

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

(c) and (d) Presently, Government is not considering any proposal to merge CENVAT scheme with VAT. In so far as abolition of Central Sales Tax is concerned, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has

decided that the Central Sales Tax shall continue in its present form during 2005-06 and the issue will be discussed by the Empowered Committee during 2005-06 and thereafter, the Empowered Committee shall advise the Government accordingly.

Subsidy to Farmers for Cultivation of Jatropha

4584. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made to get the data of waste land or other lands available in different States for cultivation of Jatropha;

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

(c) the average cost and production of Jatropha produce per acre;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give subsidy to farmers as motivation to promote cultivation of Jatropha and other plants in waste lands for production of bio-diesel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi on the 'National Mission on Bio-Diesel', about 40 million hectares of wastelands in the country are suitable for cultivation of Jatropha. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The average cost of cultivation of Jatropha has been estimated to be Rs. 9120 per acre. Jatropha plant starts producing seed from the third year onwards after planting and gets established in the sixth year. Average yield from one acre of Jatropha plantation is expected to be about 1.20 tons.

(d) and (e) Initially, a demonstration project under the "National Mission on Bio-Diesel" would be launched on 4 lakh hectares of forest and non-forest (Government/public/panchayat) wastelands. For this purpose, the State Governments would be provided funds by dovetailing

necessary finances from other Centrally Sponsored Schemes like the National Employment Guarantee Scheme, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY),

etc. to meet the cost of labour component and the balance as Central subsidy from the "National Mission on Bio-Diesel".

Statement

Wasteland distribution for Jatropha plantation in different States

Sl. No.	States	Potential Area for Jatropha curcas plantation (hectares)	Percentage of total waste land
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4396310	84.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	997259	54.42
3.	Assam	1456576	72.76
4.-5.	Bihar/Jharkhand	1860585	88.61
6.	Goa	39948	65.14
7.	Gujarat	2870890	60.19
8.	Haryana	262621	70.33
9.	Karnataka	1789081	85/85
10.	Kerala	99687	68.84
11.-12.	Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	6619759	94.96
13.	Maharashtra	4855478	90.78
14.	Manipur	1262402	97.49
15.	Meghalaya	988951	99.85
16.	Mizoram	407168	100.00
17.	Nagaland	840410	100.00
18.	Orissa	1888121	88.47
19.	Punjab	105654	47.41
20.	Rajasthan	5687700	53.84
21.	Sikkim	213368	59.77
22.	Tamil Nadu	1794971	78.00

1	2	3	4
23.	Tripura	127593	99.99
24.-25.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	1214063	31.31
26.	West Bengal	258254	45.16
Grand Total		40036849	73.51

Indo-South African Cooperation

4585. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-South African Co-operation has some projects for mutual cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources;

(b) if so, the projects identified so far by the said group; and

(c) the names of the projects so far implemented and completed alongwith the progress of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indo-South African Joint Working Group on Geology and Mineral Resources had identified certain projects for cooperation in various fields like geoscience mapping, metallogeny, micro-seismic techniques, characterization and processing of metals, bacterial leaching, comparative studies on mines' health, etc. Substantial progress has been achieved on two projects namely (1) Stratigraphic Corelation of the Karoo Formations between Southern Africa and India; and (2) Precambrian Crustal Evolution and Metallogeny of Peninsular India and Eastern/Southern Africa, for implementation. The time-frame set for finalisation of the reports of these two projects is March, 2006 and December, 2005 respectively.

[Translation]

Foreign Investments

4586. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concessions have been declared for foreign investments in various financial sectors from September, 2004 to October, 2005;

(b) if so, the names of these sectors;

(c) the quantum of concessions allowed in each sector during the said period; and

(d) the foreign investment made in each sector during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government has put in place a liberal FDI policy and most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route for FDI up to 100% except for a few sectors where caps have been prescribed and/or prior approval of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is required.

Government vide its Press Release dated 8th of November, 2005 decided to permit Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto a maximum of 49 per cent in the paid-up equity capital of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in compliance with the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have been permitted to invest upto a maximum of 49 per cent of each tranche of scheme of Security Receipts (SRs) issued by ARCs registered with Reserve Bank of India. Investment by a single FII in each tranche of SRs shall not exceed 10 per cent of the issue.

Failure of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees

4587. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of constituting Vigilance and Monitoring Committees for rural development schemes at district and State-level by the Government has been a success;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government has assessed the reasons for the failure of the said system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the further steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the monitoring system?

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 (e) Yes, Sir. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been reconstituted at the State/UT and District levels as per the guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, in October, 2004. Members of Parliament have been given important role in monitoring of the implementation of various Rural Development programmes. The State Governments/ District Administrations have reported that 14 States/UTs and 267 Districts have held meetings of the reconstituted Committees at the States/UT and District level at least once. The remaining States/UTs/Districts are constantly reminded to ensure regular holding of the meetings. The Chairmen of the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, who are the Members of Parliament, are also requested to hold meetings of the District level Committees regularly.

[English]

ATM Machine

4588. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Any Time Money (ATM)

facilities provided by the public sector banks in each State of the country particularly in Jharkhand State;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide more ATM facilities in rural areas of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some criminals have been caught by the police, while they were about to commit dacoity in ATM machines;

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure security of ATM machines;

(f) the districts in each State of the country having no ATM machines; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to provide ATM machines in each district of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (g) A statement indicating State-wise ATMs of Public Sector Banks including Jharkhand, is enclosed. The policy for opening of ATMs of Banks has been liberalized and banks have been given the freedom to open ATMs at locations of their choice without seeking prior approval of RBI. Government does not give any directions to Banks for earmarking any specific region for providing ATM facilities. Under the extant Branch Authorisation Policy, weightage is being given to opening of Branches/ATMs in under banked districts and rural areas.

The security aspects of ATMs are being taken care of by banks having deployed security guards at ATMs' sites. Some banks are also having electronic access control and digital video surveillance facility as an additional security measure. One or two stray incidents of attempt of dacoity have been reported so far. The banks are taking every steps for the security of ATM machines. They have also outsourced the entire servicing of ATMs on end-to-end basis and the service providers are providing unarmed security guards at many ATM centres on 24-hours basis.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Meghalaya			2																	8
Mizoram																				3
Nagaland																				2
Orissa	4	8	2	2	2	4	2			2	4	1	6		1	12	3	10	1	182
Punjab	2		11	6		16	7		4	2	12	40	44	1	6	9		1	2	82
Rajasthan	2		40	3		6	4	7	5	1	3	12	46		2	9		5	1	79
Sikkim													1			1				5
Tamil Nadu	4	13	29	21	1	177	3	68	10	142	99	43	22		21	29	2	8	9	322
Tripura																				7
Uttaranchal	2		9			2	2		1		2	3	36		1	4		1	1	119
Uttar Pradesh	29	2	57	7	1	41	29	58	11	3	15	42	96		10	39	4	6	4	371
West Bengal	10	3	26	22	1	13	9	51	2	14	9	14	11		4	12	66	10	2	276
Union Territories																				
Andaman and Nicobar															1					3
Chandigarh		3				6		35	1	1	1	5	8	1	2	5	1	1	2	31
Daman and Diu																				3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli			1						2											1
Delhi	10	13	57	29	1	77	14	108	11	9	28	50	82	2	34	33	7	6	11	130
Lakshadweep															1					1
Pondicherry		1					1			3	2		1		1	1		2		7
	91	346	535	287	45	800	150	801	209	256	259	470	611	5	269	452	102	84	111	3704

[Translation]

Power Generation

4589. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of power sector is hopeless as reported in the Hindustan, dated November 19, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for the decline in the power sector; and

(d) the concrete steps taken and the reforms undertaken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Electricity generation in the country grew by 5.2% in year 2004-05 as compared to the various year.

The Plant Load Factor (PLF) of Thermal Power Plants has shown a steady improvement over the years. The PLF of Thermal Power Plant during the financial year 2004-2005 rose to 74.8% from 69.9% at the end of 9th Five Year Plan.

It is anticipated that during the 10th Five Year Plan a capacity of 34024 MW (82% of the target) will be added which is substantially higher than the capacity addition of 19015 MW (47.5% of the target) during the 9th Plan.

The trend of increasing commercial losses of Power Utilities has been arrested after 2001-02. The commercial losses (without subsidy) in State Power Utilities had increased from Rs. 4,560 crores during 1992-93 to Rs. 25,259 crores during 2000-01. According to data compiled

by Power Finance Corporation, the losses of Utilities have reduced from Rs. 27,068 crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 20,623 crores in 2003-04.

(d) The Government has launched following major initiatives to overcome the problems of the power sector and to make it competitive and viable:—

- (i) Accelerating capacity addition to eliminate shortages.
- (ii) Completing electrification of rural areas through the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.
- (iii) Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) for assisting States in investment in distribution network for reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising reduction of cash losses through cash grants.
- (iv) Emphasis on metering of feeders and supply to consumers for energy accounting and auditing for identifying location of high losses. Stringent legal provisions relating to theft of electricity.
- (v) Implementation of energy conservation measures. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been set up under the Energy Conservation Act.
- (vi) Partnership for excellence programme for improving operation and maintenance practices and renovation and modernization for improving Plant Load Factor (PLF) for poorly performing thermal power stations in the Country.

[English]

Judges Enquiry Act, 1968

4590. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the Judges (Enquiry) Act, 1968;

(b) if so, whether the opinions of Chief Justice of India and Law Commission have also been taken into consideration; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The views of the Chief Justice of India, Law Commission and all the stake holders will be taken into consideration.

GDP Spent on Science and Technology

4591. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of GDP spent currently on Science and Technology development in comparison to some other countries;

(b) whether efforts will be made to increase the expenditure on Science and Technology in view of its importance in the country's development;

(c) the scientific objectives of the planetary mission;

(d) the progress made in this mission; and

(e) the progress made in the mission mode programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) According to the available official statistics, the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) spent on Research and Development (R and D) was 0.80 in 2002-03. A table comprising the data on R and D expenditure as percentage of GDP for some developed/developing countries based on UNESCO Statistical Yearbook, 2004 is enclosed as statement.

(b) Yes Sir. The "Science and Technology Policy 2003" announced by the Government envisages to raise the level of investment on Science and Technology to at least 2% of GDP by the end of 10th Plan with enhanced participation of R and D investment by industry.

(c) Chandrayaan—1 is the Indian's first planetary mission. The scientific objectives of Chandrayaan—1 are

the high resolution imaging of the moon in the visible, near infrared and x-ray regions and chemical and mineralogical mapping of the entire lunar surface towards enhancing the scientific knowledge about the Moon.

(d) Chandrayaan—1 has made significant progress. The spacecraft configuration and design has been finalised. The scientific payload instruments of Chandrayaan—1 have been finalised. The development of the spacecraft, payload subsystems and establishment of Deep Space Network is in progress. Chandrayaan—1 is planned for launch onboard India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle during 2007-08.

(e) The Mission Mode Programmes namely Seismology, Bamboo Application, Sugar Mission, Fly-Ash Mission, Umbrella Scheme on Technology Vision 2020 Projects, Education Sector/Mission Reach Programme, Low Temperature Thermal Desalination Technology, Early Warning System, Technology Development for future generation of Launch Vehicle/development of Advanced Launch Vehicle Technology, Development of All Weather Remote Sensing Technology, Application of Space Technology in Education and Health particularly Distant Education and Telemedicine and Operationalisation of National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) for application of Remote Sensing Technology in developmental programmes, Genomics, Development of new drugs and molecules from important medicinal plants, Bio-resources Characterization and Inventorization and Documentation from the Special Ecosystems, Production Demonstration and Testing of Biofuels, New Generation Vaccines, Biotechnological Interventions for Enhancing Food and Nutritional Security, etc. are progressing as per the targets during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Statement

R and D Expenditure as Percentage of GDP for some Developed/Developing Countries

Sl. No.	Name of country	R and D as % of GDP	Year
1	2	3	4
1.	Argentina	0.39	2002

1	2	3	4
2.	Australia	1.55	2000
3.	Austria	2.21	2002
4.	Brazil	1.04	2000
5.	Canada	2.00	2002
6.	China	1.23	2002
7.	Cuba	0.62	2002
8.	Czech Republic	1.30	2002
9.	Denmark	2.51	2002
10.	Egypt	0.19	2000
11.	Germany	2.64	2002
12.	Finland	3.46	2002
13.	France	2.27	2002
14.	Hungary	1.01	2002
15.	India	0.80	2002
16.	Israel	5.11	2002
17.	Italy	1.11	2001
18.	Japan	3.11	2002
19.	Republic of Korea	2.91	2002
20.	Pakistan	0.27	2002
21.	Singapore	2.19	2002
22.	Spain	1.04	2002
23.	Sweden	4.27	2001
24.	U.K.	1.88	2002
25.	U.S.A.	2.67	2002
26.	Russian Federation	1.24	2002
27.	Venezuela	0.38	2002

Power Sharing Dispute

4592. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to refer the claim of Rajasthan Government for its share in the Hydel Power Projects of Punjab;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to determine the share of Rajasthan in the projects mentioned in the agreement;

(c) whether the Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission have prepared any background note regarding share of Rajasthan in the Hydel Power Project of Punjab;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) and (b) An agreement was reached between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Government of India on 10-05-1984 wherein it was agreed that in view of the claims raised by Haryana and Rajasthan to sharing of power in Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein Dam project, UBDC Stage-II and Shahpur Kandi Hydel Scheme, the Government of India shall refer the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for its opinion. A reference was to be made to the Hon'ble Supreme Court seeking its opinion whether the States of Rajasthan and Haryana are entitled to a share in the power generated from these hydel schemes and in case they are, what would be the share of each State. It was agreed that the Supreme Court's opinion obtained by Government of India shall be remitted to the signatory states and shall be binding on them.

The matter has not been referred to Supreme Court. However, a number of formal and informal discussions have taken place since 1984 to settle the issue amicably. These issues were also discussed in the Northern Zonal Council Meetings held in 1997, 1999 and 2005.

Further, consequent upon the enactment of the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 by the Government of Punjab terminating all its agreements on sharing of water with the other States, Union Government has referred the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for seeking its advice.

(c) to (e) A Committee was constituted in Central Electricity Authority in February, 1999 for preparing a background paper on sharing of power in the Hydroelectric Power Stations of Punjab. After analyzing various points raised by the States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in support of their claims and in the absence of the observations of Govt. of Punjab, the Committee concluded that it would in the best interest of all the concerned States that the agreement already reached on 10-05-1984 be followed.

Mejia Power Project

4593. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual increase in profit of Mejia Thermal Power Project during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any deficiency in power generation for the last three years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

(a) Details of the annual increase in profit of Meja Thermal Power Project during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Actual Profit	Annual Increase in Profit
2001-02	Rs. 70 Crores	
2002-03	Rs. 165 Crores	Rs. 95 Crores
2003-04	Rs. 260 Crores	Rs. 95 Crores
2004-05	Rs. 300 Crores	Rs. 40 Crores

(b) No, Sir. Rather, there has been sustained improvement in generation during the last three years. Relevant figures of generation are given as under:—

Year	Target Generation	Annual Generation
2002-03	2840 MU	3338.5 MU
2003-04	3200 MU	4026 MU
2004-05	4542 MU	4635 MU

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

Reporting System

4594. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prescribe new reporting systems for banks for suspicious transactions or transactions of more than Rs. 10 lakh.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the new reporting system for banks would track money laundering;

(d) whether black money would be unearthed by this new reporting system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, banks are required to report certain types of transactions to Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND). These include cash transactions of value more than Rs. 10 lakh and all suspicious transactions. The Act also mandates that RBI may advise banks on the format for reporting. Reserve Bank of India is in the process of finalizing the reporting format in consultation with FIU-IND.

(c) to (e) Reserve Bank has not prescribed new reporting system for banks in respect of suspicious

transactions or transactions of more than Rs. 10 lakh. Banks have already been advised by Reserve Bank to put in place a system of reporting cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakh and above, as well as transactions of suspicious nature in fortnightly statements to their Controlling Offices. Banks have further been advised to ensure that a record of transactions in the accounts is preserved and maintained as required in terms of PML Act, 2002 and also to ensure that transactions of suspicious nature and/or any other type of transaction notified under Act 2002 is reported to the appropriate law enforcement authority. At present, banks are reporting the above said type of transactions to their controlling offices.

Development of Rural Infrastructure

4595. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated resources collected from the imposition of cess on petrol and diesel for development of rural infrastructure in the country;

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

(c) whether the said amount would constitute half of the total amount of fund raised in this manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the distribution of such resources during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise?

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) The cess collected on diesel accrues into the Central Road Fund, which is governed by the provisions of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000. As per provisions of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, fifty percent of the cess on high speed diesel is allocated for the development of rural roads.

(e) The amount released from the share of cess earmarked for development of rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to the States during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, till date, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Release of funds to States under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.00	88.97	187.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	52.00
3.	Assam	170.02	164.52	0.00
4.	Bihar	150.00	29.58	191.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	110.00	164.92	230.21
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	44.35	0.00	69.01

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Haryana	7.99	28.04	20.11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	66.35	12.65	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	20.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhnad	123.87	0.00	67.96
12.	Karnataka	59.00	0.00	140.55
13.	Kerala	10.38	10.39	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	290.90	213.00	295.14
15.	Maharashtra	75.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Manipur	0.00	18.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	20.78	46.40	0.00
19.	Nagaland	21.44	18.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	175.00	175.00	97.75
21.	Punjab	27.35	0.00	48.90
22.	Rajasthan	190.16	451.40	425.14
23.	Sikkim	20.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	85.00	79.78	0.00
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	19.79
26.	Uttar Pradesh	335.27	315.00	503.88
27.	Uttaranchal	70.41	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	135.00	270.00	0.00
Total		2288.27	2105.65	2349.25

Committee on Textile Production

4596. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any committee at national level during the last three years

for seeking suggestion for growth and expansion of units in various sectors of textile production in the country;

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

(c) the details of reports submitted by these committees; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government on the recommendations of these committees?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) During the last three years, no committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Textiles at the national level to suggest growth and expansion of units in various sectors of textile production in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Powerloom Parks

4597. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing Powerloom Parks in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more powerloom parks in the country;

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

(d) the details of facilities being provided to the powerloom sector workers by these powerloom parks?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Presently, the following four powerloom parks have been approved by the Government:—

- Vaigai Hi-Tech Weaving Park at Aundipatti, Tamil Nadu.
- Palladam Hi-Tech Weaving Park at Palladam, Tamil Nadu.
- Cauvery High Tech Weaving Park at Komarapalayam, Tamil Nadu.
- Hyderabad Hi-Tech Textile Park at Kothur, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Government on its own does not set up any powerloom park in the country. However, through its policy regimes it encourages setting up of powerloom/textile parks. At present two Schemes of the Government namely **Group Workshed Scheme** for

Powerloom Sector and the **Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks** provide the textile industry with infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile/powerloom units. The former Scheme provides subsidy for construction of worksheds limited to 25% of the unit cost of construction subject to a maximum of Rs. 80/- per sq. ft. whereas the latter Scheme provides for Government support by way of grant or equity limited to 40% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore.

(d) These parks mainly provide better working environment for workers.

Interest Charged by Rural Banks

4598. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to heavy interest charged by the Gramin Banks, the desired growth could not be achieved in rural areas especially on Cash Credit Limits;

(b) whether the Gramin Banks charge interest on Cash Credit Limit much higher than the nationalized Banks;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India had asked Gramin Banks to reduce interest rate on Cash Credit Limit to achieve growth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not advised Regional Rural Banks to reduce interest rate on Cash Credit Limit.

Integrated Goods and Services Tax

4599. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to introduce Integrated Goods and Services Tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it will be taken into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of the Constitution, the Central Government is empowered to levy tax on manufacture of goods (CENVAT), whereas the State Governments have the powers to levy tax on purchase or sale of goods within a State (State Sales Tax/VAT). Tax on inter-State sale of goods is levied by the Central Government in the form of Central Sales Tax (CST), but the same is collected and appropriated by the States concerned. Tax on Services is levied and collected by the Central Government (except for few specified services for which the States have powers to levy tax), but the same is shared with the States. Thus, integration of all the Central and States taxes into an integrated GST would require a constitutional amendment. Moreover, a number of other issues would require to be settled in consultation with the States, before any effective move can be made towards an integrated GST. Thus, there is no prospect of implementation of an integrated GST in the immediate future.

Use of Jute Bags

4600. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether usage of jute-bags are less in the Central Government in packaging of their foodgrains and fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken to give flip to usage of jute bags as a measure to boost the jute industry of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the other steps taken/being taken for the development of the jute industry of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir. The purchase of B. Twill Bags through DGS and D for packing food grains has registered an increase of 19.5% in 2003-04

and further increase of 7% during 2004-05 in comparison their respective preceding years. The Central Government does not purchase Jute Bags for packaging of fertilizers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Government is implementing several schemes through the Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) and the National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) for the development of the jute industry of the country.

The Schemes operated by JMDC are:—

1. The JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry.
2. The External Market Assistance Scheme.
3. The Market Development Scheme.

The Schemes operated by NCJD are:—

1. The Jute Service Centre Scheme;
2. The Jute Raw Material Bank Scheme;
3. The Market Support Scheme;
4. The Design Development Scheme;
5. The Jute Entrepreneurs (Capital subsidy) Assistance Scheme (JEAS)
6. The Micro Finance/NGO Assistance Scheme.

The Government has also announced the National Jute Policy 2005 which aims at, inter alia, acceleration of modernization and strengthening of the Jute Industry. In addition, the Central Government has issued an order under the JPM Act 1987, for compulsory packaging of foodgrains and sugar in jute bags to the extent of 100% for both the commodities during the year 2005-06 (i.e. upto 30-06-2006).

Aerospace

4601. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India with its vast infrastructure and

human resources in aerospace sector is capable of launching various aerosystems including a 150 seater passenger jet aircraft;

(b) whether there is any proposal with the Government for making 150 seater passenger jet with technology partnership between aerospace industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. There is no proposal for making a 150-seater aircraft.

(c) Does not arise.

Structural Adjustment Loan

4602. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain State Governments have requested the Union Government for a one time grant of soft loan and forwarded their structural adjustment loans to the World Bank to help them overcome the current financial crisis;

(b) if so, the extent of one time grant and Structural Adjustment Loans (SAL) sought by the State Governments; and

(c) the Union Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have sought SAL assistance. The amount requested varies from US\$ 200 million to US\$ 750 million.

(c) The revised guidelines for availing Structural Adjustment Loan assistance, drawn up in consultation

with the states have been issued by Department of Expenditure on 24th October, 2005. The State Governments are now required to send their proposals in terms of the revised guidelines.

Power Generation in Joint Venture

4603. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between Railways and NTPC to generate power in joint sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Railways on 18-02-2002 to promote a joint venture company with the aim of establishing and operating power project(s), to supply reliable power to the Railways.

In the process, four sites were studied for identifying a suitable location and on examination, Nabinagar site in Aurangabad District of Bihar has been selected for setting up a power plant in joint venture. Feasibility Report for Nabinagar Thermal Power Project (4x250 MW) was prepared in early 2004 and all major clearances including environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests has been obtained. Public Investment Board (PIB) in its meeting held on 13-02-2004 has recommended investment of Rs. 5190 crores, estimated at 4th Quarter 2003 price level, for the proposed Nabinagar TPP. Draft Note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has been prepared and submitted to Ministry of Railways for seeking approval of Minister of Railways. The equity will be financed in the ratio of 51:49 by Railways and NTPC respectively.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to Question (a) and (b).

Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.

4604. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) during the last three years and the target fixed for the current year;

(b) whether the target fixed for the above period

have been attained; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The performance of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) during the last 3 years and the target fixed for the current year are as given in the table below:—

Item	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06
	MoU Target	Achievement	MoU Target	Achievement	MoU Target	Achievement	MoU Target
Drilling (m)	200000	119994	165000	172281	165000	173144	170000
Developmental Mining (m)	5000	3372	5000	3357	6000	7525	6200
Sales (Rs. lakhs)	6400	4483	6436	6089	6600	7535	6930
Gross Margin (Rs. Lakhs)	1070	(-)486	1362	1253	1304	1918	1500
Net Profit/(-) Loss (Rs. lakhs)	(-)284	(-)1758	(-)222	(-)249	(-)340	395	(-)30

(b) The company has achieved the target for 2004-05 but the targets of 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 could not be achieved.

(c) The shortfall in achievement of the physico-financial targets during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 is mainly attributed to non-availability of sufficient promotional work.

Revenue Collection

4605. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in revenue collection of indirect taxes at some of the centres during the first six months of the current financial year in comparison to the last years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for less revenue collection and the steps taken by Government to remove the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Collection of Indirect Taxes namely Customs duty, Central Excise duty and Service Tax are compiled commissionerate/zone wise. Total collection of above indirect taxes during April-September, 2005 was higher than that of the corresponding period of the previous year (2004-05) by 16% (provisional).

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

Contract Labour in Textile Sector

4606. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile industry has made a strong case for allowing contract labour on lease in Textile Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

One-by-Six Scheme

4607. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'one-by-six' scheme introduced earlier for widening the tax base is presently in operation;

(b) whether the Government has made changes in the above scheme originally introduced earlier;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total tax revenue collected/realised under the scheme and the number of assesseees brought under the tax-net under the scheme till March 31, 2005 and the revenue expected during the year?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Originally, any person, inter alia, subscribing to a telephone was required to file a tax return under the One-by-Six Scheme. The Finance Act, 2002 amended the provisions to restrict this requirement of filing the tax return to cellular phone subscribers. Subsequently, the Finance Act, 2005 further amended the provisions relating to the One-by-Six Scheme to provide for mandatory filing of return by any person who has incurred an expenditure of fifty thousand rupees or more towards consumption of electricity during a year. However, the Finance Act, 2005 also amended the Scheme to provide that filing of tax return would not be mandatory for cellular phone subscribers.

(d) The One-by-Six Scheme has both direct and

indirect effect on revenue collection. The direct effect of this Scheme is measured by the tax collected, if any, from persons filing return under this Scheme. Since, the income of such filers is below taxable limit, there is no direct collection of tax from this Scheme. The indirect effect of the Scheme is to induce persons having taxable income to file their returns. No estimate of revenue gain from the indirect effect of the Scheme has so far been made. However, there has been an increase in the direct tax buoyancy after the introduction of the Scheme.

The number of persons who have filed Income-tax returns under this Scheme during the last four financial years is as under:—

Financial Year		No. of returns filed under "one-by-six" scheme
2001-02	—	30.59 lakhs
2002-03	—	4.95 lakhs
2003-04	—	0.71 lakhs
2004-05	—	0.61 lakhs

Black Money

4608. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made certain provisions in the schemes to bring out black money;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which Government have achieved its objectives to bring the black money out; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The income Tax Department undertakes several measures to unearth black money. These include, among others undertaking search and seizure, survey actions and scrutiny of returns in appropriate cases. The Government has recently introduced two additional anti-

tax evasion measures. From June 2005 onwards, "Banking Cash Transaction Tax" is being levied in respect of cash withdrawals from the banks above a specified amount other than from savings accounts. The tax is also levied on encashment of bank deposits above a specified amount. Further, it has become obligatory for all banks to report to the Income Tax Department, all deposits which are exempt from Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on interest.

(c) and (d) Unearthing of black money by the Government is a result of a combination measures taken by the Income Tax Department and other laws and regulations of the Government. It is not possible to separately quantify the effect of each of them legislative provision on the amount of black money unearthed. However, the value of assets seized during the search and seizure action of the Income Tax Department in the last three year is as under:—

Financial Year		Value of Assets Seized (In Rs. Crores)
2002-03	—	515.86
2003-04	—	231.37
2004-05	—	202.27

[Translation]

Development of Cheap Medicines

4609. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has paid attention on the other alternatives and developed the Cheap Medicines for skin diseases, diabetes, Carcinoma, Leishmaniasis and Hepatocurative;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any work is going on regarding R and D, technical acceptance and commercialization of

Medicines/medicinal systems for the treatment of several disease, including T.B. encephalitic etc.;

(d) whether the Ayurvedic medicines have been accepted by the Government for the research purposes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed herbal formulation for skin disease (psoriasis), diabetes and hepatic disorders, which are currently under clinical trials.

Anti-psoriatic formulation: Based on the traditional knowledge, a single plant based oral herbal formulation was developed under New Millennium Innovative Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI). An Investigational New Drug (IND) application for a herbal based compound has been filed for the first time in the country. Phase-I clinical trials have been completed.

Anti-diabetic and hepato-protective formulation: Standardized and well-characterized formulations have been developed for both these disease conditions. For the hepato-cellular protection, three herbal formulations have been developed using eleven plants. For diabetes, two formulations have been developed. The efficacy and safety of the formulations have been proved through experimental studies on animals and ambulatory human pharmacology. The selected formulations are in Phase II-B randomized, double blind clinical studies.

A new molecule to treat tuberculos has been discovered under a project supported under New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative scheme. In animal studies, the molecule in combination with other anti TB drugs reduced the treatment time from the present six to eight months to two to three months. An Investigational New Drug (IND) application has been cleared by the Drugs Controller General of India. The molecule is under Phase-I clinical trial.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The government has initiated a new programme called 'Golden Triangle' wherein

modern medicine and modern science inputs are provided to the traditional medicinal formulations for developing standardized and validated formulations. The programme is a collaborative effort among Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH).

[English]

Task Force by CSIR

4610. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has constituted "task force" project; and

(b) if so, the details of such projects alongwith the aim and objectives of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research during the Tenth Five Year Plan has undertaken major network projects across CSIR laboratories. The aim of the projects evolved is to synergise the vast competencies developed over the years in CSIR Laboratories and to implement them in network mode. CSIR is operating 55 task force projects in a network mode. The projects inter alia encompass establishment of capabilities in the newer S and T areas, generation of technological know-how and strategic options over a wide spectrum of science and technology, human resource development etc.

Repo Rate

4611. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has increased reserve repo rate on 25 basis point to 5.25% to curb the rate of inflation ratio;

(b) if so, the extent to which this step of the Government is likely to curb inflation;

(c) whether RBI has also warned banks which are underpricing loans to large corporate houses; and

(d) if so, the other steps taken or being taken by RBI in financial management of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In view of the current macroeconomic and overall monetary conditions, Reserve Bank of India has increased the fixed reverse repo rate by 25 basis points under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) effective from October 26, 2005 to 5.25 per cent from 5.00 per cent. The Repo-rates do not have linear impact on the rate of inflation, which is also affected by various factors including Bank Rate, Repo Rates, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) etc. The Reserve Bank of India takes these monetary measures keeping in view the overall stance of monetary policy consistent with emphasis on price stability, provision of appropriate liquidity to meet genuine credit needs, support export and investment demand in the economy and stabilise inflationary expectations.

(c) and (d) In view of the public perception that there is underpricing of credit for corporates while there could be overpricing of lending to agriculture and small and medium enterprises, a need has arisen to review the current procedures and processes of pricing of credit through a well structured and segment wise analysis of costs at various stages of intermediation in the whole credit cycle. RBI has, in the Mid Term Review of Annual Policy 2005-06, advised the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to consider, in consultation with its member banks, reviewing the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) System afresh and issuing transparent guidelines for appropriate pricing of credit.

Indo-German Bilateral Project on Watershed Management

4612. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-German Bilateral Project on Watershed Management is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether hi-tech weather stations and the representative watersheds have been completed under the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on each of the stations and watersheds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (e) An Indo-German Bilateral Project (IGBP) on Watershed Management was launched in June 1989 between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of India with the main objective of installation of hydrologic and sediment monitoring equipments in selected watersheds of the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP and FPR). During the second phase of the project, some need based innovative soil and water conservation measures in selected Representative Watersheds (RWS) were taken up. This project continued till 30th June, 2005.

Under IGBP, the programme was implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. The following main activities were taken up under the project:—

- (i) Establishment of 37 Sediment Monitoring Stations.
- (ii) Establishment of 5 Hi-tech Weather Stations (HWS) in the States of Gujarat, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil nadu.
- (iii) Implementation of soil conservation measures in 9 Representative Watersheds (RWS) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Tamil Nadu.
- (iv) About 345 officials working for Soil Conservation Programmes in different States have been trained in India and 62 Senior/Junior Officers have been trained in Germany.

Under this project, most of the assistance was provided in kind in the form of expertise and training.

Indo-China Cooperation in Power Sector

4613. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese administration is working on harnessing the hydel power capacity in Tibet with plans to market bulk of the electricity to India as reported in the Business Line dated the November 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether there has been bi-lateral discussion on the issue between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Government is not aware of any such proposal from the Chinese side.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Workshop Organised by Indo-US Science and Technology Forum

4614. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-US Science and Technology Forum had organized a workshop during October, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the objects and matter discussed therein;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement the recommendations made in the workshop; and

(d) if so, the infrastructure and budgetary allocations made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum has supported the organization of 4 Indo-US joint workshops/symposia during the month of October, 2005. The details

of the workshops/symposia organized, duration, venue and objectives are as follows:—

1. A symposium on *Diarrhea and Enteric Protozoan Parasites: New Challenges in the Era of HIV/AIDS*

It was jointly organized by National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata and Centre for Food Safety, University of Georgia, USA at Kolkata from 3-5 October, 2005. HIV epidemic is accompanied with the high occurrence of diarrheal diseases, especially those caused by protozoan parasites including opportunistic infections, cryptosporidiosis and microsporidiosis. The symposium provided a platform for scientists, doctors and students to review recent progress in this area, assess the status of research in India and USA, discuss new diagnostic and epidemiological tools required to formulate strategies for prevention and control of opportunistic infections.

2. Indo-US workshop on *Utilization of Space Based Resources for Enhancing Science Education in India*

It was co-organized by Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education, Mumbai and University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA from 15-17 October, 2005 at Aurangabad. The workshop aimed at the development of an implementation plan and delivery mechanism for the joint utilization of the space based resources for science and technology education in Indian schools. The workshop looked into the ways of utilizing the U.S. developed education materials that could be adapted for Indian EDUSAT program.

3. The Indo-US workshop on *Physics with Energetic Heavy Ions and Rar Isotopes*

It was co-organized by Punjab University, Chandigarh and University of Notre Dame, USA from 17-19th October, 2005 at Chandigarh. The workshop identified possible areas of collaboration in areas like complete gamma ray spectroscopy; physics of neutron rich nuclei; nuclear reaction dynamics at low and intermediate energies; and physics with radioactive ion beams, in particular with Coulomb excitations and transfer reactions.

4. The Indo-US workshop on *Novel and Complex materials*

It was co-organized by S.N. Bose Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA from 26-29 October, 2005 at Kolkata.

The deliberations were interdisciplinary in nature looking primarily at the interface between solid state chemistry and physics of materials. Areas identified for possible collaboration includes molecular materials in context with light energy, development and application of monoxides and integration of research with physics education (exchange of research students).

(c) and (d) Such workshops are primarily aimed at exchange of scientific and technical information and the recommendations emerging out of these workshops/symposia are followed up by the concerned participating scientists/institutions with the appropriate agencies, if considered useful.

[English]

White Paper on Disinvestment

4615. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to publish a white paper on disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the white paper is likely to be published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Revenue from VAT

4616. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue from the Value Added Tax (VAT) implementing States and Union Territories has recorded an increase during the first six months of the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, State-wise details in this regard; and

(c) the details of VAT compensation disbursed by Ministry since inception of VAT alongwith details of claims received during April-October, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The tax revenue of VAT implementing States/UTs has shown an increase of about 14.3% during first six months of current financial year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, which is higher than

the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of tax revenue of these States during the last 5-year period. This is based on provisional figures of tax revenues furnished by the States. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Upto 15-12-2005, the Ministry has received claims for VAT compensation for a total amount of Rs. 1598.05 crores, out of which claims for total amount of Rs. 1026.89 crores have already been settled and the remaining claims are under process.

Statement

Tax Revenue of VAT implementing States/UTs

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Tax Revenue during first 6 months of 2004-05	Tax Revenue during first 6 months of 2005-06	Growth Rate (2005-06 over 2004-05)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4897.09	5430.85	10.9%
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.52	17.02	61.8%
3.	Assam	602.17	721.35	19.8%
4.	Bihar	815.65	833.77	2.2%
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	35.95	60.86	69.3%
6.	Daman and Diu	29.81	47.83	60.4%
7.	Delhi	1974.14	2528.66	28.1%
8.	Goa	233.88	304.27	35.9%
9.	Haryana	1824.31	2096.36	14.9%
10.	Himachal Pradesh	249.43	301.32	20.8%
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	284.53	340.00	19.5%
12.	Karnataka	3414.61	3971.61	16.3%
13.	Kerala	2784.21	2890.89	3.8%
14.	Maharashtra	7649.05	8363.64	9.3%

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Manipur	13.77	20.16	46.4%
16.	Meghalaya	46.90	66.02	40.8%
17.	Mizoram	6.89	21.58	213.2%
18.	Nagaland	18.23	24.81	36.1%
19.	Orissa	794.34	1024.52	29.0%
20.	Punjab	1447.26	2008.74	38.8%
21.	Sikkim	14.51	20.29	39.8%
22.	Tripura	64.52	74.02	14.7%
23.	West Bengal	2048.21	2269.15	10.8%
Total		29249.98	33437.72	14.3%

- Notes: 1. The Tax Tevenue figures are provisional and are subject to revision during AG reconciliation.
 2. The Tax Revenue firgures are Gross figures, including collection from non-VAT item.

Jute Mills Modernisations Fund

4617. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides help to various jute mills in the country from the jute mills modernization fund;

(b) if so, the details of help extended to various jute mills from the jute mills modernization fund during the last three years;

(c) the criteria adopted for extending help to the jute mills;

(d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the existing moderniation schemes of jute mills; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government is operating two schemes namely Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and the JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernization of Jute Mills for modernization and developoment of jute mills. Both these schemes have been streamlined and strengthened in the recent past keeping in view the requirements of the beneficiaries. Hence, at present there is no requirement of further modifications to strengthen the existing modernization schemes of Jute Mills.

Capacity Utilisation In Spinning Sector

4618. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether capacity utilization is satisfactory in spinning sector of orgaized textile mill industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance

the capacity utilization of spinning/weaving sector of the organized textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The capacity utilization in spinning sector of organized textile mill industry is around 87% which is satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Earnest Money Deposit

4619. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is being asked for the full tender and not item-wise depriving small traders to participate in the tenders violating provisions of GFRs-2005;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to direct the Government offices to charge EMD item-wise only;

(c) whether it is also a fact that huge fee in respect of tender form is charged and if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the action Ministry propose to direct the Government offices to scrap tender form charges to make that free of charge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2005, Earnest Money is to be obtained from the bidders other than the exempted categories, ranging between 2% to 5% of the estimated value of the goods to be procured, in the case of advertised or limited tender inquiry. The exact amount of EMD is to be determined by the concerned Administrative Ministry/Department and indicated in the Bidding Documents.

(c) and (d) There is no specific provision regarding the fee for tender forms in the GFRs, 2005 and it is for the Purchasing/Indenting organization to fix the cost of the tender documents.

Pending Proposals under PMGSY

4620. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) proposals in respect of Orissa has been recommended for clearance by the Government;

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

(c) the details of funds released till September, 2005 and

(d) the details of the physical/financial progress under PMGSY including proposals cleared for 2004-05 and 2005-06?

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) 2880 number of road works valued at Rs. 2240.95 crores for a length of 9514.74 kms benefiting 4463 habitations have been cleared by the Ministry of Rural Development in respect of Orissa under PMGSY. An amount of Rs. 974.79 crores has been released to the Government of Orissa. Approximately 1402 number of road works for a length of 3884 km has been completed and Rs. 812.59 crores has been spent under PMGSY.

[Translation]

Computerization of Courts

4621. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched Five Year National Programme for computerization of Judiciary;

(b) if so, the details of the programme and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government has constituted an e-committee for the computerization of courts on the recommendation of the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

[English]

(e) whether the Government has since received the report of the said committee;

(f) if so, the details of the suggestions and recommendations made therein by the Committee;

(g) whether the Government has taken any steps for implementations of the recommendations of the said Committee; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (h) The E-Committee was constituted by Government to advice on technological communication and management related changes in the Indian Judiciary. The Committee has submitted its report on National Policy and Action Plan for implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the entire Indian Judiciary. It has estimated a sum of Rs. 854 crores to implement the project of computerization of entire judicial system of the country over a period of 5 yeras. The project was launched at a function in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister on 5th October, 2005.

Study by ITMF

4622. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) has conducted a comparative manufacturing cost study of 7 countries including India;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make Indian Textile Industry more competitive?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the study are furnished in enclosed statement-I. The results of the study are to be adopted by the Industry. However, the data in this regard is not maintained by the Government.

(c) The important steps taken by the Government to make Indian Textile Industry more competitive are furnished in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

(A)

Manufacturing Costs of Textured Yarn Knitting-2003

(In US \$ per yard of fabric)

Cost Element	Brazil	China	India	Italy	Korea	Turkey	USA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Labour	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.05	0.017	0.009	0.045
	6%	10%	5%	52%	33%	16%	55%
Power	0.005	0.01	0.012	0.015	0.007	0.01	0.007
	8%	28%	24%	15%	13%	19%	8%
Auxiliary material	0.008	0.006	0.006	0.008	0.006	0.007	0.007
	14%	16%	12%	8%	12%	13%	8%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Depreciation	0.018	0.012	0.015	0.019	0.017	0.019	0.019
	31%	35%	31%	19%	33%	36%	23%
Interest	0.024	0.004	0.014	0.006	0.005	0.008	0.005
	41%	11%	28%	6%	9%	16%	6%
Total Manufacturing costs (per yard of fabric)	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.08
Index (Italy: 100)	(58)	(35)	(50)	(100)	(50)	(5)	(80)

(B)

Manufacturing Costs of Ring/O-E Yarn Weaving-2003

(In US \$ per yard of fabric)

Cost Element	Brazil	China	India	Italy	Korea	Turkey	USA
Labour	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.23	0.08	0.03	0.17
	10%	7%	11%	49%	28%	11%	48%
Power	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.04	0.05	0.04
	14%	23%	25%	17%	14%	24%	12%
Auxiliary material	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.04
	19%	17%	24%	13%	31%	24%	13%
Depreciation	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.07
	28%	45%	22%	15%	20%	29%	21%
Interest	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02
	29%	8%	18%	6%	7%	12%	6%
Total Manufacturing costs (per yard of fabric)	0.20	0.22	0.24	0.47	0.29	0.24	0.34
Index (Italy: 100)	(41)	(45)	(50)	(100)	(60)	(51)	(73)

(C)

Manufacturing Costs of Ring Yarn Knitting-2003

(In US \$ per yard of fabric)

Cost Element	Brazil	China	India	Italy	Korea	Turkey	USA
Labour	0.01	0.01	0.005	0.13	0.04	0.02	0.11
	6%	10%	5%	54%	34%	17%	56%
Power	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01
	6%	22%	20%	12%	10%	15%	6%
Auxiliary material	0.02	0.015	0.015	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
	15%	19%	13%	8%	14%	14%	9%
Depreciation	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
	32%	37%	32%	19%	33%	37%	23%
Interest	0.06	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
	41%	12%	30%	7%	9%	17%	6%
Total Manufacturing costs (per yard of fabric)	0.14	0.08	0.12	0.24	0.12	0.12	0.19
Index (Italy: 100)	(59)	(34)	(50)	(100)	(50)	(50)	(80)

(D)

Manufacturing Costs of Textured Yarn Weaving-2003

(In US \$ per yard of fabric)

Cost Element	Brazil	China	India	Italy	Korea	Turkey	USA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Labour	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.29	0.10	0.04	0.22
	7%	5%	9%	34%	27%	9%	30%
Power	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.28	0.05	0.07	0.24
	8%	16%	20%	33%	13%	18%	34%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Auxiliary material	0.07	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.06
	20%	16%	20%	8%	20%	18%	9%
Depreciation	0.12	0.20	0.11	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.15
	32%	54%	28%	18%	30%	39%	21%
Interest	0.12	0.03	0.09	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.04
	33%	9%	23%	7%	10%	16%	6%
Total Manufacturing costs (per yard of fabric)	0.37	0.37	0.39	0.85	0.39	0.38	0.71
Index (Italy: 100)	(43)	(43)	(46)	(100)	(46)	(44)	(84)

(E)

Manufacturing Costs of O-E Yarn Knitting-2003

(In US \$ per yard of fabric)

Cost Element	Brazil	China	India	Italy	Korea	Turkey	USA
Labour	0.005	0.005	0.003	0.065	0.02	0.01	0.055
	7%	10%	5%	54%	34%	17%	57%
Power	0.005	0.01	0.015	0.017	0.008	0.01	0.007
	7%	26%	23%	14%	12%	18%	7%
Auxiliary material	0.01	0.005	0.006	0.008	0.007	0.007	0.007
	12%	15%	10%	7%	11%	12%	7%
Depreciation	0.02	0.015	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.023	0.022
	32%	37%	32%	19%	33%	37%	23%
Interest	0.03	0.005	0.02	0.007	0.006	0.01	0.005
	42%	12%	30%	6%	10%	16%	6%
Total Manufacturing costs (per yard of fabric)	0.07	0.04	0.06	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.10
Index (Italy: 100)	(57)	(34)	(50)	(100)	(50)	(50)	(80)

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government in the recent past to make the Indian textile industry more competitive

- To improve productivity and quality of cotton, for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning and Pressing factories.
- The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the repaid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20-04-05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- For small scale textile and jute industrial units, Government has enhanced, the rate of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) from 12% to 15% w.e.f. 13-01-05.
- In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as High-tech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centers, Group Workshed Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced. Also, the Government has enhanced, w.e.f. 13-01-05, the capital ceiling for machinery from Rs. 60.00 lakh to Rs. 100.00 lakh under 20% capital subsidy scheme-TUFS.
- To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in July 2005.
- In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.
- To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of machinery items.
- In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).

- Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.
- Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.
- To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies. Government is taking steps for:—
 - * Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.

- * Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.
- * Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.

Assistance to Sick SSI

4623. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheduled and nationalized banks are extending financial assistance to sick Small Scale Industrial Units of Tamil Nadu for their revival; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided by banks to these industrial units during the last three years and for current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Data on number of sick units and amount outstanding in the books of scheduled commercial banks in the State of Tamil Nadu for the last three years, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, is given as under:—

(Amount outstanding in Rs. Crores)

Period	Total Sick units		Non viable		Potentially viable		Viable units those per under nursing	
	Units	O/S	Units	O/S	Units	O/S	Units	O/S
2002-03	13517	982.50	13108	935.18	409	47.32	105	16.69
2003-04	8750	810.24	8430	737.37	320	72.87	81	51.17
2004-05	9938	1033.07	9245	932.26	693	100.81	76	46.88

Development of 'SARAS'

4624. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR is undertaking a major project for the development of a commercial aircraft named "SARAS";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CSIR has analyzed adequately the commercial potential of the aircraft before investing in the development; and

(d) if so, the details of the market size for such type of aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. CSIR is undertaking a major project on a multi role Light Transport Aircraft named "SARAS", designed to carry 14 passengers, and a maximum cruising speed of about 550 km/hr, upto an altitude 30,000 ft. It is capable of operating from short and semi prepared runways and in hot and humid climate. The aircraft had its successful maiden test flight on 29th May, 2004 and the formal inaugural flight took place on 22nd August, 2004.

(c) and (d) Several preliminary market surveys were conducted and the latest survey indicates that in the feeder aircraft role, there is an expected cumulative demand of about 50 aircraft by 2007-08. A separate survey was also carried out, as a part of this study, for the North Eastern region of the country, which predicted a demand for 18 small aircraft in this region by the year 2005. The demand is expected to be of about 150 aircrafts in the next ten years, taking into account its various version like cargo, ambulance, aerial survey, executive aircraft and military roles. It is likely that the potential for SARAS will increase in future as Civil Aviation has grown by more than 20% annually in recent years.

Third Party Motor Insurance

4625. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the huge financial losses being faced by the public sector insurance companies due to non-picking up of loss-making third party motor insurance business by private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the premium of motor vehicles insurance for third party risk;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure compliance of the directives issued by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has requested the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to look into various options to alleviate losses to the public sector insurance general companies due to underwriting of Third party Motor insurance Business by them.

(c) and (d) IRDA has drawn up a draft road map for de-tariffing insurance business including motor vehicle insurance w.e.f. 01-01-2007, which may affect the premium rates of the motor vehicle insurance.

(e) No directive has been issued by the Government in this regard.

Indo-South African Co-operation

4626. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-South African Co-operation is considering on some projects for mutual cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources;

(b) if so, the details of the projects identified so far; and

(c) the names of the projects so far implemented alongwith the progress of each of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indo-South African Joint Working Group on Geology and Mineral Resources had identified certain projects for cooperation in various fields like geoscience mapping, metallogeny, micro-seismic techniques, characterization and processing of metals, bacterial leaching, comparative studies on miners' health, etc. Substantial progress has been achieved on two projects namely (1) Stratigraphic Correlation of the Karoo Formations between Southern Africa and India; and (2) Precambrian Crustal Evolution and Metallogeny of

Peninsular India and Eastern/Southern Africa, for implementation. The time-frame set for finalisation of the reports of these two projects is March, 2006 and December, 2005 respectively.

Agreement between NALCO and NMDC

4627. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) have signed any agreement in regard to share Nickel Technology Probing Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NALCO and NMDC have proposal to set up any plant for the production of Nickel;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said plant is being set up; and

(e) the details of the progress for completion of the Gallium Production Project and Joint Research Project of NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) have signed an agreement on 29th November 2005 to share and collaborate in exploiting the nickel extraction technology developed at Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) NALCO is collaborating with M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE), Russia with regard to Gallium production project. The two sides are in touch with each other for working out the logistical arrangement for testing of spent liquor in laboratory of M/s. TPE. NALCO

is also in touch with M/s. NLM/JFEST, Japan for liquor evaluation test with ion exchange resin technology.

Regarding Joint Research Project, an agreement was signed between Moscow Institute of Steel and Alloy (MISA)/Romelt-Sail India Ltd. and NALCO for extraction of iron from Red mud of NALCO's Alumina Refinery. Based on the studies, a Techno-Economic Feasibility Report was submitted by MISA/Romelt—Sail India Ltd. to NALCO. After detailed study of the report, the project was not found to be economically viable.

Modernisation of Ginning and Pressing Units

4628. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented Mini Mission III and IV relating to improvement in market infrastructure and modernization of Ginning and Pressing Units;

(b) if so, the details of market yards development and ginning and Pressing Units modernized during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Government in this regard during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes Sir, Government of India had already launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in February, 2000 in the course of 9th Five Year Plan, with the objective of improvement in the production, productivity and quality of cotton and reduction in cost of cultivation, in order to provide abundant supply of good quality cotton at competitive prices to the textile industry and a remunerative return to the farmer.

(b) Under TMC Mini Mission III, State-wise breakup for the last three years is given below:—

State	Market, Yards completed
1	2
Punjab	1

1	2
Haryana	7
Rajasthan	10
Madhya Pradesh	5
Gujarat	18
Andhra Pradesh	11
Karnataka	6
Tamil Nadu	2
Orissa	—
Maharashtra	—
Total	68

Under TMC Mini Mission IV, State-wise breakup for the last three years is given below:—

State	G and P units Completed
Punjab	4
Haryana	—
Rajasthan	—
Madhya Pradesh	10
Gujarat	182
Andhra Pradesh	6
Karnataka	3
Tamil Nadu	1
Orissa	2
Maharashtra	85
Total	293

(c) TMC has provided total financial assistance of Rs. 110.00 crore for the Mini Mission III and IV during the last three years.

Additional Allocations under PMGSY

4629. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated the additional allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) on account of increase in diesel cess during each of the last three years and current year;

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

(c) whether there has been a delay in allocation of cess collected from diesel; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for timely disbursement of additional allocation to 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) to (d) The cess collected on diesel accrues into the Central Road Fund, which is governed by the provisions of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000. As per provisions of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, fifty percent of the cess on high speed diesel is allocated for the development of rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The release of funds to the States depends upon the level of utilisation of funds released earlier to the States and the physical progress of works, as stipulated in the guidelines of PMGSY. There has been no delay in allocation of cess.

Customs and Excise Cases

4630. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases booked by the Customs and Central Excise Department during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases ended in favour of the Department and the number of cases ended in favour of the opposite party; and

(c) the amount of fees paid by the Department to the counsels for the above period?

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.

Financial Assistance to States

4631. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government provide technical advice as well as financial assistance to States for setting up of Biotechnology Incubators, Pilot level facilities and Biotech Parks;

(b) if so, the details of such advice and assistance provided to various States during each of the last three years, state-wise;

(c) the extent to which entrepreneurs gain competitive advantage in the country;

(d) whether some States have set up separate Departments/Boards for framing Biotech Policies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, the Department of Biotechnology provides need based technical as well as financial assistance to States for setting up of Biotechnology Incubators, Pilot level facilities and Biotech Parks. An Expert Committee constituted by the Department had provided technical advice to the States keeping in view the business plan and strength in biotechnology and also nature of biotechnology industries in a particular State.

(b) During the last three years the Department has provided technical advice to various States viz, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Orissa and West Bengal for developing proposals on setting up of Biotechnology Incubators, Pilot level facilities and Biotech Parks. The

Department has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 13.475 crores for setting up of Biotech Park in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Department has also provided Rs. 3.57 crores to Punjab; Rs. 0.50 crores to Himachal Pradesh; Rs. 3.699 crores to Andhra Pradesh; Rs. 11.13 crores to Karnataka and Rs. 11.00 crores to Kerala for setting up of incubators/Pilot level facilities in their Biotech Parks, respectively.

(c) By establishing their business in Biotech Parks, the entrepreneurs gain competitive advantage in terms of the logistics, access to common facilities like pilot plants, information centre, quality control, quality assurance and analytical facilities, stores, warehouse and utility services available within the Park in comparison to other entrepreneurs outside the Park who have to establish such facilities on individual basis.

(d) and (e) The States like Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat are some of the States who have set up separate biotech Departments/Boards for framing biotech policies and preparing various business plans for biotech entrepreneurs.

Tax and Non-Tax Revenue Collection

4632. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the figures of non-tax and tax revenue collections during 2004-05 by Union Government were lower than those of the corresponding period in the previous year;

(b) if so, the details of the tax revenue and non-tax revenue receipts of the Union Government during 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed for non-tax and tax revenue collection in the current financial year alongwith revenue receipts till now?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Instructions have been issued by Ministry of Finance to all Ministries/Departments to ensure that all profit making PSEs pay dividend as per guidelines, other non-tax revenue receipts are collected without fail and also to review user charges with the aim of recovering at least the cost of the service. So far as collection of tax revenue is concerned, the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets include widening the tax base, phasing out of exemptions wherever possible, strengthening tax administration, plugging leakage of revenue, recovery of tax arrears through a multi pronged drive and simplification of tax procedures to improve compliance.

Details of revenue receipts in the current financial year till now are as under:—

Tax Revenue	Rs. 191105.09 crores (Upto Noember 2005) (Prov.)
Non Tax Revenue	Rs. 38612.31 crores (Upto October, 2005) (Provi.)

Tax Exemption for Sports Donation

4633. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any MoU has been signed with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for promotion of sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to allow substantial tax exemption on the donations made by Indian industry for developing Olympic disciplines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) One MoU has been signed between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the other between Federation of

Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Sports Authority of India (SAI).

(c) Though there is no such proposal in both the MoUs any sum paid by a company as donation to the Indian Olympic Association or to any other association or institution notified by the Central Government for development of infrastructure for sports and games or for sponsorship of sports and games is allowed as deduction under section 80G(2)(c) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. In addition, any sum paid to the National Sports Fund set up by the Central Government is also entitled to deduction in the hands of the donor under the provisions of section 80G(2)(a)(iii) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(d) and (e) In view of the reply to part (c) above, these do not arise.

Creation of Second Chamber

4634. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Assam for creation of a second chamber (Upper House) in addition to existing Assam Assembly to accommodate smaller ethnic and social groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action so far taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether a similar proposal from other States are also pending for clearance;

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

(f) the time by which all such proposals are likely to be cleared by Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam had forwarded a Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly on 25-9-1995 for favour of creation of a Second Chamber in the State of Assam. On receipt of the

proposal, the Central Government had sought the views/comments of the then incumbent Government of Assam in the matter and it was informed that the matter was being considered by the State Government. The present Legislative Assembly of Assam, in its meeting held on 29th November, 2005, has again passed a Resolution reiterating the stand taken in Resolution passed on 25-9-1995 for favour of creation of a Legislative Council in that State and Communicated to the Central Government vide its letter dated 5-12-2005. The proposal is under consideration.

(d) and (e) The Government of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh had also sent similar proposals for revival/creation of Legislative councils in their respective State Legislatures. The Government of Punjab informed in 2002 that there is no need for creation of the Legislative Council in that State in view of the small area of that State. The proposal for creation of Legislative Council in the State of Andhra Pradesh was considered and a Bill titled the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Bill, 2004 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 16th December 2004. The Bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament in the current Session of Parliament.

(f) As per the provisions of clause (1) of article 169 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament may by law provide for the abolition or creation of Legislative Council in a State having no such Council if the Legislative Assembly of that State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting. As the State Government has to make necessary infrastructural arrangements and bear the financial requirements, the Central Government proposes to consult the State Government before any further action is taken in the matter.

Disinvestment of BALCO

4635. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bidhanbag Unit of Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. has totally been closed after disinvestment of

BALCO by M/s. Sterlite Industries after taking Control of Management;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of present status of unit;

(d) the present status of the machinery and other raw material including 3000 acres of land belonging to BALCO;

(e) whether M/s. Sterlite Industries has changed its name;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government has submitted the document of disinvestment of BALCO to Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for its concurrence; and

(h) if so, the status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) The production at Bidhanbag Unit of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) has been stopped since 2001 due to heavy loss of production of value added products, higher scrap generation, poor quality, poor sales realisation and customer rejection. The machinery and land of the Unit continues to be in possession of BALCO.

(e) No, Sir. The Sterlite Industries (India) Limited has not changed its name.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) After completion of the sale of 51% Government's equity in BALCO the relevant files and documents, which were requisitioned by the Audit Party, were handed over to them. The Office of Comptroller and Auditor General (C and AG) sent their draft inspection report containing preliminary audit observations for comments of the Department of disinvestment on 4th October, 2001. The comments of the then Ministry of Disinvestment on the preliminary audit observations were forwarded to C and AG on 7th December, 2001. The Government does not submit the documents of disinvestment to C and AG for its concurrence.

Externally Aided Programme

4636. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of externally aided projects being implemented in Bihar;

(b) whether overseas aided agencies are mainly supporting their projects for basically poverty alleviation programmes;

(c) whether the Government has any plan and strategy to persuade the World Bank/Asian Development Bank for multilateral aid for Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Details are furnished in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes Sir. Besides supporting poverty alleviation projects in social, health, agriculture, environment sectors, they also support projects in energy, infrastructure sector etc.

(c) and (d) Project proposals from the State Governments received with the approval of the concerned central nodal Ministries by the Department of Economic Affairs are posed to external agencies for financial assistance after ensuring plan priorities and necessary clearances. Once the project is posed to the World Bank/Asian Development Bank and other external agency, it goes through the cycle of pre-appraisal, preparation of project concept document, appraisal, negotiation and final approval. This process takes reasonable time depending on how well the project is prepared and overall commitments of the external agencies in terms of their resources. Government of India actively negotiates with World Bank/Asian Development Bank and other external agencies and encourages all States to access funds for implementation of externally aided projects.

Statement*Externally aided programme***Projects under implementation in Bihar**

1. Energy Serv. for Rural Industries, Angara, Bihar (US\$ 0.600 million) signed on 13-10-1999 and being Complemented with UNDP assistance.
2. Tuberculosis Control project (US\$ 129.36 million): World bank assisted central sector project signed on 14-3-1997 and is implemented nation-wide.
3. Malaria Control Programme (US\$ 128.30 million): World Bank assisted central sector project signed on 30-7-1997 and is implemented in seven states including Bihar.
4. HIV/AIDs-II (US\$ 191.00 million): Word Bank assisted central sector project signed on 14-9-1999 and is implemented nation-wide.
5. Food and Capacity Building Project (US\$ 54.03 million): World Bank assisted central sector project signed on 29-9-2003 and is implemented nation-wide.
6. Immunisation Strengthening Project (US\$ 230.80 million): World Bank assisted central sector project signed on 19-5-2000 and is implemented nation-wide.
7. Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (US\$ 68.00 million): World Bank assisted central sector project signed on 23-9-2004 and is implemented nation-wide.
8. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (US\$ 500.00 million): World Bank assisted central sector project signed on 3-6-2004 and is implemented nation-wide.
9. Third District Primary Education Project, Bihar (US\$ 152.00): World Bank assisted central sector project signed on 23-2-1998 and is implemented in Bihar and Jharkhand.

Status of Pipeline project proposals

10. Bihar Rural Livelihoods (US\$ 70 million): The

proposal received in August 2005, is in the Operations Programme of World Bank in Financial Year 2006.

11. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Phase-II (US\$ 500 million): This multi-state project was posed to World Bank on 8-11-2005. Identification Mission will visit in early 2006.
12. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (Rs. 718.99 crores): This multi-state project was posed to World Bank on 7-5-2003. The project states have been requested to set up Project Preparation Units (PPUs).

[Translation]

Recovery of Loans

4637. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the country which have not made payments of loan granted by the Government of India;

(b) the details of principal and interest due on each of such countries as on date;

(c) the details of efforts made by the Government for the recovery of said loan;

(d) whether the Government proposes to invest the said bad loans in the private ventures of such countries keeping in view the policy of economic liberalisation adopted by the countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The details of Principal and Interest amounts overdue as on 30th November, 2005, country-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The repayment of the dues is the obligation of the Governments of the recipient countries. The issue of repayment of dues, wherever necessary, has also been taken up with the recipient governments through Ministry of External Affairs from time to time.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Principal and Interest Overdues in respect of Government of India Lines of Credit extended to the Governments of Foreign Countries

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Principal Overdue	Interest Overdue
1	2	3	4
1.	Bangladesh	INR 114575000.00	INR 103507488.49
2.	Cambodia	INR 14602948.00	US\$ 142317.82 + INR 8025614.00
3.	Kazakhstan	US\$ 3150468.00	US\$ 3369147.09
4.	Kenya	INR 596299.45	—
5.	Kyrgyzstan	US\$ 910357.06	US\$ 165895.09
6.	Mauritius	US\$ 44491.20 + INR 1713294.53	US\$ 91074.23 + INR 936462.35

1	2	3	4
7.	Myanmar	—	US\$ 2097937.87
8.	Seychelles	INR 23719698.60	US\$ 953462.17 + INR 14959161.38
9.	Sri Lanka	INR 65373824.00	US\$ 1361155.86 + INR 20746826.00
10.	Suriname	—	US\$ 16842.54
11.	Turkmenistan	US\$ 2765102.00	US\$ 2992893.53
12.	Uzbekistan	US\$ 5884768.18	US\$ 3160630.75
13.	Vietnam	INR 173209000.00	INR 17977764.98
14.	Yemen	INR 7540519.00	INR 49475945.00

Indo-China Agreement

4638. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has reached between the National Stock Exchange of India and the Share Market of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said agreement is likely to be implemented; and

(d) whether the interests of shareholders will be fully safeguarded under the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. and Shenzhen Stock Exchange, Shenzhen, China have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

(b) to (d) The MoU is for the purpose of provision of information and cooperation between the parties with respect to, inter alia, investor education and awareness, regulatory framework, technology and development thereon, staff training, research and seminars. The MoU is of non-binding nature for either party and is subject

to national laws in each country and international treaties at all times. The MoU does not create any right to either party to demand delivery of information or services covered under the MoU and neither party would in any circumstance be liable to the other for any failure to provide any information or services. The MoU is for a period of five years with effect from 1st November 2005, but can be terminated by either party with a three months' prior notice to the other for any reason whatsoever.

The MoU will enable both exchanges to share information and experience for better regulation of the market, on issues such as risk containment measures, market surveillance and membership standards, investor education and awareness which will enable either exchange to adopt better practices prevailing in the other exchange.

[English]

Partnership Matrics for the Development of Bihar

4639. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has given any time

schedule to Bihar Government for submission of the their projects under "Partnership Matrics for the Development of Bihar";

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

(c) the terms and conditions of World Bank in this regard; and

(d) the present status of each of such projects?

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

(b) to (d) In view of (a), do not arise.

Lahri Committee on Investment

4640. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lahri Committee appointed by Government to advise on liberalization of foreign investment have submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken/proposed to be taken to accept and implement the advisory recommendation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The report of the Expert Group on "Encouraging FII flows and checking the vulnerability of capital market to speculative flows" was submitted to the Government on 22nd November, 2005. The report has been put in the public domain on the website of the Ministry of Finance to encourage a public debate on the recommendations of the report. The Government would take a view on the report and the recommendations after wide public debate.

Request from UP

4641. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Union Government for special package of Rs. 18230.00 crore as Central assistance for different schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to grant special package to Government of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the time by which the Union Government has to grant the said package to the Government of Uttar Pradesh?

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

(b) Details of special economic package requested by Government of UP are given below:—

Head	Funds requested (Rs. in crores)
1. Energy	4650
2. Irrigation	1442
3. UP State Road Authority	500
4. Integrated Rural Dev. Scheme	500
5. Rural Drinking Water	2744
6. Urban Drinking Water	1350
7. Urban Shelter	500
8. Primary Education, Nutrition and Scholarship	2195
9. Nutrition	530
10. Old Age Farmer pension	103
11. Afforestation	566
12. Industrial Development	2050
13. Structural Adjustment Loan-II	1100
Total	18230

(c) and (d) Government does not approve any special economic package as such. States with special

problems/circumstances are provided additional central assistance for their priority schemes, special central assistance, special plan assistance over and above the normal central assistance for State plans on exceptional basis on merits of each case.

Excise and IT Collection

4642. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether overall tax collections in the first half of current fiscal is lower than projected growth in excise and Income Tax collections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any short fall in collections from major sectors cause the poor collections;

(d) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise;

(e) whether Ministry has any proposal for comprehensive Sector-wise assessment of the excise in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The overall increase in tax collections in respect of excise and direct taxes at the end of the first half of the current fiscal was 7.2% and 24.26% respectively as against the annual projected growth rate of 22.4% in respect of excise and 34.23% in respect of direct taxes. Separate growth rates for the first and second half of the current fiscal have not been projected by the Government.

(c) and (d) So far as direct taxes are concerned, the advance tax payments by the oil marketing companies in the first half of the current fiscal have been substantially lower than those in the corresponding period of last year. So far as excise duty is concerned, important commodities whose revenues have not grown at the required rate are petroleum products (except RD Oil), machinery, textiles, chemicals, plastics, cement, motor vehicles and tobacco products.

(e) and (f) Central Excise revenue collections are being monitored in totality as well as at sectoral level for different industrial sectors. Appropriate actions by way of intensified and focused audit/anti-evasion activities, immediate realization of unfettered arrears, speeding up finalization of cases pending before departmental officers, steps for faster decision in important cases pending before Tribunal/Commissioners (Appeals) are being taken for augmenting Central Excise revenue collections in the current year.

Migration of Work Force

4643. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India is the biggest beneficiary from the migration of their work force resulting foreign exchange remittance;

(b) whether according to World Bank Global Economic Prospects (GEP) for 2006; out of the total world wide \$ 232 billion dollar remittance in 2005, India received 10%;

(c) if so, the remittance from migrated workers has been backbone of Indian economy;

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to send more work force in foreign countries to increase their remittance; and

(e) the total share of such remittance by workers in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Private transfers to India, which mainly comprise workers' remittances, amounted to US\$ 20.5 billion in 2004-05. The Reserve Bank of India in its latest annual report (2004-05) states that surge in remittances, particularly since the information technology revolution in the 1990s, has placed Indian as the highest remittance receiving country in the world. The 'Global Economic Prospects, 2006', released by the World Bank, indicates that India was the highest remittance receiving country in 2004. During 2004, India accounted for 9.6 per cent of total

global remittances worth US\$ 225.8 billion. While the report also indicates that total world remittances amounted to US\$ 232.2 billion in 2005, it does not provide estimates for India for 2005.

(c) and (d) Remittances have been one of the major sources of stable foreign exchange inflows for India, since the latter half of the 1990s. Such flows have augmented due to increasing availability of speedier and cost effective money transfer arrangements through banks and post offices. While the bulk of remittances have been flowing in through banking channels, two schemes, viz. Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) and Rupee Drawing Arrangements (RDA), providing benefits of easier and speedier operations, have played significant roles in expanding the outreach of remittances to remote parts of the country.

(e) The share of India's private transfer (remittances) to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 3.0 per cent in 2004-05.

[Translation]

Empowerment of Panchayats

4644. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Ministry of Panchayat Raj to set up a fund to provide help for the purpose of empowerment of Panchayats in the various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has granted permission for the Constitution of the said fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal for the creation of an incentive fund for the empowerment of Panchayats is under the consideration of the Government of India and the modalities for operationalizing this fund are being worked out by the Planning Commission.

[English]

Lacunae in IT Act

4645. SHRI ANADRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from the Handloom Export Promotion Council regarding hardships experienced by small exporters and traders consequent to the new Rule to Section 40(a)(ia) of the Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the fact that Small Exporters and Traders especially Textile Exporters are affected and facing possible closure due to implementation of new rule and this will lead to unemployment of lakhs of workers; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to dispel the hardships to the Small Traders and Exporters?

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

(b) Under the provisions of section 40(a)(ia) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, disallowance is attracted only when there is failure on the part of the payer to comply with the provisions of deduction of tax at source. By the introduction of the provisions of section 40(a)(ia), no additional burden has been cast on the payer of specified incomes, namely; interest, commission or brokerage, etc. as the payer of such specified incomes is already required to deduct tax at source at the specified percentages under various TDS provisions. Section 40(a)(ia) is merely an enforcement provision introduced through the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004 to augment the compliance of TDS provisions. Therefore, if tax has been deducted at source on any specified payment and paid to the account of Central Government, no disallowance under section 40(a)(ia) is attracted. Further, the liberal aspect inbuilt in the provisions of section 40(a)(ia) is that the amount disallowed in the year of non-deduction and non-payment to the Government account gets allowed in any year in which the tax is deducted and paid to the account of the Central Government.

(c) In view of (b) above, this does not arise.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):
I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3513/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited, New Shimla, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited, New Shimla, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3514/05]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Thermal Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Thermal Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited

Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3515/05]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3516/05]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3517/05]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3518/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3519/05]

- (3) A copy of the Central Electricity Authority (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 686 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2005 under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3520/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3521/05]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 681 (E) (Hindi and English versions) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2005, making certain amendments to Recruitment Regulations for the post of Director (Landscape) issued under Delhi Development Authority Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3522/05]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and

English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3523/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3524/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3525/05]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3526/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3527/05]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3528/05]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3529/05]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3530/05]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3531/05]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3532/05]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3533/05]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Powerloom Development and Export

[Shri Shankersinh Vaghela]

Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3534/05]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool and Woolens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool and Woolens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3535/05]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3536/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3537/05]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3538/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3539/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts

and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3540/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3541/05]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3542/05]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3543/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the

working of the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3544/05]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3545/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, Noida, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, Noida, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3546/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Shri Mahavir Prasad]

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3547/05]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3548/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): On behalf of Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Instruments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Instruments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3549/05]
- (2) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005,

alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3550/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3551/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3552/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3553/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3554/05]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3555/05]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3556/05]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of

the working of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3557/05]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3558/05]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3559/05]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3560/05]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3561/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Kapurthala, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Kapurthala, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3562/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3563/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3564/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3565/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3566/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3567/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3568/05]

- (5) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Twenty-four institutions mentioned therein relating to different years, within the stipulated period of nine months, after the close of respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3569/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3570/05]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the ITI Limited and the Department of Telecommunications. Ministry of Communications, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3571/05]

- (3) A copy of the Registrar of Interconnect Agreement (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Second Amendment) Regulation, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 6-20/2005-B and CS in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2005, under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3572/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3573/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005.

[Shri Kantilal Bhuria]

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (b) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3574/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3575/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3576/05]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Federation

of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3577/05]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3578/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Taslimuddin, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, Alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3579/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3580/05]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 16—Mohd. Salim.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta—North East): Sir, I want to say a small point to the hon. Minister. Under item no. 16, Shri M.A.A. Fatmi, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, is to lay the Annual Reports of the Indian Institute of Ahmedabad and Kolkata. These are the premier institutes and the management cadres, who come out of these Institutes, serve the whole world. The Government should take care of this. This should not be a ritual. Now, he is going to lay the Annual Reports of IIM, Ahmedabad for the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. There is a backlog of the last five years. According to the Act, we should now get the Annual Report for the year 2004-05, that is, within nine months from the close of the financial year. If this happens with respect to an Institute, which is a premier institute, the Minister should take care and clear the backlog. Otherwise, it will be a ritual. We should know what is happening and we should also know what is happening currently....(*Interruptions*) It is not as this: I am saying of backlog for five years....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Earlier, I had already observed.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not be so touchy. I have said that if any apparent delay is there, some explanatory note should be there. Then, the hon. Member will know about it and not raise any question.

Now subject to that you will have to circulate the reason for this, you can lay it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): In future, we will take care.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Regarding this, you have to give an explanation.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: We will submit the explanatory statement.

I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Book Trust, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3581/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2003-2004.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3582/05]

[Shri M.A.A. Fatmi]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3583/05]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3584/05]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, District Education Programme (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Bhubaneswar, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, District Education Programme (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3585/05]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha

Abhiyan Authority Punjab, Chandigarh, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority Punjab, Chandigarh, for the year 2003-2004.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3586/05]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for the year 2000-2001.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3587/05]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3588/05]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of

Management, Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3589/05]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, for the year 2003-2004.

- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3590/05]

- (19) A copy of the Notification No. IG/Admn(G)/St. 9/2004/192 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2005 making certain amendments to Statute 9A of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985, under sub-section (2) of section 40 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3591/05]

- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3592/05]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3593/05]

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Uttranchal Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Dehradun, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Uttranchal Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Dehradun, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3594/05]

- (24) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Council of Primary Education, Gandhinagar, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Council of Primary Education, Gandhinagar, for the year 2003-2004.

- (25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3595/05]

- (26) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of

[Shri M.A.A. Fatmi]

Apprenticeship Training (Western Region), Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Western Region), Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3596/05]

- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Uttranchal Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad (District Primary Education Programme-III), Dehradun, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Uttranchal Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad (District Primary Education Programme-III), Dehradun, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3597/05]

- (28) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3598/05]

- (29) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Educational Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Educational Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3599/05]

- (30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3600/05]

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment Shri Md. Salim for being alert.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): On behalf of Shri A. Narendra, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3601/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): On behalf of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3602/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3603/05]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3604/05]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3605/05]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3606/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3607/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Housing Bank, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3608/05]

- (4) A copy of the Consolidated Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Public Sector Banks for the year ended 31st March, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3609/05]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:—

- (i) The Dena Bank (Employees') Pension

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

(Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. IR/AMEND/02/2005 in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2005.

- (ii) The Dena Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. IR/AMEND/03/2005 in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3610/05]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 716 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 157/2003-Cus., dated the 20th October, 2003, under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Custom Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3611/05]

- (7) A copy of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Conditions of Service of Officers and Other Employees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./2/2005 in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2005 under section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3612/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3613/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3614/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the CAPEXIL (formerly Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the CAPEXIL (formerly Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3615/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3616/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts (General Fund 2004-2005 and Pool Fund 2003-2004).

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005 (General Fund 2004-2005 and Pool Fund 2003-2004).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3617/05]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3618/05]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Leather Export, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Leather Export, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3619/05]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3620/05]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3621/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3622/05]

12.05% hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Fourteenth to Seventeenth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

12.05½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Ninth and Tenth Reports

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to present the Hindi and English Versions of the following Reports of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

- (1) Ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of COPU (14th Lok Sabha) relating to Oil Exploration—Domestic and Overseas Projects.
- (2) Tenth Report on "Review on Export of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India."

12.06 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

Statements

[English]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:—

- (1) Showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Fourth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-2005) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Twenty-eighth Report of the erstwhile Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups'.
- (2) Showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Sixth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-2005)

(Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Second Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants, 2004-2005 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

12.06¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

Fourth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): I beg present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2005-06) on the subject 'Working Condition of Women in Handloom Sector'.

12.06½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Twenty-Fifth to Twenty-Eighth Reports

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology:—

- (1) Twenty-Fifth Report on action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Fifteen Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).
- (2) Twenty-sixth Report on action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Sixteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) relating to

the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

- (3) Twenty-Seventh Report on action taken by Government on the Recommendations/ Observations of the Committee contained in their Seventeenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunication).
- (4) Twenty-Eighth Report on 'Spectrum Management' relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).

12.07 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION**

Ninth and Tenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2005-06):—

- (1) Ninth Report of the Committee on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the Sixth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2005-06)" pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution.)
- (2) Tenth Report of the Committee on (i) The Standards for Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill, 2005; and (ii) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Amendment Bill, 2005 pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

12.07½ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (1) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 22nd December, 2005, passed, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, without any amendment, the Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st December, 2005."
- (2) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd December, 2005, agreed without any amendment to the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Bill, 2005 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st December, 2005."

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Shivraj V. Patil to make a Statement in the House. I permit you to do it.

12.08 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Heavy rainfall and flood situation, relief operations and stampede during relief operations in Tamil Nadu**

*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): There were four spells of heavy rains and floods in Tamil Nadu between 23rd October

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 3623/05.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

and 4th December 2005. Heavy discharge of water from reservoirs aggravated the situation, 22 districts were affected. Chennai city had torrential rains exceeding 44 cms between 26-28th October 2005.

2. The State Government has reported that 290 persons lost their lives. About 6 lakh houses were reportedly fully damaged. 3.88 lakh hectares cropped area were affected. The State Government has also reported substantial damage to infrastructure, including roads, power, water supply, telecommunication and public buildings.

3. The State Government organised 1,349 relief camps in 22 affected districts in which approximately 7.94 lakh families were accommodated. The Government of India has supplemented the efforts of the State Government by providing logistic and financial support.

4. The Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted a memorandum to the Government of India in which assistance has been sought both for immediate relief operations as well as long term rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Government of India has released Rs. 1,000 crore as interim assistance on an *ad hoc* basis in two installments of Rs. 500 crore each. With regard to assistance for long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction, the State Government is required to submit detailed sector-wise plans for consideration of the Government of India.

5. There was an incident of stampede on 18th December 2005 at a relief centre in Chennai city. Tokens for providing relief to a number of affected families were to be distributed at Arignar Anna Corporation High School, MGR Nagar, Chennai from 9.00 a.m. on 18th December, 2005. The State Government has reported that on that day about 4,000 persons had gathered in front of the gate of the Arignar Anna Corporation High School from the early hours of the morning. Due to a sudden heavy downpour at about 3.45 am, the public surged inside the relief centre pushing aside the gates without heeding to the police restrictions. In the melee, 42 persons lost their lives, 37 persons sustained injuries, and 12 police personnel were also injured.

6. The State Government has disbursed financial assistance of an amount of Rs. 1 lakh to the families of those who lost their lives, and Rs. 15,000 each to those who sustained injuries in this incident. The State Government has decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry headed by a retired Judge of the High Court under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 to inquire into this incident. We are indeed saddened by this incident.

7. I would like to once again assure the hon. Members of the House that the Government of India would continue to provide all possible financial and logistical support to the State Governments affected by natural calamities....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what have they done after commissioning this inquiry in connection with stampede deaths? They have transferred the Collector and the Deputy Commissioner, and ordered to have an Inquiry Commission. Thereafter, one Councillor of the DMK has also been arrested. They are trying to cover their failure by pointing towards the DMK Party.

MR. SPEAKER: How can the Central Government do anything in it?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, I am asking the Central Government to have a CBI Inquiry. They are misusing the Central Funds.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not bring local State matters here. Your observations on this matter have already been recorded.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: We want monitoring of the disbursement of the entire Central Government funds. We want a CBI inquiry into it. One Councillor of DMK, Shri Dhanasekharan has been arrested....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make it a State Assembly.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, the Police Commissioner is falsely reporting against the DMK Party in front of the TV channels. Disciplinary action should be taken against the Police Commissioner.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnaswamy, this is too much.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: They are entirely misusing the Central Government funds. Therefore, we want a Monitoring Committee, and a CBI inquiry into this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. No, you will not respond. The hon. Minister will not be permitted to respond if you take the entire House to be run according to your sweet will.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are methods of raising it. You do not even bother to take the permission of the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not bother to show little respect to the Chair. Can you hold the House to ransom? I am sure, the Central Government—according to its jurisdiction—will look into it, and the hon. Minister has already assured it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not convert it into a State Assembly.

12.09 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Mines**

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): On behalf of Shri Sis Ram Ola, as per the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker, I beg to lay a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel pertaining to the Ministry of Mines.

*Not recorded.

**Placed in Library. See No. LT 3624/05.

The Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel was presented in the Lok Sabha on 26-4-2005, which pertains to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2005-06. Action taken Report on the recommendations of the Committee has already been sent to the Committee Office on 19-09-2005. There are 18 recommendations in the Report upon which action is to be taken by the government.

Status of implementation on the action taken is in Annexure-I of my statement, which has been laid on the table of the House. I would not like to waste the precious time of this House by reading it and would request to treat it as read.

12.10 hrs.

- (iii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 127th and 141st Reports of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to Department of Biotechnology**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 127th and 141st Reports of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology.

12.11 hrs.

- (iv) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 140th Reports of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to Science and Technology**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 3625/05.

**Placed in Library. See No. LT 3626/05.

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

recommendations contained in the 140th Reports of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology.

I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Fortieth (140th) Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the direction of the Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 266 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States issued vide Rajya Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated September 28, 2004

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests laid their One Hundred-Fortieth (140th) Report on 25th April, 2005 in the Rajya Sabha. In all there were 19 (nineteen) recommendations in the 140th Report of the Committee. Action taken on these recommendations was reported to the Committee. The present status of implementation is detailed in the appended Annexure.

12.12 hrs.

(v) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 142th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 142nd Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to the Department of Science and Industrial Research.

I am making this statement in pursuance of Direction No. 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 1st September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the one hundred forty second report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) for the year 2005-06. The Committee reviewed the progress made by DSIR during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2005-06) in detail.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of DSIR, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Department and presented the 142nd Report thereon to the House on the 25th April 2005. The report contains eighteen recommendations, some of which are advisory in nature. Other recommendations mainly relate to:—

- dissemination of technologies for the benefit of the common man;
- need to improve the opportunities for well-trained scientists and young talents to pursue innovative research, to educate the next generation to apply science in areas of importance for the health, prosperity and security of nation;
- safeguarding traditional knowledge;
- early commercialization of biofuel from jatropa curcas to the benefit of the farmers and consumers both;
- to carry out R and D activities in the area of earth's dynamo action and geonutrino picture of earth's interior for its better comprehension.

All the eighteen recommendations of the committee have been considered in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Department has furnished a detailed Action Taken Report on these recommendations to the Committee in August, 2005. Further comments

were made by the Committee. Department has responded to these comments through the revised Action Taken Note which was submitted in November 2005. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the appended Annexure.

12.13 hrs.

(vi) Status of implementation or recommendations contained in the 143th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to the Department of Ocean Development

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 143rd Reports of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to the Department of Ocean Development.

I am making this statement in pursuance of Direction No. 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 1st September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One hundred forty third report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Department of Ocean Development (DOD) for the year 2005-06. The Committee reviewed the progress made by DOD during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2005-06) in detail.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of DOD, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Department and laid the 143rd Report thereon to the House on the 25th April 2005. The report contains thirty one

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 3628/05.

recommendations, out of which six recommendations relate to the Ministry of Environment and Forests to whom these were referred to for appropriate action.

All the recommendations of the committee have been considered in the Department of Ocean Development. The Department has furnished a detailed Action Taken Report on these recommendations to the Committee in August, 2005. Further comments were made by the Committee. Department has responded to these comments through the revised Action Taken Note which was submitted in November 2005. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the appended Annexure.

12.14 hrs.

(vii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 20th Report of Standing Committee on Finance

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth Reports of Standing Committee Finance.

I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

In all, 10 recommendations were made by the Committee in the above report where action was required on the part of the Government. These recommendations pertain to cases being investigated by SFIO, Competition Act, 2002, Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF), utilisation of funds under IEPF, Activities under IEPF in rural areas, vanishing companies and the details of promoters/directors of Vanishing Companies, number of inspection of companies conducted by ROC, Shardul Shroff Committee and Cadre Review Committee.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 3629/05.

[Shri Prem Chand Gupta]

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to this Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we should now have the 'Zero Hour'. I have got to raise one very important matter in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir Acharia, I know that every matter being raised by you is particularly important.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is most important. It is about the people below the poverty line....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure that all hon. Members have to raise important matters only, but I am committed to Shri P.C. Thomas first.

MR. SPEAKER: I will have a little time spent on this. Shri P.C. Thomas, please be brief.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Suicides by farmers are increasing in this country. Even last week, there had been two suicides in my State in Kerala. Recently, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, His Excellency the President of India, while inaugurating a huge *Karshika Mela or Kisan Mela* at Todupuzha in Kerala, organised by Gandhi Study Centre, has called for a second Green Revolution in this country. While emphasising the need for using modern techniques in agriculture, he said that new technologies have to be used in order to double the production in this country. This call has to be heard by this Government.

Between now and till the time the Budget is presented, we may not have time to discuss this. I urge upon the Government of India and also the Finance Minister to grant or to double the funds for agriculture

and also ensure that modern techniques, including organic farming, are encouraged which will lead to a second Green Revolution in this country. In this way, the productivity is increased and the farming community can be saved at least from the suicides which are happening. I want to bring to the attention of this august House that two suicides have taken place in Kerala very recently and, therefore, I would request the Government to take immediate action in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow only four Members.

Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi: he has given the notice, but he is not present.

Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma: he is not present.

12.15 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Need for central intervention in the Supreme Court's order on below poverty line cards

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, a serious situation has arisen because of the Supreme Court's order in regard to distribution of BPL cards to people below the poverty line. The Supreme Court has put an injunction for issuance of BPL cards and as a result of this, for the last two years, people below the poverty line are not getting BPL cards. In our country, about 40 per cent of the population is living below the poverty line. Most of these people or a substantial percentage of this population today are not having any BPL card as a result of this, they are not getting the benefit of the Public Distribution System. They are deprived of the benefits of Antyodaya Annapurna Yojana, etc., which are meant for the BPL category of people.

Sir, the Central Government is not taking any action or is not approaching the Supreme Court to get an order or vacate the injunction. The Minister of Rural Development is here. The Minister of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development of West Bengal met him recently and discussed this problem with him. I would like to know from the Minister of Rural Development, who is

here, to respond as to how this problem can be resolved because a substantial percentage of the population who are living below the poverty line are deprived of the benefits like Antyodaya Annapurna Yojana, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would request the Minister, who is here, to respond to this.

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot be compelled to do that. If he does it, I do not mind.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is the problem pertaining to a substantial percentage of the population.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a Question Hour. I cannot compel him to answer.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A substantial percentage of our population are deprived of the benefits.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless you conclude, I cannot find out whether he is prepared to answer or not.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Hon'ble Minister is present here. Today is the last day of the session. We want to know about it and hon'ble Minister is present. Hon'ble Minister wants to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, hon'ble Minister wants to speak, he wants to respond.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, unless you take your seat, I will not do that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not be permitted. Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes, I feel that you have totally lost all sense of participation in this House. Hon. Leader has made certain submissions. I am saying that it is not a Question Hour, hence, I cannot compel him. It will depend on whether he wishes to respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: By your mere adding to the volume of decibel here, nothing will be allowed to be done, so long as I am here. You have to make choices. I will try to help you on important issues. But you have to cooperate and show proper respect to the House and to the people of this country. By shouting here, you are adding that. It entirely depends on the hon. Minister.

Mr. Minister, do you wish to respond? I do not compel you.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Yes, Sir.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not pressurise me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please do not reply to any question put without my permission.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia has raised an appropriate question. Hon. Supreme Court has instructed under PIL that the names, already included in the B.P.L. list cannot be struck out but problems are being faced in bringing out BPL survey 2002 for addition of names, which have been left out, and in preparation of fresh list. Hon. Member has wrongly said that the Central Government has not requested the Supreme Court. We have requested the Supreme Court thrice and discussed with Solicitor-General and Additional Solicitor-General. Recently, just four-five days ago hearing was scheduled to take place and the Hon. Supreme Court has given eight weeks time for it. Despite that we have asked all the state governments that the names of those people who are living below poverty line and whose names have been left out, there is no harm to include

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

their names in the BPL list and so, the process of adding their names must start. There should be transparency while adding the names in the B.P.L. list and it should be made public. It must be computerized and published in a book form. No poor person should be left out of the B.P.L. list. The people who are actually poor should get their names listed in the B.P.L. list.

Secondly, those who are the poorest one should be listed at the top. Thus the list should be in serial order so that poor beneficiaries may get the benefit under Indira Aawas Yojana and should not be deprived of this facility. Cooperation from the state governments and all the hon. Members is required so that the name of no person living below poverty line in the country should be left out. Their names should be added in the BPL list in serial order so that the poor person can get all the benefits and facilities to be provided under B.P.L. scheme.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the production has been hit adversely in Rajasthan due to drought and famine continuously for the last four years. Despite that the farmers sowed the Rabbi crop where there was water relying on electricity. Electricity is very much required for irrigation of crops otherwise the efforts of lakhs of farmers and sown crops will go futile.

Rajasthan is facing acute shortage of electricity these days. The first unit of R.A.P.P. is already shut down. The second unit is not generating electricity in full capacity. Rajasthan is not getting total electricity generated by third and fourth units. One unit of Kota thermal power is also closed by this time. As a result there is a shortage of 45 lakh units. Already there is shortage of 25 lakh units in the generation of hydro-electricity due to breakage of our Canal of Chambal. Despite purchasing 61 lakh units of electricity from the neighbouring states and all out efforts made by the Government of Rajasthan the crisis is not getting solved.

The Northern grid is not functioning properly. Electricity is not being supplied as per the requirement. The situation is not under control despite the continuous

5-6 hours cut. So I would like to request the Government of India that the electricity be made available as per the requirement from the National Grid without any delay so that the farmers of Rajasthan and the crops worth crores of rupees may be saved from the crisis and units of Kota and Rawatbhata be rectified so that electricity may be generated in full capacity. To find out a permanent solution the Union Government must force the Coal India Limited to generate electricity through "under ground coal gasification" by extracting gas from the tube well dug upto the surface of coal of Coal India Limited in Meera Nagar near Merata (Nagaur) so that electricity may be generated from that gas reserve as per the procedure of electricity generation explained by me in the House on earlier occasion.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have give a notice for the important issue during zero hour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now I come to Item No. 34—motion in the name of Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Before I invite him to move the motion, may I make a really humble submission?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is a very serious matter. I have called you because of the importance of the matter, but you were not present in the House. You cannot just, at your sweet will make your submission.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. I apologise for that.

MR. SPEAKER: You must have said it earlier it's not that once you rise and I am bound to allow you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a happy day, I am sure, not only for the Chair but also for the entire House. But the House sometimes has to do its duty and to the

nation. I am not saying a word about the merits. It is entirely for the House to decide. But what I am earnestly appealing to all sections of the House to please have a debate in a proper atmosphere or manner so that our dignity, which is already under some cloud, may not be further affected. Therefore, my earnest appeal to you is to make submission and I shall try to accommodate everyone to the best possible manner to the extent of availability of time. Therefore, I am sure, I will get your kind cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. please speak, what do you want to speak but speak on the matter.

[English]

This is not the way. You are a senior Member. I have respect for you.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was an incident of rape and loot in Pushpak Express in the midnight of 21-12-05 this proves complete failure of all the assurances of the Ministry of Railways on security. I therefore, through you, would like to draw the attention of Minister of Railways but the Minister is not present here....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to speak, please carry on.

[English]

It is not necessary that all the hon. Ministers will have to be present.

[Translation]

You speak through me.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the incident of Pushpak Express is a unique incident in itself. Two jawans of G.R.P. were present at the time of incident. Ladies and passengers kept crying but no action was taken by them and it is

being said that there is no information of their whereabouts. The women are not safe in this regime. So, immediate action should be initiated in view of seriousness of the incident.

12.29 hrs.

ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a Supplementary List of Business. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has a Bill to introduce.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I introduce the Bill.

12.30 hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CONDUCT ON THE PART OF SOME MEMBERS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to move:

"That this House having taken note of the Report of the Committee to inquire into the allegations of improper conduct on the part of some members, constituted on 12 December, 2005 accepts the

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[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

findings of the Committee that the conduct of the ten members of Lok Sabha, namely, Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, Shri Manoj Kumar, Shri Y.G. Mahajan, Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Shri Suresh Chandel, Shri Ramsevak Singh, Shri Lal Chandra Kol, Shri Rajaram Pal and Shri Chandra Pratap Singh was unethical and unbecoming of members of Parliament and their continuance as members of Lok Sabha is untenable and resolves that they may be expelled from the membership of Lok Sabha."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have very correctly pointed out, this is a very sad occasion. When I rise to move this Motion, I feel more sad because in my first tenure as the Member of this august House and as the Leader of this august House. I am to discharge such a painful duty which is entrusted to me.

Many years ago, some of the hon. Members who were not born, I myself was a very young man—not a man, a young student—on 27th of June, 1947, when Indian Independence Act was piloted in the House of Commons, the then Leader of the Opposition, Sir Winston Churchill, opposing the Bill of Independence stated that the world's one of the ancient civilisations would collapse because the parliamentary system would not be sustainable. Eleven years after that, another Prime Minister, Sir Antony Eden, while making comments on Indian Constitution observed that within three years of its Independence, the oldest civilisation of the world, India in its Constituent Assembly enacting the Constitution could prove its vitality because I quote. 'it produced the magnificent magna carta of socio-economic transformation of a huge mass of backward people.'

I am referring to these things because the subject on which the hon. Members will deliberate is so sensitive and I do feel that the sensitivity is to be kept in mind with the duties which we are going to perform, the responsibilities which we are going to discharge are not very easy. It is not very easy to pass judgement on a colleague with whom we shared so many things, with whom we worked so long, whether sitting this side or that side. Accident of sitting is no question. All of them

are our colleagues. But, at the same time, as you have very correctly pointed out, certain duties ought to be discharged, however painful it may be.

What happened on 12th of this month? What was telecast and after that when we assembled at your room, we, all of us, did not share our views or thoughts with each other.

But all of us felt that something is to be done. The whole country is looking at us as to how the largest functional democracy of the world, how the representatives of 640 million voters are going to respond to a situation, which has challenged the very essence of our continuance here.

Sir, raising questions on the floor of the House is one of the most basic fundamental Parliamentary privileges, which has been asserted not only by the Members, it had been recognised by the Chair. Even when the elaborate arrangements were not made—if I remember correctly—in the century before the last, in 1891, when even the Montagu reforms were not passed, when the Legislative Council used to meet in a small chamber of Viceregal House of Calcutta, which is now currently Raj Bhavan, Members were allowed to raise questions. Members of the Legislative Council were allowed to raise questions to the Members of the Executive Council as early as 1891. Later on, it was developed; it became the inherent right of a Member of Parliament to represent his constituency, to represent the public interest by raising questions, seeking clarifications, expressing his views; and for that the Constitution of India has given unlimited powers to the Members concerned, of course, subject to the rules and regulations framed by themselves, and moderated and conducted by their chosen representative in the form of Speaker. Therefore, this authority, this power should not be misused.

I am not a lawyer and I am not going into the legality of the issue. This is a 36-page Report, which my colleague, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and all other colleagues who served this Committee, have prepared it. They have gone through the whole issue. It is not a question of legality. It is a question to ask ourselves, to ask our conscience as to what should we do in this given situation.

If we go through the Report, we will find that none of the hon. Members, who were given the chance to explain their conduct and when some of them pointed out that this may be doctored, these may not represent the thing in its entirety, they were offered to look into the tapes, the unedited version, and they simply refused to accept it. They did not accept this offer. I must compliment the Committee that the day you announced the composition of the Committee. They themselves met. They had regular sittings, almost daily. As per the practice, they evolved the procedures and the conduct as to how they will discharge their duties. Very diligently, elaborately and without any bias they tried to find out the truth.

Mr. Anirudh Bahl and his associates were subjected to cross-examination by the Committee. As I mentioned, it is not a court of law. Every decision cannot be determined in the court of law. Some very senior hon. Members are sitting on the other side, and this side also. They will recollect, and you, yourself, Sir, were a Member of the House at that time. My mind goes back to the days of another Winter Session of 1978 when the then ex-Prime Minister, who had the privilege of being the Prime Minister and the leader of this House for 11 years till that time, and later on she again became the leader, was subjected to a similar situation. When Mr. Morarji Desai, the then leader of the House moved this motion, Mrs. Gandhi replied that 'she did never say that she disagreed with the views of the Privileges Committee.' What she pointed out was that: "With full respect to the Privileges Committee, having full confidence in the judgement of the Privileges Committee, most respectfully I would like to submit that the opportunity which should have been given has not been given." But here, it is not the case like that. I do agree that this House should not convert itself into Star Chamber of the House of Commons in the 17th Century. But at the same time, when a situation like this arises, the question is whether the House would like to assert itself collectively irrespective of who sits on which side of you.

We have built a nice system that there are occasions, when the House should speak in once voice, take decision almost unanimously, just to assert its right to maintain honour and dignity of the House. Can we say, let us search our own hearts? I am not going into

the technicality but after whatever we saw, that somebody is trying to keep money under the cushion, can anyone say that all the legal punctilious ought to be pursued?

Sir, I would not like to lengthen my observation. I am not going into the details and analysing it from a lawyer's point of view, but as a plain, simple, common man, as an ordinary citizen of this country, I do feel that the dignity of this House must be preserved, not by any proclamation by the Supreme Court or any other court, but by the Members themselves, but by this House itself. Therefore, most respectfully I would like to submit, through you, to all the hon. Members: let us ponder, let us rise to the occasion, take the decision, take courage in our both hands, and face the consequences. We may not be here, we will not be here forever.

But there is continuity. That continuity is to be maintained; the high tradition and the dignity of this House are to be maintained. Let us not compromise on that.

With these few words, I recommend to the House that the motion be adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Now, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has got an amendment. He may move that amendment and then speak.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make this amendment in the motion moved by the leader of the House Shri Pranab Mukherjee:

"That this Committee accepts these findings that the conduct of ten members of Lok Sabha namely. Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha, Shri Anna Saheb M.K. Patil, Shri Manoj Kumar, Shri Y.G. Mahajan, Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Shri Suresh Chandel, Shri Ram Sewak Singh, Shri Lal Chandra Kol, Shri Rajaram Pal and Shri Chandra Pratap Singh is unethical and unbecoming for Members of Parliament and their continuance as Members of Parliament in

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untenable and this Committee resolves that they may be expelled from the membership of Lok Sabha."

"This House resolves to refer this matter to the Privilege Committee of Lok Sabha."

I have listened to the speech of the leader of the House Shri Pranab Mukherjee with much respect and honour. At the outset I would like to make it clear that I or we intend that any member must be punished who is involved in corruption related activities or violates the decorum of the House or breaches the privileges of the House given to him and that is why....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. I earnestly make this appeal. This is a very serious matter. He is a very responsible member of the major Opposition Party. He has his views to express. Let us hear him carefully.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, when on 12th December all these things were being telecast on a channel, the entire country was shocked to see that, all members were shocked. We were shocked and that is why we gathered in your chamber and expected that you would ask those members not to enter the House and in the meantime a Committee may be constituted and he should bring it before the House after constituting the Committee and considering on it. There was total unanimity. Not even a single member opposed it. Each party suspended the Members for a short period also from their respective parties.

It is a case of none but I am to mention only this thing, which I have said that we have to punish ourselves, we have to abide by the rules. We are opposed to the procedure adopted for this, this procedure should be according to its rules, the rules of the House. Pranab Mukherjee Sahab has reiterated that it was not any court of law, it was not a court and do not act like a Court. If we think and listen to our conscience and can we hang someone just because our conscience tells us so?

There is no question of one's conscience, it's a question of rules of Parliament, Court and it is in keeping with the Spirit of Our Constitution. Therefore, I want to say that it is absolutely right that no member has any privilege. Members may not be treated differently from common people but does it mean depriving them of that right to which a common man is entitled? I talk about procedure because when this Committee was constituted, I was a Member of this Committee and generally members of the Committee do not make submissions but since I have brought an amendment therefore, I wanted to express my views on this matter that there may be different types of decision. There is an Ethics Committee which brings the cases of misconduct, or a matter of breach of privilege before the House. In case of misconduct, they can suspend, reprimand and fine someone. The Ethics Committee should bring these matters before the House. There is no need to do these things in any way. But if they have to expel any Member, They can do so under breach of privilege and there are certain rules of Privilege Committee for this purpose. According to the rules of the Privilege Committee, a Member is given the chance to defend himself, he may cross-examine and engage his own advocate. These things are required to be done for this purpose. The case of Mudgilji came before the Committee and it was said that Mudgilji had been expelled by the House. But, when Mudgilji was expelled then—

[English]

"The case before the Committee was opened by the Attorney-General. He summarises the material which has already been presented to the Committee. The Attorney General gave an impartial picture of the whole thing."

After the evidence was completed, Shri Mudgil was given.

[Translation]

It took five months. He was given the right to cross-examine in those five months and also to hire an advocate. They engaged a lawyer and argued there at length. They were three members in all out of them two were released and the action was taken against one, however, they were given a time of five months.

There was a Committee. It was not the Privileges Committee. It was a full fledged Committee, but followed the same procedure. They were cross-examined continuously for five months, all the aspects were looked into that of engaging the lawyer, arguments in self-defence, examining the evidence, these procedures were adopted and only after that the decision was taken in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I stated that when the Attorney General was summoned and his case was presented, the member was present in the House at that time. He also put forth his point of view in the House. Therefore, if they look into this case in the perspective of the Mudgal's case, they should follow the procedure even in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Constitutional position is

[English]

"the term expulsion' has not been defined in the Constitution, Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha or any law relation to elections."

[Translation]

It is not there in the Rule Book. I agree that the House is Supreme. It has got some inherent rights, but on the very basis when Punjab and Haryana High Court gave its judgement, in case of Shri Hardwari Lalji, who was expelled by the State Assembly moved the High Court, it opened that the latter had no right to do so, there should have been some other punishment apart from expulsion.

[English]

They said that the expulsion of the petitioner is unconstitutional, illegal, in-operative and, as a necessary consequence, direct the Election Commission of India not to proceed to fill the vacancy supposedly resulting from the action, etc.

[Translation]

Thereafter the Madhya Pradesh High Court also gave a ruling that any member could be expelled, however the seat will remain vacant. After these two judgements, it was stated that

[English]

"There are, therefore, two conflicting decisions and the position is uncertain. In the absence of the decision by the Supreme Court, neither decision is declared law under the article...."

"...Character can be laid down only by the Supreme Court."

[Translation]

First of all, it is yet to be decided whether somebody has the right to expel or not. The Supreme Court will decide the same and deliver its judgement. Let us suppose that we have the right to expel, whatever be the Verdict of the Supreme Court or Punjab High Court, even there the procedure must be adopted. Will you not give the right to any member to present his case adopting the procedure? This is not a right thing. I would not like to go into the whole proceedings of the Committee, but they have stated that it is doctored. If somebody says that it is doctored and I challenge that I can prove it, then it will be examined. If something is shown on the television about somebody by directing him that it is doctored—Will he not have a right to find whether it is doctored or not? It was not examined by going there. They requested them to grant them the permission to bring their lawyer, but the same was refused. They requested them to give them a chance to produce all their evidences, as they wanted it to be examined, however, they were denied that chance. At that time also I stated the same as I thought that as punishment they only be reprimanded and suspended for three sessions, then all the things would be examined thereafter.

It is not a small thing, Pranabji when it was announced that they would be expelled from the House. It is a question of their entire life. It would not be a right thing, if the members are not given a chance to defend themselves while being expelled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ethics Committee was constituted on 14th December and the discussions started on 16th December in this regard. We decided to expel 10 members within three-four days only. In this regard, my only submission is that he should adopt a

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proper procedure. Now, several things have come up in regard to proper procedure also in the past.

In this regard, it has been stated that:—

[English]

"The House must function within the framework of the Constitution, more particularly within the ambit of Fundamental Rights, act *bona fide* and observe norms of natural justice and not only do justice but seem to have done justice which will satisfy public opinion."

[Translation]

I would not like to talk about those countries, where

[English]

"Determination of guilt and adjudication of disputes are judicial functions in many countries. Therefore, the question of breach of privilege, contempt of the House, etc. and punishment thereof are decided by the courts of law."

[Translation]

After that, Prof. Smith and those people put forth their view point. We talked about the British Parliament. We have adopted it from the British Parliament. He has mentioned that Churchill had stated like that, Atlee had said like that. The matter regarding asking questions by taking bribe had also come up in the British Parliament. The member was charged with minor penalty there and he was suspended from the House for 15 days.

I am not talking here of punishment as it will not be relevant to give the example of British Parliament having given any punishment. You can give 15 days, 50 days or six months punishment to these members, and may cite the example of any Parliament of British Parliament where they have expelled any member. The Ethics Committee referred to every record and considered all the aspects. I mean to say that these members may be given the most stringent punishment but before that at least given them the right to represent themselves to prove their innocence.

[English]

Heavens are not going to fall in four days.

[Translation]

These members could have clearly expressed before us what they have to say. It won't have mattered much had the proceedings taken five—seven, ten or fifteen days more.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Pranab has rightly stated that it is such a subject on which the House must have a consensus. It is really sad that the House is divided on an issue. We have never said that the members should not be punished. We have said that punish them but we must also see that the charges against them are true or not. Everyone saw that a former Prime Minister was assassinated. The murderers were nabbed on the site of the crime. Now for how many days their trial took to be completed? After so many days a person was released, who was earlier given death penalty. Now even a killer has a right to present his case before the court and plead that he is not guilty, but the members of Parliament do not have that right. A bomb blast that took place in 1992, claimed 900 lives. Several persons were arrested on the spot. They all have the right to present their case but the members of Parliament do not have such right. If my conscience says hang them, we must hang them the very moment because my conscience has asked me so.

[English]

We are not a court of law. What is this? We are not court of law.

[Translation]

Does it mean that a court of law does not function properly? Shall we not work according to the rules? I do not want to mention everything that transpired in the Ethics Committee because it is not possible. I do not want to mention those provisions of the Constitution, which have been adopted from foreign countries because there is no time to read them today. I would certainly like to say that do not divide this House in the name of the Party. The entire House should have a consensus that we will not tolerate corruption but it

should also seem that we have given full opportunity to our members to put their points of view. We have complied with the rules, otherwise everyday this question is asked that the Court intervenes, the court has no right to interfere in our working. If we do not follow rules and violate them, why would the Court not intervene? Can we give any member of any Assembly the right to decide to expel any members by saying that the decision was dictated by his conscience?

13.00 hrs.

If we start expelling here, it would set a bad precedent for the assemblies. We are going to set such a precedent and that is why I have stated in my note that we cannot be a party to any such precedent in which any member is expelled without following any procedure, rule or system. It would be a wrong precedent that we are going to create. It would be painful for both the Houses and assemblies of the country. That is why as he has said it is a question of parties to which the members belong because we might have to face the same thing one day. Has anybody the freedom to conduct a sting operation against anybody? I have read somewhere that in foreign countries there are a number of laws against sting operation. But in this game, money, big multinationals, C.I.A. and other such people are at work and in such a sting operation if anything wrong is shown against any member and then during the course of five days proceedings he can be expelled from the House. Do not create such a wrong precedent. I agree that they should be punished, but I would like to appeal to adopt a procedure for the purpose or let us collectively decide about the punishment which would be a proper step, otherwise we would be creating a very wrong precedent for the country, for the Constitution and for the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House having taken note of the Report of the Committee to inquire into the allegations of improper conduct on the part of some members, constituted on 12 December, 2005, accepts the findings of the Committee that the conduct of the ten members of Lok Sabha, namely, Shri Narendra

Kumar Kushawaha, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, Shri Manoj Kumar, Shri Y.G. Mahajan, Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Shri Suresh Chandel, Shri Ramsevak Singh, Shri Lal Chandra Kol, Shri Rajaram Pal and Shri Chandra Pratap Singh was unethical and unbecoming of members of Parliament and their continuance as members of Lok Sabha is untenable and resolves that they may be expelled from the membership of Lok Sabha." Amendment moved:

[Translation]

In place of:

"That this Committee accepts these findings, that the conduct of ten Members of Lok Sabha, namely, Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, Shri Manoj Kumar, Shri Y.G. Mahajan, Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Shri Suresh Chandel, Shri Ramsevak Singh, Shri Lal Chandra Kol, Shri Rajaram Pal and Shri Chandra Pratap Singh was unethical and unbecoming of members of Parliament and their continuance as members of Lok Sabha is untenable and resolves that they may be expelled from the membership of Lok Sabha."

Be substituted:—

"That this House resolves to refer this matter to the Privilege Committee of the House.

[English]

May I, before I call the next hon. Member to speak, make one position clear? Ordinarily, Members of the Committee are not given preference to speak. They can be allowed to speak by way of a reply, if it is called for, to certain points raised in the debate. But since the matter is of great importance and since an amendment was intended to be moved by one of the distinguished Members of the Enquiry Committee, I have allowed.

But there are some observations relating to the Chair—not derogatory, I am not saying derogatory observations, I have not said that. You have not shown any disrespect to the Chair—I would say that the factual position is that you yourself have been kind enough to admit that whatever announcement I made was in full

[Mr. Speaker]

concurrence of the leaders who were present in the meeting. In the House also, when the time was fixed, no one raised any question at that time. Nobody from the Committee came to me, the Chairman never asked me for extension of time. I had no occasion to look into that question. Therefore, whatever I have done, I have done with the full knowledge of the entire House. Therefore, it is entirely for the hon. Members to decide about it. I have not said that you should this, or we should do that. A Motion has been moved and it is my duty to allow a discussion. But since Shri Malhotra, a very senior and respected Member, has raised the issue of procedure followed by the Committee, if the Chairman of the Committee or any other Member of the Committee wants to participate in the debate, I can allow him to take part in it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, it is indeed a painful day for us to discuss a Motion for expulsion of ten Members of Parliament.

Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by the Leader of the House. I was surprised to listen to the speech of Shri Malhotra. I am, rather this House, is grateful to you for your having called a meeting of the leaders of this House. You immediately took a decision, in consultation with all the leaders of this House, to constitute a Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no luncheon recess today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: All those who attended the meeting agreed to it. At that point of time, none of us raised the issue that a Committee of this House would not be competent to inquire into what had happened on 12th of December, a shameful day not only for this House but also for the entire nation. Also, none of us raised that the Committee would not be competent to inquire and recommend to the House the sort of action that should be taken against those Members of this House who were shown in one channel of the television taking bribes for raising questions in the House; and that this matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee. But Prof. Malhotra has submitted a Dissenting Note. He has not questioned the

merit of this Report, neither has he disagreed with the recommendation made by the Committee. What he wanted was that this matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee arguing that only the Privileges Committee is competent enough to inquire into the matter and recommend to the House in regard to the quantum of punishment. This matter was not raised either in the meeting which you called or when this matter was raised here. You gave the opportunity to all of us to participate in the debate. But I have not heard from any hon. Member raising objection to the formation of a Committee. The Committee was authorised by this House to finalise the procedure. If today we raise the question in regard to procedural matters, it is not a procedural question nor a legal question but rather it is a moral question.

What do the people expect from us? A number of times, you reminded us that the entire nation is watching us. We represent the people, the poor people, the middle-class people, the workers and the peasants. Our sole responsibility is to raise the problems of those sections of the people whom we represent....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you may have some important discussions. I would earnestly appeal to you to do it outside if you have to discuss anything.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, a numb nation watched with shock and disbelief that the elected representatives were receiving money for raising questions in Parliament....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rewati Raman Singh, I would earnestly appeal to you not to discuss anything here now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I fully agree with the Leader of the House that asking question is the special privilege enjoyed by the Members of this House.

We ask the questions in regard to the problems being faced by the various sections of the people. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In the last bench! It is very, very unfortunate that you do not bother about what the Speaker says. Is it adding to our dignity? Such an

important matter is being discussed. Can you not go out and talk?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We ask questions in regard to the problems being faced by the nation and the Members are purchased to ask the questions.

[Translation]

We represent the public....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (New Delhi): Sir, the noise is coming from the lobby....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a matter of great anguish.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We raise the questions related to public interest in the House. If money is taken to ask questions then what will happen to our image and what will happen to the image of the House, this is the thing to think about. Today the question is being raised that....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: One of my officers will please go and request the hon. Members in the lobby.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Those members have not been allowed to put their clarification so as to defend themselves. We have seen, and we are grateful to the Chairman, and members of the Committee that they have prepared the report very diligently. Adequate time was given to them to express their views. At least half an hour was given to them to see if they want but they did not see. Still the question is being raised that they should have been given adequate time. Here this question have also been raised that in the time of Mudgal it took five months.

[English]

We cannot compare what happened on 13th of December with what happened in 1951. Sir, the entire

nation has seen the Members of this House are receiving money.

[Translation]

Entire country has seen that money was received, money is being kept, negotiations are going on. Can we disapprove it, can't we accept the fact that this is wrong or false? We saw the reaction on the very first day that immediate action should be taken but it has been changed today.

In the other House, member was suspended within an hour. The motion is being passed

[English]

without any debate and discussion.

[Translation]

We are discussing that issue in this House. The Debate will continue for the full day, but there the motion is being passed unanimously without any discussion. What kind of double standard is being adopted? When we raised the issue of Tehalka is this House only, everybody knows about the action taken thereafter. They remained in power for three years. Action was taken against an Army officer, since his name was also mentioned in that tape, but a political party who considers itself a party with difference, entire country saw President of that party accepting bribe of one lakh rupees....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should not be politicised. This is a very serious issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Member to avoid it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying that I am requesting him not to get into a political debate.

Mr. Acharia, please come to the facts of the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Immediate action must be taken on receiving the report of the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* Commission of Inquiry has been constituted....*(Interruptions)* Today they are saying that time must be given it would take at least 5-6 months. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have made a request to him already.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to all sections of the House to cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They are saying that it would take three and half year. By that time 14th Lok Sabha will complete its tenure; then only you will take action. What is your intention—what do you want; we don't want to divide the House?

[English]

We all should rise above party lines. The day when it came out the entire House reacted uniformly. Why is there a change today?

[Translation]

What has happened within these ten days. Why your heart changed. You should congratulate the Committee those who completed the work at this pace and made recommendations. These recommendations should be passed.

[English]

We do not want to divide this House. We all should rise above party lines. It is not a question of this party or that party. It is the question of the dignity of the entire

House, the prestige of this House which means the prestige of the nation. Where will we go. Maybe six of this scam belong to a particular party. What is in that? There were a large number of MPs who were also approached, but they did not fall prey to the sting operation. We should congratulate them. But why did these 10 involve themselves in this? Can they deny that they were not involved?

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in order to cleanse our system, I would like to make two suggestions. I have seen your statement which you made at Hyderabad about the right to recall. The right to recall elected representatives should be given to our constituents, to the people of our country. The electorate which elects a person to Parliament must have the right to recall that person. The people of our country do not have that right now. In many other countries, the people have the right to recall their representatives if they find that those representatives are doing some immoral work. If elected representatives are not discharging their responsibilities and duties properly, then the people must have the right to recall them.

My second suggestion is that time has come that serious consideration must be given to the immunity provided to the Members of Parliament. The immunity and the consequent privileges given to the elected Members cannot be allowed to act as a tacit licence for corruption and graft. We should seriously consider this.

The worst fall out of this expose is the further strengthening of the growing cynicism. You have repeatedly stated that there is a growing cynicism among the people on the political process. This is dangerous and needs to be collectively combated and reversed. The time has come to seriously consider all these things.

Sir, I must congratulate you for taking prompt action and asking the Members not to attend the House to protect not only the dignity of the House but of the nation because the dignity of the House is connected with the dignity of the nation. I support the Motion moved by the Leader of this House.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the motion laid by the leader the House. I welcome and support it whole heartedly but I would like to warn that it would have some dire consequences, I want to warn this House about that. Leader of the House has said in his speech that for first time he has become the Member of the House. Since when I am observing the politics deeply, I know that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is the Member of Parliament but it is for the first time that he has become a Member to Lok Sabha. The Lok Sabha where entry is so much difficult almost a Herculean task, and if the exit would become so easy then I think it would create a log of problems in future....(Interruptions) You said correctly that on a news channel, some members were seen taking bribes. It is a tradition that this House never takes cognizance of the news items appearing in TV and newspapers. It would have been if this was raised by a member and cognizance would have been taken but you did that therefore.

[English]

This is the beginning and not the end.

[Translation]

This is just a beginning. Now TV channels I would telecast daily that such number of Hon'ble Members have rented their houses, commercial activities are going on there. Then you have to constitute a Committee and you have to move the motion in the House for their expulsion from the House. We have to feel such a situation. News papers are reporting daily that such and such members are allowing other persons to travel on their passes, then House have to take cognizance of that, has to constitute a Committee and this event of expulsion of members will be a continued process. This is not confined to the centre itself but will have its effect on the states also. Now, politics in states has become the fight to amass money, not the competition of service. Till now, we used to hear that such and such party is in majority, in the power, that used to create conspiracy against its opponent leaders by making him arrest under POTA on the basis on the basis of forged evidence. Now it would become easier for them to expel the

opponent leader by showing him taking bribe by sending a TV channel team. In this way a new trend is going to start. We used to sit here under your leadership in 10th Lok Sabha, at that time, an issue was raised against a judge of Supreme Court in the 9th Lok Sabha but debate took place in the 10th Lok Sabha. Member of the House and Cabinet Minister, Mr. Kapil Sibal argued whole day in regard to the case of the judge of the Supreme Court and the debate continued for two days. The decision of that two days debate is known to the entire country. Therefore we want to say that the ten members whom we are going to expel from the House, most of them are not even matriculate and they are not capable to defend themselves. Most of them have been elected for the first time and belong to Dalit, Advasi, OBC and poor families. I personally know about such Members whose mothers used to bring firewood from jungle and sell it to buy food for them. It is for the first time that luck favoured them and the people of such poor families for the first time got elected as is the demand of democracy. There cannot be two opinions about it that those who indulge in corruption must be expelled. However, such action of expulsion must not send the message to the poor, Dalit, and weaker sections of the country that the Members belonging to upper classes are not willing to accept such weaker section people and the people of such communities have no place in the House. The day such sentiments will prevail in the minds of the poor people, I feel that will be detrimental for the House. So the Government should seriously ponder over such thing.

The leader of the House has submitted that the House cannot become a court. Defections were staged in the House during the tenth Lok Sabha. Shri Shivraj Patil was the Speaker in the tenth Lok Sabha. The Members informed him in the House that they were going to defect the party. The Members ignored the whip and voted in the House. However, despite voting in violation of the whip they were not immediately expelled from the party. In Article 21 of the constitution it has been mentioned that

[English]

"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law".

[Shri Mohan Singh]

[Translation]

It is a fact that Mudgal incident took place. When did this incident happen? This incident took place during the Provisional Parliament. What was a Provisional Parliament—an interim Parliament? Constituent Assembly was converted into interim Parliament. What was the Constituent Assembly? The Constituent Assembly was constituted on the basis of adult franchise and that assembly had not formulated rules for itself. So the Prime Minister of India set up a Committee to enquire into the conduct of the parliamentary proceedings. However, the present Parliament of India has evolved to the extent that it has formulated rules for itself and has took over the power to take action concerning itself. Shri Pranav Mukherjee has rightly submitted that Shrimati Indira Gandhi was disqualified in 1997 on the basis of the report of the Privilege Committee. I feel that the Janta Party had committed many mistakes and it was also a political blunder committed by the party that on account of their majority strength they expelled Shrimati Indira Gandhi from the House who was elected with a majority vote and had been the Prime Minister of India for a long period.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had listened to your father while I was seventeen year old and whenever I see you scolding us, it reminds me of your father. It is the duty of a noble father to scold his loquacious sons. I listened to Nirmal Chandra Chatterjee along with Acharya Kripalani, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Acharya Raghuvir while I was 17 years of age and was the student of B.A. first year. I was impressed by his eloquence. So, when I used to sit with you in the House and even now when I look at you, I regard you as a father figure and accept your rebuke in the same vein. I am of the opinion that every father remains attached with his unworthy son. If an unworthy son steals four rupees of his father, I have not heard that he punishes him severely.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that they have committed a mistake and they must be punished as severely as possible, however, they must get an opportunity to defend themselves.

With these words, I conclude and strongly support the resolution. Since you had initiated the proceedings

yourself so I would like to request that attention should be paid to all the points that have been raised here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have never suggested a particular type of punishment.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have one more thing to say. Many things have been written about the 'Sting Operation'. Sagarika Ghosh has written a beautiful article in today's edition of the Hindustan Times in which it has been stated that:—

[English]

"Sting operators are generally canny businessmen on the look out to fix someone in order to sell their product to the highest bidder in the media market. As media becomes a big business, naturally, there will emerge ancillary industries to serve this mega business, and sting operation is one such ancillary industry."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should also keep in mind these things. With these words I conclude and extend my thanks to you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I never suggested any form of punishment or any punishment at all. I left it to the House.

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Motion that has been moved by our leader of the House has created an emotionally charged and difficult situation for the House. It is an emotional motion as today the House has to take decision against those Members of the House whose conducts have been found to be inappropriate and the House has to decide the punishment for them so it is a sensitive and unfortunate subject.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to give our opinion on the expulsion of Members from the House. I would like to mention about a few things. Nobody is above the institution. Ours is parliamentary democracy and we are holding discussion in the supreme institution of this country. Parliament is the supreme institution in the Parliamentary Democracy. Whatever decision will be taken in the House will have a bearing on the Legislative Assemblies of the states and the entire country. Presently, it is historical moment when we have to give our opinion. The hon'ble Member Shri Mohan Singhji has already hinted towards important issues. Discussion on this Motion in the House will be very much painful. This painful moment will be added as a separate chapter in the history of parliamentary democracy.

We still have opportunity to consider this issue and see the pros and cons of this issue before voting is done on this Motion in the House because if voting is done and any decision is taken on this issue with the House divided on two sides, that decision will be very much painful and troublesome. My submission is that the Members of Parliament take oath of the Constitution. Any hon'ble Member will not want to allow corruption to become a part of life. We will not allow corruption to sneak in public life at any cost. However, it is being raised in the House that all necessary procedure should be followed before awarding punishment to any one and person in question should be given opportunity to defend himself or herself. That is why I have raised this issue. As I have already mentioned that the Parliament is the supreme temple of democracy so rising above the party lines, it should be discussed in the House and only then we may do justice with those Members in question. While doing so, we will also have no keep in mind that the dignity of the House remains intact.

Two things have been mentioned here. At the outlet, I had mentioned that two types of situation have arisen before us. The hon'ble Member, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra raised the issue of some legal process. It will be out of the context to discuss here about the legal process or the laws. It has no relevance here. We, the Members of the House, are competent to take decision in the House. The decision regarding the fate of the said Members is completely in the hands of the House. The Parliament is supreme. I feel that it is not necessary

to mention here about the legal process, laws and to give the example of the courts in this context.

Sir, it is head count that matters in democracy. We, in village use the term head count to signify the public opinion. The head count is made to know public opinion. We should also find out the opinion of the Members on this issue. Only then democracy will function smoothly. The party, which has 51 per cent Members, forms the government and those having 49 per cent play the role of opposition. That is why the proposals of the ruling coalition and the opposition are different.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the supreme. You are holding a seat of justice. You have constituted a Committee of the Members in this regard and have sought the opinion of all the leaders. You have followed the entire procedure. As a Speaker of the Lok Sabha you have set up a Committee of the House after wider consultation with the Members of the House and the said committee has submitted its report and today on the basis of that report our leader of the House has moved a Motion in this regard. I certainly do not intend to go against the report as it all depend on the House as to what additional action is required to be taken besides the recommendations contained in the report. I support the report of the Committee of the House.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the history of Indian democracy, the kind of history we are trying to create today is sending chill down my spine. We are trying to create a history today. The hon'ble Members who were elected by the people to the House to uphold democracy, after being alleged with corruption charges by a news channel on T.V., within few days the constituted Committee have recommended their expulsion and the hon'ble Leader of the House put a motion before the House that all those 10 Members should be expelled from the House.

Sir, this is a very serious issue. This issue does not concern only today. It may be possible that today Brajesh Pathak is a Member of this Lok Sabha, many other people are also sitting here tomorrow they may or may not be here but a black chapter is being added in the history of India's democracy wherein it will be recorded that the people of India have expelled them

[Shri Brajesh Pathak]

within a few days without giving them a chance to defend themselves. This incident occurred on 12th December, the Committee was constituted two days later and this Committee submitted its report on 22nd wherein it has acted as it to hang all the hon'ble Members. The Members involved in this episode, find it better to die. One Member has called me up though he could not muster courage to come in front of me, he said, "O God! I should have run over by a truck or car and die". The whole House is witness of one sided decision taken on such a big issue, the democracy of India which is the greatest democracy of the world can not remain a mute spectator. We want to raise our stentorian voice before the largest democracy of whole world. We cannot remain as a mute spectator. We are going to add a new chapter to the history of democracy. We are going to tell the whole world that you have expelled ten Members without giving them a chance for fair trail just because they were involved in alleged corruption by taking money for asking questions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. If we expel hon'ble Members on this issue then just think about it's far reaching consequences. Then figures will be raised against our Lok Sabha, Secretariat as well. You are great, you are hon'ble Speaker. You must be observing the proceedings of the Lok Sabha that Brajesh Pathak has asked the maximum number of questions. Whether I will also be in dock tomorrow? I am a son of farmer who has come from village. I use to read newspapers when the House is not in session for two-three months. I underline news items regularly which concern the problems of common man of India. I prepare questions for two months continuously and I do not have a P.A. I send my question to Lok Sabha Secretariate directly. Whether an allegation will be made against me tomorrow that Brajesh Pathak asks many questions, whether I will also be charged with bribery. The allegations on which we are going to expel some Members, will it...* It is a matter of grave concern. We should not take it lightly. We should hear our inner voice. We are not at all with corrupts, we are not at all with persons involved in misconduct. Our Bahujan Samaj Party has taken a pledge to weed out corruption from

India. It is against our principle to compromise with corrupts and to abet corruptions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not at all proper to take decision in such a haste. History of India bears testimony to it. I have with me some portions of the debate held in this House on justice Ramaswami. Participating in that you had termed it as a very serious issue. I have, therefore, said that we should follow the procedure enshrined in the Constitution of India. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, these are your words which are on record. Today, we are violating the constitution of India and the party which has the majority in the House....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I had given speech against him.

HRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Yes, you had. But you had also said that procedure should be followed. I have got your that speech wherein you have said this. I want to tell you that I lost my sleep when I received the motion of Shri Pranab Mukherjee through my servant at 10'o clock in the night. I thought that a black chapter is going to be added in the history of democracy in my presence, then I will lodge my protest strongly in the House as to how such decision has been taken in India without following the procedure. I want to tell in one two lines about the contribution made by our district Unnao in achieving freedom and establishing democracy in the same India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, history stands testimony to the fact that Unnao district has always been rich in writing and bravery. It has been the birth place of Pt. Chandrashekhar and Pt. Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'. They have nourished the nation with their blood. I would like to refer to the words of their conscience in this House. Whatever may be the verdict. They may be hanged publicly, we do not want them to be protected. We will follow the whatever decision is taken by you and the House. But what extraordinary has happened today or heavens have fallen that such a hurried approach is being shown to pronounce the hon. Members guilty in five days? It is not so that they would be re-elected or will remain Member of Parliament for ever. The point is that we are accusing them. If it happens, the Parliament will remain into questions forever. Therefore, first we have to prove find out that our MPs have committed something wrong. When It is proved, only then they should

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

be punished. I appeal, that they should not be punished without being given them a chance.

Sir, Mr. Mudgal was a Member of Parliament in 1959. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was our Prime Minister. A deal was made to give Rs. 20 thousand only to ask question in the House through Mr. Mudgal. A business firm of Mumbai struck the deal for Rs. 5000/- out of which an amount of Rs. 2000/- was to be given in advance. It was recorded in the proceedings of the meeting of Board of Directors of that firm. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru somehow managed to get one copy of that proceedings of the meeting of Board of Directors of that firm. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru somehow managed to get one copy of that proceedings. History is the testimony to the fact that Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru moved a motion in the month of March against the misconduct of taking Rs. 2000/- by the said MP....(Interruptions)

Sir, this is not the question that the amount was Rs. 2 thousand, Rs. 2 lakh or Rs. 2 crore. The point is that the motion was moved in March and the report came in September that he should be expelled from the House. He resigned but his resignation was not accepted and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru expelled him. I do not hesitate to say that Nehruji struggled for the freedom of the country, but a person like him had to take 7.8 months to expel a MP. Therefore, I would like to know as to where from this Committee got such extraordinary powers that it presented the report in merely 8 days and recommended such a severe punishment to the Members....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have nothing to do with it. The Hon'ble Members of the Committee have decided that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to quote one more fact before you that a bribery case of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha has taken place in this House. Shailander Mehtoji had admitted that he had taken Rs. 40 lakhs for defection. I would like to say, through you, it is a fact that bribery was there, money had changed hands. The situation was same that time too but nobody

was in hurry. So why the decision is now being taken in hurry? It smacks of politics....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not impute motives to the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are doing that. I am sorry. I have left it to the House. I have not said anything.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to clarity that the history of Hindustan bears testimony to the fact that such a hurry has never been shown. Nobody was punished without giving them enough time to defend themselves....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is trying to say that. I have not done it. I have nothing to do in this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody has said that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Your time is long over.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these things will become precedence and you have to consider that due to this the youths, dalits and farmers will hesitate to join the house.

Sir, in the end, I would like to appeal that the conscience of the Members of Opposition as well as treasury benches demands that the matter should be referred to Privilege Committee. Whatever decision might be taken by the Committee and whatever punishment will be given. We will follow it but it should be referred to the Privilege Committee. With these words, I conclude. I express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir I rise to speak in support of the Motion. I think we must first appreciate the true constitutional position which is that this House, in respect of its powers of expulsion is the sole repository and no other institution has the jurisdiction to intercede in a proceedings in which a majority of the hon. Members of this House decide one way or the other as to whether a particular Member's conduct is unbecoming or not and in respect of which this House decides on a particular course of action. If you look at the source of parliamentary power, Parliament was the repository not just of judicial power but of executive and legislative power. Parliament was the repository of all three powers and that has been the history of parliamentary democracy. But as the executive became more accountable, the legislature in its wisdom decided to part with some of those powers and vested those powers in another institution. That gave birth to the judiciary.

The power to deal with the Members of the House is with the House, but we can part with that power and repose it in another institution which we over the years have done. We know that in the early years of constitutional democracy, the power to decide whether a person had committed a corrupt practice or not, and whether he should be disqualified or not was with the House. It was not with a court of law. But then we enacted a law, parted with that power and vested such judicial power to an institution outside the House. So, let it be clear that in constitutional terms we are the sole repository, the sole deciding authority to deal with the conduct of Members of the House....(Interruptions) In other words, we are the authority to decide whether the conduct of a particular person is unbecoming of the dignity and high moral standards expected to be maintained by members in conducting themselves, being the Members of this august House. To decide that we are the sole repository. So, let this be very clear. The issue is not of punishing anybody. This is not a court of law that we are rendering a conviction. We have no authority to render a conviction. We are only deciding

whether a Member who, we believe, has acted in a particular manner, whether that particular conduct is becoming of a Member consistent with the dignity of this House, and if we believe that evidence *prima facie*, we are entitled to take a decision to expel such a Member and that Member is entitled to go to a court of law to vindicate his rights. Therefore, the position that a lot of us are taking: "look this is a matter which ought to be decided outside, we ought to give the individual Member a right to defend himself and afford him the entire the panoply of rights of natural justice which courts of law bestow", those are not relevant considerations in respect of our decision as to whether a particular Member of this House has conducted himself in a manner that is becoming of his membership. That is the limited issue that we face. I can give you umpteen number of examples of Members who may be while sitting in this House do certain things in front of the hon. Speaker which may provoke the House to immediately rise and say that 'this man is not entitled to be a Member of this House' and expel him there without any further hearing.

Why? Because the dignity of the House is at stake. The collective will of the House expresses itself in a particular manner. It is not a question as to whether a particular person belongs to one community or another. If any Member belonging to any community is charged with this kind of conduct and we have evidence of the kind that we have in this case to show for it, I am sure that Members of this House will take the same action against that person.

Having placed before you the true constitutional position, the next thing I wish to say is that in all these matters there are competing public interests involved. In every situation of this nature that a nation is confronted with, there are competing public interests. My good friend Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has talked of one public interest namely that a person should be entitled to the full panoply of rights, of natural justice before any decision *qua* his membership can be taken. I think that is laudable. There is nothing wrong with that. I think in a given case such a course of action should be followed.

There is also the other competing interest. What is that other competing interest? That other competing

interest is, Mr. Malhotraji, what you and I saw on celluloid in a particular news channel. If you can look into your heart and say to yourself, and I am sure there are some Members of your Party involved in this who must have told you the truth, that what you saw is not what is, then you are right. But I leave it to your conscience. My conscience does not believe that what I saw is not what the reality was.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is the test that we must all apply when we decide. This is not a partisan affair in which we take political position. This is a matter of the individual conscience of each Member who constitutes this House. Can he ask himself this question that 'what I saw, I as a member will not condone, will not allow another Member of this House to do', if that conscience of yours answers you in the manner in which it should, then I do not think there should be any debate in this House.

What are the two competing public interests here? The first competing public interest is that of the individual Member who comes and says—"Look, you have shown me this tape". He knows what the reality is. He says—"You have shown me this tape. I want more time". Now, if that individual knows what the reality is, he should be able to place before the Committee what his defence is. He should be able to say—"I was not there. This is not my face. This is some other person. This is not my voice".

Do not compare it to the Mudgal situation. Please do not compare it to the 1951 situation. There were no technologies available in 1951 as they are today. ...*(Interruptions)* One second, please do not interrupt me. You did not have any cameras then.

13.58 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD Yadav *in the Chair*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): You have to see the *vice versa* of technology....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You did not have any video cameras. You did not have any audio of this type. You did not have any of that. Therefore, do not apply that principle. If somebody heard something in 1951 and somebody said 'I never did it' he should have been given

a chance. But here what is the reality? It is instant television; it is instant evidence. It is sequential. We have complete faith in our Committee which actually saw the entire sequence of the unedited tapes, including Mr. Malhotra....*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Expel Govindaji because an F.I.R. has been lodged against him today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I did not say that. Sir, what he is saying is not correct. Please allow me....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I heard you....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The Committee gave its report. You cannot add to the report....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): You should allow him to speak. You have mentioned his name....*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vermaji, take your seat.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhondhuka): You had given a speech to protect that Judge before the entire house*...

14.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Obviously, the hon. Member never heard the first sentence that I said in that case. May I repeat it for your information? When I started that proceedings. I said "If you think that I stand here today on behalf of a judge who is corrupt, then I will not like to plead his case." That was the first sentence. I till date believe that he was not corrupt....*(Interruptions)* That is not an issue. That is why, I say....*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We want Mr. Kapil Sibal to give to the Members who really...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Harin Pathakji you are an hon'ble Member, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): You are suggesting that they are corrupt. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am not suggesting anything. I am saying that only I saw on the T.V. and we accept the views of the committee, which says that the tape is untempered. There are no two opinions about it; we have not any alternate. While accepting this fact, how can we say that they may continue in the House. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You must not adhere to the views of the committee....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Whether audio and vedio tapes are accepted as evidence in the Supreme Court of India and in High courts....(Interruptions)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): I want to ask one thing as to whether a tape is accepted as an evidence in the court....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Uday singh, please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, he has mentioned that the complete tape is untempered, but

I say that it is tempered. All the members are of the views that the tape is doctored, it is tempered; this should be examined....(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: What did you say; you have also written that it is tempered.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I said that Rules of Procedure must be followed. They should be given a chance to defend themselves. (Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, let me read the Note of dissent of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. He does not say in his Note of dissent that he believes that tapes are doctored....(Interruptions) It does not say....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The question of findings arises only when an enquiry is conducted in this regard. I said that an enquiry might be conducted in this regard, they might be given a chance to express their views. They may be given a chance to defend themselves.

[English]

Do not put words into my mouth....(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He cannot give findings. He has given a suggestion that this should be sent to the experts....(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Without proper procedure being adopted...(Interruptions) What is the Procedure? They should have a right to cross-examine, argument, defence etc....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

He said that the tape is doctored. We said that the matter should be examined, truth should be found out. But it is not just that we may not give them a chance to defend them; we may not examine the matter. You are saying that everyone has accepted that the tape is untempered....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: With you permission, Sir, may I speak now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as I said in the beginning, the question here is not that what is stated on the tape is evidence or not. That is not the question. The question here is that a Committee of this House was constituted. That Committee saw the tapes, both the edited and the unedited versions....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tripathi, please take your seat. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kapil Sibal.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Yes, they accept it as an evidence. If you want to know the answer of the question, if you want to know the name of the case, I will tell you that also....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I am not allowing you. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kapil Sibal.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I wish you were to say that outside this House.

[Translation]

You can say all these things here....(Interruptions) You can say anything against the advocates and you can do anything to save your people....(Interruptions) We also know that you will notice right thing as wrong, you will say wrong which you have seen with your own eyes, I know this thing also....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sibal, Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sibal.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Please ask them to sit down. ... (Interruptions) Please protect me. Otherwise, I cannot continue my speech....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever he is saying is not being recorded; therefore continue your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, an hon. Member of this House referred to Article 21 of the Constitution and said that there is a right under Article 21 of life and liberty and therefore, the decision to pass this Motion will impact on that right. In fact, there is no question of either life or liberty involved here. Article 21 has, no application in this case. What is in issue is whether a Member of Parliament, who is a Member of this House, has conducted himself in a manner which is unbecoming. The fact that he is removed from the membership of this House has nothing to do with life and liberty. In fact, he is entitled, if he so wishes, to go to a court of law to challenge it and vindicate his rights. At the moment what the House is deciding is that *prima facie* we believe and accept the findings of the Committee that what we saw on television represents the truth and we do not want such a person to be a Member of this House. What is wrong with that decision? You do not need a whole trial...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Iliyas Azmi, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ilyas Azmi, what you are saying is not being recorded. Therefore, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This is not a judicial proceeding. We are not deciding here on the merits of the case; we are only deciding a very limited issue. Do you want the people of this country not to believe what they saw on tape, and to accept the views of a section of this House and a couple of political parties who are saying that we will not accept what we saw? Do you want the country to believe that?...(Interruptions) Please understand what you are doing. You are belying the hopes of all those who established parliamentary democracy in this country. You are belying the hopes of all those who have trusted you. If you vote in a particular way today, it will be recorded in the history that you are for corruption...(Interruptions) that you are for such conduct....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is highly objectionable...(Interruptions) You are for corruption....(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That is my opinion.(Interruptions) When you vote, we will see.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put forth your statement when your members get chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You are for corruption. Otherwise you would not take such a stand..(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You are for corruption....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anant Kumar, you are a senior member.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister is speaking in a way as if he is speaking in the Court....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You all take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You are for it....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He cannot impute motives to our voting rights...(Interruptions) It is our right to vote....(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: As a political party, you stand for corruption...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is any unparliamentary word, it will be removed. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If any irrelevant statement is presented it will be removed....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given ruling, therefore, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He cannot impute motives to our voting rights....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he should withdraw his words. What is this....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given ruling.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, we will not allow. ...(Interruptions) it is our right to vote. We are also Members of this House....(Interruptions) They are also hon. Members, and it is their right to vote...(Interruptions) Who is he to refute it?...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It is my opinion....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have seen. If there is any irrelevant matter, it will be removed. I have given the ruling. I have ordered that in case any irrelevant word is found, it will be removed.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Is this the way?... (Interruptions) Is this the way to talk that those who will vote in such way will do wrong?... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Are you the only angel here?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Chair give this ruling. I am giving my ruling. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, he is not only speaking politics, but he is speaking....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malhotra, ask your party members to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he cannot refute our voting rights. Therefore, he should withdraw it. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha will see the irrelevant statement if there is any.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is putting question mark on our chairpersons. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given the ruling that, in case any irrelevant statement is found, it will be removed from the proceedings. Anant Kumarji, please. You cannot compel the chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there will be any irrelevant statement, it will not be included in the proceedings. I have given the ruling. Mr. Sibal, you continue your speech. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, can I make a submission? Let the House maintain a standard of dignity during this discussion. Let the House maintain....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not addressing you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gurudasji, you should speak at your turn.

[English]

Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am only requesting you to ensure that the hon. Members in the House maintain the standard of dignity during this discussion....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I entirely agree with you.(*Interruptions*) Sir, what is really sad today is that there is an impression going around in our country that the political class as a whole is not living up to the standards, which were envisaged by our forefathers. Nobody can deny this fact....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Pune): Is it the standard for TV reporters to come into our houses to carry out sting operations?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: How will I answer if you do not let me speak?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, no cross-talks in the House.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: At large, this is the impression of the people of this country. We have witnessed scandal after scandal. This case has come to light, but I personally believe—it is my personal opinion and it may not be shared—that 9/10th of such acts never come to light. This is only the tip of the iceberg....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UDAY SINGH: It is right. We all agree with this point.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This is precisely the point. Therefore, the impression of the public at large in this country is that the political class, when it comes to protecting their own ilk, they never rise to the occasion.(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How can you tell so? There is nothing like it.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This is the reality. They always try and defend their own class. Therefore, people have to rush to a court of law, and the court of law inevitable directs prosecution. The court of law directs trial to take place. Why is it so? It is because the belief is that when incriminating evidence comes in the public domain, then the political class—as a class—does not take note of it.

Why is it so? It is because they want to defend themselves....(*Interruptions*) If this is the impression in our country, then any such act, by us, to dilute the action—that has been proposed by this particular Motion—will be in the same direction. That again the political class has risen to defend their own ilk. This is despite the fact that there is incriminating evidence, which is part of the public domain....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Should we hand them all?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): Please sit down. What point you are trying to make.(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhadana what are you speaking in the House. Please sit down.

....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Have I said anything that does not justify?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I would ask the hon. Minister to withdraw this....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, if hon'ble Member wants to make his point, then he should make it. This is not the way to speak...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record what Shri Bhadanaji is speaking.

....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: So, merely because a person loses his membership of this House in pursuance of a Motion getting passed here does not mean that it is the end of his life....(*Interruptions*) It is not that anybody is sending him to the Star Chamber. Nobody is sending him to the Star Chamber....(*Interruptions*). Nobody has hanged them....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI (Kodarma): It is more than that...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Please listen to the view points expressed here by the hon. Minister. Please sit down. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, one files nomination papers on the basis of certain disclosures, and gets elected. The constituents who elect repose a certain confidence in you, and those constituents certainly do not expect their Members of Parliament should start asking money for putting questions. They certainly do not expect it.

If one has lost that trust and if there is some incriminating evidence in front of you, then I do believe that the hon. Members without allowing this Motion to be passed should themselves come and say that I resign and will take steps to vindicate my rights. The Members need not allow this Motion to be passed. They can straightaway come up and say that I resign because somebody has accused me of this, and this is a very serious allegation. Somebody has shown a video footage of me or somebody has shown me audiotapes, and people in this country believe that it is me. Though is not me, yet consistent with the dignity of the Members of this House I resign my position, and I will vindicate my rights in a the court of law, that is, outside this House. What prevent him from doing it? Nothing prevents him from doing it. He is not hanged, and he does not lose his life and liberty. He can carry on with his profession. He is not sent to jail...(Interruptions) He is not subjected to any capital punishment. It is only a membership of this House. The membership of this House is given on the basis of certain privileges that he has, and one of the privileges is that he has a right to ask questions. *Prima facie*, these people have abused that privilege by taking money for asking questions. Therefore, the House feels that they should no longer be Members, and that is all. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMR MALHOTRA: Is that all? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Who has hanged them? Who has sent them to jail....(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMR MALHOTRA: You are trying to hand them without hearing their viewpoint. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, that is the point. Therefore, the hon. Members believe that the only issue is that there should be a full-fledged trial, and that is the point that I am making. What kind of trial should be held, and the extent of the principle of natural justice to be applied and right to cross-examination to be granted that all depends on the nature of the evidence. If somebody had made an oral allegation and a Committee had said that: "throw him out of the House", then I would be standing with you to say that: "No, we should give them a chance." Therefore, it all depends on the nature of evidence. Who can dispute what we saw?... (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMR MALHOTRA: They have disputed it....(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Who can dispute it? It is not they....(Interruptions) You are disputing it, and not them.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Are you disputing it?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This is the question. The test in law....(Interruptions) May I with great humility and greatest respect to the Members of this House say, that the test in law is, a subjective opinion based on objective criteria. This is the test of law....(Interruptions) Of course, you will not see it because it is very difficult for you to be impressed after being faced with corruption of this nature....(Interruptions) Perhaps, you are impressed with the kind of corruption....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMR MALHOTRA: What Congress Party has done wrong, if we explain it then

[English]

there will not be any end to it.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I am just winding up my speech....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party will speak in the allotted time for it, please sit down.

[English]

The test is, "subjective opinion based on objective criteria"....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundargarh): Mr. Chairman Sir, would you please listen our point....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am not yielding....(Interruptions)
He is not being tried in a court of law. The test is, "subjective opinion of this House based on objective criteria". If that subjective opinion is based on subjective criteria, the motion should not be passed. If that subjective opinion is based on objective criteria, the motion must be passed. It is not a question of hanging anybody; it is not a question of depriving anybody of his life and livelihood. That is the short test.

Now, what did the Committee say? We have the Report. The Committee says, "We have not just seen the edited portion; we saw the entire unedited portion, and the sequential nature of the unedited portion suggests that it was a course of event that was taking place and there is no scope for any tampering. Now, if somebody says....(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please do not put words into the mouth of the Committee and quote it.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I will read out the Committee Report in full.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: That is what I have objected to.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You may object to it. The Committee says,

"In view of the totality of the facts and circumstances of the cases, the Committee are of the opinion that the allegations of accepting money by the 10 Members have been established."

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am taking objection to that.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You are in a minority, and the majority will is there.

"The Committee further note that it is difficult to escape the conclusion that accepting money had a direct connection with work in Parliament."

That is the test. The Committee has applied the right test. It has looked at the objective criteria; it has come to a conclusion, and the work is related to the Members work in Parliament. Therefore, we now have to decide whether this kind of conduct, which the Committee has *prima facie* accepted on facts—he can challenge it in a court of law; nobody prevents him—is unbecoming of a Member of Parliament or not. If all of us believe it is becoming of a Member of Parliament, fine, defeat the motion. However, if you in your hearts believe that it is unbecoming of a Member of Parliament, then the motion must be voted on and accepted. That is all that we need to say.

Therefore, all these issues of trials, of hanging, of life and liberty, are non-issues. Let us please rise to the occasion, not as members of one political party, but as a House collectively, and show to the people of this country that we are on the right side of the law; we are on the side of morality; we are on the side of setting standards; we are on the side of principles; we are on the side of making, this nation a great democracy; we are on the side of making this House a symbol of democracy for the world, not just for India.

...(Interruptions)

LT. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Sir, I am seeking your permission to seek a clarification.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): He wants a clarification, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no need to seek any clarification.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, he is a senior Member.

LT. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH: While we are discussing this, I want to know whether we are supporting or opposing the recommendation or we are talking about the amendment, that is, whether it should be done the way we want it or whether it should be done the way you want it. The whole debate is on that. It is not about whether we are for it or against it. We have to pass only an amendment seeking that the necessary procedure should be followed.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can't compel.

[English]

LT. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH: I am a very senior Member and I must have some respect from the Chair. I want to know whether the amendment is being opposed or the whole thing is being opposed. I would like to know about his opinion on this issue.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You just can't compel.

[English]

LT. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH: Mr. Chairman, you cannot do that. I am sorry to say that.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, I stand to speak on the motion under Rule 184. This House is confronted with an extraordinary situation and if we go down the memory lane of this House, we find that there is only one case of Mudgal, which was debated before this motion under Rule 184 has come to this House.

May I also say that our party—like what has been said from the Treasury Benches—that we are not against this motion? I must put here that we are for morality, we are for the democratic system, we are for honesty and truth and we are for all that, and what has been

said here. But may I also put here that if my own son had been charged with something like this, I think, I would have disowned him? So, let it not be said that it is morally the parties faulting against the moral views and the ethics which have been shown on the TV.

May I also put the cause like what Prof. Malhotra has said? What is required is a fair trial for the 11 Members? It is a very sad thing. We are debating someone else. Our eminent lawyer on the other side, who is just going out, if he had been sitting here, he would have argued this case in a different way, and he would have been as convincing as if he was sitting there. But it is a different thing to argue a case where hundreds and thousands of rupees you take. You can argue it, rightly or wrongly, wherever you are told to do so.

Sir, may I say here that nowhere else in the country or nowhere else in the world has the sting operation been allowed. In Japan, it is a banned thing. In America, it is banned and wherever somebody takes a bribe, both the giver and the taker are indicted. Let me also put here that I remember that I myself had put forth a sting operation. This was on the security. All the newspapers of this country had indicted me and said that the Member had gone into the Parliament with a fake pass on the car and that is the time when I put forth my views and I said that this was a sting operation. The very media which is talking about this, had told me as to who has given me the authority to do it. I ask here as to who had given the authority to the media to conduct this sting operation.

The CBI is our greatest investigating authority. It is also given the charge of looking into the MP's corruption charges and they can do the sting operation but even the CBI has not been given the powers to take up sting operations of inducement. They cannot use their own funds to induce people and charge them and that authority has not been given even to the CBI.

Then, may I ask that who gave these operations—*Duryodhan* and *Tehelka*—the authority to do it?

Let me also put across that even in the Defence Forces, even if there is a case of misappropriation, they have to go through a court martial. We have read a few years ago that a Major General was caught smuggling

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh]

liquor in trucks. Even he has not been discharged from service because there is a court martial which will look into it.

There has to be a yardstick for sting operations that is what we are talking about. It is a very dangerous game that is being conducted, and especially let us take a hypothetical case of these 11 Members, our colleagues, who have been indicted. How do we know that they were not five or 10 more Members and they could be from the Treasury Benches or from here? These same people have blackmailed the Treasury Benches, the Government to say that this is what we require and that is how we will not get these names out. How do we know about it? It can be a possibility. That is what is going around and that there were some very influential people in the MPLADS, whose names were there but their names have been taken out only because the same system and the same people have gone to them and said that—holding the whole party to ransom, the whole country to ransom—that is what we need, otherwise, they will be expelled tomorrow from Lok Sabha. It is a possibility. It can happen. I am told that they were not just 11 Members, there are more than 11 Members, who had been caught in this but that has not come out.

May I also say this? Our learned friend, Shri Kapil Sibal has said that this House is a repository of Judiciary, Legislature and Executive, and now that we have delegated all these powers to others and we have just kept the Legislature. If this is what it is, why should we sit on judgement on these 11 Members, our colleagues? Exactly, this is what he is saying. We have delegated these powers to others. Let that be an authority, who looks into the judicial case, and give a pronouncement of what should be given, what punishment should be meted out to these 11 Members.

I feel that it is very important that a fair trial is given. Shri Kapil Sibal was talking that ample opportunity was given to these Members to put forth their views. They were heard for ten minutes. Are the ten minutes good enough for them to explain? Was there any other evidence that they wanted to put forth which did not come out? If they had got the services of an eminent

lawyer like Shri Kapil Sibal, I think, the table would have been changed. I feel that we must give them a chance to put their case across. May I also say one more thing?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude. Many member of your party BJP have to speak yet.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Why is it that we have done all this? I think, the whole country is looking at us. I commend the Speaker who took a quick decision of forming a Committee to go into the details of the scam. But I am surprised to find how the Rajya Sabha gave this task to their Ethics Committee. Our Speaker, in all his wisdom, should have also given this to the Privileges Committee or to the Ethics Committee. What was the need of having a small Committee to hand over this work? Do we not have the Ethics Committee? Do we not have the Privileges Committee? Why is it that this work was given to a small five-Member Committee? I appeal that it will be right and justice will be meted out if we hand it over to the Ethics Committee or the Privileges Committee. This is what I have to say.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, let me, at the beginning, submit that expulsion of the Members from the House is a grave punishment. The way Shri Kapil Sibal was arguing, I do not buy his argument. It is a serious punishment. It tantamounts to inflicting grave injury to the political career of the persons concerned. Let there be no doubt about that. I do not also buy the argument that what was done in the past was all correct and what is being done now is incorrect. This is a specific case; this is a singular case. During the last 57 years, such a case has never come to the surface. So many people have been charged; so much of publicity has been given; and so much of rancour and acrimony has been there. It is a singular instance which rocks the very basic foundation of the Republic of India. And, I agree, this is not a party question. This is not a question which you should discuss in terms of what is the party to which the majority of the Members belong. I do not take that line, neither that route should be taken by anybody.

But the basic question is that suspicion cannot be a truth; suspicion cannot be a substitute for facts. The hon. Member, while speaking, just now said that it has to be found out whether this sting operation was provoked by somebody in the Treasury Benches.

That was the line, if I am not wrong, that I heard. There is a suspicion. If there is any evidence of suspicion, it can be very well brought to the notice of the House.

14.40 hrs.

(Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair)

We are not here to raise our hands in favour of any inappropriate resolution. We do not belong to any bandwagon to say that we shall say, yes if something wrong is said. That is not the issue. The basis issue, as I feel is that it is an undoubted truth, it is an undiluted fact that some people had taken money and those who had taken money did it in exchange of raising questions in Parliament. It is a plain truth which came on the screen, it is a plain truth which has been looked into by a Committee.

Now, my hon. friend, Prof. Malhotra has raised a number of issues. I find his statement a little contradictory. I would say why. On the one hand he says: "Is expulsion the appropriate punishment? Is it not too harsh?" Secondly, he says, whether the right of expulsion vests to the House or not. Thirdly, he has raised the question, whether the route of expulsion should have been taken through the Privileges Committee. Fourthly, he says ... (Interruptions) Excuse me. My views are not to be accepted by you. But there is a veiled threat. What he says is: "In Assemblies, where political complexion is different, the majority is different, the same course may be taken." This is very unfortunate. Let us discuss the issue on merit. The merit of the issue is that some of our colleagues have taken money, and the question that is being discussed here is whether they were given enough opportunity to defend themselves.

Sir, para 3.5, which is the last para, of page 26 of the Report says: "In this context, the Committee would like to bring to record that all the 10 Members while deposing before the Committee were asked whether they would like to view the relevant video footage so that they

could point out the discrepancies, if any. All the Members refused to view the relevant video footage." What does it mean? It means that the Members so accused were afraid to face the truth on the screen.... (Interruptions) That is my interpretation. You can put out it separately. But my interpretation is that these 10 Members were afraid to face the video screening of the tape that was screened on the television. Why was it not taken to view? They could have pointed out where the discrepancies lie. If they had pointed that there were the discrepancies, then we could have accused the Committee for taking a partisan stand.

Sir, Prof. Malhotra raised a question that according to him the trial has been very swift. May I suggest that the Resolution was moved in this House; the hon. Speaker made the announcement that the Committee was being set up to give its views within 10 days. At that point of time, no hon. Member from any side had raised this question. All Members were present in the House, and it was brought to the notice of the House that it is going to be a swift trial, too swift to bring justice to the case that we are discussing about. Therefore, the whole House is a party to a decision wherein a Committee was set up and the Committee was given a time of 10 days to make its recommendations to Lok Sabha.

Therefore, what is wrong in it? At that point of time, it was not stated that let this Committee not be set up; let this case be referred to the Privileges Committee. But what is now being said by the hon. Member and my esteemed friend Prof. Malhotra—we had been together in the Rajya Sabha for many years and we are together in the Ethics Committee—is that why the Privileges Committee was not given this job and why this Committee was appointed. It is an afterthought.

While the decision was being taken in the House, all of us were party to it including Prof. Malhotra, and it was not suggested at any point of time that Five-Member Committee was not enough, and let this case be sent to the Privileges Committee? Why is this afterthought now?

Sir, I am amused by the argument of my hon. friend. What he says is that 'a military officer was caught red-handed while smuggling a bottle of wine, but he was not thrown out; he was sent for court martial.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: A truckload of bottles were seized....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is exactly I am saying....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vijayendra Pal Singh, please. You have made many allegations against the Chair also. I will answer them.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Does he believe that this condoning of criminality, if it is truth in military, the same way we should condone the aberrations of Parliamentary principles in Lok Sabha also? What is the argument about?

Sir, the basic question is that they were given the transcripts of the exposure; they were supplied with the copy; and they were heard, in person. They were asked whether they wanted to see the unedited portion but they refused it. Therefore, in my humble opinion—I am there in Parliament for quite a long time—no finger can be raised pointing out that the Committee so appointed by the House did not do its job.

Sir, a question is being raised about the sting operation that sting operation is banned in Japan; that it is banned in the United States. If they want to ban the sting operation in India, they may bring a Resolution. We can discuss it. But since sting operation has exposed 10 Members of Parliament, therefore, let us not raise the question of credibility of the Media. Media has done its job. Parliament is to do its job. It is for the Parliament to decide whether the findings of this sting operation has any basis, has any material. Its objective calls for punitive action of Parliament or we can condone it. Let us not blame the Media. They have done their job. We should do our job.

Sir, therefore, the basic point is this....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I know, Sir, that I am hurting them. I know, my arguments do hurt.(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharabela Swain, you do not have to teach anybody. Please take your seat.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except what Mr. Dasgupta says.

....(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta, please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: If you agree then I will read Para 29 and 30 only.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, not now. When you get your turn, you may speak then. Now, please do not disturb.

It is not being recorded, Mr. Oram.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I concede that is is a tragic situation for the Parliament; I concede that I speak with the heavy heart and I concede that the situation constitutes a grave crisis for the nation as well for the Parliament. It is not with a sense of joy that we are here to speak in support or against the expulsion. It is in the discharge of our duty as enjoined by the Constitution. Let us part with the company of our colleagues who have themselves parted with all moral scruples and allowed themselves to reach the bottom of moral degradation, abusing cynically the position they have been elevated to by the electorate of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am concluding. I must say one thing here.

The political system of the country is interpreted to be tainted. When the political life of the country is overcast with dense cloud of suspicion and mistrust, when the public figures—not all, but many—are on the point of losing their credibility, when the political system appears to be tainted and when all that we do are sought to be interpreted as an act for gain, there is a need to begin an effort to turn the wheel of events—the message must be loud and clear that the 14th Lok Sabha is determined to initiate a process for cleansing

*Not recorded.

the public life and clear the apprehension among the people.

The apprehension among the people must be dispelled; the Parliament has risen to its height to indict the Members who fell much below the bottom by being accused, and have been found to be taking money. It is with a heavy heart that we light a flame of hope among the millions in deep darkness of despair in this House. Let the nation know that the highest temple of democracy cannot be blurred and cannot be tainted by the action of a few because the majority has taken a decision to punish them with an exemplary punishment.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I call the next hon. Member to speak, I wish to make a comment because when I was not here, one hon. Member unnecessarily brought the Chair into this debate. He put a question as to why the Chair did not refer it to the Privileges Committee and why the Chair did not refer it to the Ethics Committee, etc. The answer is very simple.

The House is ultimately the master. The composition of this Committee, the time that should be allowed, etc. were fixed in consultation with all the hon. leaders, including the leader of party to which the hon. Member belongs. His Party acceded to it. As a matter of fact, he agreed to be a member of it; he became a member of it. He participated in it.

Therefore, why should you bring the Chair into this now? It was said by me that the report that will be submitted, would be presented to the House. It had been presented to the House. It is for the House to take a decision. The Committee can only make a recommendation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. You have already brought it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I have praised the Chair too....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair to the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I praised you.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not need anybody's praise. I only said this just to keep the records straight. It was not my unilateral or individual decision.

Now, Shri Anant Gudhe.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I have all the respects for you....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. From the very beginning, I have said that I have nothing to do in this matter. I have made no comments on the merits; I have not said that it should be passed or it should not be passed. I have only referred that the Resolution has been brought forward. Now, to say that I did not refer it to that committee, is not fair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: You did not even mention that part of it—I said that the Speaker took such a good decision, which everybody appreciated. You left out that portion. You mention only the part which hurts you.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it hurts me and it hurts the institution, because you make the Chair a party to the controversy.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, media have reported about the bribe being accepted by the MPs for asking questions and we are discussing over the report of Bansal Committee constituted for the enquiry of such events. The main moot point of the discussion is that there is consensus on the point that we should punish them. There is consensus in the House over punishing them. Treasury bench and Opposition have consensus on this issue that they should be punished according to the rules. But they should be given chances to defend themselves. They should be given chance to defend themselves. And more discussion is going on regarding the amendment suggested by Shri Malhotra.

Corruption is not a new phenomenon in this country. Corruption prevails in this country since the independence. The former Prime Minister of this country

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

had once said that corruption level has reached such a high that when we allot one rupee for the poor, only fifteen paise reaches to the poor and eighty five paise goes to corruption. I have gone through the report and all the issues have been incorporated into it. Shri Anirudh Bahal and T.V. Channel Aaj Tak have stated during the witness that they have approached two members but they had not accepted the bribe. Their P.A.s had accepted the bribe. There is a big question arises that when accepting bribe is a big crime then why not giving bribe is considered such a big crime? Why not it is stated in this report that they are also culprits. This has not been stated in the report. Here parliamentarian and hon'ble Minister Shri Sibal has said in his speech that we are sending them to jail and trying to give them capital punishment. Who are representative of 15-20 lakh people. Is not it a national murder? We are committing their political murder. They will loose their status in the society. If anybody commits any crime then we provide him chance to prove himself innocent. They can approach to lower court, High Court and Supreme Court. If any official indulges in corruption and accepts bribe then all the doors are open for him to prove himself innocent. All the courts are open for him and he is reinstated in his job. There are many such cases in this country. They have not been hanged for indulging in corruption.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 12th December this news was flashed on the T.V. Channel and on 15th December a committee was constituted and it has submitted its report on 22nd December and today on 23rd December. We are discussing it. Leader of the House is saying that he should be punished. In this regard, I just want to say that this matter should be probed thoroughly and in this view this case should be referred to the Privilege Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this matter goes to the court, the court will say directly that process reacquired for punishment has not been adopted. Parliament has not discussed the matter totally and it took immediate decision on it. Court can level allegation on us. Court has its won viewpoint. I believe that Parliament is

Supreme. There is no doubt that corruption has to be eliminated. All the members are agreed to it, but while talking about curbing of corruption, the culprits should be given chances to defend themselves.

MR. SPEAKER: We should transfer the Private Members business to the next session.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Sir, Court always says that though 10 culprits go unpunished but not even a single innocent should be convicted. When court considers these things, then they should be given chances to defend themselves. That is why Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has moved a motion that this matter should be referred to the Privilege Committee, where discussion should be held in total. Our party Shiv Sena is also with it. Our party also wants that no culprit should go Scot free, but one should be given a chance to defend himself. With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, it is a very painful day. This is the most unfortunate incident for the entire country, particularly for us in this august House and for parliamentary democracy in general.

Sir, I would like to remind the House about the debate of the Constituent Assembly that took place to decide about a minimum qualification for the legislators.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Private Members' Business stands postponed to the next Session.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The debate continued for a long time to decide about setting a minimum educational qualification a standard for a legislator. But in the light of the fact that all our freedom fighters had to give up their studies midway, it was decided not to keep any minimum educational qualification standard for the legislators. But very rightly they had talked about and decided that the "moral education", as the minimum qualification for a legislator. Now, we are completely bankrupt on this question of moral education.

Sir, now the entire country does not believe in the political people. People have lost their trust and confidence in the public representatives. But I would like

to remind this House that the Sting Operation, whatever happened, has happened outside the Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now it is time to discuss the Private Members' Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You had not been careful when I said about this. The Private Members' Business will be taken up in the next Session.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I would like to know whether we are intending to take action on something which happened outside the Parliament? This is the fundamental question that I would like to raise and I would like to be answered about this. When this House has the wisdom to take action on something which has happened outside the Parliament, then why are the tainted Ministers sitting here against whom there are serious corruption charges? Why they are not disqualified? They are not dismembered so far? They are continuing to hold their portfolio when the bail process is going on. Is it right on our part to take action only against Members while such alleged corrupt Ministers, who ought to set an example to others, are sitting here? They are continuing as Ministers and also Members of this House. This question has to be answered. When we are debating on this issue and when we take a final decision on this issue, this question has to be answered. This question has not yet been answered.

Sir, you are a leading legal expert in the country. So, I would not like to explain each point. What is our legal jurisprudence? What does it speak about? Our Legal jurisprudence is based completely on human grounds. Human values are reflected there, in our legal jurisprudence. It says that a culprit may be excused or acquitted but an innocent person should not be punished. We are adhering to this type of legal jurisprudence. This jurisprudence is accepted by us and the Constitution has also accepted this legal jurisprudence. Our criminal laws are based on this legal jurisprudence. Even if a crime has happened or occurred in the presence of a judge, he cannot hang that person.

Even if the judge is an eye witness to the occurrence of the crime, he will have to follow the procedure like FIR, police case, etc.

15.07 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

There shall be cross-examination etc. even in that case. That is why, the eyes of justice are blind. Even if the crime has happened in his presence, and even if he is an eye witness to it, he cannot punish the culprit. He shall have to go through the procedure required and only then punish the guilty. We have accepted this legal jurisprudence and we have adhered to it. If this is the position, then how will it be possible just to dismember or expel a Member of Parliament?

I want to bring one point from the Report of the Committee to the notice of the House. I want to refer to paragraph 29 wherein one of the ten accused Members, Shri Lal Chandra Kol has given evidence. What has he said in his evidence before the Committee on 18th December, 2005? In paragraph 29, it is stated:—

"What has been shown in the video is not true. Actually, the money which I have been shown as accepting in the video is my money which I had given to one Saligram Dubey who is from my village for buying seeds. He is returning me that money which has been shown in the video in a distorted manner. I am absolutely not guilty."

So, where is the evidence before the Committee that he is guilty? Have they examined whether this gentleman is really returning the money and when he was returning it, was this video-taped? This has not been cross examined because there was no time. This is what paragraph 29 says. We are now dismembering an innocent person, if what he says is true. This has to be further examined. It is necessary to do it. We cannot punish a person who is innocent. The examination is not sufficient. He is also telling something else which require to be cross-examined or further examined. So, this part should be answered. It is necessary to be answered. That is why I say that we should not punish

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

an innocent Member by just looking at the video. They should be given sufficient time.

Sir, justice hurried is justice buried. So, we should not be in a hurry to punish somebody. If there is a *prima facie* case, let us accept that position. They should be given sufficient time. They should be allowed for their deposition to present their witnesses. Then, let them be punished. Something had happened in the past. Rightly or wrongly, this House, in its wisdom, expelled a Member in the past also. We had done it rightly or wrongly in the past. So, now also we are repeating the same thing. We will commit the same mistake again. Will we rectify our mistake or will we go on committing the same mistake again and again? That is the point to be discussed. That is to be deliberated upon.

We are against corruption. My party is against corruption. We are continuing in power for about 8 years in our State fighting against corruption of the Congress Party, the misrule of the Congress Government. My Party came to power fighting against corruption. It is also against corruption. Hence, there is no point in compromising with corruption. But we must be honest while dealing with this matter. When we are punishing somebody, they should be given sufficient time.

Here, I want to warn everybody that the parliamentary System is in crisis today. Why is it in crisis? We must go for introspection and should discuss it. Are the Parliamentary parties of the country amazed? I want to tell this august House one thing. Are they transparent? Whatever money they are collecting, whatever accounts they are giving maintaining and submitting to the Election Commission, are they true? All the Members of Parliament are filing their returns about their election expenditure. Are the returns true? Why? This has happened. This system has developed like this.

A political donation is not illegal in our country. But interestingly the donor is not interested in giving money in white through a cheque, nor the taker is interested in taking white money through a cheque. This is happening. We are collecting political funds for our election purpose. How are we collecting? Is it

transparent? So, first, we must try to be transparent. We must try to develop this system in our own political system. Mr. Minister, if you want to maintain a transparent political system in our country, if you want to just continue with this Parliamentary System, if you want to make the Parliamentary System a healthy system, then, the system as a whole has to be changed.

There is no accountability of the political parties. The Constitution is silent about political parties. Members are punished but the political parties have never been punished. Only the people can punish the political parties. That is our system. As I have said just now, the Constitution is silent on that. Our fore-fathers never believed that the next generation, the future generation of political parties would be irresponsible; they would behave in this manner; there would be no internal democracy in the political system; the political parties never adhere to their internal democracy, etc. This is happening now. The situation has come to this stage. That is why we should rectify the entire system. Let us rectify the political parties. Let there be honesty first. Then, we can strengthen the Parliamentary Democracy. That is why, my point is that we must be careful. Of course, we must punish these people. But they should be given sufficient time. They should be allowed to say whatever they want to say. Let them say. Let them be suspended. Let them not be allowed to take anything—whatever they are entitled to as Members of Parliament. It should be not only in respect of attending this House but also the entire thing should be suspended. They should not be given anything till their trial and investigation is completed. That is why, Mr. Chairman, Sir, my point is that the alleged Members should be given sufficient time. They should be allowed to defend and give the entire thing which they want to do. Then only, they shall be hanged or we shall give them punishment—whatever punishment they are entitled to.

If somebody is doing some undue things, if somebody is involved in corruption, they should not be allowed to go free. We should not be a party to that thing. This House is entitled to show the example to the entire country and the entire world. We believe in parliamentary democracy and our Members should be honest in all respect. But they should also be given

sufficient time. That is my point. This House should not be divided on this issue. My honest request is that the House should not be divided. If the House will be divided then my Party cannot be a party to this thing. I want to announce this thing. If the House will be divided, there will not be unanimity on this issue then we cannot be a party to this thing. Either this side or that side, we cannot be a party to this thing....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, my last request is that the Leader of the House, the mover of the Motion, should consider it. Let them be punished, but they should also be given sufficient time. Let them be suspended and let all their facilities be withheld. Let them be allowed to depose and make their own point and say whatever they want to say.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very painful day, today we are discussing action against our colleagues in this House. In the beginning of the discussion hon. Speaker observed that it is a very painful situation and the House shouldn't get divided on the basis of minority and majority of the parties, rather it should take its decision with one accord to protect the glorious history of this apex institution of democracy. But as soon as the discussion started, Shri Basu Dev Acharia has brought politics in it, Shri Kapil Sibal has also brought politics in it. To protect the apex institution of democracy, we need to set aside politics while discussing the matter. The whole country is looking forwards to us to see action taken by us to protect this situation. The whole country is looking forward to us to see the measures taken by us to remove the blot on the face of this institution. During the debate there was talk of protocol, law and rules. I am of the opinion that besides protocol, law and rules, democracy functions on public opinion too. Public opinion is of the paramount importance in democracy. They need of the hour is not to hesitate in taking most stringent action to protect this apex institution of democracy in view of the public opinion.

Sir, during discussion on sting operation many points were discussed. It was said that sting operation

was not proper and I am too of the same opinion. But the can't justify the action taken on the basis of it. Post sting operation, it was discussed in the House on 12th. This House unanimously authorised the hon. Speaker to constitute a Committee. After the constitution of the Committee, we saw on T.V. one of those 10 MPs saying to a correspondent on telephone and his voice was being clearly heard that it was wrong. If it was wrong, we should have been told about it, the whole country should not have watched it on T.V. This incident took place on 12th. The whole House was unanimous and the Committee was constituted by the hon. Speaker, only after unanimity being arrived. When this issue was being debated in the House on 12th, leaders of the several parties clearly said that action should be taken and it should be taken before the propagation. The Committee has done its work. I congratulate the chairman and members of the Committee for their work. They have completed their work and submitted the report in the stipulated time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after going through the inquiry and report of the Committee, it appears that all those Members were given adequate opportunity. The Committee has also watched the C.D. The Committee has offered us to watch the video footage. If you think that it was tampered, you inform it to the Committee and they will take action on it. Everyone refused to take it. The Committee in its report has at one place mentioned and I find it correct that had the video footage been tampered with, the electronic media would have hesitated to hand over the original tape to the Committee. Since all the original tapes have been handed over to the Committee, it is in itself a proof that it has not been tampered with. But following the principle of natural justice, every hon. Member has been given adequate opportunity. Therefore, it is not correct to say that they have not been provided enough opportunity. Today, as the discussion is going on, the whole world is looking forward to us what action we are going to take. Therefore, on behalf of my party and on the personal level, I am of the opinion that most stringent action should be taken to protect the glorious history of this apex institution. It is true that it is painful to take action against our own colleagues. We used to sit with them, shared good moments with them and it must be

[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan']

painful to take action against them, but to serve the greater purpose, we will have to forget it and take stringent action to protect the dignity of this institution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully support the proposal, put forward by the hon. Leader of the House. At the same time, I would like to make a request and it was discussed by many of the hon. Members too—sting operation is not proper. Such laws are not in place in other countries. I would like to request the chair to take initiative in this respect, arrange a meeting of leaders of all the parties and the Government should also be included in it and put in place some law to stop it. Sting operations are being carried out for business purposes, in their own interest, for commercial use and to make money. The Government should take action to stop such activities and there should be some law in this regard.

With these words, I express my gratitude to you and take my seat.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have become Member of Parliament for the first time. I have been here for the last about one year and nine months. The way media has shown some of the Members of Parliament indulged in corruption, I would like to ask the questions arising in my mind in this regard. The people who showed this sting operation, whether their aim was only to expose the corruption or it was to increase TRP and their income? If anybody asks the feelings at my heart and the dignity of the House, I will decide that all the Members of Parliament indulged in it, must be punished. But my heart and my conscience pinches me whether that member or Members of this House have this right, whether we are so much honest that we can punish those members? This question arisen in my mind again and again. I have felt here during one year and nine months. Before that too, I have seen activities of political parties. I remember the riots of 1984. I also remember Godhara incident. I am not saying that I am with the ruling party or with the opposition. Today I just want to speak because my heart pinches me that the people have sent us in the Parliament not to express the views of our party but to bring out the truth. I would like to tell you that when we, new members, became the Members

of Parliament, the media asked us how do we feel in the dignified House. Here I would like to share my experience with you that I found this House very dignified. But you may feel bitter of my opinion. Of course, the truth is always bitter. This may be my own experience. I am sorry, if it hurts anybody. The truth is that after entering into Parliament House, I did not find the senior politicians such an ideals who can become source of inspiration for us. We, specially the youngsters and new comers, have felt that if we are in the treasury bench, we will hide our mistakes and if we are in the opposition, we will do mud slinging upon them. Our purpose would not be to wipe out corruption but to do mud slinging on each other. I have felt only this thing in these one year and nine months.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell a very small thing that the father who does not bear good character, who is a drunkard or does other wrong deeds his son will also do the same after he is grown up. If such a father expects that his son will be honest, his son will never become honest. I would like to ask that whether the new Members of Parliament or the Members of Parliament caught in the sting operation, have got this inspiration from the Parliament House? I do not feel that way. My conscience says that we did not find such ideal politicians who could give us a lesson that we should be honest here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that maximum MPs spend rupees one-two crore in their election. In the Parliament House, They meet those persons whose salary is Rs. 12,000/-. Can we expect from them that they will do their work honestly? This has to be pondered upon. Now wherefrom they and their party get crores of rupees? On one hand, we do not want this thing but we expect honesty from them in their work. Nothing is going to happen till we rectify our system. Now, there are four pillars to run this nation. We are also among them. Media people and judiciary are also there. The time has come that before giving punishment to others, every person should ask himself about his won honesty. Has he got any right to punish others? My conscience feels that if we are not honest, we do not have right to punish others. Today, I am speaking against media not because my husband Shri Pappu Yadav had been implicated. I am speaking against the

media because it is not the truth. I have felt that media persons specially persons connected with electronic media, politicians, Judiciary etc. should ponder upon in their heart whether they are doing their work honestly? Today the fact is that 82 to 90 per cent people in whole of India have become corrupt. It is a fact and we should accept it. Today, there are 545 MPs in the Parliament. The way our country is running, we may say that several Gods are here in the country who are running it. It is also a fact. If a village head, MLA, MP, Minister or MP is honest, then whole of India will become honest. But if you visit Government Offices, Secretariats, you will have to give bribe from Rs. 10 to thousands-lakhs to put up a file. How do we expect from a man that he would not indulge in corruption?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all we have to change our system. First of all, we have to create such an atmosphere wherein we can live in and can get inspiration to become honest. I would like to request through you, that we conduct sessions, every time session is conducted but on the very first day of session and on the last day of session, we should make such an arrangement that we could remember every time the oath taken by us. Every time we must remember martyrs and politicians like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Lal Bahadur Shastri so that we can feel that the Independence we have got was not very easy to attain. Today we are becoming corrupt. These people who started politics, were great and this a fact that we are here to carry on their values. But, it is a matter of shame that, we are not their true successors....(*Interruptions*)

I just want to say this and today I am incapable to say that those people should be punished or not but definitely I would like to say one thing that before punishing them we media-persons, each and every member of Parliament need to trace their conscience, that whether we deserve to punish them? with these words, I conclude.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are going to create a history in the Parliamentary system, because it is not a question of any party. It is a question of the dignity of the house. When we were watching sting operation on TV, heads

of all the MPs were down with shame. There are no two opinions on that. We were also feeling very sad and hon'ble Mr. Speaker has urgently taken action on that, he convened an all party meeting and constituted a Committee, some time was given to that Committee but in a very short span of time, the Committee submitted its report. In this regard, I want to say that my party is against it. The elected representatives are being shown on TV taking money for asking questions, this is a matter of grave concern. Our party is against it, hon'ble Mr. Speaker has done a very good job by initiating debate on the issue. It is not like that, that we have passed it casually. The hon. Members are of opinion and Mr. Mohan Singh was also saying that there is a need to think about the repercussions. Of the motion we propose to pass my view is that they should be expelled. Today ten Members are involved, yesterday seven members were found involved in MPLAD and many others will also come. Its not only that. What Mr. Mohan Singhji said is absolutely correct. Tomorrow, same thing will happen in Assembly, irrespective of any ruling party this thing will figure in newspapers again and nobody knows what will happen after that. It is a historical decision. If we decide about it in haste, then we can not speculate about its repercussions. I do not consider them as innocent. Whatever people may say but I am concerned about what will happen after its passage and I would like to say one more thing that if you expel them today, what will be their position if they come here again after being elected? If people elect them again, what will happen then? Whether they will sit here again? Moreover, I support the views expressed by Mr. Basudev Acharia that there should be amendment in the constitution, so that people get the right to recall their elected representative whether he is an MLA or an MP, whenever they are found engaged in wrong doings. It will be the best way. Moreover, I am saddened by the fact that it is a question of dignity of the House and the way politics has been dragged into all this. This is not the way. We must think about improving our whole system, which has become deficient. Hon'ble Member, Mr. Mohan Singhji rightly said that how many MPs give correct account about the expenses in polls and the details about their properties? Tomorrow, if media or any other organization unearth any such thing, then whether you will be able to expel

[Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa]

all of them? That's why it needs to be considered. Neither Mr. Malhotraji nor any other Member of the House has said that those guilty members should not be punished, but they have said that some more time should be given till the budget session, hand over the case to Bansal Committee so that it can hear the suggestions of other Members and consider about its future repercussions. If one or two months time is given for discussion on the issue and if this proposal is brought in the next session, then my party is in favour of action against such members. Why there is so much hurry about it? It is important to give some more time to ferret out the truth in this matter and its expected repercussions needs to be considered. Therefore, I support the motion but the suggestions of the Members should be considered as today is the last day of this session. We should not take decision in a hurry. Ok people are watching, whole world is watching that what will be the decision of the Parliament today, besides I am also not saying that they should be pardoned, set-free. Definitely, action should be taken against them. They should be expelled from the House, but there should be full debate on the issue. Same Bansal Committee should consider and discuss the suggestions made by the hon'ble Members. That's why I would like to say that nothing is wrong in what Mr. Malhotra has said. He does not mean to say that we are going to pardon them. We are all against that. This is not a question of any party, it is a question about the whole House and the whole House earned a bad name in the matter. Today more BJP Members are involved in the matter, the number of Congress Members is less, tomorrow there could be more Members of any other party. So, this is not the question of any party, it is a question of the dignity of the House. The ways to protect the dignity of the House needs to be discussed in detail. Therefore, I would like to say that if the leader of the House reconsiders the issue, there will be nothing wrong in that. We support the motion. There are no two opinions on the matter that they should be punished, but there is nothing wrong in giving some more time to consider the suggestions made by the hon'ble Members. This is my suggestion. I thank you very much and conclude.

15.40 hrs.

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, item No. 30, Matters under Rule 377, listed for the day may be treated as laid. These shall form part of the proceedings.

(i) **Need for construction of a Foot over bridge at Vapi railway station, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL (Bulsar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways towards Ahamdabad-Mumbai railway line at Vapi city in my Parliamentary Constituency Bulsar.

To the one side of the railway line near Vapi in my Parliamentary Constituency, there is the industrial area of G.I.D.C. This is a very big township of G.I.D.C. and on its other side lies the entire Vapi city. Lakhs of people residing in this city have to cross this line daily for commuting to industrial area of G.I.D.C. to go to their work. Likewise thousands of students from Vapi city have to cross to this line every day in order to reach their respective schools and colleges, but at this railway line traffic is so hectic that these people are forced to cool their heels for longer durations. For a long time people of this region have been raising their demand for constructing a foot over-bridge at this railway line.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I request the Minister of Railways to do the needful for immediately constructing a foot over-bridge at this railway line in Vapi.

(ii) **Need to include Rajasthani language in the Elghth Schedule to the constitution**

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthani is one of the most flourishing languages of the world. It has got a history spanning over a period of 2500 years. Lakhs of manuscripts of Rajasthani literature are available in Museums. Rajasthani language has an independent grammer system. Rajasthani

*Treated as laid on the Table.

grammar prevalent in Pakistan is called Rajasthani Kaydo. It is also being taught in the south Asian Language department of Sikango University, America. Many dictionaries of the language are also available. Padam Shree Sitaram Lalas has authored the biggest Rajasthani dictionary which constitute more than two and a half lakh words. Mewari, Bagari, Malvi, Marwari, Dundari, Hadouthi, Mewati, Bhili, Braj, Khana badoshi dialects are parts of Rajasthani language and Dingal and Pingal are the styles of its ancient classical poetry. Rajasthani is a widely accepted language among the audiences of Radio, Television news and other programmes. Sahitya Academy of the central Government has accorded the same status to Rajasthani as that of other Indian languages. In Rajasthani there is a Rajasthani language literature and culture Academy also. Therefore we demand that Rajasthani be included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. In this connection on 25th August, 2003 the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan has unanimously passed a resolution and has forwarded it to the Central Government.

So, I request the Central Government to include Rajasthani in the eighth schedule of the constitution.

(iii) Need to advise Government of Rajasthan to amend "Allotment Rules" ('Colonization of Rules 1975') with a view to settle remaining oustees of Pong Dam

[English]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): I would like to raise the issue of settlement of Pong Dam oustees in Rajasthan. Nearly 35 years back approximately 75,000 acres of land was acquired which later submerged. About 20,000 families and 339 villages were affected, out of which 223 villages were completely submerged and remaining were submerged partially. Under the allotment rules of Government of Rajasthan, 16, 352 oustees were declared eligible for the allotment of land. In the first phase in 1980, 9196 and in Phase II after year 2000 the remaining 1384 oustees were allotted land. The remaining oustees are yet to be settled. The number of applicants who failed to apply in time their eligible certificates were sent to Government of Rajasthan. But these were not accepted by the State Government on

the ground that they have been issued in violation of rules. About 3000 eligible certificates were not accepted. In 1996, the Supreme Court quashed the amendments made in 1992 by the Government of Rajasthan in the allotment rules specially Rule 6(A). On the basis of the judgement more than the 2,000 cancelled allotment were reviewed by the different District Judge on the order of the Hon. Supreme Court. The "Allotment Rule" (Colonization of Rules 1975) of the Government of Rajasthan are the main hurdle for allotment of Government land to Pong Dam oustees. The State Government of Rajasthan should amend the rules to expedite the way of resettlement of remaining oustees. Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to take up the matter with the Rajasthan Government and resettle the remaining oustees.

(iv) Need to set up a Central University in Darjeeling

SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling): Very recently an agreement among the Central Government, State Government and the DGHC for considering the Sixth Schedule Status to the Gorkha Hill Council, Darjeeling has been signed. So, Gorkha Hill Council, Darjeeling can be considered to be a State. I therefore, feel that the demand of a Central University of the people of Gorkha Hill Council, Darjeeling is fully justified for North Bengal University hardly caters to the interest of the hill people of Darjeeling Hills. This University overshadowed the academic development of the hills for last 43 years. The existing affiliated colleges in the Darjeeling hills follows the courses and syllabi designed by the North Bengal University, which are not mountain specific or relevant to the needs of the hills. Due to lack of teaching and research-intensive University of its own, the Darjeeling hills face problems to get the skilled qualified and trained manpower in the specific fields relevant to the Hills. Moreover the academic session of NBU does not suit the colleges of Darjeeling Hill Area as the Darjeeling Hill have a long winter vacation of three months from December to February end.

Students and the people of the Darjeeling hills never demands the introduction of few hill oriented courses in the colleges of Darjeeling Hills affiliated to NBU; this may confuse the whole matter. There is a

[Shri D. Narbula]

strong and consensus demand of the hill people to have a separate Central University to be set up by the present Government. The formation Gorkha Hill Council under Sixth Schedule will be incomplete without a suitable university attached to it.

The Darjeeling hills are one of the hot spots of biodiversity and are very, rich in bio-resources. Studies on bio-resources, biodiversity, biotechnology for the developmental activities, even the study on cultural heritage languages in the Darjeeling Hills are lagging behind due to lack of University.

I therefore, urge upon the Central Government to fulfill the dream of the hill people of Darjeeling by setting up a full-fledged Central University under an Act of the Parliament.

(v) Need to amend article 371 to accord special status to North Karnataka region

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Minister through you Sir, that the Government of Karnataka has submitted a Memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Home Minister regarding Amendment to Article 371 to accord special status to North Karnataka region comprising GULBARGA, BIDAR, BELLARY, KOPPAL and RAICHUR, similar to the status given to Telengana Region to Andhra Pradesh.

I would like to mention that Government of Karnataka, in reply to Ministry of Home Affairs letter has reiterated its earlier proposal to provide a provision under article 371 for providing regional reservation in the field of employment and education to these North Karnataka Districts.

GULBARGA, BIDAR, BELLARY, KOPPAL and RAICHUR Districts in Karnataka are one of the most backward Districts in Karnataka in terms of infrastructure and industrial development.

In view of the persistent and long standing demand of the people of the Region, I urge the Hon'ble Minister to accord approval for amending article 371 of the Constitution to remove regional imbalances as has been done in the case of Andhra Pradesh.

(vi) Need to set up a C.G.H.S. dispensary at Indore, Madhya Pradesh

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): The Central Government Employees of Indore are in desperate need of CGHS dispensary. Indore being the financial capital of Madhya Pradesh is having more than 2000 Central Government employees. Most of them are retired persons getting merely Rs. 1000 for their medical facilities. Today a one-time visit to a doctor costs more than Rs. 1000 for a normal person will all the tests and medicines. Then we can simply imagine the financial burden of a retired person. Old age needs more of medical attention. The Central Government Employees Coordination Committee has also arranged four members MIC Quarter for housing the dispensary. In July, 2003, hon. Minister had announced about the opening of CGHS dispensary in Indore but it is yet to be implemented.

I request the Central Government to expedite opening of a CGHS dispensary at Indore.

(vii) Need to provide additional supply of power to Rajasthan to meet the shortage in the State

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan faces an acute shortage of electricity supply all through the year. Natural sources of conventional energy like coal, gas and water are not available in the State. The demand for electricity is increasing day-by-day. After the shut down of the first unit of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project, the generation of electricity has stopped from October, 2004 and the chances of its re-starting operations are very remote. The electricity generation capacity of the 2nd unit of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project is 220 Megawatts, however only 200 megawatts is being generated. In the third and fourth units of the R.A.P.P. which started their operations in December 1999 and December 2000, respectively, status of availability of electricity has become worsened due to insufficient allocations. However, no states were willing to purchase electricity from these units because of the higher cost of the electricity produced by the third and fourth unit. Rajasthan, on 1st December, 2000, gave its consent for purchasing high cost electricity. Central Power

Ministry has increased the electricity allocation of Rajasthan from the third unit of R.A.P.P. to 100% with effect from 27th December, 2000, however the Minister of Power, Government of India has not made any provision for allocation to Rajasthan from the fourth unit. Therefore this allocation remained variable during peak hours to off peak hours and the allocation of other states also remained variable as well. Consequently, meeting the demands of the farmers and industries of Rajasthan has become an arduous task.

As Rajasthan is lying far away from the coal areas and also considering the scarcity of power sources, so in order to compensate the permanent shut down of the first unit of the RAPP, it is requested that the allocation from the third and fourth unit should be increased and 85% of the remaining capacity of the third and fourth units should be allocated to Rajasthan. From the fifth and sixth units, 85% allocation should be made out of the installed capacity.

(viii) Need to provide funds for construction of gates at railway crossings in Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, several roads have been constructed or are being constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna in Churu Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan. It is an extremely important scheme for rural development, however, the villages, which have been included in the scheme and where the Railway line is crossing, the work of linking these roads is incomplete there in the absence of Railway crossing. The villagers are not going to be benefited by it. These villages are linked on the papers, but in reality the villages are devoid of using these roads. Several roads have been constructed under the scheme in Churu, Sadulpur, Rajgarh, Taranagar, Sardarshahar, Ratangarh, Shridungar Garh, Sujangarh and Ladaun Legislative Assembly of Churu Parliamentary Constituency, where Railway lines are crossed for many roads. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister of Rural Development to provide necessary funds for these Railway crossings so that the railway crossing to be made on railway line and rural people to may be benefited of this facility.

(ix) Need to establish a Defence Academy in Haryana and enhance the financial help given to the families of martyrs who died in military operations, so as to bring them at par with the compensation provided to the families to Kargil war heroes

[English]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Central Government and State Government should provide ex-gratia employment to the wards of deceased martyrs (soldiers) at least those whose children do not meet physical standard of armed forces as proportionate representation as per present strength in armed forces of state is per-requisite for the well being of martyrs families.

All martyrs (Saheed) in various wars/operations since independence till date need to be equated with those of kargil as regards financial grants aid. It will equate all martyrs in free India.

Even soldiers killed in insurgency operations or in advertence of internal security need to be accorded the status of war heroes and given all dues/status at par with kargil heroes.

Defence academy needs to be established in Haryana as Haryana aptly deserves the privilege keeping in view strength of state in armed forces.

I request the Central Government to look into the matter.

(x) Need to provide compensation to the farmers whose lands have been acquired by Air Force in Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the year 1995, the Air Force had acquired 47 acres of land of Rawatsar Tehsil in the district Hanumangarh of my Sriganganagar Lok Sabha constituency in Rajasthan and since then the Air Force, do not allow to undertake any developmental work there.

[Shri Nihal Chand]

No one can even construct the house on the farmers land. The government even awarded the land after its acquisition. The Union Government made an estimated budget of Rs. 1 Arab 59 crores for the total awarded land, however no compensation was provided so far.

I would like to request the Union Government for immediate release of the compensation to the farmers for their lands. Otherwise the land may be returned to the farmers. The farmer's community have ruined completely and the farmers could not produce foodgrains even for their consumption. Therefore, the farmers are in a pitiable condition.

I request the Union Government to provide the compensation of the acquired land at the earliest so that the farmers do not face difficulty.

- (xi) **Need to formulate a scheme to absorb all the retrenched workers who were engaged in construction work of Railways in Kanyakumari district, Trivendrum Division of Railways**

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Hundreds of workers were employed for several years during the construction work of Railways in Kanyakumari District. These workers were terminated, when the Railways started commissioning in 1989. This is in violation of Labour Laws and principles of Natural justice. Some of them appealed in the Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Court ordered, the Railway authorities to empanel them and absorb them against the future vacancies as Gr. D. Some of them registered their names in the panel. Some of them were refused registration. A very few of the registered workmen were provided employment. Many of them are waiting in the Panel. Those who could not register their names are also waiting, for employment in Railways. They are languishing in poverty and most of them have become aged. The Government should come forward with a scheme to absorb all the retrenched workmen in the Trivandrum Division of the Railways.

- (xii) **Need to lay a new railway line between Sambhal and Gajraula via Hasanpur in Moradabad Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a short-distance Railway line Sambhal Gajraula via Hasanpur Moradabad division which is under consideration for quite a long time in my Moradabad Parliamentary Constituency. A survey of this Railway line has already been conducted several years back, however, this project is lying pending because of the carelessness of the Department despite the survey already have been conducted. Lakhs of habitant of this area have been demanding for several years for laying this railway line of less than 50 km distance. This railway line is extremely needed from the commercial point of view owing to the existence of Mentha oil market in this Sambhal area.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately by commence the work for laying of this small railway line between Sambhal-Gajraula Via Hasanpur.

- (xiii) **Need to declare public holiday on the birth date of Emperor Ashok**

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the tradition of our country that we always show respect towards the great and able personages, however despite 57 years of independence, we have not shown our indebtedness to the great emperor of our country, who really deserved it. He is none other than the emperor Ashoka, the Great, who got the Lofty Pillar (a memento with four lions) erected in Samath in order to eternalize the first religious pilgrimage site of Lord Buddha. The Pillor of the emperor Ashoka the Great has been accepted as a National Symbol in the Constitution of India, which is symbolic of secularism, tolerance and the human well-being of our country. Till today, neither do we celebrate any national festival in the name of the emperor Ashoka the Great nor any holiday is declared on his anniversary Chaitra Shukla Paksha Ashtami 296 B.C. in the country.

I urge upon the Union Government to declare a national Holiday on his birth anniversary.

(xiv) Need to ensure involvement of local MPs in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented in the country for the development of the country and to provide facilities to people but no direction has been issued by Central Government to see that the benefit of these schemes reach common man and allotted funds are fully utilized. As a result only 15 to 20 percent of the allotted funds is being spent on these schemes. These works are not done according to the suggestions of local MPs and officers of the State Government carry out these work as they please. Although direction has been issued by State Government to follow opinion and suggestion of local MLAs in scheme being run by States in the concerned state but suggestions of local MPs are not followed in schemes sponsored by Central Government. As a result the illiterate and partially literate people in the State think that the Central Government is doing nothing for them and only State Government is doing work for them. The Central Government provide grants to NGOs to implement many schemes and even in the implementation of those, MPs have no role to play and no consideration is given or any heed is paid to their opinion. In schemes being run by the Ministry of Rural Development in the respective constituencies of MPs, the complaints of officers of State Government, which are forwarded by us to the Central Government in the capacity of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of monitoring and vigilance Committees are again forwarded to the officers of the State Government to look into them which is unjustified.

Through you I urge the hon'ble Prime Minister that a rule may be formulated to make it mandatory to see the opinion of local MPs in Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(xv) Need to expedite construction of Gaya International Airport in Bihar with air connectivity with New Delhi

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): Mr. Chairman Sir, the construction work of International Airport

in my constituency, Gaya in Bihar is pending. Large scale irregularity in this construction work is also being noticed due to which it is being delayed. Gaya is a tourist place of international importance and a religious place as well. Tourist are facing a lot of inconvenience because there is no direct flight from Delhi and foreign tourists also get discouraged to visit the place on account of the said problem.

Therefore, through this House I urge to the Union Government that the construction work of Gaya International Airport may be completed as soon as possible and permission may be given to start to and fro flight from Delhi to Gaya may be given as soon as possible.

(xvi) Need to issue directives to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to refrain UPSIDC & LIDA, from acquiring cultivable land of the farmers in Unnao Parliamentary constituency

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, land of farmers of my constituency Unnao is being acquired by Lucknow Industrial Development Authority and Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation is planning to acquire land of farmers of my constituency Unnao for the development of Kanpur. The market rate of the land to be acquired is around Rs. 8 lacs per bigha at present but Lucknow Industrial Development Authority and UPSIDC propose to acquire the land at a nominal rate which is comparatively very less compared to the market rate of the land proposed to be acquired.

My constituency Unnao is a very backward area and the only means to earn a living for the farmers of my area is farming. Their only means of livelihood will be lost after acquisition of the land. Therefore acquisition of land of poor farmers of my parliamentary constituency Unnao which is a backward area, is not a step in right direction.

Therefore, I request the Central Government through this House to issue directives to the State Government to refrain from acquiring land of poor farmers of my parliamentary constituency Unnao, which is a backward area.

(xvii) Need to take steps for setting up of I.T. companies and Tidal Parks in Hosur, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Sir, in my Krishnagiri Constituency, Hosur is an important business centre. It is mere 30 kms away from the Electronics City, Bangalore. Hosur is having adequate infrastructure facilities and is well connected by road and rail. A number of large, medium and small industries of various kinds such as electrical, electronic, automobile, mechanical, iron and steel are flourishing here. The industries in Hosur are the main source of raising the standard of living of the people in the district. These industries are producing goods ranging from pin to aeroplane and the credit goes to good climate conditions.

Horticulture and Floriculture add prestige to this district. A number of horticulture and floriculture units are located here. Out of all the fruits, mango cultivation occupies first place. Besides, these units are providing employment opportunities to local people.

In Hosur, there is a great scope for investment in Information Technology due to its proximity to Bangalore. Because of its geographical location, Hosur is an ideal place to set up IT companies.

Keeping in view of the existing potentials here, there is an urgent need to build Hosur as viable satellite town and immediate steps should be taken by the Government to set up more IT companies and Tidal Parks at Hosur on the lines of Chennai which will certainly decongest the neighbouring Bangalore city and give more employment opportunities to the IT professionals in the country.

(xviii) Need to take suitable measures to protect the interest of workers employed in tea, coffee and rubber estates in Kerala

[English]

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, in Kerala there are number of tea, coffee and rubber estates. Lakhs of workers are employed in these estates. Most of the estates belong to the private individuals and the big

business families. Recently, it has been noticed that big business families are backing out from this business and they are diversifying to other business. They are selling their estates in segments to the private individuals and other interested parties like Non-Resident Indians (NIRs). These new owner of the estates are least concerned about the well being of the workers employed in these estates. They are forcing workers to take VRS or work on contract basis. They are forcing workers to take VRS or work on contract basis. They are also retrenching regular employees. Lakhs of workers are facing threat to their livelihood. So, it is my earnest request that the Union Government should interfere in this matter so that workers are not deprived of their livelihood.

(xix) Need to implement Mahajan Commission's Report of finding a permanent solution to the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): The border problem between Karnataka and Maharashtra has come up again. It is most unfortunate that the Belgaum Municipal Corporation has passed a resolution stating that Belgaum should be transferred to Maharashtra. Now, there is the problem of law and order at the border area. Agitations are held on both sides. These should be stopped forthwith. Common people should not become the target of some of these unlawful elements.

Our forefathers, freedom fighters, rulers like Kittur Ranichennamma fought for the freedom of the country as a whole and not for any one State. This fact realized by both the States and the Centre. They have to find out a permanent solution to this long pending problem.

Hence, I request the Central Government to implement the Mahajan Commission's Report in toto without any further delay.

(xx) Need to enact a law providing statutory basis to reservation policy with a provision for punitive action against authorities responsible for its non-implementation

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): At present the Policy of Reservations is governed by Executive Instructions issued by DoPT from time to time.

As this arrangement has not proved effective, it is recommended that a law should be enacted for giving statutory basis to this policy with a provision for punitive action against persons/authorities responsible for its non-implementation. This law should be kept in the IX Schedule of the Constitution.

Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be strictly as per the percentage of their population in the Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabhas Services, educational institutions and all other organisations, corporations etc.

Representation of SCs and STs should be provided in the Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Prishads in the States. The reservation should be strictly in proportion to the population.

Urgent action should be taken for effective implementation of Land Reforms Act and distribution of surplus land among SC and ST.

In the Scheduled Areas implementation of land transfer regulations should be made more effective and where tribal lands have been transferred unauthorisedly immediate action should be taken to restore the lands to their owners.

The interests of the landless workers should be protected and they should be facilitated to form associations to fight for their just causes.

It is requested that necessary action may kindly be taken in this regard immediately.

15.40 hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO
INQUIRE INTO THE ALLEGATIONS OF
IMPROPER CONDUCT ON THE PART
OF SOME MEMBERS—*Contd.*

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

When I was a young girl of 22, I remember the day Shrimati Indira Gandhi was expelled by this very same House after she had faught a very difficult and very

frightening election for our House. I remember the day that she was expelled. She called from here and said that she had been expelled. I remember how sad we all were. I came for the first time to Parliament to fetch her. Both of us met her and I remember her singing a little song. I remember, the song was about somebody being hung without even a trial; and I remember, it was an awful day. She said that it would have a huge shadow—she used the word 'Shadow'—on future events. Many years later, we are seeing a repeat of that. I am sure, whatever she was, she must now have understood how long that shadow of that evening was. Today, we are doing the same thing to ten people.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Pranab Mukherjee have made excellent speeches where both of them talked basically about the same things except that Prof. Malhotra talked about the principles of natural justice.

I want to ask: 'What is the benchmark of this House? What do we keep as our benchmark of corruption?' Today we are basically deciding-not to expel ten people because that is irrelevant—what is our personal benchmark of honour. Is it going to be the benchmark that nobody is going to be asking questions for money because that is what these ten people have done? Is our benchmark going to be just this and nothing else? Does it not extend beyond? Would we not extend our benchmark ever to people who have been chargesheeted, people who are on bail, and people who have been declared *farar*, while sitting in this House, by the police? There used to be a benchmark that people would not be made Ministers if they were on bail or chargesheeted or even declared *farar*, which comes later. Today, that benchmark has disappeared in the face of the kind of politics we do to day.

My next point is, if you say that it is on TV and therefore it must be correct, should we accept just TV or should we extend our understanding to books and literature? In that case, do we take Reports like that of the Volcker Committee and do we take the Mitrokhin Archives? So much rubbish had been written about my husband. Should we not accept them as totally correct? Should we not hold them as absolute truth? If we do not hold them as truth, perhaps, we should look at what

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

has been the background of this TV expose and what led up to it. After all, nothing could be accepted as perfect truth unless we see what the background was.

The next aspect is, these people have taken a bribe. Fine, the Indian Penal Code has provisions for bribe takers and for bribe givers. Has a FIR been registered against them? Let them be prosecuted; let them be on bail or go to jail. Let the law take its course; the law has not. None of us or nobody in this House has gone to the court or registered a FIR. None of the parties has done that. But what we have done is apply what we believe are principles of natural justice. Are these the principles of natural justice? In the principles of natural justice, should the punishment not fit the crime? Let us suppose we expel them. It is not a problem if we expel them but suppose the parties then, in their infinite wisdom—and as parties do—give them tickets again and they stand for election, and, through a complete muddle that we have created today of caste structures and other things, they win and come back, would they be exonerated?

Will we accept them back as hon. Members? Will we be happy and say that their sin is finished? Will our benchmark still be intact because they have won election? Should we submit every crime to a referendum or should it not have its repercussions by having them prosecuted properly?

Many years ago a judge was sought to be impeached by this hon. House. At that time, the hon. Minister here, who is today defending the decision to expel them, was his lawyer and he defended him so ably that the judge was not impeached. If these accused had a lawyer or had been allowed to have a lawyer perhaps, who knows what the complexion of the case would have been? They came nervously to the inquiry committee. After all, they have been accused of an awful crime in front of a billion people. They probably had no idea of what to say. Should we not give them the benefit of the doubt just for that? If you want to expel them, expel them after they have had the benefit of the lawyers, the same way as the judge had. Justice must not only be done but also seen to be done; otherwise all we are pandering to is the threat of looking bad or

losing brownie points with the public. Today, we can rail-road these people out of Parliament. But where will the *Lakshman Rekha* go? Will we stretch it to say: "All right, we do not like somebody, throw him out as we did at that time with late Shrimati Indira Gandhi." Will we take a totality of what the person stands for and then throw him out? Who knows where this will go?

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and other hon. Members have said: "Give them a fair trial whether it is by the Privileges Committee or what you think best." Let them also be subject to the correct procedure of the IPC, what happens to bribe takers and bribe givers. But what we are doing today is a jury-rigged Kangaroo court of four days, even if it is the most eminent people sitting on it, it is still four days in which they have been hung, drawn and now we seek to quarter them.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been elected to the Parliament for the first time. I had never dreamt of such an occasion when I will have to speak on some one's expulsion from the Parliament. However, I support the motion moved by our allies. I would like to put forth my views emanating from my conscience as has been done by other hon. Members. But electronics as well as print media perennials should also have the courage to criticize each other and do self-introspection. Then only we can come to some sort of conclusion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Members exposed by the electronic and print media are, no doubt, accused and no Member of Parliament is against action being taken against them. But, my submission is that these MPs should be given an opportunity to present their case either before the House or hon. Speaker or the matter may be referred to the Privilege Committee. Though it is my personal opinion. One struggles very hard and then only one is able to get elected to the parliament. But these days's every social worker, politicians, big businessman or even people connected to media wants to get elected to either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha by hook or by crook. The depiction of Members of Parliament through said sting operation has terrorized not only Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha but also Delhi as a whole.

Yesterday, while sitting in a vehicle, we were talking about it, meanwhile a driver was ferrying out another vehicle, we got scared as to he may leak out our talks to someone. Day before yesterday night, a person knocked at my door at 2 o' clock. He wanted to get a letter signed by me for his reservation. I said that I was sorry and cannot afford to meet him in night. Such is the ambience today that I wish to leave Delhi and go to my village, while staying in Delhi we are even afraid of talking to a common man. What was the purpose of a commercial channel to conduct sting operation? The sole purpose of the channel was to create sensational story and even money. And I think the channel earned one hundred times more money than it had spent on shooting of the operation....(Interruptions) our operation was carried out by "Aaj Tak" and the other one by "India TV." Other channels are also hell bent on finding a chance as their popularity graph has nose-dived. There was a time when print media used to highlight the development and progress made by the country, and helped in maintaining peace. But the advent of electronic media has changed the scenario altogether, now they emphasize on exposing weaknesses, be it the Delhi or the Parliament. They even threaten us by saying that if they are ignored they would definitely write adversely against us. Today, hon. Members have demanding for enactment of a law whereby noose can be tightened on print as well as electronic media.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.
....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Electronic and print media is the greatest sentinel of democracy. These days Bollywood, too don't spare politicians. A politician is depicted as a corrupt, dishonest, cunning, culprit person. He is abused and beaten-hollow, especially in Hindi film. Today, we know what is the economic condition of politicians, whereas they are most infamous. On the contrary, IAS and IPS officers, say IGs or Commissioners stay in posh colonies where the costs of houses ranges from 40 lakh, 50 lakh, 2, 3, crore and so on, but politicians....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you are moving away from the point. Please conclude now.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Sir, I belong to very simple family and hail from a village. My grandfather were never in politics, so, I had never dreamt that I would become an M.P. one day. I have done service to my people, stood with them through thick and thin and have been got elected after a great struggle. And media persons have razed us to ground in just one go. There should be a law in our country, which can regulate their conduct. When the Government in Jharkhand was formed, 'Outlook' carried a story that huge money has changed hands in it. I had raised the issue in parliament at that time but there was no action. My submission is that now there is a need to ponder over it afresh. The reporters in our country, who used to move on bicycles, can be seen in luxurious cars today. Not only that, they are now the owners of large farmhouses in Delhi. It is a matter worth investigation as to how electronic media personnel have become rich overnight. Today, it seems that all the I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers of the country are part of a conspiracy to malign the reputation of the politicians. An inquiry should be conducted in this regard. Till today this procedure was not in practice. Efforts were made to bring some questions in the question branch of this Secretariat. The list of Questions is prepared after the ballot is conducted and same questions are struck off or the information to this effect is communicated to the officers of the concerned department...* it is my allegation and it is 100% true.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak during Budget Session on all these points:

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Therefore, it will not do to provide opportunity to a single member of each

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato]

party. We have to hear 545 members of the House whatever time is required for this purpose. Thereafter, any decision should be taken in this regard then only it will serve the purpose. The Members against whom the allegations have been made must be provided opportunity to put their defence. The cash for questions episode was followed by the MPLAD imbroglio. The manner, in which the MPLAD issue has been presented, has prompted a member to commit suicide. He wants to end his life. The Parliament is the biggest Panchayat of the country and today a decision is to be taken here. Crores of people are looking towards the House. Therefore, a decision should not be taken in haste.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. We are also aware of all these things.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Today, keeping in view the public sentiments, we should exercise control over the Print and Electronic Media.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he has spoken anything about the Lok Sabha Secretariat, it shall be expunged from the record.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. On behalf of Telugu Desam Party, I rise to support the motion moved by the hon. Leader of the House. It is a very painful situation to talk about our own colleagues for expelling them from the House, but the way some of the Members of this House have conducted is unethical and unwanted on their part, which is not conducive to parliamentary dignity.

Sir, Members of Parliament, who represent lakhs of voters of their Lok Sabha constituency, are expected to behave in a way that it upholds the moral and they should also be examples for other.

16.00 hrs.

But, unfortunately, in the recent past something

happened, and it was depicted on the TV channels. This has brought down the prestige of the institution, namely, the Parliament.

The culprits should definitely be punished or given punishment. But I feel that the way we are rushing up the things has not given the hon. Members a fair chance to present and plead their case before the Committee. In my opinion, they should have been given some other way—of parliamentary procedure—to prove their case before the Motion was moved to expel 10 hon. Members of this House. They should have taken any decision on this issue only after this.

I agree with some of our colleagues, who spoke about the way print media and electronic media behaved in this case. There were allegations that, in spite of resistance from some of the Members, some of them forced them to accept it saying that we would adjust it afterwards. I feel that there is no need for a Member to go to somebody. Therefore, the question to be taken into consideration is this. Had the Members gone to somebody's house or had these people come to the Member's house. This point has certainly to be taken into account.

Finally, I would request that those who committed mistakes should be punished, and there is no doubt about it. But at the same time the conduct of the electronic media—by entering the houses of the Members of Parliament and making sensational news—has to be probed, and appropriate action taken.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, through this motion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairperson of the present U.P.A. Government, the Prime Minister of the country and hon'ble Pranab Babu. I am not expressing my gratitude just because this Motion has been presented in the House. Since 20-25 years or even you may say earlier than that the manner in which corruption has been talked about; the manner in which efforts were being made to malign the reputation of the people's representatives, the manner in which attacks were being made on the democratic system, parliamentary system or each section of the society and efforts were also being made to show that

the people's representatives, politicians or Government and Ministers are corrupts. Through this Motion, the Chairperson of the U.P.A. Government and the Government itself has severely dealt with corruption for which they deserve kudos.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a story was telecast on a T.V. channel. The hon'ble Speaker has given a ruling under which a Committee has been set up. This committee is headed by Shri Pawan Bansal. Had it been proposed by the Committee that the hon'ble members should be heard further and more opportunities should be given to them, then it can be understood that they should be heard further. The committee did not opine so. The Committee has submitted its findings and its report. It has been stated by the committee that somewhere these members have committed a wrong; therefore action should be taken against them. It is a fact that we feel pain when we discuss about the future course of action against them. But on the other hand when we see that the charges have been levelled against the apex institutions of the democracy and parliamentary system and it is also said that corruption flows from top to bottom, in that situation action should be taken against somebody. If we wish to weed out corruption then we must be ready to take strict action. We feel pain, when we talk about the expulsion of Members of Parliament. But it has its second aspect as well about which I would like to discuss in the House as to whether we will be able to control corruption by way of expulsion of the Members of Parliament? It is a very important matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are four pillars of democracy—Legislature, Executive, Judiciary and Media. It should also be discussed today and we should look into ourselves as to what we are, then we can blame others. Sometimes, such discussions were held in this House. We are new comers, but I have heard that and it is a matter of all the discussions that today Judiciary is dictating us. It is a big problem for us, till now it was said that we are being dictated by Judiciary but now will media dictate us and will media run this House? This is a very important question. We are not blaming anyone but certainly I would like to say that an inquiry should be conducted regarding the sting operation as I and all our friends have come to know that CD of the sting operation was offered for sale for rupees two crores. But most of

the channels were not willing to pay such a heavy amount and hence the C.D. was not given to them. But the channel, which agreed to pay this amount, was given this C.D. How much profit they earned and how they got this amount, should also be investigated.

I would like to say another thing that freedom does not mean liberty. Media has freedom in democracy. But it is essential for strengthening the democracy that one can get freedom but not liberty. I have faced such a situation during election. All my friends contest election. I have to tell this fact in the House that during election some media persons telephoned me and demanded five lakh rupees for publishing story in news paper in my favour...*(Interruptions)* Someone had asked me about it. What is this?

Besides, Yesterday at noon, a number of vehicles were parked in the block where I reside. I don't know whose vehicles are those? I was in Parliament and when I reached my house at night, I came to know that a vehicle of any person with red light was parked there and some media person was saying that nobody has right to fix red light on vehicle. I would like to know from this House that who has given them the right to make such type of investigation. I submit that our U.P.A. government has blown hard on corruption, but if we want to eliminate corruption completely, the whole House should pledge that all the four pillars of Democracy should not be given liberty. If an hon'ble Member of Parliament does not have liberty, other parts also should not have liberty. Such type of liberty will make way to anarchy. I want to say that if anarchy prevails our system will get demolished.

With these words I support the motion and I also want to say that a detailed inquiry should be conducted about the amount provided for the cassettes. What was their intention and source of money for this sting operation and whether cash was taken, all these details should be inquired into by the CBI.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan—not speaking. Shri Kharabela Swain to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I came for the first time to

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Parliament, I received a very voluminous report. It was the report of the Ethics Committee. However, I do not know till now what the role of the Ethics Committee is, why it is constituted, and what it is supposed to do?

Today, I will come to Bansal Sahab's report. He has quoted in his report ethics, standards in public life, privileges, and facilities to Members and related matter. The last sentence of the second paragraph on page 30 of this report says:

"Similarly, acceptance of inducement and gratification by Members for putting Questions in the House or for creating commotion or opposition to any Bill, Resolution or matters submitted to the House or in a Committee thereof involves privilege and contempt proceedings."

MR. CHAIRMAN: They only quoted it. It is not their opinion.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It very categorically talks of 'acceptance, inducement and gratification by Members for putting Questions in the House.' That means, this matter will have to go to the Privileges Committee. This has categorically been mentioned in the report submitted by the Inquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Shir Bansal.

My simple question is, does the mere presence of the Chairman of Privileges Committee on any other Committee *ipso facto* makes that other Committee become the Privileges Committee? No, it does not. So, if you go by the rule that any such allegation should only go to the Privileges Committee, this matter should have gone to the Privileges Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My friend, the Chairman of this Inquiry Committee, that is Mr. Bansal, happens to be the Chairman of the Privileges Committee also.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: That is exactly what I have just said, Sir. I said that the mere presence of the Chairman of the Privileges Committee on this Committee does not *ipso facto* transform this Committee into the Privileges Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. You go ahead.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: My second point is, what constitutes a breach of privilege. Practice and Procedure of Parliament by Kaul and Shakhder (Page 256) says:

"Breach of privilege means disregard of any of the rights, privileges, immunities either of an MP individually or of the House in its collective capacity."

MR. CHAIRMAN: That word 'collective' is important.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yes, that is exactly what I was saying. I would request you, Sir, to allow me to complete my statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Swain, sorry to interrupt you but I wish to tell you that nowhere in India privileges are defined in any statute. A privilege is still determined according to precedents. Privileges are codified nowhere in India. We follow the precedent of the British House of Commons. That is mentioned in our Constitution also.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Thank you, Sir.

It also says that after due inquiry, a breach of privilege is punished in the same way as courts of law punish for contempt of their dignity or authority. It clearly says, 'after due inquiry.'

Hon. Kapil Sibal made a point that we are debating a limited issue here. He said that if we believe it *prima facie*, we could take a decision. But, Sir, does a decision mean only expulsion? Is there no provision for reprimand? Is there no provision for admonition? Is there no provision for suspension? Is expulsion the only action that we can take? Does it mean just that?

A point was made by hon. Gurudas Dasgupta as to why we did not object to the constitution of this Committee from the very beginning and why we did not insist in the very first instance that it should have gone to the Privileges Committee. He asked as to why are objecting it now, so late. That is because, we never expected that the Inquiry Committee will recommend that those Members should be expelled. We never expected it!

I was a civil servant for fifteen years. I now put a question. ...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No questions and interruptions are allowed. Shri Swain can speak freely. Nobody will intervene.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, take the example of Government officers. Some of them are even caught by the CBI, by the Vigilance and by the Income Tax Department. The fact that they are caught by one of these organisations means that there is a *prima facie* case established against them. In such cases, do the concerned Departments dismiss them from their jobs immediately? No. They are first put under suspension pending investigation. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record. Shri Swain, you continue. Questions asked by Members sitting in their seats will never go on record.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, generally whenever a *prima facie* case is established against someone, the person is first suspended pending investigation. An investigation takes place. It takes its own time because they follow the due process of law. In the judiciary there is a certain thing called the 'due process of law'. There is another term called the 'due procedure of law'. These two things are very important. I am not ~~lawyer~~ but there are eminent lawyers on the other side of the House and whenever they argue their cases, they talk about the 'due process of law'.

It has been mentioned in the report that the Members were asked to see the text and put forward their objections to it, if any. The Members who took objection to it, did it on technical grounds. That means, they are saying that the tape has been doctored. But, the Members who have objected to it on technical grounds are not technical people. So, when they take objection to the tapes, how can they find out the technical defects in them? They require a technical person as their lawyer so that they can find out the defects and can say that at such and such place the tape has been doctored.

If hon. Kapil Sibal is arguing a case for a client, and at the very first instance, within ten minutes, if the judge says that the case is summarily dismissed, will he agree to that? No, he will not. That is the reason why so many cases are lying pending in courts for so many

years. Why is it taking years together for so many cases in the country to be settled? So, should we take a holier than thou attitude in our case?

Should we take it that in case of a common man, he will get all the opportunities but an MP will not get any opportunity to defend himself? That is why, I will just appeal to this Congress Party in this regard. I do not say that the Committee did not do the job. I am not saying so. The Committee did its job. I do not question the findings of the Bansal Committee. I am not questioning that. I do not doubt the authenticity of the charge also. I do not doubt that also. The only thing I say that the Committee did its job, but the Committee did not do its job sufficiently and adequately. Adequate opportunity has not been provided to the accused. It has not been provided by the Committee and not for the fault of the hon. Chairman of this Committee. I am not accusing him. He was given some time and he has given the Report. We merely say that the inquiry was not adequate and sufficient time should have been given.

I fully agree that it is merely looking into this. It will not serve the purpose. We cannot say that we are not hanging but we are merely expelling somebody. Do we say that hanging is a greater punishment than expelling a peoples' representative who has been elected by the people? I say that if anything like this happens to me, I would rather like to commit suicide. If I am being expelled from this House, if any such allegation is made against me, I would rather like to commit suicide. Let us not do that. I will make a very humble submission to the hon. Leader of the House and to Sonia ji not to take this as a prestige issue. More time should be provided. It should be sent to the Privileges Committee. Maybe, the Privileges Committee may also give the same decision. Everybody will accept it. The Heaven's are not going to fall if the punishment is meted out after two months or three months in the month of February when the Budget Session is going to be held. Most of the Members in this House have spoken cutting across the party lines. Somebody may speak something on party lines but individually each Member of this House has spoken the same way. You must have gauged the mood of the House from how they started and what they said in between. That is why, I appeal that they should be given some more time.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

I will just clarify one thing from Kaul and Shakdher. On page 286, it says under the heading Attempts by Improper Means to influence Members in their Parliamentary Conduct:

"Any attempt to influence members by improper means in their parliamentary conduct is a breach of privilege. Thus, the offering to a member of a bribe or payment to influence him in his conduct as a member, or of any fee or reward in connection with the promotion of, or opposition, to any Bill, resolution, matter or thing, submitted or intended to be submitted to the House or any Committee thereof, has been treated as a breach of privilege."

In this case, the offer has been made by media to the MP. A bribe has been paid to the MP. Kindly treat it as it amounts to a breach of privilege of this House.

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a nightmare to be speaking on this subject, a nightmare that just refuse to go away. We are discussing expelling from this House our own Members for alleged acts of impropriety that they have committed.

16.25 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Before I go on, I would like to tell you that I am a first time Member and the last 20 months that I have been a Member here, have been a traumatic experience for me. I have come into the Parliament hoping to contribute to nation-building, hoping to contribute to improve the lot of my people in my own area. I was extremely happy that a person such as Dr. Manmohan Singh became our Prime Minister. But as I watched the formation of the Cabinet and as I watched the events thereafter, it has actually been a shattering experience that we have different yardsticks to measure what is proper and what is considered improper. A Cabinet which has Members within it, who are facing serious criminal charges in courts of law, that is not found to be improper. But a summary trial by a Committee, empowered Committee of the House based solely on one single evidence, which is the video tape, and then to come to a decision that we must now immediately

expel ten Members of Parliament is something that I just do not understand.

Let me first clarify my party's position. When this expose was first shown on TV, I do not think that there was any delay, whatsoever in our party taking appropriate action. Our party immediately suspended all the Members belonging to our party from the parliamentary party. We readily agreed with the suggestion of all Leader that a Committee be formed. I think, you have acted in a manner which can only add to the dignity and prestige of this House. Therefore, to allege that we are in any way trying to undermine what the Committee has recommended is not true. Our party is, in fact, a votary for strict action to be taken against anybody who in any way undermines the prestige of this august House. There is no division; there is no dispute on this.

The spirit in which you, in the morning, advised us that this is a serious matter and this should not be politicised, should not become a 'free for all', the level of the debate must be kept higher, has unfortunately been violated. It has been violated by all sides. But very surprisingly it has been violated by the senior Ministers of the Government who have alleged one thing or the other against different political parties. This was not what you told us. Therefore, our only request to this House is that we fully appreciate and we fully are in agreement that any Member who has done in any way, an act which will take away the dignity of this House, must be punished. Our request is that before such a person is punished or persons are punished, they must be given an adequate opportunity to present their case. It is argued that this Committee did offer them that they could view the raw footage. We all appreciate that this Committee did not have either the technical competence or the legal competence to have gone into the technical and legal matters. Video tapes can be doctored. Today, I have heard that there is a news channels which is going to unmask video tapes of very senior leaders who are shown to be saying something which they have not and the channel claiming that these are mocks. We cannot have that. In a situation like this, when the technology allows us to doctor tapes, why are we in such a hurry that we take a step which is irretrievable?

I could understand if these Members were being

suspended for a couple of months; the time would run out; and they would come back as Members to the House. Then, I personally, would not be insisting that it must go to the Privileges Committee because, okay, whatever the punishment the House has decided to give them, it will run out. But the House is today discussing on a Motion, which will take away their Membership of this House permanently. Before you sentence them permanently, before you give them a permanent punishment, they must be allowed to present their case in a manner that they feel is proper, in a time-bound manner. I do not think that Heavens are going to fall if a couple of weeks later, the same kind of a punishment the House endorses, and it is given out.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM. Two-three tribal people are there; can I speak in place of them?

MR. SPEAKER: Please Speak. Your name was also not given by your party.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Not given because everyone speaks for tribals.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I call Chaubey ji, his name is there. Your Party did not select your name. They have sent Chaubey ji's name. I will call you after him.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: All right.

MR. SPEAKER: Much time is exhausted, you are a senior Member, be brief please.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxer): I want some time I am not Bihari. I quote his verse:

"Satsai ke dohare jyon navik ke tir,
dekhan me chhote lagen, ghav Karen gambhir."

I cannot finish in a nutshell. There is paucity of time but I would like to put my point. Two-four days time is required for putting views on this.

MR. SPEAKER: For speaking?

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: First, as regards Shri Pranbi's proposal, he is a very respectable and senior Member of the House. While putting the proposal, he

started with 1947. He mentioned that when republic was formed and the Constitution was framed, some important people of England and some important people of America expressed great reaction and appreciated that it was according to its own civilization and it has proved that it was the best constitution. Pranabji also mentioned that our Members have enormous rights. They have acquired such enormous right that their influence has increased. I would like to ask Pranabji when members have all the rights, do members or the Parliament have the right to terminate the membership of an MP. Has this right been enshrined in the Constitution whether there is a provision that their membership be withdrawn and the right to do so rests with you. In fact, I don't claim to have experience in law like Shri Chidambaram, Shri Kapil Sibal and Acharya Jee but of course, I am familiar with the Constitution of India and can say with an air of confidence that provision to this effect does not figure anywhere in the constitution that the powers of withdrawing the rights and membership of MPs are vested in him. He, of course can be admonished, suspended but I do not find any such provision under which you have powers to terminate the membership. If anyone of you has read so please enlighten me with the same by citing an example that will enable me to add it to my knowledge that Parliament has such powers.

Secondly, so far as the element of corruption is concerned, this has been in existence since time-immemorial. If anybody do tend credence to the mythology should go through the historical event. Corruption was regarded as an evil and people said that corruption is an evil but would it have come to the forefront as a monster. This is designed to annihilate the entire system. What preventive measures can be taken to curb it? As I come to see, this session has been witnessing the deliberations over the issue of corruption a number of times and tantamount to corruption-Centric Session. In the beginning, Volkar was the prime issue and how the the time of prorogue coming close, MPs corruption scam issue has simply seized the session. No decision was taken thereon what so ever. Two persons were already involved in an act of corruption in which one faced trial and the other was scot free. Many people have been shown on T.V., this allegation has been levelled by many people that certain persons were not at

[Shri Lal Muni Choubey]

all shown on T.V. Now this amendment has been brought, while God knows whether the Committee is cognizant of it or not. Some legal expert may be knowing whether such a right really exists. A similar kind of right was exercised some days back and the Supreme Court said that it was an unconstitutional decision....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are requested to conclude your submission.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: I will sit down the moment you tell me to.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, finish this sentence and sit down.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: Use some kind of implement that would weed out weed out corruption. I agree with the lady who is Shri Pappuji's wife. She has leveled this allegation that as many as 90 per cent people have become corrupt....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is extremely sad.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: It can be tested by addressing it to the public, no inquiry would be of any use. The public will tell as to who swindles the MPLAD's funds, who gives commission and who accepts it. I am concluding in a sentence that the amendment should be brought so that they could get a chance to give an explanation.

Secondly, the corrupt are opposing corruption, the murderers are condemning the murder, the smugglers are speaking against smuggling. There is nothing new, one can find such examples since 1967. One must go through the debate when Shri Georgeji raised a question and senior politicians including people like A.K. Gopalan participated in the discussion. Shri Rajnarainji named every party which receive crores of rupees. The parties take money from abroad. If the parties accept money from foreign countries, won't the politics of the country be controlled by them? Everyone has a chance to tender explanation....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken more than eight minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am not saying anything. I am not naming anyone. I do not consider any one a better legal expert than you.

Mr., SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: I would like to submit that a thorough discussion lasting 8-10 days should take place on this issue. Until the things are discussed threadbare and people are exposed, in complete debate on corruption would send a wrong message to the people. So, I wish to submit that they should be given a chance to explain....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not refused to give a chance to anyone.

MR. LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: After the explanation whatever action will be decided, will be accepted. However, it will have to be seen whether their membership can be terminated or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jual Oram. *[English]* Your Party's time is over. *[Translation]* You have asked for two minutes, so only this much time would be given to you.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, a person involved in this operation has made a statement that he wrote an article in the Hindustan Times owing to which he was issued a privilege notice by Lok Sabha as to how he could write all that....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I should correct it. This is a wrong impression which is going around.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not allow the Chair to speak. On that publication, an hon. Member had given a notice of privilege and as per the practice that notice was sent to the reporter for his comments.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I am coming to that
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We did not take up any matter of
privilege against him. It is being said that we had spent
a notice of privilege.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I seek your apology if I have
said something wrong...(Interruptions) The report has
been given for his comments...(Interruptions) He had to
report, he had to establish. So, he started the sting
operation...(Interruptions) he has admitted
it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As soon as that notice was sent to
them, both the correspondent and also the editor of *The
Hindustan Times*, on their own, tendered their apology.
We never asked them for apology. The matter was not
even referred to the Privileges Committee. What he is
saying is that it is because, a Privilege Committee notice
was given....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker,
Sir, there is some problem in choice of words.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

Shri Bahal said that because he got a letter from
there, that is why he made that sting operation.

MR. SPEAKER: We forwarded that letter from an
hon. Member to him for his comments.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: He says that he did it because
he was served a notice....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you may continue.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I only wanted to correct the records.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, I simply wish to submit that
we come here after winning elections and after making
so many efforts, it is not governed by the
media...(Interruptions) Earlier it was shown on 'Aaj Tak',
then your 'Star News' is showing it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mine! I never went there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JUAL ORAM: It is being said that they are
planning another sting operation...(Interruptions) I am a
tribal, that is why I am saying it.

An adivasi was questioned by a Judge during final
hearing in Madhya Pradesh. The defence lawyer of that
adivasi had prepared him to say that he did not know
anything about that murder case. There was an article,
many people must have read it. He said that he was an
adivasi and he had committed that murder, why would he
say otherwise. He said before the judge that he was an
adivasi and he had been asked by his lawyer to say that
he did not commit the murder and this way he would be
acquitted by the court. He said that since he was an
Adiwasi, he did not tell a lie. He told the judge that he was
telling the truth that he had committed the
murder....(Interruptions)

This is the character. That is why we also get
reservation. It was the adivasi people who
were...(Interruptions) dragged into it most...(Interruptions)
you are also an MP...(Interruptions). It is alright that you
are the speaker...(Interruptions) I would like to ask that*...
why were we made a scapegoat?...(Interruptions) It is
being said that they have such tapes of 76
people...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you aware of it? We come here
to work for which we get only salary and nothing beside
that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I have heard it that they have 76 persons on tape. The Committee has not mentioned it as to how many people are there on the tape. You are dismissing ten people, would the rest go scot free by giving money...(Interruptions). What about them? Their fate should also be decided...(Interruptions) C.B.I. inquire should be instituted against them also...(Interruptions)

I am Adivasi and would like to speak about Adivasis
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You asked for two minutes time and five minutes are over. Party has not given a notice of your name, the time allotted to your party is over, even then I gave you time...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They are a very important segment of our population. We respect them and they have support from us. It does not mean that we can misuse this.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: What has Shri Lal Chandra Kol said in his evidence before the Committee on 18th December, 2005? I am quoting:

"What has been shown in the video is not true. Actually, the money which I have shown as accepting in the video is my money which I had given to one Shri Saligram Dubay who is from my village for buying seeds."

[Translation]

Whether the Committee asked Shri Saligram Dubey whether he is speaking truth or not? Whether any hearing of Shri Saligram Dubey was held?

[English]

Then he said further, "He is returning me that money which has been shown in the video in a distorted manner. I am absolutely not guilty."

[Translation]

Whether Committee asked Shri Saligram Dubey whether he is speaking truth or not? Whether any hearing was held or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should have been the main speaker of your Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Md. Salim was a Member of that Committee. He has asked for an opportunity to clarify some point. Under the procedure, I am allowing him to speak....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this case of sting operation...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not true.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Who gave him right to conduct sting operation and why?...(Interruptions) I do not agree with report of the Privilege Committee? What takes place in Privilege Committee? Whether Privilege Committee will recommend of disqualification of MPs?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not expel anyone.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Why recommendation in regard to Shri Anirudh Behl would not be made? I know an hon'ble Member has done it....(Interruptions) Why he is not being arrested?...(Interruptions) We people raise the issue of Volker Committee, we raised an issue in regard to.....* therefore it has been done deliberately...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I heard that....* you are the custodian of India. I agree with you. Somebody is committing a mistake and a person who complained about it...* I would like to say that you should rectify it...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. I will leave the Chair now. Let some other hon. Member occupy the Chair when this type of an allegation is made against the Chair. Shri Jwal Oram, your Party has not given your name. Is this the way to speak? This is too much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I had made an appeal in the morning. Individual hon. Member of every Party is entitled to hold his view and is entitled to express his view without any problem. The only thing is that we should maintain a proper dignity because this is a very vital issue. I do not think that Lok Sabha has faced this type of a situation of this magnitude and this scale in the past. Several hon. Members spoke in an undesired manner. I have ignored it and I have not expressed any view about any Member. I have been guided by all the Leaders together and I have discussed with them everyday and on every occasion which had something to do with this matter. I can only say that it is very unfortunate that allegations are made against me openly. I do not know what will be the present status of Lok Sabha.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, please try to be as brief as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Malhotraji has brought a motion for amendment in regard to motion brought by the leader of the House. I was listening to speeches of all hon'ble Members. Nobody said that guilty should not be punished. In Shri Malhotra's motion it has been said that there is a procedural mistake, therefore, let procedure be completed. I would like to tell one thing that the day when everything was telecasted on T.V., you took the initiative and called all party meeting. In that meeting, all of us expressed the regret and said that an immediate action should be taken. We suggested that a Committee should be constituted. A discussion in this regard was also held in the House. All Members of the House suggested constitution of a Committee. You were authorized for it. You constituted a Committee. After the

constitution of Committee, we said that an immediate action should be taken. As per our suggestions, you directed the Committee to submit its report before the Parliament by 21st December. Now Inquiry Report has been presented. I have gone through it. Malhotraji said since the procedure has not been completed, more time should be given to Members for rendering explanation. I would like to tell Malhotraji, when a case is filed in court and prosecution and defence present their points and court feels that plaintiff wants to bargain time deliberately, in these circumstances Court rejects time petition and gives ruling in the set time period.

The Chairman and Members of Committee summoned all the Members and requested them to see the cassette. All of them refused to see the cassette. What was the reason for not seeing the cassette? It only means that all of them have accepted their fault and when fault has been accepted then what is the need of discussion or time?

When House gets divided on this issue, it hurts, it is very unfortunate. We talk about morality from time to time. We talk about honesty. If we talk about morality, I would like to ask Malhotraji, as to on what basis the demand for resignation of Natwar Singhji was raised a few days ago by the people? Nobody's face was shown in any cassette, but we compelled him and did not let the House to function and compelled Shri Natwar Singh to resign. The same kind of incident also took place when our Government was in power. Shri George Fernandes face was not shown in any cassette, but he was told to resign. What was the reason behind it? When we have laid down convention that the guilty, whosoever is, would be punished, then why there is a hesitation. Our head hangs in shame when we saw in cassette as to how the MPs were shown counting the money, keeping it in pockets or under the sofa cushions—Whether any evidence is required for it? Yes, the MPs have also been framed in MPLAD case, it is fake. The inquiry should be conducted in this regard and an action should be taken against the persons who have prepared this cassette. But nothing has been found in Operation Duryodhan, which was carried out earlier and I would like to say that if an inquiry is not conducted in this regard, we will not be able to face the people. The public will take us to task and therefore I would like to take stringent action in this

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

regard at the earliest and there should be no scope for compromise. The reason, is that if our image takes a beating, we will not be able to face the people....*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that whenever such development take place high ups often remain unscathed. I am of the view that it is not only the persons in question, but many other people might have been involved in this scam. At present, my colleague Mohan Babu is not present in the House. He was giving a very emotional speech. He was saying that you are like his father. He made a mention of two-three things. He mentioned that the ongoing probe would send this message across the people belonging to backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that people belonging to upper caste are bent upon expelling them out of the House. If Mohan Babu had been present in the House, I would have asked him, whether there exists any provision under law or the constitution under which the offense of murder committed by a Adivasi could be discounted on the pretext of his being an Adivasi. It was said that he belongs to the community who collects firewood from forests. I know him personally. This discussion is not about person engaged in collecting firewood. The discussion involves the question dignity of the House. Action should be taken against the person breaching the dignity and decorum of the House irrespective of whether he is born in royal family or in a very poor family like those wood gatherers. No compromise in this regard should be made, nor should we create divisions among rich, poor and along casteist lines while holding the problem. He said, a convention would be set up. Tomorrow somebody will expose that some Members have sub-letted their quarters. It is very strange as to why Members have sub-letted their quarters. It is true and I back it very strongly, though I will not take the name of any Member, but it is true that several Members have sub-letted their quarters, it is a very shameful act. An inquiry should be conducted in this regard, many Members are involved in it. If these Members have any sense of responsibility, they should not keep tenants in Government quarters, but their voters....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, shall I conclude? I have no problem in that.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please complete your sentence and do not dwell at length on it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, without taking much time, I only wish to submit, that my party and I extend our support to the motion moved by the leader of the House and during voting also we shall vote in its favour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Md. Salim, do you want to say something by way of seeking clarification?

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek clarification on a couple of points. I will not deliver speech. I would like to extend my felicitations to the Leader of the House for bringing up this motion....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please cooperate. Already four-and-a-half hours are over.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Sir, Malhotraji has moved an alternate motion and in view of that he has made certain points.

I did not participate in the discussion since I have been a Member of this Committee. I neither wished to participate nor am I speaking on behalf of my party. I would like to give clarification in regard to the issues raised here regarding the functioning of the Committee. First I would like to say that your direction has been written on page 5 in the report itself which is as follows:

"I had discussions with the Hon. Leader of the House, Hon. Leader of the Opposition and Leaders of various political parties in the Lok Sabha and everyone unanimously agreed with the action proposed to be taken by me."

Sir, you made this statement in the House and I am quoting it from the action proposed to be taken Report. The announcement made by you and referred to in the Bulletin also finds mention on page number 6:

"That the Committee has been authorized to evolve its own procedure".

Sir, we express our gratitude to you for this. The Committee as per procedure had to convene its first meeting but it was not convened until the replies of the accused were filed in your office. We conducted the proceedings of the Committee only after those replies were sent to us. Without listening to the Members we did not conduct any business, not even an informal meeting of the Committee. Since all the five Members decided that our entire effort should be directed to act in union and we would not like to divide the Committee and the House. Until the final report of the Committee was prepared all the five Members acted in union and we decided that none of us will give a different report. That is why we used to go out together and respond to the queries of the journalists turn by turn. On the first day of our meeting we evolved the procedure of the Committee as per the authority vested by you. So, it would be against the norms of propriety to raise this question here after a decision was arrived at.

Sir, when a person is appointed to a Committee his consent is sought at that time. At that very moment the person may either give his consent or ask for appointment to another Committee like Privilege Committee. Once I give my consent it means that I have accepted it for once and all. Five of us sat together and we all gave our consent to the decision that was taken and now after the decision if we back track it does not behave of us in keeping with the democratic tradition...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is highly objectionable.

[Translation]

This is not correct. He is saying that it does not behove of us under democratic conventions, to back track from the decision...(Interruptions) If I start saying here what happened in the Committee...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is Okay. You have given your view.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Sir, another points is that they should

be given more time and allowed to take legal advice....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to go into the details.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Sir, my submission is that we had unanimously decided who it to be summoned and how much time is to be given to each person. At that time nobody objected if he wanted to give more time, two hours instead of one hour, or seven days rather than two days. We all had decided it. Sir, I am used to taking more time, when I was putting more questions, Malhotraji interrupted me by saying what was the need for asking so many questions? But his contention that not many questions were asked, has greatly surprised me...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, it is totally wrong....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your statement is recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pranab Mukherjee please.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, do you allow, in this House, the internal happenings of a Committee to be discussed here?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. But because he spoke as a Member, he referred to certain things. He has given it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is also provided in the procedure that he will clarify.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: But you say that 'it is not correct,' that is recorded. I have got it recorded. You are saying this is wrong. It should be recorded. Malhotra ji said, 'It is wrong.'

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and have made their contribution. Sir, I would not like to respond to each and every issue because at the very beginning when I moved the motion, I pointed out that I move this motion with a heavy heart because the responsibilities which we are discharging and the duty which we are performing right now, is really a very painful duty. All of us would have been very happy if the situation did not arise and it would have not gone to the extent where we have to take certain decisions like this.

17.00 hrs.

I would like to make one point quite clear. From the very beginning, from the morning of 12th December, at every stage, whatever steps were taken or even before taking, whatever steps were contemplated, you were good enough to share your ideas and thoughts with the leaders of all the political parties, including me. Therefore, it would be unfair on anyone of us to point out that a decision was taken by the Speaker. Somebody may raise the question whether the decision was correct or incorrect. I am not going into the merit of that. But the decision were taken in consultation with the leaders. I remember correctly—if I am incorrect, somebody may correct me—that we even discussed as to how much time will be given to the persons concerned to give explanation. Some suggestion were made to the effect that we should ask them to give their explanation today itself, right now. It was suggested that we should telephone them and get the explanation from them. But we suggested that at least 24 hours time should be given to them because some of them may not be readily available here and so we should contact them over phone. It was decided that if a person is not available, a communication should be sent to him and a certain time was fixed for getting explanation from them. After the explanations were received from the concerned hon. Members, the Committee started its work. All of us are experienced in

the functioning of committees. For functioning of committees, certain procedures have been laid down in the Rules. For *ad-hoc* committees like this, either you determine the Terms of Reference or the committee or you allow the committee to determine its own procedure, as you did in this instant case. The Committee evolved its own procedure and as per that procedure they conducted the business. It could have been raised at that point of time saying that the whole matter appears to be a gross breach of privilege of the House, that it is contempt of the House and so let the matter be referred to the Privileges Committee. Nobody could have prevented it. It could have been done at that very stage.

Sir, I am again saying that all of us felt that an atmosphere has been created where the whole institution and its credibility is being challenged and as people belonging to the institution we should try to do something to repair the damage as fast as possible—I am repeating, as fast as possible. Therefore, it was not correct to say that the Committee did it so fast and not much time was given. But, yes, we did not prescribe in which way they would do the work.

Sir, you may recollect that even an hon. Member from that side and many Members from this side said: "No, we would like to suspend all business and let us discuss the issue right now." That was the demand made on the floor of the House, but you tactfully carried on the business of the House. Therefore, this has to be kept in view. In hindsight we may think about that. After all, 10 days have passed.

The mood on that day was quite a few of the hon. Members wanted to discuss the issue on the floor of the House. Today we are in a better position. We have a report. Some of our colleagues had interaction with them and got their views. I am pointing it out, even taking the risk of repetition, that we did not follow the procedure of criminal jurisprudence, Criminal Procedure Code was not the guideline. We applied our common sense, our sense of natural justice and on the basis of that, taking the cue from the Mudgal matter and also the precedent which happened in the case of privilege.

Sir, during the debate which took place on the floor of this House, one hon. Member was looking at various

articles of the Constitution. In the articles of the Constitution, expulsion of Members has not been mentioned, but in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, there is a provision.

That provision is that if the House comes to the conclusion that somebody is responsible for bringing disrepute to the House by his or her conduct, the House can take the decision. It is for the House. Whatever decision you want to take, you can take. This is not a party matter. There is no question of any party's interest or non-interest because collectively we thought that we must take certain steps, which will restore the dignity of the House.

Yes, there will be implications, there may be implications. Every action has its own reaction. But that does not prevent us from taking any action. What the judiciary will do, what the outside people will do are all matters of conjuncture. But within the framework of the rules, within the framework of the practice and the precedent, I must compliment that whatever the Committee has done, the Committee has done a good job within the limited time and constraints available to them.

I would like to prolong my observation, Mr. Speaker Sir, but I would like to comment on one point. All the speakers, who spoke today, may have differences about procedure. They may have difference about the action, at what point of time will have to be taken, but none of the hon. Members who have participated, said that action should not be taken. There may be differences and those differences may be procedural. But here I must, most respectfully submit and request the hon. Members, to remember a few lines of wasteland from T.S. Eliot.

"shape without form, shade without colour, paralysed force, gesture without motion."—let us not stand on farm alone.

Let us not go to the format, let us not go to the form, let us go to the substance, let once again this House assert its right and try to vindicate the prestige, honour and dignity of the sovereign Parliament.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will put the Amendment

moved by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That in the motion,—

for "accepts the findings of the Committee that the conduct of the ten Members of Lok Sabha, namely, Shri Narendra Kumar Kushwaha, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, Shri Manoj Kumar, Shri Y.G. Mahajan, Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Shri Suresh Chandel, Shri Ramsevak Singh, Shri Lal Chandra Kol, Shri Rajaram Pal and Shri Chandra Pratap Singh was unethical and unbecoming of Members of Parliament and their continuance as Members of Lok Sabha is untenable and resolves that they may be expelled from the membership of Lok Sabha."

substitute "resolves that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges, Lok Sabha."

The amendment was negatived.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a sad occasion and I am among those who have always held that in public life if there are any instances of unbecoming conduct of corruption they have to be punished. Therefore, I am in full agreement with what the Leader of the House has just said. He has expressed satisfaction that everyone, who spoke, including the mover of the motion, has been talking at the most expressing reservations about procedure, not about the need to punish any unbecoming conduct or corruption.

I heard Sibaji also fully. His stress was that unbecoming conduct on the part of a Member should be punished. I am not going to cite instances of unbecoming conduct which do not need a Television camera or photograph to make us realise that this is unbecoming conduct and if for that we give a punishment of this kind, would it be justified? I am not going to cite instances.

Only the other day, I was told, how many Members have let out their garages or houses on rent. It is highly

[Shri L.K. Advani]

unbecoming conduct. In a way, I would say, that I saw the Television myself that day, part of it, at least and which made me react immediately that all of those who belong to my Party should be suspended immediately.

It was my spontaneous reaction. Therefore, even if we come to that conclusion, that is all right; we could have come to the conclusion. I only plead that if unbecoming conduct merits, what in Parliamentary parlance can be called capital punishment, it is right? It is this precedence we are setting that even for any unbecoming conduct, in these cases, I say that I could see that it was corruption which was there. But, more than that, it was stupidity. It was stupidity that they accepted that these are NGOs....(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: How can you say that?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not prolong this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: At least in some cases, it seems plea of stupidity that they fell for the lure, they fell for the sting operation. Therefore, I feel that the punishment, this proposal is going to give to them, is not at all commensurate with their offence. They have committed an offence, but it is not commensurate. Therefore, I cannot associate myself with the final adoption of the motion...(Interruptions)

17.12 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri L.K. Advani and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us respect each other. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We will not be a party to these things. It is because it is a sensitive matter and again there is a question of corruption, the House should be unanimous. The House should not be

*Not recorded.

divided. But, it seems that the House is divided....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please. You have a right to take your decision.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The House is divided. We cannot be a party to it. So, we are abstaining from the voting. We cannot support it. We are boycotting the division of the House. We cannot be a party to these things. It is because the House is divided, we cannot support the motion...(Interruptions)

17.13 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the motion moved by Shri Pranab Mukherjee to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House having taken note of the Report of the Committee to inquire into the allegations of improper conduct on the part of some members, constituted on 12 December, 2005, accepts the findings of the Committee that the conduct of the ten members of Lok Sabha, namely, Shri Narendra Kumar Kushwaha, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, Shri Manoj Kumar, Shri Y.G. Mahajan, Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Shri Suresh Chandel, Shri Ramsevak Singh, Shri Lal Chandra Kol, Shri Rajaram Pal and Shri Chandra Pratap Singh, was unethical and unbecoming of Members of Parliament and their continuance as Members of Lok Sabha is untenable and resolves that they may be expelled from the membership of Lok Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

17.14 hrs.

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we have got three very small

Bills. There is no discussion. You can just move the motions for consideration of the Bills.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us wait for the valedictory please. There will be *vande mataram*.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 25 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 25 were added to the Bill.

Clause 26

Amendment of section 30

Amendment made:

Page 12, for lines 23 and 24, *substitute*,

Amendment of Section 30.—"26. In section 30 of the principal Act,—

- (a) in sub-section (1), the words "and a copy of such regulations shall be sent to each member of the Institute" shall be *omitted*;
- (b) in sub-section (2),
 - (i) in clause (g), the words "the Council and" shall be *omitted*;

(ii) in clause (j), for the word "clerks" occurring at both the places, the word "assistants" shall be *substituted*;

(iii) in clause (r), the word "and" shall be *inserted* at the end;

(vi) clause (s) shall be *omitted*." (1)

(Shri Prem Chand Gupta)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 26, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 26, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 27 to 29 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.16 hrs.

COST AND WORKS ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 29 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 29 were added to the Bill.

Clause 30

Amendment of section 39

Amendment made:

Page 12, for line 32 *substitute*,

"(ii) in sub-section (2),

(a) in clause (h), the words "the Council and" shall be omitted;

(b) clause (t) shall be omitted;

(iii) sub-section (5) shall be omitted." (1)

(Shri Prem Chand Gupta)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 31 and 32 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.18 hrs.

**COMPANY SECRETARIES (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 29 were added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 29 were added to the Bill.

Clause 30

Amendment of section 39

Amendment made:

Page 12, for line 36, *substitute*,

Amendment "30. In section 39 of the principal Act, of section 39.

(i) in sub-section (2),

(a) in clause (a) for the word, brackets and figures "items (1), (3)," the word, brackets and figure "item (2)" shall be substituted.

(b) in clause (d), the words, brackets and letter "clause (a) of" shall be omitted;

(c) clause (g), clause (1) and clause (q) shall be omitted;

(d) in clause (i), for the word, brackets and letter "clause (i)," the word, brackets and letter "clause (g)" shall be substituted;

(e) in clause (j), for the word, brackets and letter "clause (j)," the word, brackets and letter "clause (h)" shall be substituted;

(f) in clause (k), for the words, brackets, letter and figures "clause (k) of sub-section (2) of section 15, the words, brackets, letters and figure "clause (f) of section 15A" shall be substituted;

(ii) sub-section (4) shall be omitted." (1)

(Shri Prem Chand Gupta)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 31 and 32 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, I have beaten the Rajdhani Express!

17.20 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the sixth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 23 November, 2005 is coming to a close today. In all, as many as 23 sittings lasting for about 119 hours were held. On the first day, the House was adjourned after making Obituary References to the passing away of Shri K.R. Narayanan, former President of India and some sitting and former Members of the House. The House was also adjourned on 19.12.2005 after making Obituary Reference to the passing away of Shri P.M. Sayeed, Union Minister of Power.

During the Session, the House transacted substantial number of important items of legislative, financial and other business.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) and General 2005-2006 were voted by the House and the related appropriation Bills passed after discussions lasting for 4 hours 23 minutes and 3 hours 58 minutes respectively.

One Adjourned Motion, regarding failure of the Central Government to take proper action against the Indian entities and individuals allegedly involved as non-contractual beneficiaries of the United Nations 'Oil-for-Food Programme' in Iraq as reported in the report of United Nations Independent Inquiry Committee (Volcker Committee) and its efforts to cover up these serious crimes, was discussed in the House. The motion was negatived after a debate lasting for 5 hours and 50 minutes.

The House passed 14 Bills during the Session. Some of the more important Bills passed were the Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2005; Disaster Management Bill 2005; the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Bill, 2005 and the National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2004. The Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2005 seeks to provide reservation for the socially and educationally backward classes of citizens besides the Scheduled Castes and

[Mr. Speaker]

Scheduled Tribes in matters of admission in private/ unaided educational institutions also. The Disaster Management Bill, 2005 seeks to provide for the effective management of disasters at four different levels. I have no doubt that the passage of the Bill will bring about a paradigm shift in the efforts for tackling natural disasters and post disaster relief and rehabilitation measures. The Bill also came in for praise at the recently held Second India and Asia Regions Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference, 2005. The Commission for Protection of Child Rights Bill, 2005 provides for setting up of a National Commission at the Centre and State Commissions in various states for protection of child rights. The Bill also provides for setting up of child courts for speedy trial of offences of violation of child rights. Another important legislative measure, the National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2004 seeks to provide for speedy disposal of tax matters and also the goal of simplification of tax laws.

The House also had long and fruitful debates lasting over 14 hours and 55 minutes on five important matters of urgent public importance under Rule 193. These debates were on the statements laid on the Table of House by the Minister of State for Home Affairs regarding (i) Serial bomb blasts in Delhi on 29-10-2005, (ii) Terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir, (iii) Naxalite attacks that took place in Jehanabad, Bihar on 13-11-2005, and (iv) Naxalite attack that took place at the Home Guard Training Centre, Giridih, Jharkhand on 11-11-2005; Role of India in WTO with particular reference to the forthcoming Sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong; need to improve the infrastructure at Airports in view of increase in passenger and cargo traffic; problems being faced by the agriculture sector and need to develop sports infrastructure in the country keeping in view the forthcoming sports events. Discussion on the last two matters was not concluded.

During the current Session 12 important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention in response to which the concerned Ministers made statements. In addition, as many as 49 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects. The Prime Minister also made a statement regarding Volcker Committee Report.

As regards Private Members' Business as many as 16 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. One Bill namely the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 seeking to amend the Constitution by insertion of new article 47A seeking establishment of primary health centre in every village with all medical facilities remained inconclusive.

A Private Member's Resolution urging the Government to recommend for granting of Special Economic Package for speedy completion of construction of—(i) National Highway No. 215 between Panikoli and Rajamundra (ii) National Highway No. 23 between Barahpal and Ranchi and (iii) Railway lines from Talcher to Bimlagarh and Daitari to Banspani, was discussed before being withdrawn by leave of the House. Another Resolution regarding the Regional imbalances created by the lack of development of different parts of the country remained part discussed.

During the Session, 460 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 86 questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 3.7 questions could be answered per day. In addition, two Half-an-Hour Discussions were raised. Written replies to 4643 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

In this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 46 reports.

About 233 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members in the so-called 'Zero Hour' even by sitting late in the night. The new procedure of raising matters of urgent public importance, evolved during the Fifth Session has not only ensured timely taking up of legislative and other listed businesses, it has also provided an assured opportunity to Members to raise their matters. Besides, hon. Members also raised 265 matters under Rule 377.

In this Session, we lost over 27 hours and 20 minutes of time due to interruptions and adjournments. The Lok Sabha sat late during the Session for over 18 hours and 33 minutes on 12 days to compensate the loss of the time due to interruptions etc. and complete the listed business. This was made possible because of the wholehearted support and willing cooperation that I received from all sections of the House. I commend this

collective commitment of the Members for effectively participating in the debates with sincerity and enthusiasm.

Now I have to mention some matters, you know, with great anguish.

I take the opportunity to once again express my great anguish over media reports regarding misconduct of some Members on 12th December, 2005 following news bulletin telecast on 'Aaj Tak' TV news channel regarding acceptance of money by ten Members of the Lok Sabha for asking questions/raising other matters in the House. I constituted a Committee to inquire into allegations of improper conduct after consultation with and consent of the Leaders. I also announced the same in the House. The report of the Committee was laid on the Table of the House on 22th December, 2005. I thank the Committee for giving a considered report within the prescribed time.

Now, today, we have had the very sad experience, sad event that has taken place—I said in the morning also—that this House has decided to expel some Members.

Besides, following news bulletin over Star News channel on 19th December, 2005 regarding improper conduct of certain Members in the matters relating to implementation of MPLAD Scheme, I have constituted an Inquiry Committee comprising seven Members to go into the matter and submit the Report by 31st of January, 2005, after consultation with and consent of the Leaders, which I announced in the House.

These events have cast a shadow on an otherwise fruitful Session. I am extremely thankful to all sections of the House for their all-round and committed condemnation of all acts of corruption and I am sure that message will go down in the country and that people will realise that

this House will never compromise with any act of corruption or misdemeanour.

Finally, I would like to thank all the hon. Members for the kind cooperation extended to me, to the hon. Deputy-Speaker and to my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen in the completion of business in the House. I am extremely grateful to the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips for their unstinted cooperation and courtesy extended to me and my colleagues. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, the Press and the Media. I take this opportunity to thank Secretary-General and the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

I wish all the Members a very happy Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

17.28 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Members may now stand up as *Vande Mataram* would be played.

(*The National Song was played.*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

17.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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