

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Ninth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 14, 2006/Agrahayana 23, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. A new hon. Member of this House is to take Oath now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not look nice to me to create an uproar like this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: A new hon. Member is coming in the House. Please do not unnerve her on the very first day. Secretary General is to call the name of the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha (Bobbili)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. We have got visitors.

...(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM ARMENIA

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On behalf of the hon. Members of the House and on

my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency, Mr. Tigran Torosyan, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, and Members of the Armenian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Wednesday, 13 December 2006. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament, the Government, and the friendly people of the Republic of Armenia – a country with which our relations go back more than two millennia.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, we have given a notice to suspend the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we have given a notice to suspend the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am aware that you all are very agitated today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we have given a notice to suspend the Question Hour. Today, lakhs of workers are on strike throughout the country. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question Hour. I will allow you to speak after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kumool): Sir, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has become a land grabber. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Today, labourers and workers are on a strike throughout the country. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the workers are on strike throughout the country. ...(Interruptions) Therefore, we want to raise this very important issue in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take up your matter at 12 noon, that is, after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to do? Please speak one by one. Let me also know about the issue being raised. Please, speak one at a time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked for suspension of the Question Hour: Why should you disturb the House if I am allowing you to raise it at 12 noon, that is, after the Question Hour?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, but I cannot allow this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given notice for the Question Hour to be suspended. Lakhs of workers are on strike now. ...(Interruptions) One person has been killed in Orissa. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will take up your matter after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please allow us to raise it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have given notice to suspend the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I have given a notice. Today the labourers are on a strike throughout the country. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that anyone of you is interested in even saying anything. You do not even want to say what it is. Heavens will not fall if you take it up at 12 noon.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not suspending the Question Hour. No reason has been given for suspending the Question Hour. I will call you after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Labourers are on a strike throughout the country. ...(Interruptions)

This is a matter of urgent importance. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair. I will allow you to raise it after the Question Hour. You are only shouting, nobody is saying anything.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you will allow us today during the 'Zero Hour' at 12 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that already Mr. Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

11.06 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, Shri Ramji Lal Suran, Shri Tarit Baran Topdar and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: No part of your speech is being recorded. Why are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am a responsible Member, not like you. Go to your seat. Not to be recorded.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a very important issue to raise.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. I would not allow anything now. Not one word will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not show the paper Dr. Jagannath. This is breach of privilege. I will issue notice against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is unfortunate. Shri Yerrannaaidu, you were a Minister here but you have forgotten your responsibility.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Please allow me in the 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it necessary to record it now, is it necessary to give an undertaking?

[English]

Question Hour is so important and you are not allowing it to be taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question of crores of labourers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, please go your seat or go out.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: You haven't given me an opportunity to speak about the labourers, so I am staging a walkout from the House.

11.09 hrs.

(Shri Ramdas Athawale then left the House)

MR. SPEAKER: You please go out.

[English]

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): They are the Constitutional parties of the UPA Government. They are themselves creating an uproar and making a demand to suspend the Question Hour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, you are enjoying it, aren't you? You are entitled to say.

[Translation]

It will be better if you speak later.

11.10 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. NO. 322— Shri Ajoy Chakraborty— Not present

Q. No. 323 — Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni.

Anti-Fog Systems at Airports

+

*323. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Airports Authority of India on installation of anti-fog systems at the airports;

(b) whether most of the airlines are reluctant to spend money to upgrade planes and train pilots in these new systems;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against those Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Airports Authority of India provide and instal Instrument Landing System (ILS) to cater to low visibility exigencies arising due to fog. All ILS except at IGI airport are CAT-I and expenditure incurred on installation of each CAT-I ILS was Rs.2 Crores (approximately). Expenditure incurred on provision of CAT-III B ILS at Delhi Airport was Rs.55 crores.

(b) and (c) Following airlines have already prepared themselves for operation under low visibility: (i) Indian Airlines and Air India have been granted authorization for CAT-II/III operations (ii) Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines have been granted authorization for CAT-II operations (iii) Kingfisher, Spicejet and Air Deccan, Indigo have been granted initial authorization for CAT-II operations.

(d) The Airlines are always encouraged to upgrade their aircraft and train their pilots for operations in low visibility conditions. Their flight schedules are approved on the basis of number of pilots trained for low visibility operations and the suitability of the planes for such operations. If an airlines does not provide data regarding its capacity to fly under low visibility, it is not allowed to schedule its flights during normal fog hours.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi airport has two runways but only one runway is Cat-III-B calibrated. As a result of this, the runway which is not Cat-III-B compliant cannot be used during dense fog. Is it true?

In his reply, hon. Minister has stated that the airlines have always been encouraged to upgrade their aircraft and train their pilots for operations in low visibility conditions. However, it has also been brought to my notice that out of 683 Pilots including trainees, the Indian Airlines have approved only 146 pilots, 21.37 per cent, for Cat-III-B operations. Is it true?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, fog is not the happiest times for any Civil Aviation Minister. But I can assure you...

MR. SPEAKER: Nor for the passengers.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Also for the passengers, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: More for the passengers.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I agree. I was coming to that also.

The situation vis-a-vis the first part of the question whether one runway is Cat-III-B compliant and the other is not, the answer is yes, only one is compliant and the other is not. The reason is that eventually the new Master Plan of Delhi, which is under consideration of the Government, will decide the alignment of the runways.

After all, it is an expensive equipment. However, even if one is compliant of CAT-II B, we can see that there is some difference. I am not saying that there is improvement of great satisfaction or to the passengers or to the Government but 'yes', there is an improvement over the last two years.

In terms of training of pilots, the Government is trying

its best to see that maximum number of pilots can be trained in CAT-II and CAT-III compliant. Why all are not trained? I must also tell you that all airports of India do not require CAT-II and CAT-III training because most airports operate in CAT-I or normal visibility conditions. However, it is an endeavour of the Government and we would continue to do so.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Have any guidelines been issued for aircraft operations during low visibility conditions?

Fog attack has started disrupting the aircraft arrival and departure in Delhi. On Tuesday, the 12th December, 2006, international carriers and only two Indian Airlines flights could operate. This is the state of affairs of our civil aviation. Every year at this point of time, Ministry comes out with the statement that it would install modern systems to operate flights in poor visibility conditions and thick fog. But this was the case every year. How would the Minister resolve this recurring issue which is the case every year?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the privilege of the Minister!

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I would like to assure the hon. Member and all the Members, through you, that the Government's endeavour is to ensure that not only do we have the best equipment but we also have to ensure the highest safety standards. After all, as you rightly pointed out, inconvenience to passengers is, of course, a very important issue, but at the same time, safety is also a paramount issue before all of us. I am sure, the hon. Members would appreciate that the regulatory authorities, the Ministry are working towards making flying not only more convenient, accessible and all-weather but also equally safe. Therefore training of Commanders to CAT-III and other categories like CAT-II require a certain mandatory number of hours, certain experience. Just for the information of the hon. Member that a Commander with 2,500 flying hours and with at least 500 flying hours on a particular type of aircraft, then only, is he rated to be qualifying for certain types of rating like CAT-II or CAT-III. There also, there are various technical issues involved. I would appeal to everybody that "yes" it is important but unfortunately in India all our airports are not fog bound. Only Delhi and a few North-East airports are. Therefore, all pilots across the system to be trained overnight or in a short time is a difficult task. I am not saying that it should not be done. The Government has mandated it. The DGCA is coming out with new guidelines and our guidelines in terms of training in CAT-II pilots is equivalent to probably anywhere else in the world. Fog-bound indulgence takes place in the best of airports. A little bit of understanding is necessary. This is a highly technical subject. Therefore, I am trying to explain it in layman's terms. If I go into technical aspect, probably, it might not be to the interest of the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that tall promises and claims were made regarding anti-fog systems. However, in spite of these tall claims, as every hon'ble Member knows, there are reports on the front page of today's newspapers and Dainik Bhaskar that all these systems have fallen flat. There is commotion among the passengers, many flights have been cancelled and many delayed, due to which the passengers are facing a lot of hardship. Anti-fog systems were got installed by private institutions at various airports by the Airport Authority of India and I would like to know their name and how many airlines are availing the said system? Moreover, I would like to know whether the said system has failed. If so, who is responsible for this? How much money has gone down the drain? The hon'ble Minister may please give details about what new technique is being adopted in connection with anti-fog system?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that whatever equipments are installed are not a waste.

[English]

It is after all, a mandatory requirement for any sophisticated aircraft.

[Translation]

Efforts are being made in that direction. I agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon'ble Member but their safety is our responsibility. So it should not be construed that everything has fallen flat. We have issued instructions to the airlines that they should speed up imparting training to their pilots as per the category 3B system installed by us. I would also like to state that from last year to the current year there has been an increase of 133 pilots in Cat-2 condition system and 136 pilots in Cat-3 conditions system. We have definitely taken a step forward in this direction. As I have said, only after completing 2500 flying hours as Pilot-on-command and 500 flying hours on a particular aircraft type rating, the pilots are permitted to operate in Cat-2 and Cat-3 systems.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the equipment, when Cat-3 becomes weak

[English]

visibility drops below 60 m, there is a problem. We cannot operate even if all the equipment is there.

Finally, I would like to say for the information of some Members, yesterday probably we were better geared but

unfortunately the Runway Visual Range, which is Meteorological Department equipment — you cannot blame anybody — failed and as a result the flights were thrown out of gear. Sometimes passengers complain that we have not got advanced information. Now, the fog suddenly sets in at 6.30 a.m., which airline, Airports Authority or Met. Department, can predict that. There are some little bit of factors which are not normally understood by everybody. I would appeal for the little bit of understanding and patience of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The only thing is that you are allowing more and more flights and hence there are more and more disruptions.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a small question. Foggy weather has been prevailing for last three days. My simple question is that—

[English]

How do you monitor the effectiveness of the system?

[Translation]

What are the grade wise, company wise delay statistic,

[English]

with respect to domestic and international flights.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I will collect the data and give them to the hon. Member because in every airline which flight got delayed may not be so easily available, that too in the last three days. I will collect the data and certainly give them to the Member.

I would just like to mention with regard to the observation which you have made, Sir, about more flights and more disruption. One thing is certain that our country's infrastructure has not kept pace with the development. This is the biggest challenge before us. I have been pleading and making every single effort that the airline should now be moving out of the traditional major hubs of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata — I would not ask them to go out of Kolkata — but move to the secondary level and third level cities. This country has got vast potential. Unfortunately, all these years, Mumbai and Delhi have been the driving factors for aviation in India. Almost 70-75 per cent of all aviation used to be driven out of Mumbai and Delhi. Now that figure is gradually coming down, less than 60 per cent. The moment newer cities, newer places become important aviation centres, these problems we face only in Delhi and Mumbai but that creates a complete chain reaction all over the country, these issues can be minimized along with the upgradation of

infrastructure not only in Mumbai and Delhi but across all airports in the country. The Ministry, the Airports Authority and all concerned are making conscious efforts. I can assure that more choice has given better service, better fares and a lot of other facilities to passengers and I hope you would appreciate, Sir, that many a person who could not think of flying or afford to fly is at least able to do that. Even at a little inconvenience, I think in the larger interest of aviation, economic growth and growth of tourism of the country, I have just responded to your small observation. I hope you would take it in the right spirit.

MR. SPEAKER: My observation was only because many airlines are coming without properly equipped pilots. They are allowed to function and operate but they do not have the training. That is what I meant.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I will keep that in mind.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, there are 13 island territories and in these island territories, there are some inherent problems of landing and take off. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has identified such problems and whether any such actions are going to be taken by which special training and other things are provided so that security measures, as the Minister has said, can be taken.

At the same time, I would also like to say that Mr. Minister is a competent Minister and he is looking after this job, especially the island territories. I would like to say that he should take all positive steps in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there fog in Port Blair?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: There is a lot of rain but nevertheless, we understand these problems and we would try to address them.

MR. SPEAKER: They need special attention.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend, the hon'ble Minister has given a very vague reply though he has tried to present his views in a very candid way. Through you, I would like to state that imparting of Cat-3 training was introduced during our regime and subsequently a time frame was fixed during which all airlines had to impart the said training to their commanders. So, I would like to ask the Minister whether many airlines have violated the time-limit fixed?

Sir, provision of Cat-3 training has been made for Indian airlines and Air India personnels but why is it that no mention was made by the hon'ble Minister in his reply about imparting Cat-3 training to the private airlines. So, I would like to ask

him whether a time limit for Cat-3 training for private airlines would also be fixed and whether any action will be taken against the airlines which violates the said time-limit?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is right that last year we had issued instructions to the airlines to increase the number of training sessions of their commanders, but as I said earlier, there were also technical issues involved in it. Had we outrightly made it mandatory, it would have created difficulties for the airlines and in that case, they and the passengers would have to face hardships not only for five days but for the entire year. So there were technical issues involved in implementing it.

[English]

I hope my predecessor would have gone into all these details also himself and I am sure he has. But the only thing here is that right now, as I said, CAT-II B is available in one airport of India, i.e., New Delhi. In future, we need to make four or five other airports in northern India also on a higher category rating. So, we have identified Amritsar, Lucknow and Jaipur, especially these three northern India airports to be at least CAT-II compliant. This will give more opportunities for airlines also to invest in this kind of training.

We are amending the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) to at least make CAT-II mandatory. We are working towards that in a time bound manner. Again, training cannot be determined by a mandate but it has to be given because flying depends on hours and not on number of days or one year or six months. It depends on the hours flown and the category flown. We are trying to amend the CAR to make, at least, CAT-II mandatory so that it becomes more or less across the country. It is because CAT-II to CAT-III upgradation takes lesser time and it is easier to do that. So, we are moving in that direction. I hope my friend, Shri Shahnawaz Hussain would appreciate that certain things are very easily possible to be done and some things are quite technical in nature and safety and security being paramount, we should also factor that in.

MR. SPEAKER: Q.324, Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar — Not present.

Q.325, Shri Badiga Ramakrishna — Not present.

Q. 326 — Shri Santosh Gangwar.

[Translation]

Supply of Food to Army

326. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any irregularities in the procurement of ration for the Army has come to notice in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any concrete plan has been formulated/proposed to be formulated by the Government to prevent irregularities in the food supplies to army;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Certain cases of irregularities in the procurement/purchase of some items of dry rations and frozen meat for the Army have come to light.

The irregularities in purchase of some items of dry rations were investigated by a Court of Inquiry. During the inquiry certain omissions/lapses in the functioning and discharge of duties by various functionaries with respect of provisioning and supply of Masur Whole, Kabuli Chana, Barley Crushed and Gram Kibbled have come to light. On the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry, competent authority has directed to initiate action as per procedure laid down in the military law against the then Director General Supplies and Transport, five officers and one Junior Commissioned Officer. One of the indicted officers has approached the Delhi High court challenging the validity of the Court of Inquiry. The case is presently sub-judice.

In the matter of irregularities in frozen meat supply, a Court of Inquiry has been concluded and its recommendations submitted for the orders of the competent authority. Meanwhile, one of the officers against whom the Court of Inquiry was held has approached Delhi High Court for quashing the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry.

The existing policy and procedures with regard to procurement of rations are comprehensive. The Defence Procurement Manual 2006 has adequate built in safeguards. However, as an ongoing process the government continuously examines and incorporates necessary changes to further streamline the procurement procedures.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such kind of irregularities in the army at various places often come to light through newspapers and other sources and these have far reaching effects. You must have taken cognizance of the incident through newspapers that a major racket was

unearthed in the procurement of several thousand tonnes of pulses through NAFED. The hon'ble Minister or some officers have taken action against some senior officers and the inquiry is still going on. The hon'ble Minister in his reply has submitted that one of the indicted officers moved the Court and the case became sub-judice. Thereafter, in another such incident the Court was approached and the case became sub-judice. What is the meaning of taking action according to the circumstances created by the offender that first he sells four trucks of ration in Punjab illegally and moves the Court subsequently?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister, as it is written that

[English]

"Existing policy and procedure with regard to procurement of ration are comprehensive. The Defence Procurement Manual has adequately built-in safeguards".

[Translation]

In spite of these provisions, irregularities are committed not on small scale but also on very large-scale. It also brings home the fact that tenders are not floated, in view of all these facts? Is there a system through which transparency could be ensured? Under Right to Information Act, a system should be evolved as to how to maintain transparency and check the recurrence of such incident.

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member regarding supply of ration to Armed Forces. The Government also is determined that the Armed Forces must get the best quality supply for which there is in-built protection. Our Defence Procurement Manual is changed as and when we feel that there is a lacunae. As has been pointed out by the hon. Member, sometimes we do get complaints. Whenever we receive any complaints, strong action is taken.

The hon. Member has mentioned that the two cases have been dismissed. I would like to say that those cases have not been dismissed. It is pending before the Court. We are trying to hasten it through the legal process.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are so many complaints of irregularities, sub-standard goods and tendering process. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should visit the CSD canteens and he would come to know of the quality of goods, we are providing

to the families of our army officers and jawans. There is no verification of the standards of quality and it has become a regular feature that army goods are being sold in the markets. It is a very important issue since a case of frozen meat has also been made of a mention of. I also understand that a process has been evolved in the year 2006. Despite that, irregularities are being committed. If these irregularities are being committed then how to check them? I did not say that the cases have been disposed of but once a case becomes sub-judice it remains pending for long. The service and scope of army is so large that if we do not check the quality and make a compromise with the quality, then we shall not be able to meet our target. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I want that the Monitoring Committee should closely monitor the functioning of the CSD canteens and submit its report to the hon'ble Minister from time to time.

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: I am glad to accept the proposal of the hon. Member. I will visit the canteens some time next month or as soon as the Parliament Session is over. We will also make arrangements to have a more close monitoring about the functioning of the Canteen Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, large scale scams are taking place in the supply of meat, pulses, liquor etc. and senior officers are involved in it. As the hon'ble Minister has admitted that a court of inquiry was constituted and this Court of Inquiry held them guilty. I would like to know two things from the hon'ble Minister – First, while referring to two questions in his reply he stated that the indicted officers approached the Court and as a result the case became sub-judice. I would like to know whether the Court has given the stay order in the case or a case has been filed? If the stay order has been given, then I am satisfied with hon'ble Minister's reply but if stay has not been given then why the hon'ble Minister does not take any action? Secondly, whether or not the hon'ble Minister propose to evolve a transparent system to monitor and improve the supply of substandard quality of pulses, liquor and rotten meat to the army of whom the entire country feels proud?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that he will visit the canteens.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Actually, Army supplies are mainly from the Public Distribution System. We are getting rice, wheat and sugar through the Ministry of Civil Supplies. As regards pulses, tea and edible oil, the Army is getting them from PSUs owned by the Central Government or the State Governments or cooperative societies. But in all these things, I agree that there are some malpractices. That is why, every now and then, we are trying to make stringent provisions. The hon. Member has mentioned about two cases. In one case, even though there was no written stay, there was a verbal decision by the court to wait and the case is almost over. The hearing is over and any time, judgement may be delivered. Regarding the second case, we are trying to hasten the process.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, I have not heard till date that court issues verbal orders.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. That chance is over.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, some years ago, there was an investigation done into the meat provided to the Army. Ten suppliers based in Haryana were physically checked and were found to be supplying meat of sheep and goats that were severely sick. They had pneumonia, and a lot of other diseases. Most of them were rejected from the slaughter houses known as downed animals. I had put in a complaint at that point of time asking for these slaughter house people to be checked. But they were all being done in private farms and all of them have been contractors for supplying meat for almost 15 or 20 years.

I was given an assurance in Parliament that all these contractors have been blacklisted. I found that this was untrue. Not one of them has been blacklisted and not one of them was investigated. I would like to ask you whether you could do that now because the meat supply to the Army is very dangerous.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: We are occasionally getting complaint about the quality of frozen meat supplies. Whenever we are receiving complaint, we are taking action. But regarding the particular assurance given by my predecessor, the hon. Member can give me a letter and I will take serious action on them.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, NAFED

is a cooperative society. It is neither a manufacturer nor a whole seller of any item. Despite that goods are supplied to the army or several other places through NAFED. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government give license to the middlemen to embezzle funds and to act hand in glove with someone?

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: I have no knowledge about that.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, goods are being supplied through NAFED which is neither a manufacturer nor a wholesale supplier, but if the supply is made through it, then has the middlemen been given license to mint money? I would like to know this from the Minister.

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: These are all Government undertakings or cooperatives. We are mainly purchasing these things from the Government PSUs and cooperatives on the basis that they will be able to give us better quality things. But even then there are these kinds of mal-practices. Our PSUs and cooperatives must see to it that they procure only good quality things. If there are any complaints, we will take action. But our PSUs and cooperative institutions must ensure that they procure good quality things.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Sir, as the various wings of the army have a fixed procurement system, be it procurement of weapons or food-grains, the Standing Committee on Defence has also expressed its concern on the quality of the food items being supplied and that it is not of the required standard. Although the hon'ble Minister has stated that they procure it from Central and State agencies.

Despite that the quality is not good and the committee had expressed its concern over it and said that this system should be strengthened and made more transparent. Has the Government taken any action in this regard?

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Since we are receiving a lot of complaints, every now and then we are tightening the procedures. In the Defence Manual 2006 also, there are provisions for tightening the procedures.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I would like to ask the

hon'ble minister that when such good quality masoor and channa' are available in the country, what is the need of importing 'channa' from Kabul. A lot of corruption is taking place in the import of Kabuli 'channas'. I would like to say that corruption even in the purchase of foodgrains for armed forces should not take place. There is a need to give good training to Armed Forces in this regard. A case in this regard has been filed in Delhi High Court. I would like to ask whether the Army has a right to take such kind of corruption case to the Court?

MR. SPEAKER: The supplier has filed the case. The military has not gone to the court but supplier has gone there.

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: There are many cases pending in various courts. Around 8,000 cases are pending in various courts in India. They are also allowed to go to courts, regarding service matters, etc. To reduce the number of cases, the Government is thinking of introducing a Tribunal Bill. I hope that courts would be able to reduce the number of cases. I hope to pass the Bill with your help in the next Session.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, the hon'ble Minister has conceded in his reply that many cases of irregularities in the procurement of rations for the army have come to light. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that since substandard foodgrains are being supplied under the existing system, does the Government have any system to check this?

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: I did not say that there are large-scale irregularities. Of course, there are irregularities. Whenever we find that there are irregularities, we are taking action against them. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do not reply to any interruptions.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: As I said earlier, the main difficulty is that in our anxiety to get good quality things, we are getting most of the items from either the PSUs or the cooperative societies. But from there also, we are not getting quality goods always. Regarding the quality of things, after getting so many complaints, we have taken a decision to have regular quality checks done by the Food Inspectors and we are taking other measures also.

*[Translation]***Tourism Offices Abroad**

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*327. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism offices functioning in foreign countries at present alongwith the achievements made by these offices during the last three years;

(b) whether the performance of these tourism offices has been reviewed;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to open such new offices in other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) There are 13 India tourism offices overseas located at New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Frankfurt, Paris, Milan, Amsterdam, London, Dubai, Johannesburg, Tokyo, Sydney and Singapore. The overseas offices have been undertaking a series of promotional activities with the objective of promoting India as a tourist destination in the important and emerging markets overseas and there has been a significant increase in tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings during the last three years as detailed below:

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrival	Percentage increase	Foreign Exchange Earnings (in Rs. Crore)	Percentage increase
2004	3.46 million	+26.8%	21603	+21.5%
2005	3.92 million	+13.2%	25172	+16.5%
2006 (till November)	3.88 million	+12.9%	25934	+16.9%

(b) and (c) Reviewing and monitoring the performance of these overseas offices is a continuous and ongoing process.

(d) and (e) With a view to ensuring effective marketing of India Tourism overseas, the Ministry of Tourism regularly reviews the trends in emerging and potential markets and the need for opening of new India tourism offices abroad as per the market requirements.

[Translation]

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the details of India tourism offices functioning in foreign countries at present alongwith the achievements made by these offices during the last three years. Has the performance of these tourism offices been reviewed?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are reviewing the performance. You have already said that.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Yes, Sir. As of date, there are 13 India Tourism Offices outside India. I have the names of all the 13.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have already mentioned them.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: There are 13 offices today. There were 18. In 2002, five were closed down. We have sent another proposal for six more. We had a survey done. We have been given permission to open three more offices. We had a survey done finding out the potential of various regions where we want to open offices. In recent years, tourism has increased manifold, especially in the last three years. As I have given in my written reply, we have, till November, almost 40 lakh tourists from outside India. So, these tourism offices partake advertisement and promotional drives through the electronic and print media. They organize road shows like "Incredible India". They interact constantly with the tour operators. We participate in exhibitions and travel fairs in different parts of the world. Over and above this, they have limited resources to work with. Even beyond a certain amount, they have to take permission from the Central Office to fulfill their projects. Every month, they have to send a report to the Ministry and then a quarterly report on various promotion activities undertaken. We have studies and surveys done which assess the performance. It is only after getting positive feedback from the 13 India Tourism Offices working outside that the Government has agreed to allow us to open three more. We are looking at the potential

markets like China, Russia and one in the Latin American region.

[*Translation*]

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: What will be the outcome of opening these offices? Does the Government propose to open some new offices?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: She has answer that question. Thank you for your cooperation.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: We have been given permission to open three more offices. We have won several international awards in recent years. Recently, we had the International Travel Exhibition at London called the WTM. We have got four international awards for the best advertising campaign and for rural tourism project. We are going to be the partner country in Berlin in March 2007. International Trade Fairs are being organized in India. In 2008, we have the PATA Conference which is going to take place in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Thank you, Sir, for permitting me. I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister as to how many foreign countries have their tourism offices in India. We are having our offices in foreign countries. Like that, how many foreign countries have their tourism offices in India?

In what way do they function? I would also like to know whether they give any Annual Report to the Union Government.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about our tourism offices abroad.

Mr. Minister, if you can answer this, you may do so.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, all the details can be given in a written statement to the hon. Member, but I have some details now. We have three offices of Malaysia, one office of Thailand, three offices of Singapore and two offices of Macau operating in our country. Then, we have tourism offices of Philippines, Korea, Nepal, Dubai and Turkey in our country. Recently, when the President of China visited India, they have decided to open an office here. Apart from this, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Switzerland have their tourism offices in India. There are several offices of foreign countries operating in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a very large country and fortunately I was a part of this 'Incredible

India' campaign when it started. What effect has it made in the increase of tourists coming to this country?

Sir, every State has its own USP as far as tourism is concerned. How closely do our Tourism Offices abroad work with the State Tourism Offices in our country? Do they promote them equally or do they have any preferential treatment to certain States and what are the criteria by which you calculate how many foreign tourists come in and into which State?

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked too many questions.

Mr. Minister, you answer to the question relating to our Tourism Offices abroad.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, the hon. Member has been one of my predecessors. It is very true that the 'Incredible India' campaign started a few years ago. It has, as the time has gone by, become very aggressive. The promotional drive has been given a greater thrust. The logo 'Incredible India' is much more in the minds of the people internationally now than obviously when it started. But there is nobody taking credit for this initiative because it is a policy of the Government of India. It has been successfully launched and it is being promoted further with great drive.

Sir, we have the Satellite Accounting System through which we are able to collect details of the number of incoming tourists, the amount they spend, how many have come from individual countries etc. We also have places of cultural interests where they visit and from the sale of tickets, we are able to decide which cities or which regions are visited more.

Naturally, our Tourism Offices abroad remain in touch with all our States equally. The Tourism Departments of our States also remain in touch with our Tourism Offices outside India. There is no denying the fact that at times there are some States which take the lead because they have developed and evolved special tourism products like Kerala, Goa and many other States. The North-East is selling adventure tourism and Himalayan Tourism. Depending on the season, depending on the time of the year, we are selling India for 365 days a year. So, some State or some region of India is always in the focus of international travelers. But let me assure the hon. Member, through you, Sir that our Tourism Offices abroad want to promote tourism across by giving credit to those products which are evolved and which are hot selling areas.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon'ble Minister started her reply that efforts are being made by the Government to promote tourism, but the resources are very meagre. Otherwise, our country has

a lot of potential for tourism. If one carries out a study of all the industries of the world, one will find that tourism industry is the most flourishing industry in the world. Tourism industry has a large potential for employment generation and can best tackle the problem of unemployment in the country. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether more budgetary allocation would be made for tourism in the coming years?

MR. SPEAKER: This supplementary question does not arise out of this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The hon'ble Minister says that there is scarcity of resources. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is with regard to tourism offices abroad.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The hon'ble Minister is saying that the Government are trying to promote tourism. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, ask the question.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: What efforts are being made to promote it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: The hon'ble Member raised a very appropriate point. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It may be appropriate,

[English]

but not under this Question.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: It does not come under this Question, but you have always promoted a Bharat Darshan. Whenever a question comes to the Ministry of Tourism, you make the House go through a Bharat Darshan Tour. Of course,

[Translation]

it has been our constant endeavour to make more resources available to the Ministry of Tourism in every budget. But, I understand that Tourism being an economic driver, the Ministry of Tourism is an important catalyst for generating maximum employment and mobilising resources. In view of this, our Government have made efforts to develop hotel industry, the sites of cultural heritage etc., with public-

private partnership. It would be more feasible if all these are developed with the help of private capital and of corporate houses under private public partnership scheme because the Ministry of Tourism is not in the priority list of the Government today. We ourselves are making efforts to mobilise more and more resources so that more and more unemployed youth of this country could get direct or indirect employment through tourism.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No.328:

Shrimati (Saw.) Kalpana — Not present.
Ramesh Narhire

Shri Srichand Kriplani — Not present.

Q.No. 329

Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria — Not present.
Shri Harin Pathak.

Transportation of Gas

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*329. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

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

(a) the norms/criteria laid down for fixing transportation charges for transporting gas in different areas;

(b) whether some State Governments have demanded changes in the existing policy and requested for some benefits because of lower cost for transporting gas over shorter distance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Transportation charge is calculated over the period of contract and is specific to the investment and economic life of the pipeline/gas source. Its calculation is based on estimated capital cost, O&M expenses, estimated manpower cost, period of contract, reasonable rate of return, etc.

However, in case of trunk lines, namely, Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline and Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (DVPL), a combined single tariff of Rs.831/MSCM,

with escalation formula, is being followed w.e.f. 1-6-2006. The tariff for connectivity of Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) to DVPL has been kept at Rs. 280/MSCM for the benefit of customers in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) requested that full DVPL transmission charge should not be charged from Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) for gas flowing through the GAIL pipeline network before entering the GSPL pipeline network. However, no such request was received from the Government of Gujarat.

Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited (APTRANSCO) requested that transportation tariff for power projects in the KG Basin network should be reduced. This was followed by request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh as well.

(d) In order to benefit the customers of Gujarat, the Government decided, w.e.f. 1-6-06, that the combined single tariff of Rs. 831/MSCM for use of DVPL need not be paid by GSPL's customers and the connectivity charges of GSPL to DVPL were kept at Rs. 280/MSCM only.

The Government has revised the transportation tariff of KG Basin gas supply network, w.e.f. 1.11.2006, for all the customers on these networks as follows:

Tatipaka - Kakinada - Kovuur network	Rs. 413/MSCM
Tatipaka-Kondapalli network	Rs. 1,056/MSCM

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the hon'ble Minister hails from Gujarat and his other Cabinet colleague sitting beside him also belongs originally to Gujarat. But both the Ministers are not doing required justice to Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It is necessary to give the background before asking the question.

MR. SPEAKER: There is not so much time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: As it is many hon'ble Members are absent today.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, ask question.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The hon'ble Minister has replied that Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur pipeline has been laid from Gujarat to Sultanpur, U.P. Gujarat is supplied gas through

this very pipeline. I would not like to go into much detail but would like to state that there are two big refineries in the State—one is of Indian Oil Corporation in Vadodara and the other is of Reliance Industries in Jam Nagar. The pipeline passes through these states as also the State of Gujarat. Still, we have to pay the same charges as are paid by the consumers in Sultanpur, Delhi or Madhya Pradesh. This is an imparity. I would like to link the issue of this imparity with coal. This is injustice because when coal is transported to our State from Bihar and Jharkhand, we have to pay freight on the basis of distance, though we are not charged freight on the basis of distance in case of gas pipeline. Therefore, we do not get that benefit. Though, that gas pipeline passes through our area, and, yet we have to pay transportation charges-at par with other States. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether in view of this discrepancy, the Government propose to supply gas through pipeline to Gujarat on the basis of freight equalisation?

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Sir, the hon'ble Member has raised a very pertinent question but I would say that there are two types of pipelines, one is the trunk line and the other is that which is not connected to the trunk line. With regard to the question raised by him about Gujarat, as to why gas is not given at less rate to GSPCL, I would like to tell him that in this regard rates are fixed on the basis of tariff commission.

In the rates fixed by the Tariff Commission, the capital cost and maintenance cost of operation is taken into account besides assessing the manpower, the life of the pipeline and the likely returns and it is also ensured that 12 percent return is received out of it. The formula that has been prepared by the tariff commission for this also included gas price, formula charge, inflation and volume and the price is assessed keeping in view all the above. It should also be stated whether Government of Gujarat has written for this or not. The Gujarat Government has not written as yet in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: OK, it has also been written in the reply that no such request has been received from the Gujarat Government.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Sir, the Government have not written for this. The Gujarat Petroleum Corporation has represented this. I would also like to state that it is being given to the Petroleum Corporation at the rate of Rs.280 even much below the rate of Rs.831/- that has been fixed by the Tariff Commission.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply of the hon'ble Minister. I would like to submit that you give it to the GSPCC at the rate of Rs.280/-; however, IOC and Jam Nagar have to pay the same rate that UP has to pay despite the pipeline being in Gujarat. The hon'ble

Minister is sitting here and he has understood the question and I feel that justice will be made to Gujarat. Now I am coming to the second part of the question. In reply to part (b) and (c) of the question he has mentioned:

[English]

"Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) requested that full DVPL transmission charge should not be changed from Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) for gas flowing through the GAIL pipeline network before entering the GSPL pipeline network."

[Translation]

However, charges are taken even before it comes to GSPCL. The hon'ble Minister is submitting that no request has been received from the Government. GSPCL is a Public Sector Undertaking of the Government. Will you accept this demand of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited if a request is made by them.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Sir, I have already stated that their demand has been accepted and it is being supplied to them at the rate of Rs.280 instead of Rs.831. So now GSPCL has no problem. I say this because GSPCL is a corporation. Corporation and Government are different entities there was a request from Andhra Pradesh and the Corporation has also placed its request.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, my question is only this much, do you supply gas at lower tariff on the basis of distance because in case of coal we have to pay more transportation tariff on the basis of distance and it is on account of this that we suffer loss. I would like to know whether you will supply gas at low tariff on the basis distance.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether relaxation will be given in the tariff of gas as is given in case of coal on the basis of distance as has also been submitted by the hon'ble Member Shri Harin Pathak ji.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: The rate is assessed by the Tariff Commission. The Bill regarding the Regulatory Board has been passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha and it has become an Act. The Regulatory Board will become operational in two-three months and then we will think about it and whatever will be required in this regard will be done.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same question.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry: last supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand of the Government of Gujarat was that instead of giving royalty on their gas, there is a quota which is to be allotted to the Government of Gujarat, and it was demanding not less than 25 per cent of the quota for the Government of Gujarat.

Sir, instead of providing royalty, they should provide quota of gas, which is 25 per cent, and then the Gujarat Government can sell it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any such proposal lying in his Ministry.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Its reply has been given. You please say only yes or no.

SHRI DINSHA PATE: I will ponder and will then reply.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Enhancement of Licence Fee

*322. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the licence fee has been increased for the small tea stall contractors belonging to scheduled caste categories at the railway stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all factors relevant to the viability of the contract have been taken into consideration before issuing the licences in such cases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Licence fee as a percentage of sales turnover is uniform for all categories including reserved category catering/vending units. Rationalisation of percentage of license fee of catering/vending units are carried out from time to time. Last rationalization of licence fee was done in the year 1999 and it was fixed at 12% of annual sales turnover. This is uniform for all categories of catering units and licencees, except for Rajdhani/Shatabdi Trains, for which the license fee is 15% of annual sales turnover.

(c) and (d) As per policy guidelines, Zonal Railways and IRCTC while making allotments and renewals, will fix licence fee based on realistic sales assessment and ensure that licence fee is not below the minimum licence fee which is to be assessed on the basis of rational factors like, the

State Gross Domestic Product (GDP), purchasing power, land value, type of clientele, number of passengers, location of unit, earlier sales turn over etc. Relevant factors for viability of such contracts including profit margin available to such business, were duly considered while fixing the licence fee at 12% of the sales turnover.

Entry Fee for Visiting Monuments

*324. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue collected from entry fee from ticketed monuments does not go to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that ASI gets appropriate share from the revenue collected from entry fee of ticketed monuments; and

(d) the efforts made to bring more monuments under Central Protection and to raise number of monuments for ticketing purposes?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The revenue collected from the entry fee at the ticketed monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India is remitted into the Government account in the Consolidated Fund of India. This is in accordance with the Central Government Account (Receipts and Payments) Rules.

The Archaeological Survey of India has made a proposal for retaining this revenue in the form of a non-lapsable fund for conservation and preservation of the protected monuments. The proposal has been forwarded to the Ministry of Finance, and a decision on the matter is awaited.

Proposals for bringing more monuments under central protection are scrutinized as per the merits of each case and in accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958. Archaeological Survey of India has called for proposals from the field offices for imposing entry fee on more monuments and based on the proposals received from the field offices, the matter shall be decided.

National Policy on Older Persons

*325. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP);

(b) the special schemes formulated under the said policy for providing financial security to older persons in the country; and

(c) the further measures taken by the Government to implement the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) recognizes persons aged 60 years or more as older persons. The Policy seeks to protect and strengthen the legal rights of older persons apart from providing for financial security, healthcare and appropriate concessions. The details of such concessions are contained in the enclosed statement.

The Central Government contribution under the Old Age Pension Scheme has been enhanced from Rs. 75/- to Rs. 200/- per month w.e.f. 1st April 2006. The State Governments have been urged to atleast match this amount by way of their contribution so as to make a minimum pension amount to Rs. 400/- per month.

Statement

Facilities/Benefits given to Senior Citizens

(1) Ministry of Finance:

(a) Income tax rebate upto an income of Rs. 1.95 lakh p.a. is allowed to senior citizens who have attained the age of 65 years

(b) Higher rates of interest on saving schemes of senior citizens.

(c) A Senior Citizens Savings Scheme offering an interest rate is 9% per annum on the deposits made by the senior citizens in post offices has been introduced by the Government through Post Offices in India doing savings bank work.

(2) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

(a) Reservation of two seats for senior citizens in front row of the buses of the State Road Transport Undertakings.

(b) Some State Governments are giving fare concession to senior citizens in the State Road Transport Undertaking buses and are introducing Bus Models, which are convenient to the elderly.

(3) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare:

(a) Separate queues for older persons in hospitals for registration and clinical examination.

- (4) Department of Telecommunications:
- Faults/complaints of senior citizens are given priority by registering them under senior citizens category with VIP flag, which is a priority category.
 - Senior citizens are allowed to register telephone connection under N-OYT Special Category, which is a priority category.
- (5) Ministry of Railways
- Indian Railways provide 30% fare concession in all Mail/Express including Rajdhani/Shatabadi/Jan Shatabadi trains for senior citizens aged 60 years and above.
 - Indian Railways also have the facility of separate counters for Senior Citizens for purchase/booking/cancellation of tickets.
 - Wheel Chairs for use of older persons are available at all junctions, District Headquarters and other important stations for the convenience of needy persons including the older persons.
 - Ramps for wheel chairs movement are available at the entry to important stations.
 - Specially designed coaches with provisions of space for wheel chairs, hand rail and specially designed toilet for handicapped persons have been introduced.
- (6) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Indian Airlines is providing 50 per cent Senior Citizen Discount on Normal Economy Class fare for all domestic flights to Indian senior citizens who have completed the age of 65 years in the case of male senior citizens and 63 years in the case of female senior citizens subject to certain conditions.
 - Air India is offering discount to senior citizens of 60 plus on flights to USA, UK and Europe. Further, Air India has now decided to reduce the age of 60 plus for discount on their domestic routes as well with immediate effect.
- (7) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- Under the Antyodaya Scheme, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families which also include older persons are provided food grains at the rate of 35 kgs. per family per month. The food grains are issued @ Rs.3/- per kg. for rice and Rs.2/-per kg.

for wheat. The persons aged 60 years above from the BPL category were given priority for identification.

- Under the Annapoorna Scheme being implemented by the States/UT Administration, 10 kgs. of food grains per beneficiary per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who remain uncovered under the old age pension scheme.
- Instructions to State Governments for giving priority to the Ration Card holders who are over 60 years of age in Fair Price Shops for issue of rations.

[Translation]

Development of Museums

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

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government provides financial assistance for the development of museums under the scheme for promotion of museums;
- if so, the criteria prescribed in this regard;
- the number of applications received in this regard during each of the last two years and the current year so far;
- the details of financial assistance sanctioned and released during the above period; and
- the time by which pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. Financial Assistance is provided under the scheme "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums".

(b) While considering the proposal under the scheme inter alia the nature of the organisation, characteristic of the museums including the period of its existence and the purpose for which assistance is sought are taken into consideration.

(c) The number of applications received during the last two years and the current year, so far, are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	No. of Applications Received
1	2004-2005	259
2	2005-2006	92
3	2006-2007	91

(d) Details of financial assistance sanctioned and released during the above period are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	No. of cases	(Rs. in lakhs)	
			Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2004-2005	36	421.01	315.76
2	2005-2006	30	586.52	379.91
3	2006-2007	8	162.22	121.67

(e) The Expert Committee constituted for the scheme has considered and taken a decision on all the eligible applications received till the date of its last meeting held on 24.11.2006.

[English]

Permission to Private Companies

*330. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy for granting permission to private sector oil companies to set up petrol/diesel retail outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the oil companies in the private sector granted permission for setting up petrol/diesel retail outlets;

(d) the number of petrol/diesel retail outlets set up by each of these companies;

(e) whether the Government has received any complaints that the private companies are not complying with the norms prescribed for opening of retail outlets; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have issued detailed guidelines for granting authorization to market transportation fuels, namely, Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to new entrants including the private sector, through its Resolution of 8th March, 2002.

(c) and (d) Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels to four private companies namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL), M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL) and M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL). The number of

Retails Outlets (ROs) set up by these private companies so far are as under:

Name of company	Number of ROs
RIL	1320
EOL	1001
SIMPL	20
RPL	0

(e) and (f) Government have not received any complaints that the private companies are not complying with the norms prescribed for opening of ROs. However, while granting authorization, appropriate conditions has been imposed in the public interest, including the obligation to set up ROs in remote areas and low service areas and that the eligible company will not encroach upon the retail network of existing marketing companies.

Reconstruction of Railway Bridges

*331. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken up or chalked out any plan for reconstruction/strengthening of railway bridges in the country, particularly Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation of funds made during the current financial year for the purpose;

(d) whether the allocation is made in accordance with the requirement sought;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Rehabilitation/repair of bridges is an ongoing process on Indian Railways. Railway undertakes repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections carried out in the field. Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding duly prioritizing the works as per requirement. In 2001-02, to clear the backlog of replacement of such identified bridges on Indian Railways, 2370 bridges were sanctioned for repair/rehabilitation/rebuilding at a cost of Rs. 1530 Crore under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF). Apart from SRSF, additional funds are also made available annually in Railway Budget to undertake repair/rehabili-

tation of fresh accruals of Bridge works mainly under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF).

The statistics of repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges is maintained Railway Zone-wise not State-wise. As on 1.4.2006, there are approximately 3940 bridges identified and sanctioned for repair/rebuilding/rehabilitation on all sixteen Zonal Railways. This includes 797 no. of bridges sanctioned on four zonal Railways i.e. East Coast Railway (ECoR), South Central Railway (SCR), Southern Railway (SR), and South Western Railway (SWR) which serve the State of Andhra Pradesh also.

A total of approximately Rs. 594.0 Crore have been provided in the Budget Estimate 2006-07 for Bridge works on all sixteen Zonal Railways. The funds for Bridge works are distributed among various Zonal Railways based on their annual requirements & number of bridge works targeted by them for completion during the year.

The Zone-wise break up of 797 sanctioned bridges alongwith Budget allotment 2006-07 for Bridge works on the four Zonal Railways which caters to the state of Andhra Pradesh is given as under:

S. No.	Railway	No. of bridges identified and sanctioned as on 1.4.2006	Budget Allotment in 2006-07 (in Rs. Crore)
1.	ECoR	124	14.55
2.	SCR	308	60.82
3.	SR	303	16.88
4.	SWR	62	2.65
	Total	797	94.90

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Modern Signalling System

*332. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations where modern signalling system has been installed during the last three years, zone-wise alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the target fixed for installation of modern signalling system during the current year and the achievements made so far; and

(c) the time by which the work on replacement of old signalling system is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of stations, where modern signalling system, like Relay based Panel, Electronic and Route Relay Interlocking, along with Multi Aspect Colour Light Signalling have been provided is as under:

Railway	Three years progress (number stations)	Expenditure during last three years (In crore of Rs.)
Central	86	130.48
Eastern	79	142.64
East Central	71	153.50
East Coast	47	184.03
Northern	110	180.88
North Eastern	32	48.00
Northeast Frontier	70	154.51
North Central	40	104.00
North Western	50	75.69
South Central	122	82.78
Southern	95	169.34
South East Central	41	113.81
South Western	52	27.65
South Eastern	46	80.50
Western	83	50.86
West Central	62	137.38
Total	1086	1836.05

(b) An enhanced target of 594 stations has been fixed for installation of modern signalling system during the current year and 230 stations have been completed upto November 2006.

(c) Old signalling system due for replacement upto March 2001 are targeted for completion by 31.03.2008. Subsequent accruals of replacement of old signalling system are proposed in the Works Programme regularly and those, which are sanctioned, are planned for completion in such a way to minimise accumulation of arrears.

[English]

Pay Revision for Employees of Sick CPSUs

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

(a) the number of sick CPSUs where pay revision has not been implemented;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to implement pay revision for the employees of sick and BIFR referred companies to maintain the parity in the pay scale in all the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) with the Government employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to maintain the parity in the pay scale in all CPSUs with the Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) As per available information, 14 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are in 1987 pay scales under Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) pattern and 30 CPSEs are in 1992 pay scales under IDA pattern.

(b) to (d) With regard to the policy for pay revision of employees in sick CPSEs referred to the BIFR, the revision of their pay scales under IDA pattern would be strictly in accordance with rehabilitation packages approved or to be approved by the BIFR and after providing for the additional expenditure on account of pay revision in these packages. CPSEs which do not fulfill these conditions, may not be in a position to effect pay revision for their employees. As regards employees under Central Dearness Allowance (CDA) pattern of scales, most of the CPSEs have revised the pay scales as per the guidelines issued in this regard.

(e) The mode of recruitment, terms and conditions of service as well as the Industrial Dearness Allowance pattern of pay scales of the employees in the CPSEs are altogether on different footing as compared to these aspects for functionaries in the Central Government in various posts. As such, there is no parity in pay scales of CPSEs with those of Government employees.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Protected Monuments

*334. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI MOHAN JENA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of protected monuments and archaeological sites, separately under the Archaeological Survey of India's care;

(b) the details of the protected monuments/archaeological sites being maintained at present by public-private partnership;

(c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India is reeling from a resource crunch for upkeep/maintenance of these protected monuments/archaeological sites;

(d) if so, whether the Government is exploring the prospect of greater corporate participation in conservation of protected monuments in the country;

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

(f) the further steps taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) The number of protected monuments and ancient sites under the Archaeological Survey of India is 3667. An abstract of protected monuments/sites (state-wise) is given in statement-I.

None of the protected monuments are maintained through Public Private Partnership. Nine projects have been identified for Public Private Partnership for conservation/development of visitors facilities. Works on three such monuments are in progress. Details of these projects are given in statement-II.

Considering the enormity of the task of conservation and preservation of the protected monuments/sites, Archaeological Survey of India requires more funds. The Government is exploring the possibility of obtaining funds from the Public and Private Sector Corporates through the National Culture Fund for the conservation/preservation of the protected monuments. This subject was discussed with the representatives of the Corporate sector in the meeting of the governing council of the National Culture Fund and follow up action is being taken based on the recommendations of the council.

The Ministry of Culture has also proposed that the Archaeological Survey of India may be allowed to retain the revenue collected from the sale of tickets for meeting the conservation needs. A final decision in this matter is awaited. Besides, the Archaeological Survey of India would be seeking increased allocations for the Eleventh Plan and detailed proposals in this regard are being finalized.

Statement-I

List of Centrally Protected Monuments and Sites under Archaeological Survey of India (State Wise)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of monuments/Sites
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	137
2	Arunachal Pradesh	005

1	2	3	1	2	3
3	Assam	053	18	Meghalaya	008
4	Bihar	070	19	N.C.T. Delhi	175
5	Chhattisgarh	047	20	Nagaland	004
6	Daman and Diu	012	21	Orissa	078
7	Goa	021	22	Pondicherry (U.T.)	007
8	Gujarat	202	23	Punjab	031
9	Haryana	090	24	Rajasthan	162
10	Himachal Pradesh	040	25	Sikkim	003
11	Jammu and Kashmir	069	26	Tamil Nadu	413
12	Jharkhand	012	27	Tripura	005
13	Karnataka	507	28	Uttar Pradesh	742
14	Kerala	026	29	Uttaranchal	042
15	Madhya Pradesh	286	30	West Bengal	133
16	Maharashtra	286			
17	Manipur	001		Total	3667

Statement-II*The ASI-NCF project on monuments under the custody of Archaeological Survey of India*

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument	Name of the Sponsoring agency	State	Fund earmarked for the Project (Rs.)	Remark
1.	Taj Mahal, Agra	Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (Tata Group)	Uttar Pradesh	1.87 Crores	In progress
2.	Jantar Mantar	Apeejay Surendra Park Hotels Ltd.	N.C.T. Delhi	10 Lakhs	In Progress
3.	Monuments at Lodi Garden	Steel authority of India Ltd.	N.C.T. Delhi	1.00 Crore	
4.	Jaisalmer fort, Jaisalmer	World Monument Fund	Rajasthan	\$ 4,39,000 & 4 Crores by ASI	In progress
5.	*Sun Temple, Konark		Orissa	Rs.13.08 crores	
6.	Kanheri Caves, Mumbai	Indian Oil Foundation	Maharashtra	25 Crores	
7.	Group of Temples, Khajuraho		Madhya Pradesh		
8.	Group of Monuments at Hampi		Karnataka		
9.	Warangal Fort, Warangal		Andhra Pradesh		

* For Sun Temple, Konarak, Architectural designs are being prepared by M/s Shristi Associates.

Railway Workshops

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

(a) the details of the railway workshops in the country on date, zone-wise;

(b) the funds allotted and spent on modernization/ expansion of Railway workshops during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether some of the Railway works are on verge of closure;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Railways for its revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):

(a) List of Railway Workshops (Mechanical Department)

S.No.	Railway	Name of Workshop
1	2	3
1.	Central	Kurdwadi
2.		Matunga
3.		Parel
4.	Eastern	Jamalpur
5.		Kanchrapara
6.		Lilluah
7.	East Central	Samastipur
8.	East Coast	Mancheswar
9.	Northern	Alambagh
10.		Amritsar
11.		Charbagh
12.		Jagadhari
13.		Kalka
14.	North Central	Jhansi
15.		Rail Spring Karkhana/STLI
16.	North Eastern	Gorakhpur
17.		Izatnagar

1	2	3
18.	Northeast Frontier	Dibrugarh
19.		Lumding
20.		New Bongaigaon
21.		Tindharia
22.	North Western	Ajmer (Carriage)
23.		Ajmer (Loco)
24.		Bikaner
25.		Jodhpur
26.	Southern	Golden Rock
27.		Perambur (C&W)
28.		Perambur (Loco)
29.	South Central	Lallaguda
30.		Tirupati
31.		Guntapalli
32.	South Eastern	Kharagpur
33.	South East Central	Raipur
34.		Nagpur
35.	South Western	Hubli
36.		Mysore
37.	Western	Bhavnagar
38.		Dahod
39.		Junagarh
40.		Parel
41.		Mahalaxmi
42.		Pratapnagar
43.	West Central	Bhopal
44.		Kota
<i>List of Railway Workshops (Signal Department)</i>		
45.	Central	Byculla
46.	Eastern	Howrah
47.	Northern	Ghaziabad

1	2	3
48.	North Eastern	Gorakhpur
49.	Northwestern	Ajmer
50.	Northeast Frontier	Pandu
51.	Southern	Podanur
52.	South Central	Mettuguda
53.	South Eastern	Kharagpur
54.	Western	Sabarmati

List of Railway Workshops (Engineering Department)

55.	Central	Manmad
56.	East Central	Mughalsarai
57.	Northern	Jalandhar
58.		Lucknow
59.	North Eastern	Gorakhpur
60.	Northeast Frontier	Bongaigaon
61.	Southern	Arakkonam
62.	South Central	Lallaguda
63.	South Eastern	Sini
64.	Western	Sabarmati

List of Railway Workshops (Electrical Department)

65.	Central	Bhusawal
66.		Nasik Road

(b)	Year	Funds Allotted	Fund Spent
	2003-04	44.15	30.01
	2004-05	59.87	29.26
	2005-06	74.29	40.27
	2006-07	84.41	11.47*

(i) Figures are in crores of Rupees.

* Figures for 2006-07 are provisional figures of funds booked approximately upto Sept.06.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Bifurcation of Existing List of OBC

*336. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has submitted any proposal to the Government for bifurcation of existing list of Other Backward Classes for segregating the most backward classes among OBCs and provide separate reservation to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Production/Manufacturing Units in Railways

*337. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production/manufacturing units in Railways alongwith the locations thereof;

(b) the quantum of production of each unit during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the profit/loss position of each unit during the said period;

(d) whether the Railways propose to provide more autonomy to these units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are six production units under the Ministry of Railways, their names and locations are as under:

1. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, (CLW) Chittaranjan
2. Diesel Locomotive Works, (DLW) Varanasi
3. Integral Coach Factory, (ICF) Chennai
4. Rail Coach Factory, (RCF) Kapurthala
5. Rail Wheel Factory, (RWF) Bangalore
6. Diesel Loco Modernisation Works, (DMW) Patiala

(b) The quantum of production of each unit during the last three years, year-wise is as under:-

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
CLW Electric Locomotives	86	90	129
DLW Diesel Locomotives	116	121	148
ICF Coaches	1070	1119	1175
RCF Coaches	1201	1201	1263
RWF Wheels	110407	95125	117425
Axles	50513	49502	50569
DMW (Loco rebuilding)	73	74	73

(c) The six production units under the Ministry of Railways are in-house production organizations, operating on a "no-profit no-loss" basis. The full cost of production is transferred to the consuming units (i.e. the user railways), by way of appropriately fixed transfer prices for the various items that are manufactured. However, the profits generated from the sale of rolling stock and /or components to Non Railway Customers are as under:-

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
CLW	Nil	Nil	Nil
DLW	336 lakhs	394 Lakhs	1305 Lakhs
RCF	Nil	64 Lakhs	350 Lakhs
ICF	Nil	11 Lakhs	0.05 Lakhs
RWF	73.38 lakhs	173.69 Lakhs	1074.90 Lakhs
DMW	2 Lakhs	11 Lakhs	4.5 Lakhs

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Certain revised powers have been delegated to the General Managers of the Production Units to make investment decisions, freedom to adopt more competitive pricing & powers for marketing, both in the domestic and international markets, to enable the Production Units to function more efficiently, subject to certain conditions. These are:

1. With respect to pricing for Non-Railway Customers (NRCs) and Exports, GMs are delegated powers to reduce profits up to Nil & overheads upto 5%.
2. Machinery & Plant replacement of upto Rs.30 lacs per item subject to availability of Budget.
3. Purchase of components for supplies against confirmed orders of exports upto Rs.22 crores per case.

4. Expenditure towards hospitality to Non-Railway Customers (NRCs) upto specified ceilings.
5. Expenditure in engaging/obtaining Consultancy Services for Production Units, connected with export orders, from outside bodies up to Rs. 50 lakhs in each case or up to Rs.1.5 crores in a year, to be funded from the Market Development Fund.
6. Development of new items, product diversification, marketing efforts and engagement of consultants for sale to NRCs and for exports of upto Rs.5 crores per annum (Rs.1 crore in each case) out of the profits accruing from sales to NRCs and exports, during the course of the year.
7. Powers to import stores from the existing level of Rs.4 crore in each case to Rs. 15 crore in each case, as applicable to indigenous purchases.

[English]

Under-Weight LPG Cylinders

*338. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the supply of lesser weight gas cylinders by various Liquefied Petroleum Gas dealers in the country, especially in rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received complaints regarding such cases;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) the action taken/being taken against the erring dealers;
- (e) whether the Oil Marketing Companies propose to take some new measures to tackle this malpractice;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which these measures are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 193 cases of supply of underweight cylinders to consumers by their LPG distributors during the last three years, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, and April-October, 2006. All the erring distributors have been penalized by OMCs in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing

Discipline Guidelines (MDG). The State-wise details are enclosed as statement.

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

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by OMCs, the Weight and Measures Departments of the State/UT initiate legal action against those believed to be culpable.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. However, OMCs have reported that their LPG distributors are under instructions to ensure 100% weighment of cylinders at their godown before delivery at the customers' premises. In a bid to enhance customer

satisfaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by OMCs to provide a spring balance to enable the customer to verify the correctness of the weight of LPG in the cylinder. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

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

At present, OMCs are using heat shrinkable preformed Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) seals, developed and recommended by the LPG Equipment Research Centre (LERC), as a tamper evident sealing system for LPG cylinders with a view to supplying correct weight of LPG to the consumers. PVC seals are difficult to duplicate, shrink at high temperature and require special technical expertise to manufacture.

Statement

States/UTs	Number of complaints			
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	April-October, 2006
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	2	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
Assam	-	-	-	-
Bihar	2	-	1	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-
Delhi	7	17	11	-
Goa	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	11	5	3	-
Haryana	1	1	2	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	1	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand	-	-	1	-

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	1	-	-	-
Kerala	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	4	-	1	-
Maharashtra	-	-	1	-
Manipur	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-
Orissa	-	-	-	-
Punjab	1	8	8	7
Rajasthan	5	7	4	-
Sikkim	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-
Tripura	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	20	25	21	1
Uttaranchal	2	2	1	-
West Bengal	-	-	-	-
Andaman and Nicobar	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	4	1	4	-
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	-	-	-	-
Total	60	67	58	8

Manufacturing Units

*339. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a regional imbalance in various manufacturing units set up by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of criteria fixed by the Government for selection of sites at the time of setting up of such units in the country; and

(c) the action the Railways propose to take to remove such imbalances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Production units of Indian Railways are located in the different parts of the country.

(b) Proposal for setting up a production unit is based on projections of sustained demand; and the locations are decided based on requirements of the project.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Tourism Co-operation Pacts with
Foreign Countries**

*340. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any tourism co-operation pact with foreign countries particularly with Australia, Turkey, Afghanistan and Poland;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which India will be benefited by the said agreements?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government has signed MoU/Agreements with Australia, Turkey and Afghanistan for co-operation in the field of tourism. It has also been decided to sign an agreement for cooperation in the field of tourism with Poland. The agreement has already been sent to Indian Mission in Warsaw for signing. The list of countries with whom India has bilateral agreement of tourism cooperation, as on date is enclosed as statement.

(c) The bilateral tourism cooperation pacts signed with foreign countries serve as instruments for marketing and promotion of tourism between the participating countries. These agreements facilitate launching of marketing activities, exchange of travel trade delegations, facilitating investments, human resource development and organizing of special promotional events for mutual benefits. These agreements give impetus to the growth of two way tourism.

Statement

*List of Countries with whom Bilateral Agreement on
Tourism cooperation exists as on date*

Sl.No.	Name of the country	Date of signing
1	2	3
1.	Iraq (Protocol)	25.10.1986
2.	Portugal	29.07.1991
3.	Syria	08.10.1991
4.	Hungary	16.10.1992
5.	Belarus	14.05.1993
6.	Israel	18.05.1993

1	2	3
7.	Uzbekistan	29.07.1993
8.	Republic of Korea (South)	10.09.1993
9.	Singapore	24.01.1994
10.	Bulgaria	26.05.1994
11.	Romania	02.06.1994
12.	Russia	30.06.1994
13.	Turkey	31.01.1995
14.	Iran (MoU)	18.04.1995
15.	Kryghstan	22.09.1995
16.	Mexico	28.03.1996
17.	Seychelles	03.10.1996
18.	Cyprus	07.11.1996
19.	Peru	26.05.1997
20.	South Africa	07.10.1997
21.	Egypt	11.10.1997
22.	Greece	13.01.1998
23.	Mongolia	01.12.1998
24.	Morocco	13.02.1999
25.	Indonesia (MOU)	08.02.2000
26.	Cambodia (MOU)	18.02.2000
27.	Italy	26.06.2000
28.	Tunisia	08.12.2000
29.	Vietnam	08.01.2001
30.	China	14.01.2002
31.	Australia (MOU)	22.4.2002
32.	Kazakhstan	03.06.2002
33.	Ukraine	12.08.2003
34.	Thailand	09.10.2003
35.	Tajikistan	14.11.2003
36.	Sri Lanka (MOU)	23.1.2004
37.	Brazil	25.1.2004

1	2	3
38.	Serbia (MOU)	2.11.2004
39.	Fiji	10.10.2005
40.	Afghanistan	06.12.2005
41.	Philippines	04.2.2006
42.	France (MoU)	20.2.2006
43.	Jordan	1.12.2006

Celebration of 150th Anniversary of War

*341. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed any Committee in connection with the commemoration of 150th Year of First War of Independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any programme has been chalked out by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the progress so far made; and

(e) the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) The Government of India constituted a National Committee under the Chairmanship of Honourable Prime Minister to commemorate the following events:-

- 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence, 1857
- 60th Anniversary of Indian Independence;
- Centenary Celebration of Adoption of Vande Mataram as National song;
- 75th Anniversary of Martyrdom of Shaheed Bhagat Singh; and
- Birth Centenary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh

A National Implementation Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Human Resource Development Minister to chalk out the programmes and activities to be undertaken. The proposed Budget for the commemorative activities is Rs. 150.00 crores. Various activities as per decision of the National Implementation Committee will be carried out.

Plane Crash at Nainisaini Airport

3155. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an American plane crashed at the Nainisaini Airport in Pitthoragarh District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Plane had permission to fly over that region;

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

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Energy Centres

3156. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the concept of Energy City India and the energy requirement and production schedule for the next five years;

(b) whether the Energy City India will be developed on the lines of Special Economic Zones to establish energy related infrastructure to achieve higher economic growth in the sector;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives and tax concessions to attract private and foreign investment for setting up more such Energy Centres to provide infrastructure facilities for oil and gas producers, refiners, shipping and energy trading business; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Manufacturing of Alcohol from Coarse Grains

3157. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multi-national beverage giants are manufacturing alcohol from coarse grains like bajra, maize, sorghum and millets;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that these coarse grains are mostly consumed by poor sections of society;

(c) whether the Government has taken into consideration its impact on the supply and prices of such food grains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Alcohol manufacturing industries in the country mainly use molasses. In some cases Non-molasses based raw material such as coarse grains like bajra, maize, sorghum and millets are also used for producing potable alcohol. The utilization of such grain-based raw material is low. Grains are more expensive than molasses and the chances of industries using grains in large quantity instead of molasses are remote. Therefore, the use of coarse grains is not likely to offset the supply and prices of food grains for human consumption.

Repairing of Monument at Karad

3158. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister for CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monument 'Pantacha Kot' in Karad Tehsil of Satara District is under the control of Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the walls of 'Pantacha Kot' have collapsed due to lack of maintenance; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for repairing the said monument?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. It was declared protected as a monument of national importance to in 1949. Due to heavy monsoon rains, the remains of a bastion adjacent to Municipal Corporation Garden collapsed. Immediate conservation measures were taken up to repair the damaged portion of bastion and the work is in progress. An estimate for Rs.17.10 lakhs has been sanctioned for taking up repairs and fencing of the protected area.

[Translation]

Swimmers and Divers in Army

3159. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in the number of

swimmers and divers in Indian Army and the number of such armymen is likely to fall short to face calamities in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made a plan to stop retired swimmers and divers of Army from going abroad and to use their services for the nation;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the fresh steps taken by the Government to increase the number of swimmers and divers in Indian Army?

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

(a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Army personnel are required to pass basic swimming tests during recruitment training. Army is also conducting specialized courses on 'Swimming and Life Saving' at the Army Institute of Physical Training, Pune.

[English]

Procurement of Special Helicopters

3160. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to procure "Special Helicopters" as reported in the Asian Age, dated October 13, 2006,

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred alongwith the time by which the Special Helicopters are likely to be purchased; and

(d) the comparison of these helicopters with the earlier helicopters alongwith the fate of the earlier helicopters?

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

(a) to (c) Government have approved in principle procurement of helicopters for travel of VVIPs and VIPs, in replacement of the existing helicopters. Request for Proposal for the procurement has been issued to various vendors in September, 2006. The purchase of the helicopters is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure which envisages a time frame of 2-3 years for conclusion of contract.

(d) The helicopters will be comparable and in certain respects better than the earlier helicopters which are completing their technical life by 2009.

Special Assistance to Buddhist Pilgrims

3161. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the population census for the minorities, the Buddhist population is shown much lesser than the actual figures;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the special steps taken by the Government to help the Buddhists in the country;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to provide special assistance to the Buddhist pilgrims for visiting the sacred Buddhist locations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) In census 1991 the Buddhists population was 63,87,500 and it is 79,55,207 in census 2001.

(c) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities provides for enhanced opportunities for education, equitable share in income and employment, improving the conditions of living of minorities and ensuring communal harmony. Wherever possible, 15% of the targets and outlays are earmarked for minorities. Besides, National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation provides term loans, micro financing and educational loans to minority on concessional rates. Maulana Azad Education Foundation has educational schemes for minorities. Buddhists are one of the minorities notified under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 and benefits of welfare schemes for minorities are also available to them.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of Tourist Destinations

3162. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15 major tourist destinations in the country are proposed to be developed to world class level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to include Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism plans to improve the quality of tourism infrastructure at major heritage sites, cultural monuments and places of tourism significance.

(b) to (e) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. In order to ensure development of world class tourism infrastructure in the country, it is proposed to develop major tourist destinations/circuits in the country by sanctioning central financial assistance to the tune of Rs.25 crore for development of a destination and Rs. 50 crore for development of a tourist circuit. Selection of such destinations/circuits is based on detailed consultations with State/UT Governments, subject to inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Oil Regulator

3163. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended appointment of independent Oil Regulator;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recommendation has been accepted by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (f) The Planning Commission has not recommended for appointment of independent Oil Regulator. However, Parliament has enacted the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006, which has been notified in the Gazette of India on 3rd April, 2006 as Act No. 19 of 2006.

Action for setting up the Board under the provisions of PNGRB Act, 2006 is under progress. The Search Committee, under the PNGRB Act, 2006 for selecting the Chairperson and other Members of the Board and for preparing a panel of persons to be considered for appointment as Technical Member (Petroleum & Natural Gas) of the Appellate Tribunal, had its first meeting on 10-10-2006 in which it was decided that advertisement for the posts of Chairman and Members of the PNGRB and Technical Member (P&NG) of the Appellate Tribunal may be issued in leading newspapers,

including vernacular newspapers, throughout the country. The applications received in response to the advertisement are being considered by the Search Committee.

Wage Revision in Air India

3164. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the demand for wage revision of Air India employees is pending with the Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons for pendency; and
- (c) the action being taken by the Government for settlement of wage revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The management of Air India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Air India Employees Guild and Air India Employees Union for revision of wages in respect of ground categories of workmen, technical and non-technical, w.e.f. 01.01.97 for a period of 10 years. The management has also revised the scales of pay and allowances for General Cadre of Officers and their Executives as well as of Manager-Service Engineering. The wage revision in respect of the other categories of employees viz. Pilots, Engineers, Flight Engineers and Cabin Crew is in process and would be finalized shortly.

Old Railway Tracks in Tamil Nadu

3165. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to upgrade the old railway tracks for better commutation and increase the speed;
- (b) if so, the details of action taken by the Railways in this regard particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether the Railways have invited Public/Private participation to modernize the Railways; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) Track renewals are carried out as and when they become due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis and as per requirement of traffic. It is a continuous process. Speed of trains are increased when all the related infrastructure are upgraded.

(b) In Tamil Nadu recently speed of trains has been increased in two sections:

- (i) Chennai Central to Coimbatore Jn - from 105 kmph to 110 kmph.
- (ii) Chennai Egmore to Didigul Jn - from 100 kmph to 110 kmph.

(c) and (d) A number of areas/activities such as upgradation of stations at major metropolitan cities, establishment of super specialty hospitals, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route.

Pilferage of Crude Oil

3166. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the implementation report fulfilled on May 19, 2006 to Unstarred Question No, 4347 dated April 21, 2005 regarding pilferage of crude oil and state:

- (a) whether the patrolling yielded any good results in checking the pilferage of crude oil during 2005-06 and 2006-07;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the result of other measures detailed in the implementation report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the year 2005-06, a total 36 cases of pilferage were detected, and in the year 2006-07, 29 cases were detected.

(c) Measures taken by National Oil Companies to curb incidents of theft / pilferage have yielded encouraging results. Due to prompt action, such subversive activities for attempted pilferage of crude oil could be quickly responded to without any significant loss of crude oil.

Domestic and International Flights from Jabalpur

3167. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to develop Jabalpur as metro aviation centre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow more number of flights both domestic and international to operate in Jabalpur to cater the needs of nearby areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to develop Jabalpur airport as metro aviation centre. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the following development works at Jabalpur airport-extension and strengthening of runway from 1372m to 1982m for operation of B-737 type of aircraft, construction of new Terminal Building to cater for 200 passengers at a time, installation of Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR). Distance Measuring Approach Path and installation of Indicator (DME) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) at both ends of runway.

(c) to (e) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need of different regions of the country including Jabalpur. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand, commercial viability and availability of aircrafts.

ONGC-GAIL Agreement for Supply of Gas

3168. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and GAIL (India) Ltd. have signed any agreement for supply of gas from ONGC's oil and gas fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for the same; and

(c) the steps taken to further promote the ties between the two companies and to explore more oil and gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Gail (India) Limited (GAIL) have signed a Gas Supply Agreement (GSA) on 7th July, 2006 for the supply of gas from ONGC fields.

(b) The GSA which is valid for a period of 15 years is for Administered Price Mechanism (APM) gas and covers all the existing locations such as Hazira & Uran (Western offshore gas), Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh (KG Basin), Tamil Nadu (Cauvery), Rajasthan, Assam and Tripura.

(c) Regular meetings are held between the two companies to market the new and additional gas at market determined price. The companies have identified areas of cooperation in gas marketing, transportation and participation in exploration and production (E&P) activities under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the NELP

I, II and V Rounds, ONGC and GAIL together have been awarded seven exploration blocks.

[Translation]

Fate of Metre Gauge Workshops in Railways

3169. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to wind up parts of the metre gauge Ajmer Ratlam section in Rajasthan on Delhi-Ahmedabad route;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have taken any decision to utilize the workshop situated at Ajmer for broad-gauge work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh and Neemuch-Ratlam sections are targeted for completion during 2006-07. The metre gauge track between Chittaurgarh-Neemuch is being dismantled.

(b) Ajmer workshop is already equipped to carry out Periodic Overhauling (POH) of Broad Gauge coaches and wagons for past ten years approximately.

(c) The present level of activity-wise targets for Ajmer workshop is as given below:

Broad Gauge Coach POH	: 100 coaches per month
Broad Gauge Wagon POH	: 35 wagons per month
Metre Gauge Coach POH	: 20 coaches per month
Metre Gauge Wagon POH	: 15 wagons per month
Metre Gauge Diesel Loco POH	: 1 loco per month.

Appointments on Fake Documents

3170. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of transfers and appointments on fake documents have come to the notice of Railways;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during last one year;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

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

(e) the action taken against the officials/persons found involved therein?

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

Construction of Dwelling Units for Railway Employees

3171. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to construct additional residential complexes for the railway employees in Kota Division;

(b) if so, the number of employees working in Kota Division and the number of employees who have been provided housing facility and number of those who have been put on waiting list;

(c) whether the Railways propose to build additional dwelling units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Total number of employees in Kota Division is 14857, the number of employees provided with railway quarters is 8485 and number of employees on waiting list is 1124. Thus housing satisfaction for Kota Division is 57.11% which is more than national housing satisfaction i.e. 47%.

(c) At present Railways do not have any plan to build additional quarters for Kota Division.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance for Development of Tourism in Bihar

3172. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar has sought financial assistance for development of Patna, Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Vaishali to promote tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the budgetary allocation made for these schemes alongwith the status thereof at present?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 1922.42 lakh has been sanctioned for the Project 'Development of Tourist Circuit - Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda in the State of Bihar under Major Project Scheme' in the month of November, 2006.

Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, monitors the progress of the projects from time to time. The balance fund for a project is released only on receipt of completion/utilization certificate in respect of the installment released earlier for it.

A list of projects sanctioned for the State of Bihar during the Tenth Plan period is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Projects Sanctioned to the State of Bihar during Tenth Plan

		(Rs.in lakh)
S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
2002-03		
1.	Integrated Development of Vaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi Circuit:-	505.00
	(i) Tourist facility near Ropeway, Rajgir - Rs.55.00 lakh	
	(ii) Improvement of Abhishek Pushkarni at Vaishali - Rs.75.00 lakh	
	(iii) Signages - Rs. 15.00 lakh	
	(iv) Development of Meditation Park - Rs.75.00 lakh	
	(v) Development of Mayasarovar at Bodhgaya - Rs. 150.00 lakh	
	(vi) Tourist facility at Nalanda - Rs.25.00 lakh	
	(vii) Development of Bimbisar Avenue, Rajgir - Rs.50.00 lakh	
	(viii) Tourist facility at Kund - Rs.60.00 lakh	
2.	Installation of HAARC System at Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya	12.00
Total		517.00

1	2	3
2003-04		
1.	Upgradation of roads connecting monasteries and construction of pavements/signages in Bodhgaya	5.89
2.	Development of Nepura Village, Distt. Nalanda under Rural Tourism	50.00
3.	Development schemes for Bodhgaya (Phase II) in Bihar under scheme of Destination Development.	462.00
	(i) Landscape development of Kalchakra Maidan - Rs.75.76 lakh	
	(ii) Traffic Interchange Node-I - Rs.37.73 lakh	
	(iii) Bodhgaya Hatt near by pass main approach road - Rs.236.71 lakh	
	(iv) Shopping cum Traffic Interchange Node near road along river - Rs. 112.53 lakh	
4.	Development of Nava Nalanada Mahavihara as pilgrim destination as part of Bihar-Nalanda Tourist Circuit	352.00
	(i) Improvement of Pushkarni Lake - Rs. 17.00 lakh	
	(ii) Upgradation of approach road - Rs. 19.80 lakh	
	(iii) Upgradation of existing Memorial building - Rs. 65.00 lakh	
	(iv) Electrification-Rs. 50.00 lakh	
	(v) Construction of Heiun Tsang Gram - Rs. 145.00 lakh	
	(vi) Landscaping of balance 52 acres of land- Rs.55.20 lakh	
5.	Development scheme for landscape development around Tomb of Malik Ibrahim Bayyu and Temple surroundings at Biharsharif, Nalanda - Rs. 134.00 lakh	134.00
	(i) Construction/Renovation of 500 meter long and 5 meter wide stone pathway including 380 mm thick and 400 mm high local stone masonry copping on both side of the road, lighting etc.- Rs.20.00 lakh	
	(ii) Intensive landscaping including pathways, fencing etc.- Rs. 100.00 lakh	
	(iii) Construction of toilet block (area 35 sq m) - Rs.2.00 lakh	
	(iv) Construction of 4 nos. of kiosk of area 10 sq m each - Rs.2.00 lakh	
	(v) Construction of pump house, installation of pump and water lifting arrangements etc - Rs.10.00 lakh	
6.	Dedication Ceremony and Boudh Mahotsav	15.00
Total		1019.42
2004-05		
1.	Construction of new High School Building and shifting of existing High School from frontage Mayasarovar Lake, Bodhgaya	33.11
2.	Eco-Tourism Development at Bhimbandh, Munger	370.00

1	2	3
3.	Development of Tourist Resort at Maner	407.20
4.	Eco-Tourism Development of Valmiki Nagar, West Champaran	300.06
5.	Development of Vishnu Vihar at Gaya	271.06
6.	Construction of Tourist Complex at Maner Sharif, Patna under Destination Development	500.00
7.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project - Nepura in Nalanda Distt.	20.00
Total		1901.43
2005-06		
1.	Development of Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda under the scheme of Tourist Circuit	768.12
2.	Integrated Development of Karwaria Route Circuit from Sultanganj to Deoghar	443.12
3.	Harihar Kshetra (Sonepur) Fair, 2005	0.99
Total		1212.23
2006-07		
1.	Development of Tourist Circuit Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda under Major Project Scheme	1922.42

[English]

Renovation of Jantar Mantar

3173. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for major renovation of Jantar Mantar Observatories in Delhi and other parts of the country;

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

(c) the time by which the renovation work is likely to be taken up and the expected time of completion?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The conservation works of the Mishra Yantra at Jantar Mantar, Delhi is being taken up under the National Culture Fund. An estimate of Rs.11.98 lakhs for this purpose has been framed. For conservation of Jantar Mantar at Varanasi, a provision of Rs.10.00 lakhs has been made in the conservation programme for 2006-07.

The above works are expected to be completed during the current financial year.

The Tourism Department, Government of India has sanctioned Rs.189.70 lakhs for renovation and development of Jantar Mantar at Jaipur, a protected monument under the

Government of Rajasthan. The works are likely to be completed by 2008.

Production and Marketing of Bio-Diesel by IOC

3174. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has set up a Corporate Group to enter into the production and marketing of bio-diesel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been carried out by IOC on the various aspects of bio-diesel at its research plant; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, IOC has set up a Corporate Group in Sep. 2006 under Director Planning & Business Development). Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), through its R&D Centre is examining the complete value chain of Biodiesel through IOC. This covers IOC plantation, technology for biodiesel production, setting up of quality control labs, emission studies and field trials. IOC has also set-up biodiesel purchase centers as well as a group to study the economic viability of biodiesel production through IOC. Details of various biodiesel related activities undertaken by IOC are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Details of Bio-Diesel related activities undertaken by IOC

(a) Development of Biodiesel Trans-Esterification Technology

IOC (R&D) has examined and optimized the synthetic processes for the preparation of bio-diesel from various vegetable oils, which include oils from Rice bran, *Jatropha curcas*, Palm, Karanja and Sunflower etc. The process has been scaled up to pilot plant level.

The developed technology was transferred to i.i/s Venus Ethoxyethers, Goa on non-exclusive basis and on nominal technology fee and royalty sharing mechanism.

(b) *Jatropha* Plantation on Railway Land at Surendra Nagar

IOC has entered into a MoU with Indian Railways to study complete value chain of Biodiesel. In line with that, IOC has taken up plantation on 70 hectares of Railway land at Surendra Nagar in Gujarat. More than One lakh saplings of *Jatropha* have been planted at the site. This project is one of its kind in the country, where every aspect of *Jatropha* Biodiesel would be studied.

b) IOC (R&D) has conducted field trials with various blends of *Jatropha* bio-diesel in diesel on railway locos and commercial vehicle.

Railway Network

3175. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the idea of having a single and unigauge railway network in the country floated long back is now finding favour and it has now been decided to undertake the execution of this challenging project;

(b) if so, the proposed parameters and formulations in this regard;

(c) the total length of Railways network in the country and its present break up in narrow, metre and broad gauges; and

(d) the details of priorities of starting the work, the time by which the said work is likely to be expanded for this ambitious project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a), (b) and (d) Under Project Unigauge taken up since 1992, 12,200 Kms of Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines have already been converted into Broad Gauge and works are in progress for another about 8,000 Kms as per availability of resources and planned for completion during XI Plan.

(c) The total route kms of Broad Gauge, Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge as on 31.3.2005 is given in Year Book 2004-05.

Tourism Industry In Karnataka

3176. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey carried out by Confederation of Indian Industry, Southern Region has revealed that the tourism sector posted the highest growth of nearly 30 per cent last year;

(b) if so, the details of the survey;

(c) whether tourism industry in Karnataka reported an over 25 per cent growth in profits in 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Southern Region, conducts bi-annual Industry Monitor Survey covering five core industries specific to States/UT of Southern Region comprising Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and UT of Pondicherry. Tourism is identified as a core industry of Kerala and Pondicherry by CII, and they conduct primary survey in the tourism sector in these two States/UTs only. Thus, CII do not cover tourism in Karnataka in their survey. Major findings of CII Survey, which is based upon the responses from selected companies within the industry, in respect of the performance of the tourism sector in Kerala and Pondicherry for April 2005-September 2005 and October 2005-March 2006 are as under:-

S.No.	Factor	Tourism Industry Performance for 2005-06 vis-a-vis 2004-05			
		Kerala		Pondicherry	
		Apr'05-Sep'05	Oct'05-Mar'06	Apr'05-Sep'05	Oct'05-Mar'06
1.	Inflow of tourists	Increased (up to 10%)	Increased (15-20%)	Increased (up to 10%)	Increased (10-20%)
2.	Foreign Exchange	Decreased (up to 10%)	Increased (20%)	Increased (up to 5%)	Increased (10%)
3.	Profit Margins	Same	Increased (5-10%)	Same	Same
4.	Employment	Same	Same	Same	Same

(c) and (d) As stated above, CII do not cover tourism in Karnataka in their survey. No estimates of profits in tourism industry in Karnataka are available with this Ministry.

Road Over-bridge at Paravoor

3177. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to construct road over-bridge at Paravoor, Kollam district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The work of Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 554 between Paravoor and Quilon has already been sanctioned in the Works Programme of 2006-07 on cost sharing basis with equal shares of Rs. 567.45 lakh of Railways and State Government. General Arrangement Drawing and Estimate are being prepared.

[Translation]

Changes in Auto Fuel Policy

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make some changes in Auto Fuel Policy in regard to implementation of European emission standard;

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

(c) whether the Government has also received representations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) As per the Auto Fuel Policy approved by the Government, following quality of fuel has been introduced all over the country:-

Fuel quality	States/cities	Date of introduction
Euro-III Petrol and Diesel	13 Cities (Delhi/National Capital Region, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur, Agra, Solapur and Lucknow)	1.04.2005
BS-II Petrol	All over country	1.04.2005
BS-II Diesel	All States except Rajasthan, West U.P, Uttaranchal, M.P, Punjab, H.P and Jammu & Kashmir	1.04.2005
	Rajasthan	1.06.2005
	West UP and Uttaranchal	1.07.2005
	Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh	1.09.2005
	Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir	1.10.2005

As per the road map provided in the Auto Fuel Policy, introduction of Euro IV equivalent norms in identified cities and Euro-III equivalent norms in the entire country is from 1.4.2010. It is subject to review based on the assessment of the impact of Bharat Stage-II norms in the entire country and Euro-III equivalent norms in identified cities. Ministry of Environment & Forests have initiated these studies in coordination with Central Pollution Control Board. It is expected that the final report based on data for three seasons would be compiled by October, 2007. The oil industry is

planning for introduction of Euro-IV norms in the year 2010 in line with the Auto Fuel Policy.

Representations regarding advancement of schedule of implementation of Euro-IV in selected cities and Euro-III in rest of the country have been received in this Ministry. However, it has not been possible to accede to such requests as the assessment of the impact of Euro III in selected cities and Bharat Stage II in rest of the country has not been made. Besides, fuel quality upgradation projects are highly capital intensive requiring a gestation period of 36-48 months.

[English]

Doubling of Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari Railway Line

3179. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering any proposal regarding doubling of Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari railway line to facilitate the national and international tourists to have an easy and comfortable travel to and from Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A survey for doubling of Trivandrum-Kanyakumari railway line has been taken up.

(c) This work is not sanctioned and as such, time frame is not feasible to be given.

Facilities to Rural Youths

3180. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete efforts are being made by Government to provide facilities to the rural youths for self-employment through setting up of food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to restrict the entry of multi-national companies and big industrial houses in the food processing industries based on agricultural products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Under the scheme of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance upto (i) Rs. 1 lakh for conduct of entrepreneurship development programme by providing training to prospective entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing units, (ii) Rs. 3 lakh for a single line and Rs. 9.5 lakh for a multi line food processing and training centre which will provide "hands-on" experience to rural entrepreneurs through Central/ State Govt. organizations, educational and training institution, industry organizations/ associations, Non Govt. organizations, co-operatives. The Ministry also provides grant for setting up of food processing units subject

to 25% of the plant & machinery & technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakh in difficult areas.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Regulatory Authority for Heavy Equipment and Hardware Industry

3181. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a regulatory authority for manufacturing and upkeep of heavy equipment and hardware in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) In so far as the Department of Heavy Industry is concerned, it deals with Auto, Heavy Electrical/Engineering & Machine Tools Sectors. At present, there is no proposal to set up any regulatory authority for these areas.

[English]

Expansion of Training Facilities at HMI

3182. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling celebrated its Golden Jubilee recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the celebrations;

(c) the number of persons trained by HMI so far;

(d) the number of foreign trainees, country-wise;

(e) whether there is any proposal to expand the training facilities at HMI so as to train a larger number of individuals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling founded in the year 1954 celebrated its Golden Jubilee from October 14-17, 2006. A number of activities such as Special Adventure Course, Open Sports Climbing competition, Adventure Film Festival, a Marathon Race, a Fun Race for

the public of Darjeeling, a Himalayan Photo Exhibition, release of special Journal and Souvenir were organized as part of Golden Jubilee Celebrations. It was also resolved to launch Cleaning Expeditions and efforts to maintain the delicate Himalayan Ecology. So far, approximately, 25,343 persons, including 1051 foreigners have been trained by Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. Review and improvement of training facilities at HMI is a continuous process which is carried out on need basis. The details of foreigners trained by the institute country wise are as under:-

Name of Country	No. of foreigners trained
1	2
Australia	88
Bangladesh	21
Belgium	06
Bhutan	127
Burma	04
Canada	03
China	01
Denmark	03
Dubai	16
Germany	03
Indonesia	01
Ireland	07
Israel	01
Kuwait	02
Libya	01
Malaysia	02
Malawi	01
Nepal	700
New Zealand	16
Norway	01
Pakistan	06
Sri Lanka	04
Switzerland	03
Tanzania	01

1	2
Thailand	06
U.A.E.	01
U.K.	06
U.S.A.	15
Zambia	03
Zimbabwe	02
Total	1051

[Translation]

Railway Platform in Uttaranchal

3183. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received complaints regarding poor performance of railway services in Uttaranchal State, Izzatnagar Division of North East Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon;

(d) whether there is only one platform at most of the junctions of this zone;

(e) if so, the details of such junctions;

(f) whether the Railways are contemplating to increase the number of platforms at these junctions; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Resentment among Orderly

3184. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orderly is responsible for the upkeep of the uniforms and weapons of the officers in the Army;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these Orderly have been engaged in household chores and private functions of

the Senior Officers even when they are posted out of the unit;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether such treatment often resulted in large scale resentment among the Orderly; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to define the duties of Orderly as per the rules and regulations of the Army?

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

(a) to (e) An orderly forms an integral part of the organization and carries out all normal soldierly duties.

The following duties have been assigned to orderlies:

- (i) To maintain officers/Junior Commissioned Officers weapons, uniforms and equipment in accordance with the custom and usage in the Army.
- (ii) To provide personal protection and security.
- (iii) To attend to telephones, receive and deliver messages during operations, training, and exercise and in peace.
- (iv) To assist in digging trenches, erect bivouacs and shelters during war, training or exercise while the leaders are busy in planning, coordinating and execution of operations.
- (v) To be of assistance during patrols and independent missions.
- (vi) To carry and operate radio sets, maps and other military equipment during operations, training cadres and outdoor exercises.

Special Booths for Blinds at Stations

3185. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that blind hawkers at the railway stations are being manhandled by the personnel of RPF/GRP;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which have come to notice of the Railways and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Railways have any plan to provide special booths at the railway stations for blind hawkers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per revised Catering Policy 2005, there is a provision of 2% reservation for physically/mentally challenged persons in the allotment of minor catering units.

COCO Outlets for BPCL

3186. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) outlets of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) are functioning in Delhi as on date;

(b) the Government's policy to allot COCO outlets to pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders;

(c) the details of pending LOI holders of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in Defence and other categories for commissioning of retail outlet in Delhi;

(d) whether all these retail outlets are required to be commissioned under Corpus Fund Scheme; and

(e) if so, the plan of the company to hand over these outlets?

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

(a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has six (6) permanent Company-Owned-Company -Operated (COCO) retail outlets (ROs) functioning in Delhi.

(b) The Ministry has advised public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) to formulate their own guidelines for handing over of temporary COCOs, subject to suitability, to pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders under special scheme (Operation Vijay-Kargil), Discretionary Quota Scheme, Corpus Fund Scheme (SCs/STs/widows and women above 40 years without earning parents) and other categories as prescribed in the Marketing Plan, in that order. In case no suitable LOI holders under these categories are available, then these dealerships are to be advertised for selection of dealers under normal selection process involving advertisement and interviews of all eligible candidates. Permanent COCO ROs are to be operated permanently by OMC themselves and hence they are not to be offered to any pending LOI holder.

(c) and (d) BPCL has 15 cases of pending LOI holders for ROs under various categories, which are pending for commissioning in Delhi and out of the above, six (6) ROs are to be commissioned under Corpus Fund Scheme. The details are enclosed as statement.

(e) BPCL intends to operate the six (6) COCO ROs in Delhi on a permanent basis and hence the Corporation has no plan to hand over them to any pending LOI holder.

Statement

BPCL's details of pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders for Retail Outlets (ROs) in NCT of Delhi under Government Marketing Plan.

Sl.No.	Name of LOI holders	Date of LOI	Corpus Fund eligibility	Category	Mkt. Plan
1.	Feroz Khan	11.7.1994	Yes	Discretionary Quota Scheme	Discretionary Quota Scheme
2.	Smt. Tanya Kappor	23.4.2001	Yes	DEF	1998-93-1
3.	Smt. Kajal Batra	24.4.2001	Yes	DEF	2/3 Wheeler
4.	Shri D.N. Tara	22.6.2001	No	Freedom Fighter	2/3 Wheeler
5.	Smt. Neelam Singh Solanki	28.9.2001	No	OPEN (W)	1999-2000
6.	Ms Jaya Rashmi	23.2.2004	Yes	SC	1999-2000
7.	Mr Subhash Chandra Daga	24.3.2004	No	OPEN	1990-2000
8.	Mr Bhupesh Kumar Ratawal	25.9.2004	Yes	SC	1988-93 (II)
9.	Mr. Yogesh Malik	31.12.2004	Yes	Discretionary Quota Scheme	Discretionary Quota Scheme

Details of pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders for Retail Outlets in NCT of Delhi under BPCL Marketing Plan

1.	M/s Vikas Roadlines	27.1.2004	No	OPEN	BPCL Mktg. Plan
2.	Mr Gajinder Yadav	5.8.2004	No	OPEN	BPCL Mktg. Plan
3.	Mr Sushil Kumar Mittal	5.8.2004	No	OPEN	BPCL Mktg. Plan
4.	Surishtha Tiwary	16.8.2004	No	OPEN	BPCL Mktg. Plan
5.	Tarachand	25.8.2005	No	OPEN	BPCL Mktg. Plan
6.	Deepak Gupta	25.8.2005	No	OPEN	BPCL Mktg. Plan

[Translation]

CPSUs in Uttar Pradesh

3187. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the profit/losses incurred by these CPSUs during the last five years;

(c) the details of such CPSUs which are lying closed; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the

Government to revive them and improve the performance of functional CPSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) As per latest Public Enterprises Survey, as on 31.3.2005, there were 12 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) having their registered offices in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The details of these CPSEs in terms of their profit/losses etc. for last five years are enclosed as statement.

(d) Government has constituted a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004 to undertake task of strengthening, modernizing, reviving, and restructuring of loss making CPSEs. BRPSE has considered and given recommendations in respect of 5 CPSEs registered in Uttar Pradesh.

Proposals in respect of British India Corporation Ltd. and NTC Ltd. which includes subsidiary namely NTC (Uttar

Pradesh) Ltd. have already been approved by the Government. Details are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Details of Net Profit/Loss (-) of CPSEs in Uttar Pradesh (as per their Registered Office) during last five years.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of CPSEs with their Regd. Office in the State of Uttar Pradesh	Profit/Loss (-)				
		2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
1	Artificial Limbs Mfg. Corpn. of India, Kanpur	341	809	802	274	51
2	Bharat Immunologicals & Biologicals Corp. Ltd., Bulandshaahar	133	6678	-1793	-716	87
3	Bharat Leather Co. Ltd., Agra \$	NA	-319	-309	-754	-242
4	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., Allahabad	-1086	-2494	-1292	-1246	-559
5	Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd., Allahabad	1	0	0	1	1
6	British India Corporation Ltd. Kanpur	NA	2175	6537	-4611	-3741
7	Broadcast Engg. Consultants India Ltd., Noida	130	109	90	88	88
8	Brushware Ltd., Kanpur \$	NA	-59	-5	-5	-5
9	National Handloom Developmet Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	78	145	211	34	32
10	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd., Kanpur	-4633	43512	-32996	-7935	-13568
11	Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow	139	316	265	226	510
12	Triveni Structurals Ltd., Allahabad	NA	NA	-2625	-1223	-4592

Source: Public Enterprises Survey 2004-05, 2003-04 and 2002-03.

NA Not Available

\$ No production in the company

Name of the CPSEs for which BRPSE has made recommendations:

1. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., Allahabad
2. British India Corporation Ltd., Kanpur
3. NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd., Kanpur
4. Triveni Structurals Ltd., Allahabad
5. Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd., Allahabad

In respect of CPSEs at Sl. No. 2 & 3 above, Govt. has also approved the revival proposal. Further in respect of CPSE at Sl. No. 5, BRPSE has recommended winding up.

[English]

Visitors to Golconda Fort

3188. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of visitors who visit Golconda Fort everyday including visitors who visited the fort during each of the last three years;

(b) the rate of entry ticket for fort; and

(c) the total revenue earned from the sale of tickets during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The average number of visitors who visit Golconda Fort is 2000- 2500. The details of visitors to the fort for the last three years and also for the current financial year upto November, 2006 are as under:

Year	Number of visitors		
	Indian	Foreign	Total
2003-04	687718	8596	696314
2004-05	779818	10751	790569
2005-06	803986	13803	817789
2006-07 (upto Nov.06)	657346	8485	665831

(b) The rate of entry fee is as under:

Indian citizen:	Rs.5/- per head
Foreign visitor:	US\$ 2 or corresponding to Rs.100/-per head

(c) The details of revenue earned from sale of entrance tickets during the last three years and also for the current financial year upto Nov. 2006 are as under:

	Rs.	US \$
2003-04	4222240	1358
2004-05	4892790	1628
2005-06	5299530	2014
2006-07 (upto Nov.06)	4072830	1248

Upgradation of 130 MM Guns

**3189. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:**

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Question Nos. 3313 and 3538 on March 24, 2005 and August 18, 2005 respectively regarding upgradation of 130 MM gun and state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has completed the investigation into the alleged irregularities in the contract for the upgradation of 130 MM Gun;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the firms/persons found guilty; and

(c) if not, the time by which the investigation by the CBI is likely to be completed?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No time frame has been fixed in this regard.

Exploration of Oil and Gas by ONGC

3190. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil and natural gas exploration projects undertaken and completed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is exploring gas and oil reserves in the Himalayan region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the expenditure likely to be incurred on the same and the duration of such programme?

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

(a) During the last three years (2003-06), as on 1.4.2006, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has completed acquisition of 6745 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2 Dimension (2D) seismic, 6131 square kilometre of 3D seismic and drilled 244 exploratory wells in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

In the current year 2006-07, as on 1.10.2006, ONGC has completed acquisition of 839 GLK of 2D seismic, 1809 sq. km. of 3D seismic and drilled 35 exploratory wells in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Tripura.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) ONGC, since its inception, has been carrying out exploration activities in the lower Himalayan foothills in the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. ONGC has already acquired 8310 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilled 19 well without any commercial success so far.

During X Plan period, ONGC had envisaged 225 GLK 2D-seismic data acquisition and drilling of three exploratory wells in the Himalayan Foreland basin area falling in the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh with a financial plan outlay of Rs.77.30 crores. As on 1.10.2006, ONGC has already carried out 2D seismic of 718 GLK and drilled two exploratory wells incurring an expenditure of Rs. 134.40 crores.

Currently, ONGC is holding two Petroleum Exploration Licenses, viz. Kangra-Mandi and HF-ONN-2001/1 in the Himalayan Region falling in the state of Himachal Pradesh for carrying out exploration for hydrocarbons. Exploration license in these acreages will continue partly into XI plan period.

Broad Gauge Railway Line from Gunupur to Therubali Railway Station

3191. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the techno-economic survey of BG Line from Gunupur Railway Station to Therubali Railway Station has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the locations and routes; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to include the construction of these BG Line in Eleventh Plan as missing link railway line under East Coast Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The bankability study of extension of Naupada-Gunupur line beyond Gunupur up to Theruvalli via Kujendri, Penkam Road, Ramnagunda, Devia, Bamkill, Durgi and Kodda Bhatta has been completed. The study report has been examined and the project has been found non-bankable.

Garg Commission on Khanna Rail Accident

3192. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had appointed Garg Commission to inquire into the causes of rail accident which took place near Khanna Railway Station during 1998;

(b) if so, the date on which the Commission had submitted its report;

(c) whether the Railways had issued amendment to specification for rails much before the submission of Garg Commission Report as reported in 'Indian Express' dated November 28, 2006;

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

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

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

(b) The Commission has submitted its report on 16.07.2004.

(c) and (d) Railways have issued three amendments to the rail manufacturing specifications of 1998 before the submission of the Garg Commission Report.

(e) Action Taken Report of the Government has been laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 12/13.5.2005.

Majuli Island

3193. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the additional information as sought by the World Heritage Committee in respect of the nomination of Majuli Island as World Heritage Site has been collected in order to resubmit the Dossier in time;

(b) if so, details of the progress made so far indicating the agencies entrusted and target set against each parameter; and

(c) if not, status thereof and target set for its fulfilment of this assurance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The proposal for inscription of Majuli Island as a World Heritage Site was referred to the State Party by the World Heritage Committee in its 30th session held at Vilnius (Lithuania) for additional information.

The Archaeological Survey of India had detailed discussions with the Government of Assam in the matter of collection of additional data as sought by the World Heritage Committee and expert groups have been constituted for this purpose. The process of collection of additional information in this regard is in progress.

It is expected that the required additional information would be collected and compiled within a period of 3-4 months, which would be sent to the World Heritage Centre.

[Translation]

Bharatkhand Halt between Pasraha and Narayanpur

3194. SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for converting Bharatkhand Halt between Pasraha and Narayanpur under Sonpur division of East Central Railway into a crossing station during the current financial year;

(b) whether the building & platform constructed by the contractor on the basis of tender is not up to the mark and cracks have also developed in them;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for construction of Bharatkhand station building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) A sum of Rs.10 lakh has been allocated during the current financial year for the work.

(b) and (c) There is settlement in flooring of the building and disturbance to platform coping concrete blocks. Necessary corrective steps of re-setting and repair have been taken up.

(d) After carrying out necessary repairs, existing building can be used for the purpose.

[English]

Fruit Drinks

3195. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the branded fruit drinks being sold in the country do not have any fruit content in reality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints about it; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The fruit drinks are required to be licensed under Fruit Products Order (FPO), 1955 before they are manufactured and marketed. As per FPO specifications the fruit drinks are required to contain a minimum amount of 10% of fruit juice. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not received any complaint regarding the fruit content in fruit drinks.

Alleged Irregularities in Appointments

3196. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.2978 dated May 11, 2006 regarding 'Alleged Irregularities in appointments' and to state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to cancel the appointments of persons against whom enquiries are pending with CVC?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) vigilance clearance was withheld in recent past in the cases of three candidates included in the panels recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board for selection of following posts:-

1. Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
2. CMD, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd.
3. CMD, Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd.

(c) None of the candidates not having vigilance clearance was appointed to the respective posts in these Central Public Sector Enterprises.

Dealership to Land Owners

3197. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IBP Company Ltd. had awarded the dealership to the land owners or their nominees after the dismantling of APM w.e.f. April 01, 2002 against policy;

(b) if so, whether the Government had ordered any enquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) IBP Company Limited (IBP) has stated that it has awarded dealerships under the land owners category to the land owners or to their nominees after the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. April 1, 2002 as envisaged in its extant policy/ guidelines. However, as and when complaints about violation of policy/guidelines are received, the same are examined as per grievance redressal mechanism of IBP. Though, the Government has not ordered any inquiry in this regard, however, IBP has been asked to look into any violations in the matter.

Allotment of COCO Outlets to Dependents of Kargil Martyrs

3198. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued a letter in October, 2004 to allot all the COCOs developed under a-site marketing plan locations to Kargil beneficiaries;

(b) If so, the number of such COCOs are being run by marketing companies and the number of LOI belonging to Kargil category are pending alongwith reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear all such pending cases expeditiously?

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

(a) The Ministry, through its letter of 25.10.2004 had advised public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) that:

- (i) The COCOs located at 'A' site Marketing Plan locations, will be handed over to the dealers who have been formally selected for those locations in accordance with the guidelines.
- (ii) In case of other COCOs, only the LOI-holders under the Special Scheme (Operation Vijay - Kargil) (OVSS) and those under the discretionary quota, may be considered for award of COCO dealerships. The inter se priority for OVSS will be as per the recommendation of the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence.

Further, Ministry vide its letter dated 6.9.2006 has advised that the industry may pool their temporary COCO ROs for offering to the categories under special scheme (Operation Vijay - Kargil) and discretionary quota scheme. In case no LOI-holder under these categories are available, then these dealerships should be advertised for selection of dealers under normal process.

(b) and (c) As on 30.11.2006, 28 retail outlet dealerships allotted to widows/dependents of defence personnel killed in action during 'Operation Vijay' (Kargil) were pending for commissioning due to various reasons, such as non-availability of land at the location selected by the allottees, non-issuance of necessary clearance from various statutory authorities, non-acceptance of temporary COCO ROs by allottee, etc., which are beyond the control of the Ministry or the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). This Ministry has been requesting the concerned Ministries/State Governments for expediting the allotment of land / issuance of necessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs). OMCs have been advised to coordinate with Director General Resettlement, Ministry of Defence for counseling the allottees to accept feasible/viable options at the earliest like accepting suitable temporary COCO ROs, LPG agencies, change of location, etc.

Agreement with ASEAN Airlines

3199. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the open air agreement with ASEAN countries and the status of the agreement as on date;

(b) whether National carriages are plagued with shortage of aircraft and not able to compete with other airlines of ASEAN countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As per our ASEAN offer, a daily service to four metropolitan cities viz. Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai and an unlimited access to 18 tourist destinations in India had been offered to the designated airlines of all 10 ASEAN countries. Among these ASEAN countries, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam have already accepted this offer.

(b) and (c) With a view to improve passenger-seat utilization, both the national carriers have taken various steps. Air India has launched its low cost carrier, Air India Express. The services of Air India Express will be progressively expanded to South East Asia and other Regions. Both the airlines are in the process of acquiring new aircraft, which will substantially enhance their product. Dry leasing of aircraft, refurbishing of existing aircraft, launching of special promotional schemes, closing of uneconomical offices, downsizing and re-deployment of staff and outsourcing of non-core activities to subsidiary companies etc. are other steps being taken in this direction.

Corpus Fund of Maulana Azad Education Foundation

3200. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to double the corpus fund of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) to expand its coverage and effectiveness in implementing educational schemes and plans for the benefits of the educationally backward minorities as reported in The Hindu dated December 01, 2006;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of NGOs got financial assistance from the MAEF during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement educational schemes and plans for the benefits of the educationally backward minorities; and

(e) the extent to which this is likely to help to literate the minorities in particular and weaker sections in general?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Government of India has decided to enhance the corpus fund of Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) from Rs.100 crores to Rs.200 crores.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of Minorities inter-alia focuses on improving access to school education, providing greater resources for teaching Urdu, modernizing Madrasa education, providing Scholarships for meritorious students from minority communities and improving educational infrastructure through the Maulana Azad Education Foundation.

Statement

S.No.	States/U.Ts	Year-wise no. of NGOs assisted by MAEF		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	6	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
3.	Assam	1	-	-
4.	Bihar	-	1	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-
6.	Goa	-	2	-
7.	Gujarat	-	7	3
8.	Haryana	-	2	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	4	-
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	-
12.	Karnataka	3	3	2
13.	Kerala	-	4	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12	3	1
15.	Maharashtra	9	27	8
16.	Manipur	2	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	-	-	-
18.	Mizoram	-	-	-
19.	Nagaland	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Orissa	-	3	-
21.	Punjab	-	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	1	5	-
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	4	-
25.	Tripura	-	-	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13	27	20
27.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-
28.	West Bengal	2	3	-
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-
30.	Chandigarh	-	-	-
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
32.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-
33.	Delhi	-	1	-
34.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	-	-	-
Total		48	102	44

Joint Bid by India and China for Acquisition of Oil Fields

3201. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether India and China have decided to bid jointly for global acquisition of oilfields in future;

(b) if so, the terms and condition of this joint venture;

(c) whether any Memorandum of Agreement has been signed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the proposed joint venture would come into force?

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

(a) to (e) The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India and the National Development &

Reforms Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12.1.2006 for enhancing cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas.

The MoU envisages to pursue investment opportunities in third countries by submitting joint bids for equity participation in oil producing fields and Exploration and Production (E&P) contracts; enhancing domestic capabilities and resources through joint pursuit of R&D proposals particularly in the areas of increased oil recovery and enhanced oil recovery in order to boost domestic production; mobilize national capabilities in the areas of Engineering and Petroleum services through joint ventures both in each other's countries and in third countries; bring together their significant position in the international oil market by exploring the possibility of joint purchases of crude oil and gas, etc.

ONGC Videsh Limitd (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) engaged in overseas E&P of oil and gas, is one of the joint partners with Chinese firms in the E&P projects taken up in Sudan, Syria, Colombia and Nigeria Sao Tome Principe.

Oversight Committee for Petroleum and Fertilizer Sectors

3202. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to authorise the GAIL(India) Ltd. to search for sources of Liquefied Natural Gas for fertilizer sector and pricing of gas;

(b) if so, whether the Government has also decided to put in place an Oversight Committee for Petroleum and Fertilizer Sectors;

(c) if so, the details of the constitution and functions of the different authorities and entities; and

(d) the steps taken so far in the matter?

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

(a) Presently, there is a large gap between demand and supply of natural gas in the country. One of the options to bridge this gap is to import natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). GAIL and other agencies are continuing their efforts to source LNG at a reasonable price for various gas consumers, including fertilizer sector. GAIL is holding discussions with various potential suppliers in Australia, Algeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar, Nigeria and Myanmar for import of LNG.

(b) to (d) Department of Fertilizers vide order dated December 6, 2006 has constituted a Committee with the following composition and terms of reference:-

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas | Chairman |
| 2. Secretary, Planning Commission | Member |
| 3. Secretary, Department of Fertilizers | Member |
| 4. Secretary, Department of Expenditure | Member |

Terms of Reference:

- (i) To deliberate upon the issues relating to connectivity and assured supply of gas as per the demand projections to the fertilizer sector.
- (ii) To develop an appropriate mechanism for fixing the price of gas in a transparent manner.
- (iii) Any other matter that the Committee thinks fit.

The Committee will be serviced by the Department of Fertilizers.

Department of Fertilizers(DOF) will take further action in the matter, as it is the nodal Department to service the Committee.

[Translation]

Shifting of Jodhpur Airport

3203. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Civil Airport of Jodhpur in Rajasthan to some other place;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Adoption of Villages for Development

3204. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to adopt villages for development by the defence public sector companies; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department of Defence Production has recently taken a decision that Defence Public Sector Undertakings should discharge social responsibility as part of their corporate plan and start activities in a systematic manner. Though Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) are carrying out some service or assistance in the neighbourhood area but a concrete effort to create replicable models of integrated and sustainable village development may include water management system, Health care system, Training and Education system and Income generation programmes.

[Translation]

Discovery of Methane Gas in Jharkhand

3205. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether methane gas reserves have been found in Devghara Village of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated availability of gas;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to explore gas from the said reserves;

(d) whether the Government has received representations regarding problems being faced by the villagers of the said site;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Devghara Village of Jharkhand is located in the CBM block Jharia which has been awarded to ONGC and CIL consortium for exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane (CBM). CBM reserves have not been established so far in this block, which is at exploration stage.

(d) and (e) The Devghara Gramin Samiti has submitted a representation to ONGC with the following demands:-

- (i) Complete security with regard to financial rehabilitation and employment.
- (ii) Land acquisition through Government should not be permitted without permanent rehabilitation package and unemployed youth of village shall have to be engaged in construction activities.

(iii) Training in skilled jobs for one person of each family of the village will have to be arranged and Government shall ensure employment for them.

(iv) ONGC shall give importance to development and progress of Devghara village.

(f) The local youth are regularly engaged by ONGC in consultation with the Village Samiti for construction activities. ONGC as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy, takes up welfare activities in its project areas.

[English]

Committee on Dalit Harassment

3206. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Thorat, Chairman, UGC to look out the complaints of Dalit harassment;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the recommendations given by the Committee and follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted the Committee to look into the complaints from Members of Parliament, media reports and other representations on the alleged harassment to SC/ST students in All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation to Minorities in Jobs and Education

3207. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission has suggested for making provisions for reservation for Muslims and minorities in jobs and education;

- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether any State-wise survey has been conducted or proposed to be conducted in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Entry of Private Helicopter without Permission

3208. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a helicopter of private airline entered Jodhpur and landed at the Jodhpur Airport without the permission from the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 8, 2006;

- (b) if so, the details and the facts thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Summit Aviation helicopter operated the flight planned from Jaipur to Mandore on 21.10.2006, which however landed at Jodhpur Palace.

(c) The incident is under investigation by Directorate General of Civil Aviation. Action as appropriate would be taken on the basis of the investigation report.

Railway Line from Chandranathpur to Guwahati

3209. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that a survey was conducted in the 80's for construction of new railway line from Chandranathpur to Guwahati via Lanka and Jagi Road that would reduce travel time from Barak Valley to Guwahati by 8 hours;

- (b) if so, the details of findings of the survey;

(c) whether construction work of new line was viewed feasible; and

(d) If not, the duration of the survey, cost incurred for its conduction, and the reason for it inconclusive termination despite the immense benefits the new rail line could have provided to such a large population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A survey for construction of new broad gauge line between Lanka and Silchar (209 km) was carried out during 1984-85 and the same was updated including alternative broad gauge conversion of existing meter gauge line from Lumding to Silchar via Chandranathpur in the year 1995-96. As per the survey, the cost of construction of the new line was assessed as Rs.2168 crore with negative rate of return. The alternative of conversion was approved and taken up considering various technical & financial aspects into view.

The updating survey was completed in about 9 months time at a cost of Rs.6.25 lakhs.

Reserved and Surplus of CPSE

3210. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have reserve and surplus of more than Rs. 3 lakh crore;

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

(c) whether debt equity ratio of 80:20 has been permitted to private sector for new projects in the country;

(d) if so, whether the same would be permitted to CPSEs also;

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

(f) the details of the maximum resources which can be mobilized from debt market by the CPSEs against above reserves?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) As per the latest issue of Public Enterprises Survey, as on 31.3.2005, all 237 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) taken together had reserves and surplus of Rs. 3.10 lakh crore.

(c) At present, all credit related matters of commercial banks are deregulated by the Reserve Bank of India. As such, no debt equity ratio has been prescribed for credit extended by the banks to public/private enterprises.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) The extent and quantum of debt which CPSEs employ for financing their investment plans depends on a number of factors, which inter-alia, include internal generation of resources, capacity and scope for new investment, financial viability of the project, nature of the sector, commercial decision of management etc. Hence the level of reserves alone can not determine the maximum resources which can be mobilized from the debt market.

[Translation]

**Reallocation of Consumers among
LPG Dealers**

3211. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas dealers of various oil companies operating in Siddharth Nagar, Muzaffarnagar, Azamgarh districts in Uttar Pradesh and the Rishikesh and Haridwar districts in Uttaranchal alongwith the names and addresses of each of the said dealers company-wise;

(b) the number of consumers with each of the said dealers till October 31, 2006;

(c) whether the dealers who have more than 10,000 consumers are unable to provide gas cylinders to the consumers in time;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reallocate the number of consumers amongst the dealers who have more than ten thousand consumers and the dealers who have a lesser number of consumers; and

(e) if so, the time by which reallocation is likely to be effected?

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

(a) and (b) At present, 3 Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are marketing LPG in Siddharth Nagar, Muzaffarnagar, Azamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rishikesh and Haridwar district in Uttaranchal. As on 31.10.2006, OMCs are operating 53 LPG distributorships and 28 LPG distributorships in these districts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal respectively. Through these distributorships, OMCs are serving about 3.69 lakh and 2.08 lakh customers respectively. The details regarding name and address of LPG distributorships and their customer strength are available with Directors(Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

(c) No, Sir. The genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors is being fully met.

(d) and (e) Government have since reviewed the policy on transfer of customers and now intercompany transfer of customers is not allowed as a matter of policy. However, OMCs have reported that the restructuring of distributors who are operating above ceiling limit is a regular process and is being done based on market requirement.

[English]

Non-availability of Wax

3212. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of wax during the last two years the industries relating to this product are being closed, particularly in West Bengal and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) and (b) The demand of Paraffin wax in Bihar and West Bengal is generally met through paraffin wax produced by IOC at its Digboi Refinery. The average production of paraffin wax type-II at Digboi Refinery during 2004-05 was 3032 MTs/month, whereas in the year 2005-06 it was 3016 MTs/month. In the state of Bihar due to imposition of entry tax effective 01.04.04, the upliftment by distributors for resale has considerably reduced.

(c) While oil companies will continue to maintain their production / supply of Paraffin Wax to meet the existing demands, Government have decontrolled the import of Paraffin Wax and consuming companies are free to import directly their requirements of paraffin wax and match wax.

Protocol Entry Passes to Legitimate Officials

3213. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.3020 on May 11, 2006 regarding 'Issue of Airport Entry Passes' and to state:

(a) the details of the Airport Entry Passes (AEP) issued for legitimate official operational, protocol and facilitation purposes during each of the last three years, category-wise;

(b) whether some of the protocol/legitimate officials were denied to issue of AEP during the last three years under the same guidelines/procedure;

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

(d) whether the authorised protocol personal assistants of the public representatives are not included in existing guidelines/procedure for issue of an AEP;

(e) If so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to include the said protocol officials in the existing guidelines/procedures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, a total of 89149, 63823 and 52692 airport entry passes were issued respectively for official/operational purposes. During the same period, 7088, 6577 and 10442 airport entry passes; were issued respectively for protocol/facilitation purposes.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) In order to limit the entry of visitors to civil airports to the minimum due to the sensitive security environment, only two Airport Entry Passes are allowed to personal staff of each of the Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State, & Deputy Ministers, as per the present policy.

(f) There is no proposal to include any other category of public representatives in the existing guidelines.

Establishment of Firing Range in A.P.

3214. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish firing range in Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the land required for the purpose has been acquired;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the land is likely to be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The proposal to establish a field firing range in Rajkonda area of Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy districts of Andhra Pradesh is in its preliminary phase.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) The land acquisition process would commence only after the completion of the detailed survey by the revenue officials of the concerned districts.

Performance of Navratna/Miniratna CPSEs

3215. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of Navratna/Miniratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs);

(b) If so, the details thereof, CPSE-wise;

(c) whether the status of Navratna/Miniratna of some of the CPSEs have been withdrawn/proposed to be withdrawn;

(d) If so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to boost the performance and operations of the above CPSEs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) and (b) The performance of the Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) was reviewed by the Apex Committee in 2005 and the performance of Miniratna CPSEs was reviewed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee during the year 2003-04.

(c) and (d) The grant/divestment of the Miniratna status is decided by the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments. Based on the reviews, the Inter-Ministerial Committee had advised the various Administrative Ministries/Departments to examine the Miniratna status of concerned CPSEs in light of the laid down criteria. The Miniratna status of 2 CPSEs, viz. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited and FACT Limited has since been withdrawn by their concerned Administrative Ministry/Department.

(e) The Government has recently delegated enhanced powers to the Boards of Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs in the area of capital expenditure, investment in joint ventures/subsidiaries, human resources management, mergers & acquisitions and approval of business tours abroad of functional directors.

[Translation]

Archaeological Tribal Heritage

3216. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to protect and preserve archaeological tribal heritage, the fort constructed during the period of Rani Durgawati in Jabalpur, the birth place of Rani Durgawati, Ramnagar fort and artifacts;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up tribal Museums in Bhopal and Delhi to promote the tribal culture and to give patronage to the tribal artists and also to provide employment to them; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The fort constructed during the period of Rani Durgawati in Jabalpur, the birth place of Rani Durgawati, Ramnagar fort, etc. are not centrally protected monuments. However, the Madan Mahal Fort built by Raja Madan Singh, a Gond Ruler in 1100 A.D. is a protected monument under the control of Archaeological Survey of India. This is also associated with Rani Durgawati, who ruled over the area from 1549 to 1564.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Research & Training: Grant-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes" releases funds to the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) on 50:50 matching share basis, based on the proposal submitted by the State Governments for research and training activities; evaluation studies; publication; library etc. and for setting up and maintenance of tribal museums. Setting up of Tribal Museum is one of the activities of the TRIs to preserve, develop and exhibit the tribal arts material culture.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been provided with funds for setting up of Tribal Museum at Bhopal under the above scheme. There is no proposal to set up Tribal Museum at Delhi.

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) under the Ministry of Culture has also been established at Bhopal to promote the tribal culture and patronize the tribal artists from the different states.

Facilities to Soldiers Deployed in J&K

3217. **SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of soldiers has been killed in Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, whether any special facility is given to the soldiers deployed in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the geographical conditions and terrorist activities there;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether compensation has been given to the families of those soldiers killed there; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) A total number of 180 Army personnel including 12 officers have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in the counter insurgency operations during the period from 1.1.2006 to 5.12.2006.

The Army personnel deployed in J&K are provided the following special facilities:-

(i) Payment of Special Compensatory Counter Insurgency Allowance (SCCIA) at the three rates depending on the deployment of soldiers in field areas, modified field areas and peace areas.

(ii) Free conveyance of families of the officers and personnel below officer rank from old duty station to home or a selected place of residence in India, or alternatively retention of Government married accommodation/separated family accommodation occupied by the officers/personnel prior to their posting to Srinagar, and from there to new duty station on posting.

(iii) Conveyance of the baggage to home town/selected place of residence by the family soldier subject to the maximum admissible entitlement.

(iv) Retention of married accommodation by the widow of the soldier for additional period of one year further extendable by another six months in exceptional circumstances over and above the period of two years on payment of normal rent plus allied charges.

The families of Army Personnel killed in Jammu & Kashmir in addition to the admissible pensionary benefits and encashment of leave are eligible for air/rail travel concessions, reservation of seats in professional institutes and other concessions in educational institutions, priority/concession in telephone connection, allotment of oil product agencies under 8% Defence quota, assistance from Army Wives Welfare Association, Army Officers Benevolent Fund, Army Central Welfare Fund and assistance from Army Welfare Corpus for marriage of daughter and agro based venture. Besides, 3% of reservation for housing to widows is provided by Army Welfare Housing Organisation.

The families of the Army Personnel who are killed and declared battle casualties are granted ex-gratia compensation in the range of Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.7.5 lakhs and compensation under the Army Group Insurance of Rs.15 lakhs in case of officers and Rs.7.5 lakhs in case of personnel below officer ranks. Besides, soldiers who are

killed in Counter insurgency Operations in J&K are provided ex-gratia of Rs.2 lakhs by the State Government of J&K.

Development of Brahmos Missile

3218. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds provided by the Government for the development of Brahmos missile and its future version;
- (b) whether any decision has been taken to further improve and increase the striking range in its future version; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The Joint Venture BrahMos was established through Inter-Government Agreement in February 1998 for design, development, production and marketing of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with share capital of \$250 million, contributed by India and Russia in the ratio of 50.5% and 49.5% respectively. The share capital was enhanced by \$50 millions to include the development of aircraft version of the missile. Therefore, the contribution from the Indian side was Rs.634 crore. DRDO also contributed Rs.370 crore to realize the required infrastructure, technologies, production facilities to realize the system for Indian Armed Forces.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Call Centres for Railway Enquiries

3219. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have decided to out-source the customer service by setting up a dedicated call centre by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to handle enquiries on reservation and other passenger information;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this call centre facility is likely to be later extended to cover on-line bookings;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the share likely to be paid to the Railways by BSNL out of revenue generated by telephonic enquiries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) and (b) Bids were invited from firms/consortiums of firms for franchising of Integrated

Train Enquiry System consisting of establishment, operation and maintenance of zonal hubs which will be linked with regional call centres being set up by Rail Enquiry franchisee.

The system will consist of both Interactive Voice Response System and manual enquiry for dissemination of information on train running status, reservation status of passenger, availability of accommodation and other value added services.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Customer will be able to get reservation through these call centres which will be interfaced with the website www.irctc.co.in.

(e) Enquiry system is yet to start, hence no earnings estimates can be given at this stage.

[Translation]

Expansion Plan by HPCL

3220. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

- (a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. proposes to invest a huge amount on the expansion of its retail business till March, 2007;
- (b) if so, the detail thereof;
- (c) the details of the outlets proposed to be opened/upgraded in the country, State-wise; and
- (d) the further steps taken by HPCL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) plans to invest Rs. 918 crore on retail outlets (ROs) during 2006-07. The details of the proposed investment are as follows:

		Rs. (in crores)
Nature of investment		Amount
1.	Setting up new retail outlets	155.00
2.	Modernisation/Upgradation of existing outlets	174.00
3.	Automation of retail outlets	217.00
4.	Procurement of equipment	175.00
5.	Other (Auto LPG/Vapour Recovery etc.)	197.00
		918.00

(c) and (d) HPCL intends setting up 800 new ROs and upgrade/modernize 966 existing ROs during 2006-07. The State-wise details of proposed new ROs and proposed upgradation/modernisation of existing retail outlets during 2006-07 are enclosed as statement. HPCL has commissioned 398 ROs and upgraded/modernised 274 ROs between April, 2006 and October, 2006.

Statement

State-wise number of new Retail Outlets (ROs) planned to be set up and number of existing ROs planned for modernization/upgradation during the year 2006-07 by HPCL.

Sl.No.State	No. of new ROs proposed to be commissioned during 2006-07	No. of existing ROs proposed to be modernized/ upgraded during 2006-07
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	75	80
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3. Assam	10	13
4. Bihar	20	12
5. Chhattisgarh	10	27
6. Delhi	10	31
7. Gujarat	40	82
8. Goa	1	10
9. Haryana	19	48
10. Himachal Pradesh	10	1
11. Jammu and Kashmir	10	12
12. Jharkhand	20	14
13. Karnataka	55	27
14. Kerala	45	57
15. Madhya Pradesh	30	57
16. Maharashtra	75	106
17. Manipur	0	0
18. Meghalaya	0	5
19. Mizoram	0	0

1	2	3	4
20.	Nagaland	0	0
21.	Orissa	20	12
22.	Punjab	55	61
23.	Rajasthan	70	92
24.	Sikkim	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	50	63
26.	Tripura	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	30	9
28.	Uttar Pradesh	115	55
29.	West Bengal	25	54
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	23
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	5	0
Total		800	966

Direct Train between Indore and Bangalore

3221. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start direct train service between Indore and Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said train service is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of Rail Overbridges on Railway Crossings

3222. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded some proposals for construction of overbridges on railway crossings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the places where the overbridges are proposed to be constructed and the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to the proposals?

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

(b) and (c) In all 27 proposals were received from the State Govt. which are detailed below. Out of these 17 proposals (4 in the Supplementary Demands for Grants Dec. 2006 and 13 in regular Budget) have been sanctioned on cost sharing basis which are at different stages of planning and execution. 6 proposals are being examined for inclusion in the Works Programme of 2007-08, 3 proposals have not been found feasible as State Govt. has not fulfilled the preliminary prerequisites whereas remaining 1 proposal do not qualify for replacement by Road Over/Under bridges on cost sharing basis. List given below:

A. (I) Works sanctioned on Cost Sharing Basis (Supplementary, Dec, 2006-07)

1. Level crossing No. 161A (Tarang Crossing) between Gorakhpur-Domimgarh at Km. 506/10-11.
2. Level crossing No. 163 (Sura) Kund) between Gorakhpur-Domimgarh at Km. 508/10-11.
3. Level crossing No.84 B near Chilibila on Sultanpur-Pratapgarh Sec. at Km. 903/11-12.
4. Level crossing No.532 on Vrindavan-Radhakund Marg in Mathura Distt. on Mathura-Palwal Sec.

A. (II) Works sanctioned on Cost Sharing Basis (Regular Budget 2006-07)

5. Level crossing No.48 near Fatehpur in Allahabad-Kanpur Sec. at Km. 941/25-27.
6. Level crossing No.81D near Kanpur on Allahabad-Kanpur Sec. at Km. 1018/S7-S8.
7. Level crossing No. 158 between Gorakhpur-Gorakhpur Cantt. Stations.
8. Level crossing No.2 between Kanpur Anwarganj-Rawatpur stations.
9. Level crossing No.29A between Azamgarh-Sarai Rani Stations.
10. Level crossing No.4-C at Ghaziabad on Ghaziabad-Saharanpur Sec.
11. Level crossing No.120 at Falzabad yard on Lucknow-Varanasi Sec. at Km. 986/17-18

12. Level crossing No. 178 at Raibareilly on Lucknow-Raibareilly Sec. at Km. 1026/7-8.

13. Level crossing No.30-A at Meerut Cantt. in Ghaziabad-Saharanpur Sec. at Km. 72/5-8.

14. Level crossing No.53A at Muzaffarpur Nagar on Ghaziabad-Saharanpur Sec. at Km. 67/10-11.

15. Level crossing No.41 Spl. 74 Spl. at Hapur on Hapur-Meerut and Ghaziabad-Muradabad Sec at Km. 64/10-11 & 105/8-9.

16. Level crossing No.98 Spl. at Ghaziabad on Ghaziabad-Moradabad Sec.

17. Level crossing No. 26A in Meerut City.

B. Under consideration for inclusion in Works Programme 2007-08

1. Level crossing No.413-A at Rampur on Moradabad-Lucknow Sec.

2. Level crossing No.119B/3E at Persoundha between Chunar and Mughal Sarai Sec. at Km. 692/15-17.

3. Level crossing No.62-A on Allahabad-Kanpur Sec. at Km. 973/29-31.

4. Level crossing No.63-D on Allahabad-Kanpur Sec. at Km. 1018/S-27.

5. Level crossing No. 13 on Kanpur-Tundla Sec. at Km. 1116/27-29.

6. Level crossing No. 463 on Agra-Jhansi at Km. 1292/19-21.

C. Proposals not meeting pre-requisites

1. Level crossing No. 12C/3E at Bharwari town on Allahabad-Kanpur Sec.

2. Level crossing No.4 at Jaunpur on Lucknow-Varanasi Sec at Km. 826/3-4.

3. Level crossing No.503-C on Agra-Mathura Sec at Km. 1352/3-5.

D. Not qualifying for taking upon cost sharing basis.

1. Level crossing No.147 at Dadri on Mughalsarai-Ghaziabad Sec. at Km. 1415/35-37.

[English]

Reservation for Physically Challenged Persons

3223. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide reservation facilities to physically challenged persons in private, unaided educational institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreements with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for LPG Supply

3224. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any agreements with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for supply of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) IOCL/BPCL/HPCL have entered into term agreements with National Oil companies of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the last three years for LPG as follows:-

Figures in MMT

Year	KPC, Kuwait	Saudi Aramco Saudi Arabia
Jan-Dec, 2004	0.312	0.871
Jan-Dec, 2005	0.364	0.975
Jan-Dec, 2006	0.156	0.514

[Translation]

Issue of Waitlisted/Unconfirmed Reservation Tickets under Tatkal Scheme

3225. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the waitlisted/unconfirmed reservation tickets are issued under Tatkal Scheme;

(b) if so, the justification thereof; and

(c) the reactions of the Railways thereto?

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

tickets are issued under Tatkal scheme to take care of berths falling vacant on account of cancellation of confirmed berths reserved under Tatkal scheme. This scheme is working satisfactorily.

[English]

Incentives to Foreign Tourists

3226. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently given some incentives to the tourists of certain countries to boost tourism in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to grant Long-Term Tourist Visa of a five year duration, with multi entry facilities to the nationals of 18 countries, namely France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Spain, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Vietnam. This Long -Term visa carries stay stipulation of 90 days on each visit.

RCI MoU with ISRO and NIOS

3227. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for setting up an EDUSAT up-linking station and studio within the Institute's premises as reported in 'The Hindu' dated September 9, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to up-link all non-governmental organizations working in the field of disability rehabilitation with EDUSAT facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether RCI has also signed a memorandum of understanding with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for facilitating children with disabilities in acquiring knowledge and skills apart for qualification at their own pace;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and

(g) the benefits likely to accrue to the disabled persons therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The MoU will enhance the capacity of the Council in providing better training opportunities to the students, parents, professionals etc. to upgrade their knowledge and skills in disability prevention and rehabilitation.

(c) and (d) Presently there is no proposal to cover all non-governmental organisation working in the field of disability rehabilitation.

(e) to (g) A Memorandum of Understanding with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been signed to ensure that disabled person acquire academic and social skills at par with others. This MoU will help in setting up of approved accredited Centres of NIOS and will increase the spread of disability education through out the country.

UAE Flights from Chennai

3228. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Arabia has started its operations from Chennai to Sharjah in United States of Emirates;

(b) whether the Middle Eastern low-cost airline to increase its fleet and also attract passengers by helping them in procuring visa by setting up a visa facilitation centre in Chennai; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the National carrier proposes to compete with it?

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

(b) As per available information, Air Arabia has recently held out assistance to its travel agents in obtaining visa for the visit of their passengers to UAE.

(c) Both the national carriers have taken various steps to increase their revenues and profitability viz. (i) Dry leasing of aircraft, (ii) Acquisition of aircraft (iii) Refurbishment of the existing aircraft (iv) Launching of special promotional schemes, (v) Closing of uneconomical offices and downsizing, (vi) Redeployment of staff from non-operational to operational areas and (vii) Outsourcing of non-core activities to subsidiary companies.

Doubling of Rail Line between Villupuram and Tuticorin

3229. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to take up doubling of railway line between Villupuram and Tuticorin via Madurai; and

(b) If so, the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A survey for doubling of the suggested rail line has been completed.

(b) This work is not sanctioned and as such, time frame is not feasible to be given.

Extension of Delhi-Ahmedabad Rail Line

3230. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi-Ahmedabad rail line is proposed to be extended upto Gandhinagar;

(b) whether funds for the same has also been sanctioned;

(c) if so, the reasons for not starting any work on the project till now; and

(d) the time by which the said work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The work of construction of Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol is in progress to provide direct connectivity to Gandhinagar from Delhi-Ahmedabad line. This project is targeted for completion during 2006-07. An outlay of Rs.8 crore has been provided for the project in the Budget 2006-07.

Setting up of Refinery in Andhra Pradesh

3231. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has asked the Government of Andhra Pradesh to allot 1500 acres of land to it in Visakhapatnam to establish a refinery and other plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has requested the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to allot 3500 acres of land to it in Visakhapatnam to establish a petrochemical complex. As on date, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has allotted 1500 acres of land.

Protection of Historical Monuments

3232. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to formulate a programme or constitute a body to monitor protection of historical sites in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to constitute a Heritage Sites Commission as the present legal and institutional framework is inadequate to address the conservation of built heritage in its broadest outline. The commission would lay down broad policy guidelines and take steps to ensure that such guidelines are observed. The functions of the proposed Heritage Sites Commission would include:

- tender advice to the Government on heritage matters.
- frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.
- can study or cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.
- suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations.

A draft legislation in this regard has been framed and is being examined by the Ministry of Law and other Ministries/Departments.

Price of Bio-Diesel

3233. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether oil marketing companies have been considering revising the price of bio-diesel; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Improvement in Services of Air India

3234. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether four task forces have been constituted to improve the services of Air India by suggesting ways to improve the interiors of aircraft, enhance their security and improve the ground facilities provided to other airlines and the facilities provided for employees;
- (b) if so, whether the report in this regard has been received;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and
- (d) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No such task forces have been constituted in the recent past.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Drying of Fishes

3235. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop a low cost technology for drying the fish, in consultation with Veterinary Centres, Agricultural Universities and Fishing Co-operatives; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries promotes and provides financial assistance to develop low cost technology for various food processing industries.

Under the existing Research & Development Scheme of this Ministry, the financial assistance has been provided for one project so far in the country to the College of Fisheries,

under Central Agricultural University, Agartala, Tripura. The project was under the title of "Utilisation of Small Indigenous Fish Species of North East India for product development". Under the said project the University has developed various value added products including dried fish (Sun drying of fish, drying of fish in solar tent dryer, and drying of fish in mechanical dryer). The developed fish products are being promoted by the University for Small Scale Business among un-employed youth of North East Region through Training Programmes.

[Translation]

Shortage of Light Fighter Planes

3236. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of light fighter planes in Air Force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the current status of the availability of light fighter planes in Air Force;

(c) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has signed a joint venture agreement with aerospace major Pratt & Whitney Canada to set up an aircraft maintenance, repair and over haul (MRO) facility in Bangalore as reported in The Times of India dated November 28, 2006;

(d) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the salient features of the agreement; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to speed up the procurement of Light Combat Aircraft?

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

(a) and (b) Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness.

(c) and (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pratt & Whitney, Canada, to explore feasibility of jointly setting up a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility for their aeroengines.

(e) A contract for procurement of 20 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) configuration from HAL has been signed by Government in March, 2006.

[English]

Stoppage of Trains at Gonda Station

3237. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of important trains do not stop at Gonda Railway Station causing inconvenience to the passengers; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Railways to ensure stoppage of all the trains at Gonda Jn. Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present, all Mail/Express trains except 2565/2566 Darbhanga-New Delhi Bihar Sampark Kranti Express, 2557/2558 Muzaffarpur-Delhi Sapt Kranti Express and 2203/2204 Saharsa-Amritsar Garib Rath Express have a scheduled stoppage at Gonda. Stoppage of these trains at Gonda is not considered feasible, at present.

Promotion of Tourism

3238. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the thrust of the current years tourism campaign has been on Kerala on the theme of 'Wellness Tourism';

(b) if so, the details of the campaign chalked out and implemented in Kerala so far;

(c) whether the Government is considering to take up such focused campaigns connected with each State in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) One of the themes of the domestic campaign launched by the Ministry of Tourism during the current year is Yoga and Wellness which covers the entire country including Kerala.

(c) and (d) Campaigns launched by the Ministry of Tourism are mainly thematic, such as Campaigns on World Heritage Sites, Rural Tourism, Social Awareness Campaign against Garbage and Graffiti, Celebration of 2550th Anniversary of Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha etc. States/Region focused campaigns have also been undertaken by Ministry of Tourism for promotion of tourism to North Eastern region and Jammu and Kashmir.

Road Over-bridges in South Eastern Railways

3239. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Road Over-Bridges (ROBs) proposed to be constructed in South Eastern Railway in near future; and

(b) the contribution of State Governments to construct these ROBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are 21 works sanctioned on cost sharing basis on South Eastern Railway. Two works have been completed and remaining 19 are proposed for construction.

(b) State Govt's share of cost for these works is Rs. 146.27 crore.

JV Operations of IA and AI

3240. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) are planning to float a Joint Venture (JV) to bid for ground handling operations at newly built Hyderabad, Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AI and IA will also associate foreign players in the process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The Air India Board in its meeting held on 20.10.2006 has decided to submit a tender jointly with Indian Airlines for ground handling at GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL). Final decision on associating a foreign partner in the tender has not been taken as yet. In respect of Delhi and Mumbai airport, Air India and Indian Airlines are, currently, carrying out ground handling activity independently.

Railways Crossings on National Highways

3241. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway crossings in different parts of the country on National Highways, State-wise;

(b) whether the Railway has taken any measures to build under/over bridges on these Highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) State-wise figures of level crossings is not maintained road-wise. However, as on 01.04.2006, there were 572 level crossings on National Highways on Indian Railways out of which 397 level crossings were qualifying for replacement by Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs). In the beginning of the current Financial Year (2006-07), there were 119 level crossings on National Highways sanctioned for replacement by Road Over/Under Bridges.

In addition, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has also considered and sanctioned Road Over/Under Bridges at 166 locations on National Highways on deposit term basis.

Duty Free Shops on Joint Venture

3242. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the ITDC Duty Free Shops have been selected for joint venture between Government and private participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Duty Free Shops belong to Airport Authority of India and the companies operating Airports in Delhi and Mumbai.

(c) Ministry of Tourism has not issued any guidelines in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Revision of Prices of Natural Gas

3243. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidised gas sold under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) is provided largely to the key infrastructure sectors like fertilizers and power;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes an upward revision in the administered prices for natural gas to Rs. 3500 per million cubic meters (Mscm) from Rs. 3200;

(c) if so, whether this move has been done on the basis of representation received from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and its joint ventures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether rising APM is likely to affect mostly power and fertilizer sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) While revising the price of APM gas to Rs. 3200/ MSCM as an ad hoc measure, it was, inter alia, decided by the Government that the determination of producer price of gas from ONGC and OIL fields be referred to Tariff Commission. The price determination is under examination.

(e) and (f) APM gas is a diminishing supply source as the output from the nominated blocks/wells is declining. It will have to be progressively replaced by other gas. Out of the total APM supply of about 52.00 MMSCMD, customers in power and fertilizers sector are getting about 24 MMSCMD and about 16 MMSCMD respectively. However, the customers in power and fertilizers sector are already consuming about 15 MMSCMD and about 13 MMSCMD of gas respectively at market rate.

(g) The issue is under examination.

Rationalisation of Spending by Defence Forces

3244. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to rationalize spending by the Defence Forces in non-essential

areas keeping with the other development requirements in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) The budgetary requirement of the Defence Forces is projected to the Ministry of Finance after thorough in-house deliberations and with the approval of the Raksha Mantri. There are no non-essential areas for which requirement is projected by the Ministry of Defence.

Representation of SC/ST/OBC Officers

3245. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and percentage of representation of SC/ST/OBCs in IOCL, BPCL and HPCL as on April 1, 2006, grade-wise;

(b) whether the representation of officers belonging to reserved categories in various grades is not as per the prescribed percentage;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received representations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

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

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

(a) The number of officers and percentage of representation of SC/ST/OBC in IOCL, BPCL and HPCL as on April 1, 2006 grade wise is given as under:

Grade	IOCL			BPCL			HPCL		
	Number of Officers (Percentage)			Number of Officers (Percentage)			Number of Officers (Percentage)		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I	1(2.56)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	1(5.88)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
H	2(2.15)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	3(8.82)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	1(2.94)	1(2.94)	0(0.00)
G	12(5.22)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	6(7.41)	1(1.23)	0(0.00)	7(9.09)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
F	54(7.93)	10(1.47)	1(0.15)	6(4.44)	1(0.74)	0(0.00)	11(8.14)	2(1.48)	0(0.00)
E	181(16.53)	60(5.48)	2(0.18)	28(9.36)	2(0.67)	1(0.33)	51(18.54)	12(4.36)	2(0.72)
D	217(18.84)	76(6.60)	1(0.09)	87(16.80)	18(3.47)	1(0.19)	135(18.98)	61(8.57)	4(0.56)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C	417(20.90)	167(8.37)	53(2.66)	185(21.95)	64(7.59)	17(2.02)	291(22.41)	115(8.85)	31(2.38)
B	453(17.20)	162(6.15)	211(8.01)	184(16.99)	71(6.56)	116(10.71)	131(20.5)	43(6.72)	82(12.83)
A	450(15.92)	194(6.86)	327(11.57)	125(18.52)	52(7.70)	69(10.22)	657(14.3)	47(7.15)	144(21.91)
Total	1787(16.63)	669(6.23)	595(5.54)	628(16.94)	209(5.66)	204(5.53)	721(18.73)	281(7.3)	283(6.83)

(b) and (c) Reservation is applicable only upto the lowest rung of Group A, i.e. Grade A. The percentage prescribed for SC/ST/OBCs is 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively. The shortfall in OBC category is due to the fact that Government Guidelines for reservation for OBCs in direct recruitment were made applicable only in 8.9.1993.

(d) to (f) No sir. However, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas monitors the matter of reservation in these Public Sector Enterprises and also keeps a close vigil on the Special Recruitment Drive undertaken from time to time by the Public Sector Enterprises.

Congestion at IGI Airport

3246. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned, 'lack of planning causing delays' as reported in The Times of India dated October 25, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has asked IIT to study the existing traffic flow at IGI airport and suggest changes etc.;

(d) if so, the details of the findings of the IIT team in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has taken/proposed to take corrective steps to decongest terminals at IGI airport; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The IGI Airport, Delhi is under the management and operational control of Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL). DIAL has engaged IIT, Delhi to study and recommend traffic circulation plan at Domestic and International Terminals. DIAL has informed that IIT, Delhi has collected all the required information/data for the study and the report is under preparation.

(e) and (f) The Delhi airport is being modernised. DIAL

has informed that recommendations of IIT, Delhi would be taken into consideration while effecting the expansion and modernisation of the Airport.

Subsidy on Petroleum Products

3247. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government provides subsidies on petroleum products;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend subsidy on those products for indefinite period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government provides subsidy of Rs.22.58 per 14.2 Kg. domestic LPG cylinder and Re.0.82 per litre on PDS kerosene from the fiscal budget of the Government. In addition, for the first half of 2006-07, Government along with PSU oil companies have given a subsidy of about Rs. 153/- per cylinder of LPG and Rs. 16.69 per litre on PDS kerosene.

Additionally, the Government has agreed to issue bonds worth Rs.28,300 crores for the current Financial Year 2006-07 to Oil Marketing Companies for losses/under recoveries suffered in marketing of sensitive petroleum products.

(c) and (d) With the declared intention of moving towards market-determined pricing for petroleum products, Government announced the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) effective 1.4.2002. Since PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are fuels of mass consumption and largely consumed by the economically vulnerable sections of the society, it was decided that subsidies on these two products would continue on a specified flat rate basis to be met from the fiscal budget upto 31.3.2007.

[Translation]

**Upgradation of Inspection Equipment
for Rail Bridges**

3248. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present inspection system of rail bridges;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to upgrade the inspection equipment of rail bridges;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay on the part of Research Design and Standards Organisation in the technical upgradation of the equipment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the advanced inspection system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A well laid down system of multi tier inspection of bridges is followed on Indian Railways. All the bridges including old and distressed bridges are inspected thoroughly once a year at various levels as laid down in Railway Codes and Manuals. For distressed bridges, an increased frequency of inspections has been laid down in the Manuals. The steel superstructures of all bridges are subject to detailed technical checks once every five years and once a year for the floor system of early steel girders. The inspection of substructure of Bridges is done by close visual inspection and hammer tappings to check for any cracks or hollowness of masonry.

(b) Yes, Sir. Action has also been taken for modernization of Bridge Inspection & Management System. It is planned to make the existing inspection and monitoring system more scientific by importing modern technology where found necessary for inspection and assessment of condition of bridges. Pilot projects in following areas of health monitoring of bridges have been successfully completed on various Zonal Railways with the help of specialized foreign agencies:

- (i) Acoustic Emission Testing of Railway Bridges
- (ii) Fatigue Testing & Residual Life Analysis of Steel Bridge Structures
- (iii) Under Water Inspection of Bridges
- (iv) Non-Destructive Testing of Bridges
- (vi) Strain Gauging & Load Rating of Bridges
- (vii) Mapping of unknown foundation & integrity testing of foundations

Besides this, Rail-cum-Road Testing Laboratories equipped with state of art Non-Destructive Testing Equipments are under procurement for nine Zonal Railways. It has also been planned to have one Mobile Bridge Inspection Unit at each of the sixteen Zonal Railway. Two Mobile Bridge Inspection Units have already been procured and are under commissioning. Procurement of another two Mobile Bridge Inspection Units has been sanctioned in Rolling Stock Plan 2004-05.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Introduction of new technology on a large network such as Indian Railway has to be done in a systematic and programmed manner. The procurement of equipments for all Zonal Railways, training of Railway Engineers and implementation of modern technologies on Indian Railway system etc. is likely to be completed by 2010.

Train between Jamshedpur and Mumbai

3249. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to introduce a direct train between Jamshedpur and Mumbai is under consideration of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Jubilee Retail Outlets

3250. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies had started opening flagship, jubilee and model petrol pumps all over the country due to competition with the private sector;

(b) if so, the details of retail outlets opened under the said scheme, State-wise and Company-wise;

(c) whether these petrol pumps are allotted to the same contractor/party year after year despite their incurring loss;

(d) if so, the reason therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to shut down such retail outlets; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are operating some of their Retail Outlets (ROs) as permanent Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) ROs for brand building, training of personnel and maintenance of uninterrupted supply of fuels during the period of crisis, at strategic locations named as Flagship RO, Jubilee RO, Model RO, etc. The State-wise and company-wise details of permanent COCO ROs is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) The financial performance of permanent

COCO ROs are commensurate with the prevailing market conditions. The Ministry has issued broad policy guidelines on 06.09.2006 by which OMCs have been advised to frame their own guidelines for selection of labour contractors for permanent COCO ROs for a term of three years through advertisement route in an open and transparent manner.

(e) and (f) Subsequent to the dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism (APM) w.e.f 1.4.2002, OMCs have been given freedom for setting up and closure of ROs on commercial considerations.

Statement

State-wise and Company-wise number of Permanent COCO ROs dealerships.

Sl.No.	State	State-wise and Company-wise Total Number of Permanent COCO ROs				
		IOC	BPC	HPC	IBP	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	33	28	13	85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	1	0	0	0	1
4	Bihar	4	4	5	0	13
5	Chhattisgarh	4	1	24	1	30
6	Delhi	4	6	3	1	14
7	Gujarat	1	0	0	2	3
8	Goa	5	8	0	6	19
9	Haryana	3	0	7	3	13
10	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0	1
11	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0
12	Jharkhand	3	2	2	0	7
13	Karnataka	12	6	19	3	40
14	Kerala	0	3	22	3	28
15	Madhya Pradesh	5	7	8	2	22
16	Maharashtra	8	15	38	6	67
17	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
18	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
19	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
20	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21	Orissa	6	5	6	0	17
22	Punjab	2	2	11	2	17
23	Rajasthan	8	1	21	0	30
24	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
25	Tamil Nadu	11	12	24	6	53
26	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
27	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0
28	Uttar Pradesh	11	0	9	0	20
29.	West Bengal	14	6	3	2	25
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0
31	Chandigarh	0	1	0	2	3
32	Dadra and Nagar Havelli	0	0	0	0	0
33	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
35	Pondicherry	0	0	4	1	5
Total		113	112	235	53	513

[English]

(Rs. in lakhs)

Excavation Projects

3251. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing excavation projects in the country, State/project-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on excavation work during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 till date; and

(c) the details of the new sites identified by ASI for excavation in various States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The excavations at Daulatabad Fort, Maharashtra and Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu are ongoing excavation projects of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). These will be continued for the year 2006-2007.

(b) The expenditure incurred on excavation work during 2005-06 and 2006-07 (till date) is as follows:

2005-2006	2006-07 (till date)
131.73	46.76

(c) The ASI has identified the following new sites for excavation in various states during October 2006-September 2007 season.

- (i) Bangarh, district South Dinajpur, West Bengal
- (ii) Barabati Fort, district Cuttack, Orissa
- (iii) Chaturbhujnath Nala, district Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh
- (iv) Dwarka, district Jamnagar, Gujarat
- (v) Juafardih, district Nalanda, Bihar
- (vi) Tranquebar (Tharangambadi), district Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu

[Translation]

Coach Factories

3252. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up some coach manufacturing factories in the country;

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

(c) the production capacity of each such factories?

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

(b) A work of setting up of new coach factory at Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, at a cost of Rs.1685 crore has been proposed in the Supplementary Demands for Grants, December 2006.

(c) The proposed production capacity of this factory is 1000 coaches per year.

[English]

Appointment of RTSAs and RTAs

3253. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) and Rail Tourist Agents (RTAs) presently working in the Railway, zone-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Railways propose to appoint more such agents during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Zone-wise details of Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) and Rail Tourist Agents (RTAs), are as under:

Railway	RTSAs	RTAs
1	2	3
Central	110	01
Eastern	18	00
East Central	20	00
East Coast	06	00
Northern	158	19
North Central	14	01
North Eastern	11	00
Northeast Frontier	22	00
North Western	33	00

1	2	3
Southern	125	03
South Central	59	00
South Eastern	19	00
South East Central	10	00
South Western	39	01
Western	118	06
West Central	21	00

Information is not maintained state-wise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Security of Indian Ocean Region

3254. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the security concerns of India in the Indian Ocean region;

(b) whether there is any strategy to deal with these concerns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) India's security concerns in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are primarily related to the following aspects:-

- (i) Territorial disputes,
- (ii) Trade and goods movement along shipping lanes,
- (iii) Sustained presence of Multinational Forces in IOR,
- (iv) Asymmetric and Low Intensity Maritime Threats, and
- (v) Economic offences from the sea.

(b) and (c) India's geographical position is astride the major shipping routes in the Indian Ocean Region. This necessitates continuous and sustained presence of and surveillance by its maritime assets in its territorial waters, Exclusive Economic Zone and other areas of maritime interest. India is also having regular interactions with the Indian Ocean Region littoral states. Cooperation with our maritime neighbours in the field of sharing information on ship movement, platform signatures, exercises, long standing constructive engagement and coordinated patrols along International Maritime Boundaries etc. In order to maintain good order at sea is also a part of the strategy.

Grants to Grain Milling Sector

3255. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide grants for grain milling sector, i.e. rice milling and flour milling;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for developing this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) A Technical Committee has been constituted to review and make its recommendations on benchmarks for latest and most efficient technology and processes and identification of minimum conditions to be laid down for assistance of rice mills and flour mills sectors. The Committee has submitted its report which has been accepted by the Ministry. These are being incorporated in the guidelines for the financial institutions for providing assistance keeping in view the value addition, technological benchmarks and reduction of wastages.

Recruitment of Army Personnel

3256. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the methods adopted for recruitment of Army Personnel, including jawans;
- (b) whether the candidates are put to untold hardships due to absence of specific notification in this regard;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is aware about the lathi charge resorted to by the police recently on the candidates assembled in Wayanad in Kerala for recruitment on the assumption that this was for general selection, while the real purpose was for recruitment to limited categories; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to lay down clear cut guidelines for the recruitment of Personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Selection of officers in the Army is done through the UPSC on the basis of all India open competitive examination followed by interviews and physical examination by Service Selection Boards (SSB). Non-UPSC selection is made by

open advertisement in Employment News and national dailies. Shortlisted candidates are interviewed by SSB and then medically examined. Final merit list is prepared thereafter.

Recruitment of Jawans in the Army is carried out through open recruitment rallies. Before carrying out the recruitment rallies, adequate publicity is given in the local media and on the All India Radio.

A recruitment rally at Sulthan Bathery in Wayanad District of Kerala under Army Recruiting Office (ARO), Calicut was planned from 4th October 2006 to 6th October 2006 for recruitment to Soldier (Technical), Soldier (Clerical/Store Keeper), and Tradesmen categories only. The publicity for the rally was carried out through the local media. Inadvertently, Soldier (General Duty) category was also included in the publicity though this error was corrected in part through print media and the District authorities on 22nd September 2006. The news papers covered the same on 23rd September 2006. Further, this was also announced on the first day of the rally. This change was also conveyed by the ARO on 3rd October 2006 through the electronic media, i.e. "Manorama News". The rally was conducted smoothly on 4th and 5th October 2006. However, on 6th October 2006, in the early hours of the day, some people started throwing stones at the rally site and the police could not control the situation. The Additional District Collector came to the site and suggested cancellation of the balance of the rally in view of prevailing situation. Consequently, rally on 6th October 2006 was cancelled. The candidates who were to be screened for Soldier Tradesmen at Wayanad were given additional opportunity at the rally conducted at Thiruvananthapuram from 15-20 November 2006. This facility is also being extended at the rally to be held at Thrissur during January 2007.

This was an isolated incident which occurred due to a mistake in the advertisement released prior to the rally. The existing guidelines for recruitment of Army personnel are exhaustive and adequate.

[Translation]

Violation of Indian Space by UAVs

3257. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) of Pakistan has violated the Indian airspace as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated November 25, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of times Pakistan has violated Indian airspace during the current year; and

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

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

(a) to (c) A total number of 17 incidents of helicopter and one incident of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) violating the Indian airspace have been reported during the current year. The details are as below:-

January 2006	7*	Helicopter
February 2006	2*	Helicopter
March 2006	5*	Helicopter
August 2006	1	UAV
October 2006	1	Helicopter
November 2006	2	Helicopter

*These incidents of violation are in the earth quake affected areas (Tithwal/Tangdhar/Uri), probably by aircraft on relief operations.

(d) The matter is taken up with the concerned country through diplomatic channel as per established procedure.

[English]

Investment by PIO in Aviation Sector

3258. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3254 on August 24, 2006 regarding 'Investment by PIO in Aviation Sector' and to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to allow the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) living abroad to invest in Indian domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Facilities for Passengers

3259. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated for providing facilities for passengers are being utilised properly by each zone;

(b) if so, the total amount of funds utilised by each zone out of the funds allocated for the current year,

(c) the railway zones where the funds allocated for the said purpose are being misused; and

(d) the reasons for lack of facilities for passengers despite provision of adequate funds?

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

(b) In the current year Rs. 137.94 cr. (Approx) has been utilised up to October, 2006 out of the total allotment of Rs. 353.20 cr. Zone wise utilisation of funds is as under:-

(In Rs. Crore)

Railway	2006-07	
	Budget Grant	Approx. Expenditure upto October 2006
Central	30.45	12.91
Eastern	43.94	10.32
Northern	34.05	17.21
North Eastern	12.57	05.92
Northeast Frontier	26.49	08.65
Southern	26.74	13.86
South Central	20.09	14.40
South Eastern	7.85	03.75
Western	25.34	10.83
East Central	38.10	09.96
East Coast	13.44	02.35
North Central	10.80	04.55
North Western	17.23	03.19
South East Central	20.30	05.70
South Western	12.17	08.26
West Central	12.20	05.75
Metro	1.44	0.33
Total	353.20	137.94

(c) Funds have been utilised properly at all the zones.

(d) Indian Railways has more than 8000 stations. All the stations have been provided with minimum essential amenities according to the norms and category of the stations.

Amendment in PCR Act, 1985 and SC and ST (POA) Act, 1989

3260. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 are become ineffective to check effectively the untouchability and atrocities perpetrated against the Dalits;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to amend the said Acts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government check atrocities against SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The State Government/Union Territory Administrations are implementing authority of the Protection of Civil Rights-Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Suitable advisories are issued to them from time to time for effective implementation of these Acts in letter and spirit. Assistance is also provided to them for strengthening the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, awareness generation as also for relief and rehabilitation to the affected persons, etc. No final decision has been taken to amend various provisions of the said Acts.

[English]

Rail links to Mining Areas of Keonjhar, Orissa

3261. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have a proposal to connect the mining areas of Keonjhar district with the mining areas of Sundergarh district in Orissa by rail;

(b) if so, whether Roxy siding is proposed to be

connected with Banspani via Koira and Barbil with Kiribur; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Wagon Factory in Gujarat

3262. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a wagon building factory in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies to Dependents of Kargil Martyrs

3263. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether irregularities in allotment of petrol-pumps/LPG agencies to dependents of Kargil martyrs have come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) the number of Kargil martyrs whose dependents have not yet been allotted petrol pumps/LPG agencies alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which petrol-pumps/ LPG agencies are likely to be allotted to the dependents of martyrs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) All the eligible beneficiaries under Operation Vijay (Kargil) Scheme have been allotted retail outlets/LPG agencies through issue of Letter of Intent by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). However, as on 30.11.2006, 28 retail outlet dealerships and 9 LPG distributorships

allotted to widows/dependents of defence personnel killed in action during 'Operation Vijay' (Kargil) are pending for commissioning due to various reasons, such as non-availability of suitable land at the location selected by the allottees, non-issuance of necessary clearance from various statutory authorities, like District Magistrate, National Highway Authority of India, local/Government, etc., which are beyond the control of the Ministry or the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), in spite of intensive efforts for resolving the issues. It is not possible to give a time-frame for commissioning of these pending cases as the reasons for non-commissioning of such retail outlets/LPG distributorships are beyond the control of the Ministry or the OMCs.

[English]

**International Seminar on Defence,
Finance and Economics**

3264. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Seminar on Defence, Finance and Economics was held in Delhi from 13 to 15 November, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of countries participated in the seminar; and

(c) the details of issues discussed and decisions arrived at?

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

(b) Delegates from the following twenty six countries participated in the seminar: Australia, Brazil, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Israel, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America.

(c) The deliberations of the seminar were aimed at sharing and evaluating country specific experiences in dealing with issues pertaining to resource planning and management in defence and identifying best practices, processes and frameworks in defence management.

[Translation]

Construction of Dwelling Units

3265. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dwelling units constructed for the

families of the defence personnel during the last three years and the current year so far; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) Dwelling Units for the families of defence personnel are being constructed under the Married Accommodation Project. 1453 dwelling units have been constructed during the last three years and the current year so far under the Project.

(b) Total expenditure of Rs. 1496.893 Crore has been incurred under the Married Accommodation Project during the said period.

[English]

IMMOLS Project

3266. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Materials Management On Line System (IMMOLS) project has been completed; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

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

(b) Project IMMOLS i.e. Integrated Materials Management On Line System was conceptualised by the Indian Air Force in the year 1994. The project has since been completed. This ensures attainment of e-logistics governance across the IAF putting all logistics management processes and analyses on-line.

Project IMMOLS has been designed and developed on the lines of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) like application software to specifically address the logistic needs of the IAF. It also has the feature of e-Audit.

Manufacturing of Rifles

3267. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to manufacture rifles at an Ordnance Factory in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the likely cost of a rifle and the production capacity of the Ordnance Factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Ordnance Factory,

Tiruchirapalli (OFT) is already producing 5.56mm INSAS Rifles and 7.62mm Self Loading Rifles (SLR).

(b) The details of cost & capacity of OFT, are as under:

Product	Price Per pc	Installed Capacity
5.56mm INSAS Rifle	Rs.19,000/-	25,000 Nos. per annum
7.62mm SLR	Rs.28,350/-	

Hub at Tezpur

3268. SHRI KEREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes Tezpur as a major hub for airlines to cater the needs of right bank of Brahmaputra and Western Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other civil aviation work undertaken/proposed to be undertaken by the Government, at Tezpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposal has been received from any airlines for utilization of Tezpur airport as a major hub.

(c) and (d) Tezpur airport belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains only a Civil Enclave (CE) with an apron to accommodate two numbers of AB-320 class of aircraft. The CE includes a Terminal Building, aircraft parking stand, link taxiway, residential quarters and associated facilities.

Production in BSCL

3269. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL), Bumpur unit has sufficient order from the Railway Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production target is fulfilled by the Bumpur unit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the efficacy of Bumpur unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) As on 01.12.2006, BSCL has wagon order for 475 nos. comprising of 5 types of wagon out of which 3 need approval of prototype. Details are as follow:-

Sl.No.	Type of wagon	Quantity (in VUs)
1.	BOBRN	80
2.	BOST	72
3.	BOBYN	100
4.	BCNAHS	156
5.	BOXNHS	67
Total		475

(c) and (d) The unit has produced 315 wagons up to November '06 against the BE 2006-07 target of 427 wagons for the same period. The constraints in fulfillment of targets are non-availability of matching free issue items like bogie, couplers etc. in time from the Railways.

(e) In order to improve production, the Bumpur Unit has started simultaneous production of two types of wagons and arrangement is being made to run additional shifts to augment output. Railway Board has also been approached to release further order of BOBRN wagons to the unit and to ensure availability of matching free issue items at least 3-4 weeks in advance to avoid hold up of targeted production.

Concessions to Automobile Industry

3270. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether automobile industry has requested for certain fiscal concessions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Department of Heavy Industry has received from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) pre-Budget memoranda for inclusion in the Budget 2007-08 which inter-alia includes proposals for a number of fiscal concessions.

Modification of fiscal policy is the prerogative of the

Parliament and is taken up as a part of budgetary exercise. Such suggestions are examined by the Ministry of Finance at the time of formulation of Budget for all sectors including the automotive sector.

Development of Kurukshetra as World Heritage Site

3271. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to develop Kurukshetra as a world heritage site;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also proposal to develop some of the historically important sites in Tamil Nadu as world heritage sites; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal to develop Kurukshetra or other important sites in Tamil Nadu as a world heritage site.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs.3590.56 lakh for the State of Haryana and Rs.9872.56 lakh for the State of Tamil Nadu during the Tenth Five Year Plan for development of historically important destinations and circuits.

Ministry of Tourism has launched a publicity campaign in the domestic market to promote and publicise world heritage sites all through the country.

[Translation]

Development of Railway Services in Rajasthan

3272. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received a number of proposals from Government of Rajasthan for the extension and development of railway services in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years including the current year and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the details of pending proposals from the State and the time by which these are likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Representations are received at various levels of Railways viz. Divisional level,

Zonal level and Board's level and the data of all the representations is not maintained. However, on the basis of demands received from various quarters and subject to operational feasibility and resource availability, the following services have been provided for Rajasthan during last three years, the details of which are as under:

Year	Introduction	Extension	Increase in frequency
2004-05	7	3	2
2005-06	10	10	0
2006-07	4	13	1

In addition to the 4 pairs of trains already introduced during 2006-2007, eight (8) more services are proposed to be introduced in the Railway budget 2006-07 to cater to the needs of passengers of Rajasthan.

[English]

Compensation to Passengers

3273. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that an Air India flight took 30 hours to complete its journey from Pune to Dubai a few months ago;

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

(c) whether Air India has provided adequate compensation to the passengers of that flight;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Air India Flight No.AI-719 of 18 August, 2006 operated on Mumbai/Pune/Dubai sector, arrived Pune at 1740 hours. At Pune, when the Commander was about to start the engines for take off at 1810 hours, he noticed that one of the air-conditioning units was not functioning. Attempts were made to rectify the snag. When the problem persisted, passengers were deplaned and accommodated in subsequent flights from Mumbai.

Those passengers who were to fly on the morning connecting flights were served snacks at the airport and those who were to fly on the afternoon Air India flight were provided hotel accommodation with breakfast and lunch.

Integration of Inquiry Services

3274. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to integrate all the inquiry services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Interactive Voice Response System helps in integrating the inquiry services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways are setting up Integrated Train Enquiry System by providing call centres throughout the country which will consist of both Interactive Voice Response System and manual enquiry provisions for dissemination of information on train running status, reservation status, availability of accommodation alongwith other value added services.

Any person dialing the railway enquiry number will get connected to a call centre through Interactive Voice Response System.

[Translation]

Budget Allocation for NCSC

3275. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Budgetary provisions made for the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, since its inception;

(b) the details of appointments made in the Commission vis-a-vis its sanctioned strength;

(c) whether the Commission is unable to fulfil its objectives and responsibilities satisfactorily and successfully for want of adequate staff and budgetary provision; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The National Commission for Scheduled Caste was constituted on 19th February 2004. Its budgetary provisions (year-wise) are as under:

Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Budget Estimates (Rupees in Lakh)	505.00	558.00	626.00

(b) The position of staff in National Commission for Scheduled Castes is enclosed as statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Position of Staff in National Commission for Scheduled Caste

S. No.	Post	Sanctioned strength	In position
1	2	3	4
1.	Chairman	01	-
2.	Vice Chairman	01	01
3.	Member	03	03
Secretarial Staff			
1.	Secretary	01	01
2.	Joint Secretary	01	01
3.	D.I.G Police	01	-
4.	DS/Director (CSS)	01	01
5.	Legal Officer	01	-
6.	Asstt. Director (Programming)	01	-
7.	Asstt. PRO	01	-
8.	Under Secretary	02	02
9.	PPS	01	01
10.	Asstt. Director (O.L)	01	01
11.	Senior Hindi Translator	01	-
12.	Section Officer	04	04
13.	PS	02	02
14.	Assistant	03	02
15.	PA	03	02
16.	Steno Gr. 'D'	05	02
17.	UDC	04	03
18.	LDC	07	03
Joint Cadre Staff			
1.	Director	10	06*
2.	Dy. Director	05	04

1	2	3	4
3.	Asstt. Director	10	06
4	Research Officer	10	09
5	Senior Investigator	17	13
6.	Investigator	19	10

*Offers for appointments of rest of the posts (4) have already been issued Staff

(State Office of the Commission)

1	Office Supt'd	08	07
2	P.A.	08	05
3	Steno	03	01
4	U.D.C	10	09
5	LDC	19	16

Personal Staff of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members on co-terminus basis

1.	Chairman	PS	-	-
		PA	-	-
2.	Vice Chairman	PS	01	-
		PA	01	-
3.	Members	PS	03	-
		PA	03	-

[English]

Revenue from Advertisements

3276. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample scope for earning revenue through advertisements by letting out rail space;

(b) if so, how much money has been generated by the Railways during the last two years from advertisements; and

(c) the steps being taken to generate more revenue from advertisements?

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

(b) Rs. 50.21 crore & Rs. 78.09 crore were earned in 2004-05 & 2005-06 respectively through commercial advertisements on railways.

(c) A scheme of giving bulk advertisement rights for an entire division and train to a single firm has been adopted on pilot project basis to generate more revenue. Zonal Railways have also been advised to exploit areas like tickets, announcements, etc.

Train from Nagercoil to Vanchi Maniachi

3277. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to run a train from Nagercoil to Vanchi Maniachi to provide the connectivity with Tuticorin-Bangalore express train; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Investment in Railways

3278. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any suggestion from the Planning Commission to attract foreign investment in railways and to allow entry of various companies in container business in order to promote competition in the sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No specific suggestion for attracting foreign investment in Railways has been received from Planning Commission. The policy to allow entry of various companies in the container business has already been announced.

Procurement of G-ultra Modern Human Centrifuge Simulators

3279. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force proposes to get new high G-ultra modern human centrifuge simulators for aggressive aircrew training to its pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether this proposal from IAF is pending before the Government for quite sometime;

(d) if so, when was the original proposal submitted;

(e) the modifications/changes made to the original proposal alongwith the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the new simulators are going to be a replacement of old ones; and

(g) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (g) A contract has been signed for procurement of one high-G human centrifuge simulator as a replacement of the existing centrifuge simulator at Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Bangalore.

National Financial Development Corporation for DNT

3280. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from various quarters for setting up a National Financial Development Corporation for Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs);

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Requests have been received for creation of separate Corporation for these groups on the lines of National Finance & Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The National Commission for Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes has already been set up to study the various issues relating to welfare of these communities.

[Translation]

New Rail Services from Barhaj Bazar

3281. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to start new rail services from Barhaj Bazar to Varanasi, Chapra and Gorakhpur; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Passenger Terminals for Air India at Metro Airports

3282. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to have an extensive dedicated passenger terminals for Air India to the upcoming Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and other metro airports;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new terminals are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION: (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Opening of Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies

3283. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil marketing companies had invited applications for opening petrol pumps and gas agencies in the rural areas;

(b) If so, whether the oil marketing companies has returned all applications instead of granting permission to open the said agencies in the rural areas;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take steps to open new petrol pumps and gas agencies in rural areas, particularly Uttar Pradesh in the near future; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) Subsequent to the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.4.2002, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been given commercial freedom to choose location, selection of dealers/distributors etc. for retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships including those in rural areas, based on commercial viability of the location through a transparent procedure involving advertisement and interview, etc. However, if the location becomes commercially unviable, subsequent to issue of advertisement, OMCs have the commercial freedom to

cancel the selection process and return the application to the applicant. The Government does not interfere in the commercial activities of the OMCs.

[English]

Purchase of Milk from Cooperatives

3284. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army's Northern Command has been purchasing milk on tender basis from cooperatives;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions of tender and the cooperatives;

(c) whether the supply rate of milk has been increased in violation of the terms and conditions of the tender;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the cooperatives selected for the supply of milk did not fulfill the terms and conditions of tender and have not supplied milk at all the stations;

(f) if so, the action taken against the cooperatives for breach of tender terms;

(g) whether there is any proposal to call for a fresh tender; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) to (h) Milk is procured under negotiated contract from Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Producers, Processors and Marketing Cooperative Union Limited (JKDPPMCUL), Jammu as per government orders on the subject. A copy of the Special terms and conditions stipulated in the said Government order is enclosed as Statement. JKDPPMCUL has requested for increase of the rates in terms of the Government of India's guide lines which lay down increase in rates after six months on the request of the cooperatives depending upon increase in Civil Consumer Price (CCP). No increase in rates has been granted to the cooperative. The cooperative has supplied milk as per terms and conditions of negotiated contract at all stations. Hence, the question of calling fresh tenders in this specific contract does not arise.

Statement

**Special Terms and Conditions for
Negotiated Milk Contracts**

1. Milk fresh as per specification not less than 4.5% Butter Fat (BF) and 8.5% Solid Not Fat (SNF) with good flavour and free from all adulterants and neutralizer and synthetic elements will be accepted.

2. Milk fresh will be supplied in sachets or in properly sealed cans as the case may be and there should be no tampering enroute. The cans/sachets will be handed over in good conditions at the Dairy of concerned Farm. The torn pouches will not be accepted. Similarly less quantity if supplied in cans will be deducted.
3. The Farm will randomly draw sample and get the same tested at Farm Laboratory/nearest Military Hospital and discrepancy if any on account of less fat SNF will be deducted as per departmental deduction rules.
4. In case of any adulterants/neutralizer/any unwanted element is found the milk will be rejected without any dispute. The Farm will then make arrangements for alternatives including Tetra pack at the risk and expense of the milk Cooperatives/Milk Schemes.
5. The quantity of milk fresh shown above is approximate and can keep on changing on day to day basis due to operational requirement. Same can be got checked on day to day basis from concerned Milk Farms.
6. If the milk goes bad due to curdling etc. it will have to be replaced by the supplying agency without asking for curdled milk.
7. Milk is required to be delivered at the temperature of 6 degree centigrade.
8. A representative sample of milk will be taken from National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI)/Milk Fed/Cooperatives dairy for testing and the cost will be born by milk Federation.
9. Random check of samples will be carried out by contract operating officer and if milk found below specification it will be rejected, deductions made as per departmental orders. Samples testing will be done at the cost of concerned milk Federation supplying agency. Five litres per thousand litres of milk will be taken as sample at the cost and expense of the Cooperatives.
10. Risk and expense purchase will be resorted to in case of Milk Federation/Milk supplying agency is unable to supply milk as per demand. The milk should reach at Military Farm (MF) Baramulla, MF Srinagar and MF Rajouri latest by 1100 hrs. Milk supplied-after 1400 hrs. will not be accepted.
11. Payment will be made on monthly basis by the contract operating officer.
12. The rate quoted will be ex-Military Farm supply including transportation charges.

13. In case the concerned Milk Federation/Union backs out of this negotiated contract or fails to supply the required quantity of milk on a daily basis milk will be procured by the concerned Military Farm at the risk and expense of the defaulting Milk Federation/Union.
14. That if at any stage milk is found below specification or any adulteration is found in the milk or any neutralizer is found in the milk or any substance not authorized by law the same will be rejected at the risk and expense of the milk federation/cooperative and warning will be issued to the cooperative. Three written warning will be issued if repeated thrice thereafter the contract will be rescinded.
15. I/we shall be liable to pay rent for any Military land and if and when occupied by me/us in course of the contract at a rate fixed by the officer sanctioning the occupation of the land and intimated by the officer sanctioning the contract.
16. No payment will be made in advance for any supplies service under this contract.
17. I/we have read and fully understood the conditions laid down above and shall be governed by these conditions in all contracts which may be concluded with me/us by the government.

Rep of the Gurdaspur Distt Co-op. Sd/-dt 23.2.2006

Rep of J&K Dairy Producers & Processors & Marketing Co-op Union Ltd. Gandhinagar, Jammu. Sd/-dt 23.2.2006

Rep of J&K Milk Producers Co-op Ltd. Milk Plant SATWARI, Jammu. Sd/-dt.23.2.2006

[Translation]

Civil Aviation Facilities at Deoghar Airport

3285. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to modernise the Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposed to start air service of public/private airlines from New Delhi-Deoghar-Kolkata for the tourists who frequently visit at the famous temple of Lord Shiva, Satsang Ashram and the Yoga Institute of world fame at Deoghar;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Deoghar airport in Jharkhand belongs to State Government of Jharkhand and is presently non-operational. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no development plan for this airport.

- (b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Complaint against IBP and HPCL

3286. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints against IBP Company Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. from the land owners of retail outlets being run as COCO or adhoc dealerships regarding alleged cheating by these companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Subsequent to the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.4.2002, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been given commercial freedom to choose location, selection of dealership etc. for retail outlets. The Government has no role to play in the selection of location, dealer/land owner, etc. post APM. Complaints received in this regard are forwarded to OMC concerned for redressal as per their grievance redressal mechanism.

Relocation of Retail Outlets

3287. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the oil companies specially Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is partially resiting the retail outlets at 100 kms. away from original locations in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the number of such resitements have been done by HPCL during the last three years in Punjab;
- (c) whether the Government/oil companies propose to terminate all such partial resitements;
- (d) if so, whether the HPCL is processing of the dealers of such locations retail outlets to lease out their land in favour of the oil companies; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) including Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have reported that they have not partially resited any of their Retail Outlets (ROs) at 100 kms. away from the original locations in the State of Punjab in violation of the guidelines.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) and (b) above.

(d) and (e) As per the policy guidelines of HPCL, the site at the resited location will be procured and the RO will be developed by the dealer to be leased to the corporation. Investment by HPCL at the resited location can also be permitted as per the terms & conditions of the retail investment policy of the corporation.

Shortage of Refrigerated Containers

3288. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge shortage of refrigerated containers at ports which deters the export of seafoods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the government to ensure the availability of adequate number of refrigerated containers at ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) No such shortage of refrigerated containers at ports which deters the export of seafoods has come to the notice. Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides overall policy and promotional support for the development of food processing industry in the country including seafood industry. Under its plan schemes, the Minister inter alia provides financial assistance for setting up of cold storages for non horticulture produce (including seafood) up to 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs.

Non-PDS Kerosene Depots

3289. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken a decision to open non-PDS kerosene depots in each district to stop pilferage black marketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the pricing formula decided for said scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are allowed to market indigenously produced surplus kerosene over and above the Public Distribution System (PDS) requirement directly to the genuine customers. Under the existing system of marketing of free sale (white) kerosene followed by the OMCs, while the requirement of small consumers requiring less than full tank lorry load is met through their kerosene dealers, the requirement of consumers for more than one tank lorry load at a time is met directly by OMCs from their supply locations.

Security at Airports

3290. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for creation of a single force to manage airlines security in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government on such proposals; and

(d) the extent to which the existing security system is viable for aviation industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The existing security system is viable. However, the security system is reviewed from time to time and any deficiency found is rectified immediately.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Ordnance Factories

3291. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to privatize the ordnance factories; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and details of the ordnance factories proposed to be privatized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal with the Government to privatize ordnance factories.

(b) Does not arise.

Facilities for Public Representatives at Airports

3292. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a free lodging facility is available for the public representatives at domestic and international airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide the facility at all airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At the airports owned by Airports Authority of India, retiring room facility exists at concessional rates, is available for the Public Representatives.

[English]

Soft Drink Industry

3293. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has in the last two years commissioned a Bureau study on the soft drink industry;

(b) if so, the terms of reference;

(c) whether a report has been submitted to Bureau of Industrial Cost and Price (BICP);

(d) if so, the details of each of its findings;

(e) the names of each bottler from whom information was sought by BICP; and

(f) the details of information sought and the information provided by these bottlers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Anti-tunnel Vehicle

3294. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to manufacture the anti-tunnel vehicle;

(b) if so, the names of the factories where these vehicles are likely to be manufactured; and

(c) the details of the purchase orders received for these vehicles alongwith the names of the countries from which orders have been received?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment in PSUs

3295. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare policy papers for making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) more efficient to attract global investors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) and (b) The policy on Public Sector is governed by National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), which provides that Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning. Public sector companies will be encouraged to enter the capital market to raise resources. In pursuance of this policy, Government has recently delegated enhanced financial powers for investment in new projects, subsidiaries, joint ventures etc. to Navaratna, Mini-ratna companies. Other profit making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have also been delegated enhanced powers for capital expenditure.

Clearance Time of Goods at Airports

3296. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to State:

- (a) whether the clearance time for goods at the Airports is more than the standard global time of two hours;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to minimize the clearance time and bringing it at par with the global time; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) In order to improve the processing of air cargo at the airports, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system for faster processing of import and export cargo at four metro airports has been installed. The manual system of processing of documents on the Export side has been dispensed with after introduction of 100% web based EDI at these airports during February/March 2006. With regard to EDI in import processing, the testing was done in November, 2006 at Delhi airport and is likely to be implemented in February 2007 at the four metro airports. To improve the processing time of international cargo at Air Cargo Terminals of the four metro airports, BAR Code system has been implemented at the Export Terminal of Delhi Airport as a pilot project and the same is likely to be implemented at the other three metro airports in February 2007.

[Translation]

Electricity Supply for Fencing

3297. SHRI HANSRAJ G AHIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the electric fencing is proving ineffective on the Line of Control at Indo-Pak border due to non-availability of sufficient electricity therefor; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure regular electricity supply for the fencing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Adequate measures are in place to protect the line of control.

[English]

Renewal of Bookstall Contracts

3298. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bookstall Policy, 2004 is being followed in the Railways;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not renewing all the

contracts of bookstalls held by a number of unemployed graduates;

- (c) whether the licence fee has been enhanced;
- (d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the enhanced licence fee is being recovered from the bookstalls held by the unemployed graduates; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A comprehensive bookstall policy was issued in October 2004, which was quashed by the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad. The judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad has been challenged before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the matter is subjudice. As a consequence, status quo is being maintained and no renewal to book stall licences is being granted.

(c) to (f) The licence fee of bookstalls on Indian Railways was rationalized in order to bring it at par with other catering/vending licences at station premises/platforms and also to increase the earnings from bookstall/trolleys, in 2006. As per these instructions, the licence fee for different categories of bookstalls, except bookstalls allotted to philanthropic and social organizations, has been enhanced to 12 % of annual sales turnover subject to category wise prescribed minimum licence fee. The above enhancement has been done without prejudice to the outcome of the Court cases. Zonal Railways have accordingly been advised to realise the revised licence fee and Railways are following these instructions.

Crash of MIG-29

3299. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a MiG-29 fighter plane crashed into the Arabian sea on November 21, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the steps being taken to prevent plane crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A MiG-29 fighter plane crashed on 21st November, 2006 into a check dam, 5 Km. away from Sarmat Range, Jamnagar and not into the Arabian sea.

(c) to (e) A Court of Inquiry is always instituted in such cases and based on the outcome of the inquiry, remedial

actions are taken. A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Defence Forces to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are also pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

[Translation]

Elections of Cantonment Boards

3300. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to hold elections to Cantonment Boards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the elections are likely to be held; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

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

(a) to (d) The elections to the Cantonment Boards are proposed to be held in accordance with the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 2006. For this, the new 'Cantonment Electoral Rules' and 'Division into wards Rules' are to be framed as per the relevant provisions of the Cantonments Act, 2006 separately, for each Cantonment Board. These rules can be framed subsequent to the notification of the date of commencement of the Act which has not yet been notified. The legal and statutory process has to be completed before elections are held.

Ring Railways in Indore

3301. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme to introduce Ring Railway or Speed Transport System in Indore has been under consideration of the Railways;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Airport at Osmanabad

3302. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated for development of an airport at Osmanabad; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made for this purpose; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Osmanabad airstrip belongs to the State Government of Maharashtra and not to Airports Authority of India (AAI). As such, there is no scheme for development of an airport at Osmanabad by AAI.

Gauge Conversion of Projects

3303. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the gauge conversion projects currently underway in the North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur;
- (b) the progress of work done so far on each project alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon; and
- (c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing Gauge Conversion projects under North Eastern Railway indicating the anticipated cost, outlay provided during 2006-07, expenditure incurred upto March, 2006, and status alongwith target date for completion wherever fixed is as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Anticipated Cost	Outlay 2006-07	Expenditure upto March, 2006	Status along with target date for completion whenever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kaptanganj - Thawe-Chhapra- Siwan (233.50 Kms)	320.10	45.65	78.99	Thawe to Siwan (28 Kms) has already been completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Earthwork, bridge works and ballast collection have been taken up in the remaining section.
2.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly- Lalkua (544.50 Kms).	661.72	61.98	283.19	Kanpur-Farrukhabad completed and commissioned. Farrukhabad-Kasganj is planned for Completion in 2006-07.
3.	Gonda-Bahraich (60 Kms)	73.42	1.00	2.39	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
4.	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anandnagar-Nautanwa (260 Kms)	381.17	5.00	52.66	Anandnagar- Nautanwa is targeted for completion in 2006-07.
5.	Aunrihar-Jaunpur (50.60 Kms)	85.92	14.68	0.59	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.

[English]

MRO Facilities in Bangalore

3304. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether France based regional aircraft manufacturing company has decided to establish a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has not received any proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Museum at Dholavira

3305. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status regarding setting up of a Museum cum Interpretation Centre at Dholavira; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Work relating to setting up of a small Museum cum Interpretation Centre at Dholavira

is in progress. It is expected that the work would be completed in about six months time.

Construction of Helipads for Air Ambulance Services

3306. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain big hospitals in the country have approached the Government for granting permission to construct helipads so that patients can be rushed to hospitals by air ambulance copters;

(b) if so, the details of the hospitals which have requested the Government for permission to build helipads as infrastructure for air ambulance services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Aditya Birla Hospital at Chinchwad, Pune has sent a proposal for construction of an Air Ambulance Medivac Elevated Helipad at the roof top of the Hospital.

(c) The Government has asked, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to inspect the site. DGCA has since done the inspection and intimated the deficiencies to the heliport operator. After the deficiencies are rectified, further action for grant of permission will be taken.

*[Translation]***Rental Offices of Railway Undertakings**

3307. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain railway undertakings are functioning in rented offices;
- (b) the amount being spent per month in the form of rent of these offices;
- (c) whether the Railways propose to bring all these offices under one central office; and
- (d) If so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) There are 9 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways i.e. (i) IRCON International Limited (IRCON), (ii) RITES Limited (RITES), (iii) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC), (iv) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), (v) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), (vi) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC), (vii) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), (viii) Railtel Corporation of India Ltd. (RCIL), and (ix) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL).

Corporate offices of RITES, IRFC and CONCOR are functioning in their own buildings. Corporate office of KRCL is partly in rented accommodation. IRCON, RCIL, MRVC, IRCTC and RVNL are functioning in rented offices.

The amount being spent as rental for corporate office by these PSUs is as under:

IRCON	Rs. 12,14,000/- per month
RCIL	Rs. 5,00,000/- per month (approx.)
MRVC	Rs. 23,668/- per month
IRCTC	Rs. 15,53,464/- per month
RVNL	: Rs. 22,97,957/- per month
KRCL	: Rs. 3,36,840/- per month

Corporations like RITES, IRCON, CONCOR, RVNL and RCIL are also having regional offices at various places which are taken on rent.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Development of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial

3308. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop the Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial, Delhi as a museum; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Museum, at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi consisting of two galleries on the life and mission of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar has been developed and inaugurated on 2.12.2003.

*[English]***Allotment of Retail Outlets at Airports**

3309. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to open all airports to private entrepreneurs, including foreign companies to open retail outlets;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions thereof; and
- (c) the details of foreign and other retailers applied and allotted retail outlets at different airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Information is being collected.

*[Translation]***Railway Projects**

3310. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have stopped work on rail projects in the backward and remote areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to execute rail developmental works in the backward and remote areas for the balanced development of the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken for generating additional resources through Public/Private partnership, cost sharing by State Governments, funding through Ministry of Defence and National Projects. With the increased internal resource generation, all doubling and few gauge conversion projects are funded through 'Capital Fund'; thereby increasing the overall availability of resources for New Line and Gauge Conversion works including those in backward and remote areas, which will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

[English]

Additional Flights for Haj Pilgrimage

3311. SHRI RAVI CHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has arranged the additional flights for the convenience of Haj pilgrimages during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other facilities provided/ proposed to be provided by public/private airlines to the Haj pilgrimage for Haj operations 2006-II?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) During the current year, Haj operations have been arranged through Air India, Indian Airlines and Saudi Arabia Airlines under the Haj Subsidy scheme. It has been decided to carry 1,10,000 pilgrims as against 1,00,000 pilgrims during the last year for which additional flights have been planned to carry out the operations. Some of the facilities provided to the Haj pilgrims are: (i) meal boxes and drinking water on departure from India and on arrival at Saudi Arabia; (ii) at embarkation points where the pilgrims have to wait for long hours at the airport, bedding has been provided for the comfort of the pilgrims; (iii) a Control Cell with a Coordinator has been set up at each embarkation point to monitor the Haj movement and to facilitate the movement of the pilgrims; and (iv) remote check-in has been arranged at several points to facilitate the movement of the pilgrims and to avoid congestion at the airports.

Aircraft/Helicopter Ferrying VVIPs

3312. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of VVIPs/VIPS who lost their lives during the last three years in flight crashes;

(b) whether there have been certain laid down Guidelines/ Rules for operating small aircraft and helicopters ferrying VVIPs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that whenever VVIPs take aerial tours of natural calamity - struck areas the above mentioned rules/guidelines are observed strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last three years two Members of Legislative Assembly and three Ministers of State Governments have lost their lives in aircrashes.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The guidelines exist in the form of Air Safety Circular No. 2 of 1981.

(d) The adherence to the guidelines is ensured by Directorate General of Civil Aviation by way of safety audits of the operators.

Participation of Private Sector in Development of Railways

3313. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of funds for investment in various projects to upgrade and create a world class railway system catering to both passenger and freight traffic;

(b) the steps being taken to encourage private sector participation in designing of railway rolling stock, rail linkage with ports, construction of dedicated freight corridor and providing warehousing and other passenger friendly facilities at railway stations;

(c) whether the Railways have perspective plan for privatization of regional passenger trains, construction of locomotives, coaches and tracks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Investment in various projects to strengthen and upgrade the railway system is a continuous process. As per a quick estimate, more than Rs. two lakh crores would be required during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(b) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has been entrusted with port connectivity projects. Dedicated Freight

Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been given the responsibility of executing Dedicated Freight Corridor project. Two Projects for manufacturing of coaches and diesel locomotives with possible participation of private sector have been approved by the Government. There are ongoing programmes for providing warehousing in collaboration with Central Warehousing Corporation, and for providing other passenger facilities at railway stations.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Lines

3314. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway divisions in Northern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where flow of railway traffic is hindering due to single railway line;

(b) the details of Railway Divisions in the said areas where double tracking is likely to be carried out in the next few years;

(c) the number of Rail Divisions in the said areas where electric trains are running; and

(d) the number of Rail Divisions in the said regions which are likely to be electrified during the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Doubling has been taken up on certain sections of the mentioned area, wherever the same has been justifiable from traffic considerations in Lucknow, Varanasi and Sonapur Divisions.

(c) Electric trains are running in Lucknow Division only.

(d) At present, there is no proposal to further electrify any sections falling in Northern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Air Services to Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur

3315. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start evening flight from Delhi to Jaipur and Udaipur; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indian Airlines/

Alliance Air currently has no plans to introduce an evening flight from Delhi to Jaipur and Udaipur. However, private airlines are also free to operate on routes of their choice.

(b) Does not arise.

Anti-Hijack Plan

3316. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated an 'Anti-Hijack Plan' as reported in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated November 16, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Contingency Plan on handling aircraft hijack situation already exists. However, a manual is being prepared which would provide for detailed response mechanism and procedures to be adopted at all levels in case of a crisis.

(c) The manual, on being finalised, would be forwarded to all concerned for strict compliance.

International Air Services of Air India

3317. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities in foreign countries, where Air India (AI) operates its services;

(b) whether the Government proposes to expand the said services;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to start direct Air India flights to USA;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the said service is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India and its subsidiary viz. Air India Express, presently operate international services through their own operations to the following cities namely New York, Newark, Chicago, Los Angeles, Toronto, London, Birmingham, Paris, Frankfurt, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Dubai, Sharjah, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Doha, Muscat, Salalah, Kuwait, Bahrain, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Seoul, Osaka, Tokyo, Jakarta, Shanghai, Hongkong, Dhaka, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

(b) and (c) Air India and Air India Express together have placed an order for induction of 68 new aircraft from Boeing Airplane Company and these are being delivered in phases beginning November, 2006. The first aircraft has been delivered on 30.11.2006. With the induction of these new aircraft, Air India and Air India Express have plans to increase services to the existing destinations as well as add new destinations in the regions of North America, Europe, East Asia, Australia, Africa, SAARC etc.

(d) to (f) Air India operates all its present services to USA via one stop in Europe. With the proposed induction of the new Ultra Long Range aircraft B777-200LR, Air India plans to offer non-stop services between USA and India with this aircraft from April 2007.

Upgradation of Airports in Chhattisgarh and Bihar

3318. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned for development of civil aviation in Chhattisgarh and Bihar during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether the work is proceeding, as per schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for timely completion of those projects; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to upgrade the airports in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The details of the projects sanctioned for development of Civil Aviation in Chhattisgarh and Bihar during the last three years and till date are as under:

In Bihar, at Gaya airport, construction of electric sub-station and AC plant room has been completed at a cost of Rs.95 lakhs, construction of a New Terminal Building and a New Fire Station is in the last stage of completion at a cost of Rs.46.56 crores. Work relating to extension of existing apron and construction of isolation bay have also been taken up at a cost of Rs.5.40 crores. At Patna airport, Works relating to acquisition of land for operational purpose, construction of boundary wall Dhobi Ghat Area at Runway 25, construction of shoulders, widening of turning pad and construction of perimeter road have already been completed at a cost of Rs.11.30 crores. Works relating to construction of perimeter road from Fire Station to LLZ and resurfacing of

unused runway on both end and cladding of column and vitrified tiles flooring in city side canopy are in progress at a cost of Rs.62 lakhs

In Chhattisgarh, at Raipur airport, the extension of runway and allied works at a cost of Rs. 14.91 crores are in the last stage of completion.

(e) In Bihar, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans for strengthening and extension of runway to 3050 m for operation of B-777-200 class of aircraft, construction of technical block cum control tower, installation of Instrument Landing System and installation of Flight Information Display System at Gaya airport at a cost of Rs.43.22 crores; operationalization of Muzaffarpur airport for ATR-72 type of aircraft operation at a cost of Rs. 15 crores; and construction of Fire Station (Cat-VI) and Emergency Medical Centre and installation of Flight Information Display System at Patna airport at a cost of Rs. 4.33 crores.

In Chhattisgarh, at Raipur airport, AAI has plans for construction of New apron, link taxiway, New Technical Block, Fire Station and allied building at a cost of Rs. 17.09 crores.

[English]

National Ex-Servicemen Welfare Corporation

3319. SHRI K FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Ex-Servicemen League had submitted a memorandum to the Government regarding the problems faced by Ex-Servicemen and their families in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to form a National Ex-Servicemen Welfare Corporation with statutory powers for the welfare and rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen; and

(e) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (e) Kerala State Ex-servicemen League had submitted a Memorandum to the Government in January 2004 to seek redressal of grievances of ex-servicemen. The demands made by the League in the Memorandum and position thereof is indicated below:

(i) **One rank One Pension:-** The Government has examined the demand and agreed to give benefit of added years of service of 10, 8 and 6 years to three

lowest ranks of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) i.e. Sepoy, Naik and Havildar with a view to allow them pension of 30 years of qualifying service. Besides, benefit of revision of pension based on maximum pay of the rank and group of the revised pay scale introduced from 1.1.1996 payable to PBOR w.e.f. 1.1.2006.

- (ii) **Removal of 33 years condition for earning full pension by retired soldiers:-** The 5th Central Pay Commission considered this issue but did not agree to the demand since 33 years' condition to earn full pension is a cardinal principle for computation of pension which is uniformly applicable to both the Defence and civilian pensioners.
- (iii) **Pension to World War-II veterans:-** Central Government is providing financial assistance to the needy World War-II veterans for House Repairing Grant (Rs.10,000/-), Medical Grant (Rs.15,000/-), Marriage Grant for daughter (Rs.8,000/-), Penury Grant (Rs.15,000/-) and Monthly Grant of Rs. 1,000/- for two years. Besides, all state governments are giving life-long monthly grant to World War-II veterans who are settled in their states. This grant varies from state to state. Proposal to grant pension to them has not been agreed to.
- (iv) **Effective reservation for ex-servicemen:-** The Supreme Court has imposed the ceiling of 50% on the total reservations to be provided to different sections of the society. As the reservations being provided to SC, ST and OBC work out to 49.5%, the reservation being provided to ex-servicemen in Group 'C' & 'D' posts of Central Government Ministries/Departments/ Public Sector Undertakings is of horizontal nature which do not have any provision for roster system or carry forward of unutilized vacancies reserved for ex-servicemen.
- (v) **Employment on compassionate grounds to the dependents of the defence personnel dying in harness:-** Compassionate appointments in most of the cases concerning widows/dependants of deceased Defence service personnel cannot be made against combatant posts. Therefore, such requests are to be accommo-dated against 5% of the direct recruitment vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' civilian posts of Services Headquarters. This quota of 5% is meant mainly for accommodating the requests from the dependants of deceased civilian employees. As such, the number of vacancies available for compassionate appointment is always less than the requests received and compassionate appointments are provided in most deserving cases.

(vi) **Lateral Induction of Armed Forces Personnel into Central Para-military Forces:-** The proposal was taken up by the Ministry of Defence with the Ministry of Home Affairs which was not agreed to.

2. The recommendations made in the 20th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence headed by Shri Madan Lal Khurana related to the various issues concerning service conditions of Defence Services personnel, pensionary matters and resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen. The demands made by the Committee were examined and Action Taken Notes on the recommendations were forwarded to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, which were presented to both the Houses on 26.4.2005.
3. There is no proposal to form a National Ex-Servicemen Welfare Corporation.

[Translation]

Construction of Railway Platforms

3320. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations under South Eastern and Eastern Railway Zones in Jharkhand where construction and repairing of railway platforms has been completed alongwith the number of overbridges constructed so far;

(b) the details of funds allocated and released under this head;

(c) the number of projects which could not be completed so far and the concrete steps taken by the Government to complete the same;

(d) the reasons for non-completion of the work; and

(e) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Names of railway stations where construction and repairing of railway platforms has been completed in current year along with number of overbridges constructed are:

(1) Eastern Railway

(i) Platform extension works completed at Mirzachouki and Tinpahar.

(2) South Eastern Railway

(i) Platform constructed at Bakaspur, Silli, Kita, Pokla, Ramgarh Cantt, Tatanagar, Chakradharpur & Tunia.

(ii) Platform renovated at Ranchi, Hatia & Murl.

(iii) Foot over bridges constructed at Hatia.

(b) An amount of Rs. 14.79 crore has been allocated in 2006-07 for renovation/extension/raising of platforms and construction of foot over bridge on Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway.

(c) to (e) 8 No. of works are under progress on Eastern Railway and 11 works are under progress on South Eastern Railway. The progress is monitored closely. These works are planned to be completed in scheduled time, i.e. current year except construction of foot over bridge at Madhupur on Eastern Railway which is planned for completion by 31.08.07.

[English]

Opening of Petrol Outlets

3321. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted the opening of large number of petrol outlets all over the country;

(b) if so, the number of retail outlets opened by Oil Marketing Companies during the last three years, State-wise and company-wise;

(c) whether any norms have been prescribed for opening of new outlets;

(d) whether these norms are being violated especially with regard to the distance between the outlets; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those outlets which have violated the norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Subsequent to the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.4.2002, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been given commercial freedom, subject to commercial viability, for selection of location, selection of dealers, etc. of Retail Outlets (ROs). The number of ROs opened by OMCs during the last three year, State-wise and company-wise, is enclosed as statement.

(c) to (e) Subsequent to dismantling of APM, the Ministry has not prescribed any distance norms for setting up of new ROs and such decisions are made by OMCs subject to commercial feasibility of the location after obtaining necessary statutory approvals based on norms prescribed by the Explosives Department, Local/Government Authorities, National Highway Authority, etc. In case of violation of the norms, the concerned statutory authority takes appropriate action.

Statement

State-wise & Company - wise number of new retail outlet opened by public sector oil marketing companies. viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) & IBP Co. Ltd. (IBP)

State	2003-04				2004-05				2005-06			
	IOC	HPCL	BPCL	IBP	IOC	HPCL	BPCL	IBP	IOC	HPCL	BPCL	IBP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	115	87	89	75	106	88	71	67	102	61	77	6
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Assam	4	1	1	8	14	12	1	3	28	11	3	3
Bihar	29	11	18	41	22	23	7	43	72	4	31	15
Chhattisgarh	13	5	10	2	15	27	25	6	19	10	15	9
Delhi	5	4	2	1	7	3	5	1	7	1	3	0
Goa	2	0	1	0	0	46	4	0	3	26	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Gujarat	50	31	20	28	47	1	67	11	96	2	17	7
Haryana	90	21	18	47	103	75	30	18	71	21	23	4
Himachal Pradesh	14	6	6	5	21	6	10	11	16	9	2	5
Jammu and Kashmir	11	4	8	0	15	25	14	3	23	15	18	2
Jharkhand	4	9	7	25	19	14	5	7	30	11	19	5
Karnataka	90	22	48	59	86	50	60	16	133	52	49	14
Kerala	60	28	36	36	48	82	51	46	72	41	40	18
Madhya Pradesh	61	38	45	9	41	56	87	4	60	22	39	6
Maharashtra	103	75	89	41	88	97	152	18	101	77	104	11
Manipur	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	1
Meghalaya	3	0	1	4	7	3	1	0	9	5	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0
Orissa	26	9	15	21	33	16	14	35	60	26	51	3
Punjab	73	72	33	121	108	137	53	50	134	65	152	24
Rajasthan	88	46	67	26	55	116	49	21	119	41	41	6
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0
Tamil Nadu	97	52	40	51	81	105	80	62	129	49	70	13
Tripura	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	135	13	4	1	153	10	94	8	197	8	7	3
Uttaranchal	23	78	95	35	5	144	4	42	9	63	97	32
West Bengal	29	22	20	46	23	18	9	31	43	20	38	13
Union Territories												
Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	3	5	2	3	3	10	1	3	4	2	0	0
Total	1134	644	676	668	1112	1165	896	511	1547	646	905	200

Merger of Air India and Alliance Air

3322. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to merge Air India Express and Alliance Air into one entity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government has 'in-principle' decided to merge Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited. A Consultant has already been appointed to prepare the road map for merger. One of the terms of reference for appointment of Consultant is functioning of subsidiary companies and their possible merger. Any decision regarding the merger of Air India Express and Alliance Air would be taken on receipt of final report of the Consultant.

Madurai Airport

3323. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop Madurai airport into an international airport;
- (b) if so, the details and the present position thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be upgraded as an international airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to declare Madurai airport as an international airport. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up various upgradation/development, works like construction of a new integrated passenger terminal building which will have Customs, Immigration, Health, Plant quarantine facilities etc. at Madurai airport for handling limited international flights.

Transfer of Reserved Tickets

3324. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a new policy by which a reserved ticket become transferable to any other passenger to boost tourism sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

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

Social Sector Benefits to Religious Minorities

3325. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering any scheme to enhance social sector benefits to religious minorities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the spheres of the social sector being considered in this connection; and
- (c) the measures proposed by the Government to enhance social sector support to minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Government is committed to ensuring the welfare of the minorities. The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is a major step in this direction.

Further, the report of the working group on 'Empowering the Minorities' for the Xith Plan set up by the Planning Commission contains a number of proposals for educational, social and economic development of minorities.

Protection of Female Passengers In Trains

3326. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in spite of directions issued by the National Human Rights Commission few years back to Ministry of Railways to ensure protection of female passengers in trains; the cases of sexual harassment has been increasing day by day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways propose to constitute a Special Committee for the safety and protection of female passengers in trains from sexual harassment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other security arrangements made by the Railways in all overnight express trains to protect travelling women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There has not been any significant change in crime patterns against women passengers especially keeping in view a large number of women passengers traveling by trains every day. The details are as under:-

Year	Rape	Crime against women passengers other than rape
2006 (upto September)	7	40
2005 (upto September)	8	35

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Railway Administration is taking following measures for safety of women passengers:-

- Escorting of Mail/Express trains especially during night in vulnerable sections by Government Railway Police/ Railway Protection Force.
- High profile presence of Government Railway Police / Railway Protection Force at important stations, especially in front of ladies coaches of the trains during night hours.
- Special awareness campaigns against incidents of crime against women passengers by Railway Protection Force staff among traveling public.
- 'Women help line control rooms' have been opened in some Zonal Railways by Railway Protection Force as well as Government Railway Police.
- Regular co-ordination meeting at all level with Government Railway Police and State Police.
- Close-circuit Televisions are installed at important stations to monitor the movement of anti-social elements in trains and Railway premises.

Foreign Tourists

3327. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign and domestic tourists visited Daman and Diu during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the revenue earned from tourism during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The number of domestic and foreign tourist visits to Daman and Diu during the years 2003, 2004, and 2005 are as follows:-

Year	Domestic Tourist Visits	Foreign Tourist Visits
2003	447825	3274
2004	399800	4104
2005	394914	6264

(b) State/UT-wise data on earnings from tourism is not maintained. However, as per the information received from the UT Administration of Daman and Diu, the revenue receipts of the UT Administration relating to lease rent receipts and renewal/registration fees of hotels for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:-

Year	Revenue earned (in rupees)
2003-04	38,64,066
2004-05	82,50,346
2005-06	84,74,799

[Translation]

ILS at Jodhpur Airport

3328. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Instrument Landing System (ILS) has not been installed at Jodhpur Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to instal ILS at Jodhpur Airport?

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

(b) and (c) Requirement and feasibility of ILS at Jodhpur is under evaluation. This matter also been taken up with IAF.

[English]

Public-Private Partnership

3329. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to attract greater domestic investment for expansion of rail services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme to outsource some of the railway services for better competition; and

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

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

(b) Ministry of Railways had formed joint ventures in participation with State Governments for implementation of rail infrastructure projects in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat. Further, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is entrusted with implementation of certain port connectivity projects through Special Purpose Vehicles.

(c) and (d) Several Schemes such as Wagon Investment Scheme, running of container trains and luxury tourist trains, etc. aimed at involving private participation in Railway projects have been launched.

Inspection Facilities for Processed Food Items

3330. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union have rejected some food consignments from India due to high pesticides residue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up inspection facilities for processed food items to check the recurrence of such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure growth of processed food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) No rejection has been reported by European Union due to presence of high pesticide residue for the products which are under compulsory export certification.

(c) and (d) The Government has inspection facilities in place to test pesticide residues in export consignments from India in the laboratories located at Chennai, Kochi, Kolkata & Mumbai.

(e) For promoting food processing, Ministry of food Processing Industries is operating various Plan schemes to provide financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for

Technology upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units, Development of infrastructure, Human Resource Development, Promotion of Quality Assurance, Codex Standards Research & Development besides for other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries.

[Translation]

Jobs on Compassionate Grounds

3331. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those employees/officials of each category in Bharat Electronics Ltd. who died in harness during the last three years and the current year, so far;

(b) whether the jobs have been provided to the dependents of the deceased employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the time by which the jobs are likely to be provided; and

(e) the total number of new persons recruited in various categories during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) 18 Executives belonging to Group 'A' (17) & 'B' (1) and 119 employees belonging to Group 'C' (105) / Group 'D' (14) died in harness during the period from January 2003 to November 30, 2006.

(b) to (d) 30 dependents of deceased employees have been provided with employment in Group 'C' during the period from January 2003 to 30 November 2006. As and when vacancies arise recruitment is being made on the basis of competitive merit. As such, only dependents of deceased employees fulfilling the eligibility conditions for the post can be adjudged.

(e) During the said period 806 persons in Group 'A', 12 persons in Group 'B', 440 in Group 'C' and 80 persons in Group 'D' have been recruited.

[English]

Air Services between India and Japan

3332. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of daily flights operating between India and Japan;

(b) whether the Government of Japan sought more flights between the two countries;

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

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, Japan Airlines and Air India are operating 4 and 7 services per week respectively in India-Japan sector.

(b) to (d) During the recently held bilateral air services talks with Japan, an agreement has been reached between the two countries on the issues of increase in capacity entitlement, points of call and code-share arrangement, as a result of which designated carriers of both side will be able to mount additional services in this route as per their commercial judgement.

[Translation]

OTP of Private Airlines

3333. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding non-maintenance of On Time Performance (OTP) by private airlines;

(b) if so, details of such complaints received by the Government since January, 2006; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Complaints are being received from time to time regarding on time performance of airlines. Generally, the scheduled airlines are adhering to the time schedule. Sometimes the flights are delayed due to weather, technical reasons, mandatory security checks etc. some of which are beyond the control of the airlines.

Captive Power Plant Order for BHEL

3334. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has got an order for a captive power plant as reported in the 'Times of India' on November 28, 2006;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to off load the Government stake in BHEL;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make BHEL more competitive globally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. BHEL has received an order for 80 MW Captive Power Plant from Hindustan Zinc Ltd. at a cost of Rs. 128.25 crore. The order is for supply, erection and commissioning of the main plant and equipment (Boiler-Turbine-Generator) at Zawar mines near Udaipur, Rajasthan. This is the third order in succession from Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Since July 1997, BHEL as a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise has been granted enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers to enable it to evolve as a global player. BHEL has also successfully secured business abroad with support of Government providing Line of Credit.

[Translation]

Electrification of Delhi-Saharanpur Railway Line

3335. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to electrify the Delhi-Saharanpur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this work is likely to be executed;

(c) whether the Railways also propose to introduce a DMU or fast passenger train on the Delhi - Saharanpur route via Meerut/Shamali; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal, at present.

*[English]***Decline of Wagon Usages**

3336. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant decline in the wagon usage and failure to meet the targets in loading despite all efforts;

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

(c) the steps being taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The operating indices of wagon kilometers per wagon per day (Broad Gauge) in 2005-06 was 211.2 as compared to 204.5 in 2004-05 and freight loading upto November, 2006 was 42.42 million tonnes more than the loading achieved during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Construction of Hostel for SCs**

3337. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of a Boys' Hostel of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Shikshan Sansthan, Mungeli, Chhattisgarh is pending with the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doesn't arise.

*[English]***Ageing Submarines**

3338. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of submarines the country is having at present;

(b) whether some of them are lying idle and also on the verge of replacement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to build more submarines in the country;

(e) if so, whether any agreement has been signed with other countries in this regard, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) There are adequate number of submarines in the inventory of the Navy. None of the submarines is lying idle at present. A project for construction of additional submarines has also been sanctioned by the Government. It will not be desirable in the interest of national security to disclose further details.

Golden Rock Workshop

3339. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons manufactured by Golden Rock Workshop, Tiruchirapalli during the last three years;

(b) whether the said workshop has received more fresh orders from the Railways and also from the private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken for timely delivery of wagons to the concerned parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Number of wagons manufactured by Golden Rock Workshop, Tiruchirapalli during the last three years are as under.

S.No.	Types of Wagon	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	BOXN-HS	322	153	150
2.	BLS on Deposit terms for M/s CONCOR	270	315	325
3.	BLL (Prototype) on Deposit terms for M/s CONCOR	5	-	-
4.	BLAN/BLBN (Prototype)	5	-	-
Total		602	468	475

(b) Fresh orders have been received from Railways for the year 2006-07 and Container Corporation of India (CONCOR).

(c) Details of fresh orders placed on the Golden Rock Workshop.

S.No.	Order from / Type of wagon	Order Qty.	Reference
1.	Railways - BOXN-HS	240	Railway Board placement orders dated 06.02.2006.
2.	Container corporation of India (CONCOR) - BLC	1125	Order placed in August 2006.

(d) Steps taken for timely dispatch of wagons to the concerned parties.

- (1) For improving the infrastructure available sanctioned works of Rs. 6.2 crore are in progress in the workshop.
- (2) For further improvement of infrastructure and expansion of capacity, new proposals are under consideration for inclusion in Works Programme 2007-08.

Bellary as a World Heritage City

3340. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bellary in Karnataka is proposed to be declared a World Heritage City;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the ASI to the UNESCO for award of such status;
- (c) whether the Government has also recommended other sites for WHS status in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to declare Bellary in Karnataka as a World Heritage City.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Group of temples at Pattadakal in Bagalkot district and Hampi in Bellary district in Karnataka are already inscribed on the World Heritage list.

Electrification of Railway Line

3341. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to electrify Kanyakumari-Thiruvananthapuram railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the same and the time by which the electrification would be taken up and the expected time of completion;

(c) whether the freight traffic in Southern Railway is less in comparison with other Zones;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Railways have taken any steps to augment the freight traffic in the region and to give a tough competition to roadways and to make the procedures of booking etc. hassle free; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The final decision to electrify Kanyakumari to Thiruvananthapuram section will be taken after appraisal of the proposal.

(c) and (d) Freight and other performance of the various zonal Railways are not comparable with each other. Freight loading of a particular Railway mainly depends on the availability of rail-borne traffic, proximity to industries and strategic and social needs. The quantum of freight traffic handled by Southern Railway in 2005-06 was more than several other zonal Railways.

(e) and (f) There are no region specific schemes to augment freight traffic.

[Translation]

Introduction of Jan Shatabdi Train

3342. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to introduce Jan Shatabdi train from Patna to Ranchi via Jasidih; and
- (b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Petroleum Products

3343. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies are exporting diesel and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor in the context of domestic demand for such petroleum products;

(c) whether it will have any impact on the needs of domestic market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) to (e) The details of the export of diesel and other petroleum product during the last three years is as follows:

	MMT
2003-04	14.6
2004-05	18.2
2005-06	21.5

The country is self-sufficient in production of all petroleum products except LPG. With the delicensing of the refining sector since June 1998, more petroleum infrastructure, including domestic refineries, has been set up in the country. We have now become net exporter of petroleum products. Further capacity addition is being planned in the country both by the Public and Private sector companies by the end of XIth Plan. It is expected that the country's requirement of petroleum products will be met fully and further the country would be exporting petroleum products.

JV of IA with Snecma

3344. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines proposes to set up aircraft repair joint venture (JV) with Snecma as reported in the Times of India dated November 25, 2006;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions thereof; and

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

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

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Indian Airlines and M/s Snecma

Services on 24th November, 2006. The operative part of the MoU requires setting up of a Joint Working Group to study the business process for establishing the CFM 56 engine Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Joint Venture (MRO JV). The study will cover legal, fiscal, social and financial aspects as well as technical assessment and a profitability analysis.

(c) No time frame can be indicated at present since the proposal is still in the primary stage.

Absorption of IAF Pilots in Air India

3345. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) has submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for consideration of permanent absorption of IAF pilots in Air India as reported in the 'Asian Age' dated November 04, 2006;

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

(c) the response of Air india in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air India is in the process of concluding the terms and conditions for pilots from Indian Air Force and Indian Navy leading to permanent absorption in Air India.

[Translation]

Ordnance Factories, Jabalpur

3346. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ordnance Factories at Jabalpur are facing the problem due to lack of work,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Out of 4 factories located at Jabalpur, 2 factories, namely Ordnance Factory, Khamaria (OFK) and Gun Carriage Factory (GCF), have adequate workload and there is no lack of work. However, due to reduction in the requirement of army vehicles, the workload of other two factories i.e. Vehicle Factory (VFJ) and Grey Iron Factory (GIF) has been reduced.

(c) To exploit available capacity of VFJ and GIF, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) is making continuous efforts to secure orders for more numbers of vehicles from Defence

forces. Endeavours are also being made to secure orders from Non-Defence customers, like Ministry of Home Affairs. Besides, different types of vehicle variants are being developed at VFJ, which may create more demand of vehicles in Defence sector, if successful. As GIF is supplying various vehicle castings to VFJ, the successful development of new vehicles may also create more work for GIF. However, in order to exploit capacity at GIF, manufacture of various ammunition packages and casting of Hand Grenade bodies, are also being undertaken at present.

[English]

Sale of Ethanol Blended Petrol

3347. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the widespread complaint in the country that the oil marketing companies are supplying pure petrol mixed with Ethanol and the petrol pumps are supplying this mixed petrol at pure petrol price; and

(b) if so, the reaction alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) and (b) According to IS: 2796:2000 amendment, 5% anhydrous denatured ethanol (conforming to IS: 15464: 2004) can be used for blending with motor gasoline. Motor Spirit (MS) blended with 5% ethanol meets BIS specification for MS in totality. Accordingly, ethanol blended petrol with 5% ethanol is being dispensed from the retail outlets of OMCs in the notified States and Union Territories. As BIS specifications are met, the product is sold as petrol and the companies are not making any differentiation on the basis of blending ethanol. Further, depending on ethanol availability in a supply location, blending is done.

The calorific value of ethanol is less than that of MS by almost 40%. The typical calorific value of ethanol is 26750 KJ/KG as against the typical calorific value of MS which is 43500 KJ/KG. In the blended MS, the reduction in calorific value of the blended fuel will be less than 2%, as compared to the MS without ethanol which is insignificant. However, the octane number of ethanol is 100 as against more than or equal to 88 of MS. As ethanol has a higher octane number, it helps in increasing the octane number of the blended fuel which facilitates better combustion and thus helps in net reduction of tail pipe emissions.

In view of the above, marketing ethanol blended petrol at the price of unblended petrol is fully justified.

Foreign Visits

3348. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of official foreign visits undertaken by the CMD/MD of Air India during the last two years and the purpose thereof?

(b) the expenditure incurred on those visits;

(c) whether any bilateral aviation agreements entered into with any country during the foreign visits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The details are being compiled.

(c) and (d) Bilateral air services talks with foreign countries to discuss Air Services Agreement and review of traffic rights etc. are held from time to time either in India or in Foreign Countries as mutually decided. As a practice during these bilateral talks only senior level representatives of Air India from Commercial/Planning & International Relations Department participate. The CMD/MD does not participate in these talks.

Production of Special Clothes for Jawans

3349. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to produce special clothes in the country required by the Jawans in chemical warfare as reported in the 'Navbharat Times' dated November 9, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the time by which these clothes are likely to be produced in the country;

(d) whether such special clothes are being imported at present; and

(e) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon during the last two years alongwith the countries from where imports were made?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Army is using special clothing in the form of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) suits. These have been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

(c) Indigenous NBC suits have already been developed and are under production. The Army has placed an indent for production of 39,868 NBC suits. The production will be completed by the Ordnance Parachute Factory (OPF), Kanpur within one year.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Hostels for SCs and OBCs Students

3350. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Union Government from various States/Union Territories under the schemes aimed at providing hostels for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) students during 2006-07 and funds allocated and released thereunder, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the funds released under the schemes during the last three years have been utilized by the State Governments/UT administrations;

(c) if so, the details of utilization of funds along with allocation thereunder during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(d) the number of students belonging to SC and OBC benefited therefrom during the said period, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the measures taken by the Union Government for proper utilization of funds by the State Government/UT Administrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) A Statement-I showing the details of proposals received and funds released during 2006-07 under the Scheme of Hostel for OBC boys & girls is enclosed.

Details of proposals received, funds allocated and released under the Scheme of Hostel for SC boys & girls are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) and (c) Grants-in-aid sanctioned under the Schemes of construction of hostels for SC boys and girls are meant for utilization over a period of five years and for OBC boys and girls over a period of two years for completing the work of constructions.

(d) Statement-III and IV showing the number of students benefited is enclosed.

(e) The Union Government monitors the proper utilization of funds by seeking financial and physical progress reports of construction of the hostels from the State Governments/UT Administrations

Statement-I

Grants released under the Scheme of hostel for OBC boys and girls.

States/UTs	Rs. in Lakh	
	Demand of State	Amount released
1 Andhra Pradesh	7810	0
2 Bihar	282.09	0
3 Chhattisgarh	14.62	14.62
4 Himachal Pradesh	112	112
5 Karnataka	300	300
6 Madhya Pradesh	469.04	350
7 Orissa	122.35	0
8 Rajasthan	134.28	0
9 Tamil Nadu	787.5	0
10 Uttar Pradesh	295.12	295.12
11 Manipur	45.51	45.51
12 Sikkim	1.59	0
Total	10374.1	1117.25

Statement-II

Details of proposals received by the Union Government from various States/Union Territories under the schemes aimed at providing hostels for SCs students during 2006-07 and funds allocated and released thereunder, State/UT-wise.

S.No.	States/UTs	SC Girls			SC Boys		
		Proposal received	Amount sanctioned (in lakhs)	Notional Allocation (in lakhs)	Proposal received	Amount sanctioned (in lakhs)	Notional Allocation (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	1		227.52	1		248.76
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil		0.00	Nil		0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	Assam	Nil		33.77	Nil		31.91
4	Bihar	Nil		240.41	Nil		227.14
5	Chhattisgarh	1		44.52	1.		42.06
6	Delhi	Nil		43.29	Nil		40.90
7	Goa	Nil		0.31	Nil		0.29
8	Gujarat	1		66.32	1		62.66
9	Haryana	Nil		75.53	Nil		71.36
10	Himachal Pradesh	1	69.08 (Arrear)	96.71	Nil		26.11
11	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil		14.12	Nil		13.34
12	Jharkhand	1		58.65	1		55.41
13	Karnataka	1		157.82	1		149.11
14	Kerala	Nil		57.42	Nil		54.25
15	Madhya Pradesh	1		168.57	1	152.73	167.14
16	Maharashtra	Nil		182.08	Nil		172.02
17	Manipur	Nil		1.23	Nil		1.16
18	Meghalaya	Nil		0.31	Nil		57.73
19	Mizoram	Nil		0.00	Nil		0.00
20	Nagaland	Nil		0.00	Nil		0.00
21	Orissa	Nil		112.07	Nil		105.88
22	Punjab	Nil		167.22	Nil		122.42
23	Rajasthan	1		179.01	1		169.12
24	Sikkim	Nil		0.61	Nil		0.58
25	Tamil Nadu	Nil		218.61	Nil		206.54
26	Tripura	Nil		10.13	Nil		9.57
27	Uttar Pradesh	Nil		647.55	Nil		611.80
28	Uttaranchal	1		27.94	Nil		26.40
29	West Bengal	Nil		362.75	Nil		321.13
UTs							
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil		0.00	Nil		0.00
31	Chandigarh	Nil		2.76	Nil		2.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil		0.00	Nil		0.00
33	Daman and Diu	Nil		0.00	Nil		0.00
34	Lakshadweep	Nil		0.00	Nil		0.00
35	Pondicherry	Nil		2.76	Nil		2.61
Total		09	69.08 (Arrear)	3200.00	07	152.73	3000.00

Statement-III

The number of students belonging to SCs benefited therefrom during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06 State/UT-wise

S.No.	States/UTs	SC Boys			SC Girls		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	6360	200	4500	6360	5400	1100
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	120	600	0	60	200
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	0	0.00	0	0	0	100
8	Haryana	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	295	0.00	1217	0	0	1479
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	0	300	450	0	300	450
12	Karnataka	1625	1150	0	525	450	0
13	Kerala	200	30	0	100	280	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	2680	0.00	200	0	0	300
15	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	100	0	0	100
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20	Orissa	50	0	0	0	0	0
21	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	100
22	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	225
23	Sikkim	50	0	0	50	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	4800	4050	0	1200	0	0
25	Tripura	0	240	100	0	66	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	250	0.0	400	0	0	400
27	Uttaranchal	0	150	0	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Lakshdweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Pondicherry	308	0	0	308	0	0
Total		8075	6240	7567	8543	6556	4454

Statement-IV*No. of students belonging to OBCs benefited therefrom during last three years*

S.No.	State/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2000	3000	4400
2	Chhattisgarh	0	300	0
3	Gujarat	0	525	0
4	Himachal Pradesh	0	60	50
5	Jharkhand	0	300	0
6	Karnataka	870	0	650
7	Kerala	0	0	100
8	Madhya Pradesh	300	0	1000
9	Rajasthan	0	0	50
10	Tamil Nadu	250	500	800

1	2	3	4	5
11	Uttar Pradesh	561	1020	450
12	West Bengal	0	0	240
	UTs.	0	0	0
13	Podicherry	0	50	0
14	North East States	0	0	0
15	Assam	30	0	0
16	Manipur	0	0	86
17	Tripura	0	66	100
18	Sikkim	50	0	0
	Total	4061	5821	7926

[Translation]

Passenger Trains from Indore

3351. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for regularisation of passenger trains from Indore to Pune, Howrah and Thiruvananthapuram is under consideration of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal in this regard to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present, 9311/9312 Indore-Pune Express (bi-weekly), 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Shipra Express (tri-weekly) and 6325/6326 Indore-Thiruvananthapuram Ahilyanagari Express (weekly) are running regularly.

However, there is no such proposal to increase the frequency of these trains at present.

[English]

Setting up a Railway Manufacturing Unit

3352. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) is setting up a railway manufacturing unit at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BEML is shifting the entire railway related production centre to KGF from its primary base at Bangalore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) is establishing Railway Unit-II at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF). BEML has taken over in 2004, two workshops with railway siding along with 1109 acre of land on lease basis from Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a closed Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Mines. This land and workshops of BGML are adjacent to the factory area of BEML at KGF. These workshops with railway siding were earlier used by BGML for manufacturing railway wagons to a smaller extent. BEML is upgrading facilities in these workshops for manufacturing wagons and coaches for supply to cater to the needs of Defence and Indian Railways.

BEML Rail Coach Factory at Bangalore is being upgraded as a Metro Coaches manufacturing facility. BEML has recently supplied 180 Metro Coaches to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and is now further upgrading the infrastructure at Bangalore Complex for manufacturing Metro Coaches for broad gauge, standard gauge and light rail train. Primary objective and reason for shifting the existing facilities for manufacturing wagons and coaches from Bangalore Complex to KGF is purely on account of paucity of space and facilities at Bangalore Complex. The furnishing of coaches and wagons, however, will continue to be carried out at Bangalore Complex.

**Information Technology Centre
at Hyderabad**

3353. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a Information Technology Centre at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Railways thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Revival-cum-Structuring
of BSCL**

3354. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether the Management of the Burn Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) has submitted any revival-cum-restructuring proposal of the company to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether there is any unforeseen liabilities on BSCL due to arbitration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (e) BSCL is a sick company and is under reference to BIFR since 1994. After reviewing its status during August, 2004, the company was asked to prepare a restructuring proposal for placing it before the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE). The company had accordingly drawn up a revival-cum-restructuring proposal for its turn-around in consultation with a consultancy firm, viz M/s. A.F. Fergusson & Company. However, in the meantime, in a dispute between BSCL and M/s. Mc Dermott International Inc (MII), USA, the liability of BSCL towards MII has been fixed at Rs.327 crores by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This liability will have to be mitigated before any revival package for the company is taken up.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Defence Equipment

3355. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries in collaboration with which defence equipments, aeroplanes and helicopters are being manufactured in the country;

(b) the details of the progress made for ensuring indigenous production of defence hardware such as helicopters, fighter planes, missiles, air defence ship, armerpiercing, ammunition etc. from the year 2004 to October, 2006;

(c) whether the Government has recently decided to procure fighter planes, submarines etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) India has been producing a large variety of defence equipment in collaboration with many countries. However, major defence equipment, aeroplanes, and helicopters are produced in collaboration with Russia, France, Israel and U.K.

(b) to (d) The Government review the necessity to procure fighter planes, submarine and other defence equipment from time to time and take decision as per requirement of the Armed Forces. The fighter aircrafts and helicopters are indigenously produced by HAL, the missiles by BDL, War Ships by Indian Shipyards and ammunition by OFB.

[English]

**Irregularities in Recruitment in
Defence Services**

3356. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain cases of irregularities in recruitments to the different Units of Defence Services have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to check such irregularities in recruitments in the Defence Services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The existing recruitment procedure in defence services is fairly elaborate and transparent. Improvement to the recruitment procedures is an on-going process. The

recruitment in Army is carried out through open rally system and the same in the Navy and Air Force is done on all India basis. In cases where any complaints of irregularities are received, the same are dealt with as per laid down laws, rules and procedures.

[Translation]

**Utilisation of Funds by Dairy
Units of HMT**

3357. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has provided any package to dairy plant manufacturing unit of HMT;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which HMT utilized this fund;
- (d) whether despite this package, the said unit of HMT has not turned around; and
- (e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH):

(a) No turnaround package was sanctioned for this Unit.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

**Cancellation of Licences of
Small Catering Vendors**

3358. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have cancelled the licences of existing small catering vendors under the Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad Divisions of Southern Railway;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the alternative measures taken to safeguard the survival of the existing small catering vendors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per Revised Catering Policy, 2005, renewal is not allowed for the existing general minor units at A, B and C category stations of Indian Railways which have been taken over by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). IRCTC is

awarding fresh licences under two packet tender system. The existing catering licencees of these units are also eligible to participate in the tender process. However, new licences awarded by IRCTC for general minor units under two packet tender system, one extension upto 3 years can be given to General Minor Units at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations, subject to satisfactory performance and payment of all dues. For Special Minor Units, i.e., reserved category licencees at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category of stations renewal is considered every three years, subject to satisfactory performance and payment of all dues. In case of general minor units and reserved minor unit at 'D', 'E' & 'F' stations, renewal for every 5 years is permissible subject to satisfactory performance and payment of all dues including licence fee.

Defence Purchases

3359. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has recently made some observations calling upon the Government to review the present system of defence purchases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(a) to (c) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) had delivered a Key note address on 'Audit and Accountability in Defence Expenditure and Procurement' at the recently held International Seminar on Defence Finance and Economics on 15th November, 2006. Ministry of Defence has not received any report from CAG to review the present system of Defence Purchases.

**Illegal Mining Activities in
Asansol Division**

3360. DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms fixed by the Railways about the requirement of minimum distance from the tracks for conducting mining activities;
- (b) whether cases of illegal mining activities, in violation of the above norms have come to the notice of Railways with particular reference to Asansol Division in Eastern Railways;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and
- (d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The minimum distance is 45 metres.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Regular inspections are being conducted on Railways. As soon as any case of illegal mining on Railways land come to notice. Divisional authorities takes prompt action and advise Civil and Mining authorities.

(d) Prevention of illegal mining activities is the subject matter of State Government concerned. Railway has requested to State Government and Eastern Coal Field Limited (ECL) authorities to take necessary action.

Filling up of illegal pits has also been undertaken by ECL authority by deploying dozing machine and nearly 400 nos. illegal minings/pits have been dozed.

[Translation]

Constitutional Status to NCM

3361. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to grant constitutional status to the National Commission for Minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI. A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Constitution (One hundred and third amendment) Bill, 2004, to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December, 2004. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for examination and report. The Standing Committee presented its Report to the Lok Sabha on 21st February, 2006.

(c) In view of the legal complexities and the sensitiveness of the issues involved, the report is being examined.

[English]

Works on Rail Over-bridges

3362. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Railways over bridge works (Road over Rail bridges) have been stopped in the middle in Tamil Nadu and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for stoppage of these works and for the inordinate delay in completing these works; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Railways to expedite these works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Works of Road Over Bridges (ROB) sanctioned on cost sharing basis is held up at 17 sites in the Country, out of these 2 are in Tamil Nadu.

(b) (i) ROB at Level Crossing (LC) No. 126 in Perundurai &

(ii) ROB at LC No. 129 in Thimmanayakanpalayam.

(c) (i) The contractor slowed down the work at LC No. 126 site due to sudden increase in steel prices and the work was terminated on risk and cost.

(ii) The work at LC No. 129 had been initially awarded for sub-structure portion and slowed down in later stages due to increase in steel prices.

(d) (i) For ROB at LC No. 126, risk and cost tender has been invited and opened on 22.11.06 which is under finalisation.

(ii) For ROB at LC No. 129, tender has been recalled for super-structure portion and the same has been opened on 22.11.2006.

[Translation]

Railway Line between Chhitauni and Tamkuri

3363. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in laying a new railway line between Chhitauni and Tamkuri, under North-Eastern Railways;

(b) the time by which work on this railway line is likely to begin; and

(c) the provision made for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Chhitauni-Tamkuhl Road new line project has been included in the Supple-

mentary Demand for Grants 2006-07 and approved by the Parliament in the current session. Preliminary work would be taken up once sanction is issued. An outlay of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided during 2006-07.

[English]

Missing Links on Trunk and Feeder Routes

3364. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the important missing links on trunk and feeder routes in the country zone-wise;
- (b) the estimated cost of these projects;
- (c) the allocation of funds made for these projects during each of the last two years and the current financial year; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Indian Railways to provide adequate funds for these projects so that these projects could be completed in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No such important missing links on trunk and feeders routes in the country have been identified. However, the Railways has identified routes alongwith their link routes for route-wise planning wherein an improvement in the line capacity for carrying traffic was envisaged by identifying the bottlenecks and planning for removal of such constraints in a phased manner.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Procurement of Equipments/Machineries

3365. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of procurement of different types of machines/equipment without following the established procedure have come to the notice of his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials found involved in such irregularities?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Recruitment of Group 'C' & 'D' Posts

3366. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways deferred number of recruitment drives conducted by RRB Guwahati for Group 'C' & 'D' posts for filling up the reserved vacancies under NF Railway;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the status of filling of such backlog vacancies in the NFR; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Out of the backlog vacancies identified in the on going Special Recruitment Drive, 58 vacancies [22 Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 36 Scheduled Tribes (STs)] remained unfilled in Group 'C' categories. In order to fill up the above vacancies, necessary indents have already been placed on Railway Recruitment Board/Guwahati. On receipt of the panels, the said backlog vacancies of SCs and STs would be wiped out. The backlog of such reserved vacancies in Group 'D' as on date, is however, nil i.e. the recruitment drive has since been completed.

(d) Does not arise.

Vigilance Cases

3367. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vigilance cases pending or being contemplated against officers at the level of General Manager and above of the public sector oil marketing companies, company-wise; and
- (b) the present status of these cases?

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

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	-	08
IBP Co. Ltd.	-	12
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	-	NII
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	-	NII

(b) Out of the total 20 vigilance cases pending, vigilance investigation report is under examination in respect of 3 cases. Three cases have been referred to CVC for First stage advice. Inquiry is in progress in respect of 7 cases. In respect of 5 cases, charge sheets have been issued/to be issued. In respect of two cases, inquiries have been completed and penalty pending.

**Backlog of Vacancies Reserved
for Disabled**

3368. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons employed in each Group under the East Coast Railways during the last three years;

(b) the number of disabled persons employed in each Group as per the 3% reservation rule enshrined in the PWD Act - 1995 during the said period;

(c) the backlog of reserved vacancies for disabled persons in East Coast Railways at present; and

(d) the action taken to fill the vacant posts?

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

**Railway Line between Bodinayakkanoor
and Kottayam**

3369. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposals for new railway lines between Bodinayakkanoor and Kottayam;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the work in this regard is likely to be started/completed?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Railway Line from Tata Kandra to Namkoom

3370. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed the survey for laying new line from Tata Kandra to Namkoom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for non-completion of survey work till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The survey for construction of a new line between Kandra and Namkom has been completed. As per the survey, cost of this 106 Kms long line has been assessed as Rs. 435 crore.

Increase in Pension of Ex-servicemen

3371. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retired personnel of Armed Forces have not been provided with the increased pension as was announced by the Government in January, 2006 as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated November 26, 2006.

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

(c) the estimated total number of the ex-servicemen likely to be benefited from the said increase;

(d) the total number of the defence personnel retiring every year in the country; and

(e) the time by which the ex-servicemen are likely to get pension at the increased rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The pension under the Government orders is required to be revised by the Pension Disbursing Authorities (PDAs) concerned of the pensioners. The PDAs are 61 Defence Pension Disbursing Offices (DPDOs), 35000 branches of Public Sector Banks, 4 Private Sector Banks, 640 State Treasuries, 5 Pay & Accounts Offices and 2 Post Offices. The Government Orders together with implementation instructions were put on the website (www.pcdapension.nic.in) of Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pension), Allahabad in the month of June, 2006 with the instructions to commence revision of pension down loading the requisite Government orders. A printed Booklet of Government orders containing 83 tables (ready reckoner) and implementation instructions have been provided to the PDAs.

(c) Approximately 12 lakhs.

(d) About 60,000 defence personnel retire every year.

(e) DPDOs have revised pension in 80% cases upto 30.11.2006. In the remaining cases, other PDAs are in the process of revision of pension. Instructions have been issued to them for expeditious completion of revision work.

*[English]***Over-aged Rolling Stock and Tracks**

3372. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper care is not being taken to replace the over-aged rolling stock and the process of modernisation and renewal of track and whether their maintenance also lacks the desired attention;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether most of the bridges and culverts have out lived their lives and have become weak; and

(d) if so, the reasons for introducing more trains and enhancing frequency of the trains without conducting proper surveys to ascertain as to whether the infrastructure including rolling stock can bear the additional stress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Replacement of over-aged rolling stock, modernisation, renewal of track and their maintenance is carried out as and when due. This is a continuous process. Modern track structure is provided on the basis of route classification and annual traffic density as per the requirement of traffic.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Railways have a well laid down system of multi-tier annual inspection of bridges/culverts. Railways undertake repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges/culverts on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during annual inspections.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Prithvi Missile Test**

3373. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR.
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted a successful test of intercepting Prithvi missile with a supersonic missile;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of such tests conducted by DRDO during the last three years till date alongwith the outcome thereof;

(d) the position earned by India amongst the other

countries which have developed such indigenous supersonic missiles; and

(e) the future plan of the Government for conducting more such tests?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Interceptor Missile (PAD) was successfully flight tested against a modified Prithvi 'target' missile on 27th November, 2006 from Integrated Test Range, Balasore. Modified Prithvi Missile, was launched as a 'target' from Launch Centre III. The Weapon System Radars picked up the 'target' and passed on the information to Missile Control Centre, which gave 'target' assignment to Launch Control Centre. 'Interceptor' missile lifted off when the 'target' was at Apogee, highest point in Space, and onboard guidance steered the 'interceptor' towards target. The PAD intercepted the 'target' successfully at an altitude of 50 km. All the test objectives have been met fully.

(c) This was a maiden flight trial for evaluating technologies.

(d) India is the 4th country after USA, Russia and Israel to have this capability.

(e) More tests are planned to prove the relevant technologies.

Awards of Contracts for Pantry Cars

3374. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI FURKAN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the catering policy, 2005 has been implemented for the pantry car contracts;

(b) whether the action is being taken to award the contract to the pantry car contractors for the ensuing period by renewing the contracts on the expiry of contracts taking the catering policy, 2000 as a base;

(c) if so, whether the Railways have issued instructions for the renewal of the small unit contracts; and

(d) if not, the reasons for giving me benefits of the catering policy 2000 to the pantry car contractors and denying the benefits to the contractors working at small units of A, B, C categories of railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) As per revised catering policy 2005, for mobile catering units (pantry cars) there is no provision for extension of contract. No pantry car contract is being renewed on expiry of existing contracts. There is a provision for one extension up to 3 years for General Minor Units at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations, subject to satisfactory

performance and payment of all dues. For contracts under Special Minor Units, i.e., reserved category units at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations will have renewal every three years subject to satisfactory performance and payment of all dues including licence fee. All general minor units and reserved minor units at 'D', 'E' & 'F' category stations will have renewal every 5 years subject to satisfactory performance and payment of all dues including licence fee.

**Gauge conversion between
Farrukhabad and Bareilly**

3375. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to convert the metre gauge line between Farrukhabad and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh into broad gauge and provide halts at some of the stations between these stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The gauge conversion of Farrukhabad-Kasganj-Bareilly section has been taken up as part of Kanpur-Farrukhabad-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkua (544.50 Kms.) gauge conversion project. Kanpur-Farrukhabad (140 Kms.) section has already been commissioned. Farrukhabad-Kasganj (108 Kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2006-07 However, no additional halt station is being planned to be provided in Farrukhabad- Bareilly section for the present.

[English]

Mega Plan for Infrastructure

3376. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry and the Ministry of Railways are planning together building the infrastructure of the country over the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share of each Ministry in the total expenditure; and

(d) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to pool the resources for this mega plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Investment in infrastructure is an ongoing process. There is, however, no joint, plan of Ministry of Civil Aviation with the Ministry of

Railways in building the infrastructure over the next five years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Mid Day Meal Scheme

3377. SHRI IQBALAHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether food processing industry with support from the Ministry of Food Processing Industry has urged the Ministry of Human Resource Development to allow them to provide ready to eat meals as a part of the Government's Mid-day Meal Scheme introduced in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Ministry of HRD thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A suggestion in this regard was received from the Confederation of Indian Industry as part of the proposals to give boost to processed food industry and upgrade the quality and nutritive value of food served under the mid-day meal programme. This is being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

[Translation]

Meeting with Public Representatives

3378. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting between the General Managers of Railways and public representatives is held before presentation of rail budget;

(b) if so, whether the issues raised by the public representatives are given due consideration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Railways does not hold any formal meeting with Members of Parliament and General Managers before presentation of the Railway Budget with a view to finalise the Budget. However, the General Managers/Divisional Railway Managers have instructions to have meetings with the Members of Parliament of their area with a view to ensure that local issues/problems requiring action of Divisional/Zonal Railway levels are mutually discussed and satis-

factorily settled. Such meetings are to be held during the Parliament recess. These meetings are not related to Budget preparation.

Revision of Wages in BSCL

3379. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

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

(a) the profit/loss position of the Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the employees of BSCL are being denied to get their legitimate wages revision due for the last so many years;

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

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for revision of wages of the BSCL employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH):

(a) As per audited figures the profit and loss position of BSCL during the last three years is as under:

	(Rupees in crores)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Operating Profit	8.98	10.77	3.64
Cash Profit	(2.06)	3.48	1.33
Net Loss	110.65	118.72	442.74
Accumulated loss	605.17	723.89	1166.63
Networth	(-)547.51	(-)635.24	(-)1042.13

(b) to (d) All categories of employees of BSCL have been allowed wage/pay revision upto early 1990s. However, it was not possible to implement the wage settlement/pay revision any more as the company became sick and was put under the purview of BIFR since 1994. The wage settlement/pay revision of the employees is governed by laid down norms, procedures and guidelines as applicable in a BIFR referred company like BSCL.

Sanctioning of NGOs Projects

3380. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints against the officials demanding commission from NGOs for sanctioning their projects under various schemes implemented by the Ministry;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in the matter;

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

(e) the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The complaints were examined as per the prescribed procedure of the Central Vigilance Commission. During examination, two complaints which were found to be pseudonomous, have been filed.

Contribution to Army Central Welfare Board

3381. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of contribution made by the citizens to the Army Central Welfare Fund during each of the last three years;

(b) the financial assistance provided to dependents of Kargil martyrs out of the said contribution during the above period;

(c) whether any other scheme for mobilizing contribution for the Army Central Welfare Funds has been formulated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Army Central Welfare Fund, a non-public fund is maintained by Army Headquarters. The contributions made to the Fund during each of the last three years is as under:-

I.	FY 2003-2004	—	Rs.46.33 Lac
II.	FY 2004-2005	—	Rs. 49.80 Lac
III.	FY 2005-2006	—	Rs. 10.68 Lac

(b) Rs.1.57 Crore has been paid to the Next of Kins of Kargil Martyrs prior to the year 2003. During the above period no financial assistance has been provided.

- (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Not Applicable.

Time Table of Airlines

3382. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
 SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
 Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria followed to prepare the time table of the flights of Indian Airlines (IA) and other private airlines;
 (b) whether passengers availing services of IA reach their destination late in comparison to the passengers availing services of private airlines due to disparity in the time table of these airlines;
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) All the scheduled domestic airlines including Indian Airlines have a scheduling department which is responsible for preparation of flight schedules.

The flight schedules are decided and prepared by the airlines themselves on the basis of commercial inputs, operational feasibility and availability of the time slots taking into consideration requirements contained in the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

- (b) No, Sir.
 (c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Setting up of FPIS for Mangoes

3383. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up food processing plants near the production area of mangoes and encourage the private sector to export processed items of mango and ensure economic returns to farmers; and
 (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance for setting up of new units and for expansion/modernization of existing food

processing units under its Plan Scheme in the form of grant in aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General areas and 33.33% in Difficult areas up to Rs. 75 lakhs. Food processing units using mango as raw material are also eligible for assistance under the scheme.

Celebration of Mahaparinirvan

3384. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to celebrate this year as Mahaparinirvan on the occasion of 2550th Buddha Jayanti;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) the funds allocated for the purpose;
 (d) whether the Government is considering to establish various institutions and Centers of International standard in India for study of Buddhism on the occasion of Mahaparinirvan; and
 (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. The Government of India constituted a National Committee under the chairmanship of Honourable Prime Minister to commemorate the 2550th Anniversary of Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha. A National Implementation Committee has also been set up under the chairmanship of Minister of Culture to chalk out the programmes and activities. A sum of Rs. 10.00 crores has been allocated for the commemoration in the current year's Budget. The projects to be taken up depend upon the recommendations of the Committee and the availability of funds.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5453/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Navy (Discipline and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.R.O. 57 in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2005 under section 185 of the Navy Act, 1957.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5454/2006]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 13 of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992:-

- (a) (i) The Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, for the year 1997-1998.
- (ii) The action taken memorandum on the recommendations contained in the report for the year 1997-1998.
- (iii) Review by the Government on the working of the National Commission for Minorities for the year 1997-1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5455/2006]

- (b) (i) The Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) The action taken memorandum on the recommendations contained in the report for the year 1999-2000.
- (iii) Review by the Government on the working of the National Commission for Minorities for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5456/2006]

- (c) (i) The Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) The action taken memorandum on the recommendations contained in the report for the year 2003-2004.

- (iii) Review by the Government on the working of the National Commission for Minorities for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at items (a) and (b) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5457/2006]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation Limited, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation Limited, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5458/2006]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2001 -2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5459/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5460/2006]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, 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 Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5461/2006]
- (7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5462/2006]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 2005-2006.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5463/2006]
- (10) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Tourism for the Year 2006-07.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5464/2006]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, 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 Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5465/2006]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, 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 Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

- reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5466/2006]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, 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 Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5467/2006]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Victoria Memorial Hall, 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 Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5468/2006]
- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, 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 Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2004-2005.
- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5469/2006]
- (21) A copy each of the Annual Reports for the year 2005-2006 (Hindi and English versions) alongwith Audited Accounts in respect of the following Institutes:-
- (i) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5470/2006]
- (ii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gwalior.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5471/2006]
- (iii) Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, Lucknow.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5472/2006]
- (iv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5473/2006]
- (v) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5474/2006]
- (vi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5475/2006]
- (vii) Institute of Hotel Management, Hajipur.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5476/2006]
- (viii) Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5477/2006]
- (ix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Shimla.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5478/2006]
- (x) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Chennai.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5479/2006]
- (xi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5480/2006]
- (xii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5481/2006]

- (xiii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5482/2006]
- (xiv) National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5483/2006]
- (xv) Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5484/2006]
- (xvi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Gurdaspur.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5485/2006]
- (xvii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5486/2006]
- (xviii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5487/2006]
- (xix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5488/2006]
- (xx) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Kolkata.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5489/2006]
- (22) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the above institutes for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5490/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rastriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rastriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 2005-2006.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5491/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5492/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5493/2006]
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5494/2006]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2003-2004.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5495/2006]
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5496/2006]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2004-2005.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5497/2006]
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Handi-

capped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5495/2006]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (b and c) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5496/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5497/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5498/2006]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5499/2006]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Instrument Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Instrument Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5500/2006]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5501/2006]

- (e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5502/2005]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5503/2006]

- (g) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5504/2006]

- (h) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5505/2006]

- (2) A copy of the statement of affairs (Hindi and English versions) of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited (Under Liquidation) as on 31.03.2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5506/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industries Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industries Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5507/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Amendment Order, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 594 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2006 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5508/2006]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5509/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5510/2006]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5511/2006]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5512/2006]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5513/2006]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5514/2006]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5515/2006]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

"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 13th December, 2006 agreed without any amendment to the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th December, 2006."

12.03¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Fourteenth Report

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances regarding assurances relating to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12.03¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Forty-fifth to Fiftieth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:-

- (1) Forty-fifth action taken report on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure and Disinvestment).
- (2) Forty-sixth action taken report on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Thirty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

- (3) Forty-seventh action taken report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Planning.
- (4) Forty-eighth action taken report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (5) Forty-ninth action taken report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fortieth Report on the Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Company Affairs.
- (6) Fiftieth Report on the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks Laws) Amendment Bill, 2006.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

One-sixty second to One-sixty ninth Reports

[English]

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated): I beg to lay a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests:-

- (1) 162nd Report on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme including Herbal Medicines.
- (2) 163rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 160th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- (3) 164th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 158th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Ocean Development (renamed as Ministry of Earth Sciences).
- (4) 165th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 161st report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Department of Space.
- (5) 166th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 159th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

- (6) 167th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 157th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Department of Biotechnology.
- (7) 168th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 155th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Department of Science & Technology.
- (8) 169th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 156th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

12.04 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: nation-wide strike by workers on 14 December, 2006 against alleged anti-labour policies of the Government

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, can we take up the Calling Attention after five to ten minutes?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, you have assured that you would allow me to raise our issue at 12 noon. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not denied. You please wait for a minute.

[English]

May I conduct the House according to the procedure?

Prof. Malhotra, ordinarily we take the Calling Attention and thereafter we take up the important matters of public importance but you know how agitated they are. So, may I take the Calling Attention after five minutes?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Okay, Sir.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not speak simultaneously. First I have called Basu Deb Acharia.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, several crores of working class across the country, both organized and unorganized sectors, from public and private

sectors, industries and service establishments are observing countrywide general strike to place their burning issues of their lives and livelihood, and also to oppose the continuity of the New Economic Policy of Liberalization, which is still being pursued by the Government at the Centre.

Sir, the call for the general strike has been given by the sponsoring committee of trade unions comprising most of the major central trade unions, independent industrial and employees federation in banks, insurance, and defence production, State and Central Government offices and other service organizations.

Today, crores of workers and employees are observing a strike. The strike, despite braving police repression, is successful in a number of States. The demand of the workers, the demand of the people of our country, as committed by the UPA Government, is that there should be a legislation to protect the interests of the workers in the unorganized sector. The Government should bring a legislation to provide social security to the workers in the unorganized sector. The Government has not brought any legislation. There is no social security for 37 crores of workers who are in the unorganized sector. There is no legislation for 22 crores of agricultural labourers. They have no security of job. Social security is not there.

The labour laws are blatantly violated. The labour laws, which are there to protect the interests of the workers, are being blatantly violated.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is being allowed in the Defence production also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have got your matter. We may discuss it in the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Privatisation of Public Sector Undertaking is going on unabated. There is a serious situation. Unemployment is growing. The farmers are committing suicide. There is agrarian crisis all over the country. More than one lakh farmers have committed suicide. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters are serious. I am requesting Mr. Basu Deb Acharia to conclude. I have called you.

Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am concluding.

Sir, the prices of all the essential commodities are

rising. The Government has not taken any step to stop the rise in the prices of essential commodities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Nothing else will be recorded except the speech of Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, it is not a debate. There was a debate on unorganized sector. I had allowed it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The cameras were broken up because of police beating. Because of police firing, one person was killed in Nuapada district of Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in Haryana. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not bring in State matter. No State matter will be allowed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The strike is successful. The Government should listen to the demands of the 40 crores of workers of our country.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said it very forcefully. You have made your point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government should immediately bring a legislation to protect the interests of unorganized sector and to provide social security for 37 crores of unorganized people.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not stood up to deliver a speech. Rather, I would like to associate myself with what Shri Basu Dev Acharia has said.

MR. SPEAKER: Those hon. Members who want to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Basu Dev Acharia may write their names on slips and give it to me.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): My party is also associating with this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. That energize them more. All those who wish to associate with this matter may please send in their names. It will be duly recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is discontent among the workers all over the country and they have staged a countrywide strike to express their resentment. The hon'ble Prime Minister had talked with the labour organizations on 16 August 2006 and the labourers were hopeful that the Government will take positive initiatives for the welfare of the labourers. However, not even a single effort was made by the Government of India in this direction. There are 93 per cent unorganized labourers in the country. Time and again, it has been discussed in the House that there is a need to formulate laws for them and provide them protection, however, no effective efforts were made by the Government in this direction. There is no protective law for the agricultural labourers as well. There is no employment guarantee for the urban unemployed. Regarding the privatization of Government Undertakings, a demand has been made on several occasions that the Government should assure that the profit earning public sector undertakings will not be privatized, retrenchment of workers will be stopped, new recruitments will be made and foreign investment will not be permitted in the retail sector. These are the basis issues which are concerned with the problems of labourers. You have rightly said that recently discussion has been held in the House on the problems of the labourers. I need your protection in this regard. The purpose of discussion is that if anywhere there is a problem of the people, the Government should take effective steps in this regard. I allege that the Government are not at all serious about the problem of labourers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not talk to each other, Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The present Government is not at all serious about the issue of labourers. Today a pathetic condition is prevailing all over the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Lathi charge was resorted to against the labourers, which is highly objectionable. It is a serious matter. I expect the Government would take necessary steps to solve the problems of the labourers.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, and my respected colleagues in Parliament, this is the second strike during the tenure of the present Government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh. In the year 2005 there was a strike. Now again there is a strike. We are on strike because the Government is violating the election mandate. The people have voted this Government to power because they wanted this Government to follow a different economic policy than the policy that the earlier Government had followed. But, unfortunately, they are following the same economic policy. This is again an all-round failure of the Government that the strike has been sponsored. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Why are you supporting this Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, you address the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am telling you. Today there has been an unprecedented strike in India. I am not blaming the States. Beginning from Assam to Kerala, there is an all-out strike. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. There has been firing saying we have no right to strike and one man has died. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: What you have done in Singur? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, please conclude. You have already taken 15 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, Sir. Please give two minutes more. ...*(Interruptions)* There has been lathi charge, there has been attack on the Press. ...*(Interruptions)* The Press has been attacked under this UPA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The freedom of the Press is being threatened. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we are protesting against this pro-rich and anti-poor economic policy of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Please give me one minute. I am only saying that this Government enjoys our support. Having enjoyed the support of the Left, the Government is completely ignoring our views. This cannot go on for long. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, I will adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will not allow this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to speak, please take my permission. Otherwise nothing is being recorded.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, may I point out?

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more. I have already called Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tarit Baran Topdar, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want the House to continue, please tell me. I will adjourn and go away. Then you will not be allowed to raise the issue. I am allowing you. You do it in a proper manner. I have already compromised with the rule with the permission of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot go on indefinitely. It is not a

debate. We allowed a full debate on the unorganized sector.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to say that today labourers have gone on strike throughout the country and farm labourers are rapidly migrating to other places. Their purchasing power is declining, unemployment is on the rise and as a result poverty is rising. Therefore, I submit that the report of the Second Labour Commission could not be implemented till date and even though the report of the National Commission set up for the unorganized labourers was out in the year 2000, yet no initiative has been taken till date in this direction. The report of the Arjun Sen Gupta Commission was made public on 16th May, 2006 which was presented to the Prime Minister but no action has been taken on the said report. Through you, I demand that a central legislation be formulated without delay and a social security network should be set up for un-organized and organized sector labourers who constitute 93% of the work force of the country. The condition of the unorganized labourers is very miserable and is a matter of concern. This is a very sensitive issue. So, the Government should immediately take a positive initiative in this regard. The poor rickshaw pullers, handcart pullers, peddlers of fruits on the pavement and vendors are being uprooted from the National Capital Region. The issue of regularizing their un-authorized colonies should be pondered over.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The names of Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Prabodh Panda, Shri Sudhangshu Seal, Shri N.N. Krishna Das, Shri Ram Chandra Dome, Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Swadesh Chakraborty, Shri Prasanta Pradhan, Shri Suresh Kurup, Shri Sunil Khan, Shri Alakesh Das, Shri P. Karunakaran, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Shrimati C. S. Sujatha, Shrimati P. Sathēedevi, Shri Samik Lahiri, Dr. Sujana Chakraborty, Shri Anil Basu, Shri Abu Ayes Mondal, Shri P. Rajendran, Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Joachim Baxla and Shri Subrata Bose are associated with this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister wants to say something.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please allow those who have given notices to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: No more. Hon. Minister wishes to say something.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Sir, please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaprada's name will be recorded. The names of Shri Anant Geete and Shri Yerrannaidu will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is also recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow. Please do not request me. I have allowed Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You send the name.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, please give me one minute. I want to associate myself with the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Your association is already recorded.

[Translation]

You have not given the notice.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot make a distinction. The names of Shri Amitava Nandy, Prof. Basudeb Barman, Shri Kiren Rijju, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Shri P.C. Thomas, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Raghunath Jha, Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh, Shri Vijoy Krishna, Shri Alok Kumar Mehta, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Sitaram Singh and Shri Tek Lal Mahto are also associated on this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi's statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, on behalf of the Government, I would like to respond that the right to strike is a fundamental right of the working classes, agricultural classes and all political parties and we salute these rights solemnly. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why can you not bring a legislation? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Nothing else will be recorded except the statement of the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the UPA Government tried to implement most of its commitments by this time and a few are still pending. I respectfully submit that the legislation on the unorganized sector is not only a claim of the UPA Government but the mandate of our National Common Minimum Programme. It is also declared emphatically by the Chairperson of the UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. This is one of the priority decisions. I can say with all respect to all the striking workers today, through you and through the House, that the UPA Government is determined to bring in a legislation in the next Session. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You bring a legislation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has committed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In how many years?

MR. SPEAKER: Next year.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In regard to the measures for the poor people, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is one of the major thrust areas not only in India but in the whole world.

It provided support to the rural unemployed people and the agricultural labour. ...(Interruptions) Let me respond. ...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word is being recorded. Why are you standing and interrupting?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do that, I will ask him not to reply, not to respond.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, with mid-day meal support, is one of the major thrusts of the UPA Government to the grass-root level people.

Sir, the new 20-point programme has been re-oriented touching the basic poor people of the village. That is a new thrust area in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The strength of self-help groups has gone up 10 times than what it was during the NDA's time. It will go beyond 20 times, as envisaged in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

With regard to the sick industries, the Prime Minister has for the first time appointed the VPSTC, which is yet to give their report. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything except the statement of the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I can only say that one of the major lumping sick units called IISCO has been finalised by this Government to merge with SAIL. Therefore, we did not attempt to disinvest in any major public sector undertaking, including Air India and Indian Airlines. This Government's attitude is for the people and for the poor.

Sir, I admit that there are a few shortcomings in various States and those matters would be taken up comprehensively by the UPA Government and its supporting parties.

With these words, I say that our Government is on the right track for the people, for the workers and for the agricultural labour in the country. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we are walking out.

12.22 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go out silently.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take Calling Attention. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You just leave it.

[English]

That will not be recorded. Please speak on the Calling Attention. There are enough problems.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The country witnesses whatever you people speak in the House.

...(Interruptions)

12.22 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (i) Situation arising out of atrocities being perpetrated against Kashmiri Pundits in Jammu and Kashmir for the past many years and steps taken by the Government in this regard

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of atrocities being perpetrated against Kashmir Pundits in Jammu and Kashmir for the past many years and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the State of Jammu and Kashmir comprises of

* Not recorded.

* Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5516/2006

the three regions of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir. Both Ladakh and Jammu have remained comparatively peaceful. Kashmir has been affected by terrorism since 1990 as a result of which there has been migration of Kashmiris from the Valley to Jammu, Delhi and other States.

Migration of some Kashmir pundits started in 1990 after militancy began in the Valley. Many families are living in the Valley. These families have been provided security cover by the local police. The security personnel have been equipped with latest weapons and communication facilities.

At Sangrampora on 22.7.1997, at Wandhama on 26.1.1998 and at Nadimarg on 24.3.2003, incidents took place in Kashmir Valley in which some Kashmiri pundits were killed.

After Nadimarg massacre in March 2003, some families migrated from Kashmir to Jammu Province. There has been no large-scale migration after 1990-91.

The Government has taken measures to protect the life and property of the different communities within the State. These measures include:

- (i) Police/CRPF pickets have been established in villages/clusters inhabited by different communities in Kashmir Valley.
- (ii) Adequate weaponry and communication facilities are provided at these pickets with the nearest security force units entrusted with the task of area sanitization.
- (iii) Village Defence Committees have been organized for self defence by training local volunteers.
- (iv) The CRPF and other security forces conduct frequent patrolling in the hinterland and areas inhabited.

To protect the properties of the migrant families, the State Government has enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint of Distress Sales) Act, 1997 and the Jammu and Kashmir Migrants (Stay of Proceedings) Act, 1997.

The Central and the State Governments have taken all possible measures to ensure that the needy migrant families are provided with a reasonable level of sustenance and support. The Government has recently decided to enhance monthly cash relief from Rs.3000 per family per month to Rs.4000 per family per month and basic dry ration to Kashmiri Migrants in Jammu and from Rs.3200 to Rs.4000 per family per month to Kashmiri migrants in Delhi with effect

from 1st July, 2006. Other State Governments/UT Administrations where the Kashmiri migrants have been staying have been providing relief to the migrants in accordance with the scales fixed by them.

Under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan for the State, 5242 two-room tenements have been planned for all families residing in the camps in the Jammu region. In the first phase, construction of 1023 flats has already started and is at various stages of completion.

In order to help the migrants who want to return to the Valley, Government of India have approved a project for Rs.20 crore for the construction of 200 two-bed room flats at Sheikpora, District Budgam. The construction is nearing completion. A grant of Rs.10 crore has been provided to the State Government for the reconstruction and renovation of houses and shrines at Kheer Bhavani and Mattan. The State Government have completed construction of 18 three-room flats in Mattan for temporary stay of Kashmiri migrants till they are able to return to their houses in the Valley. At Kheer Bhavani, 100 one-room tenements have been completed.

Terrorism-affected Districts have a mixed population. Terrorists have targeted all communities. With the onset of militancy of the Valley, difficulties have been faced by all communities.

The security situation in the State has improved on account of the sincere efforts of the security forces and efforts of Governments, and above all, the people's yearning for peace and normalcy. It is true that some people still continue to suffer. Attempts are made by all concerned to help the people to live more secured and peaceful life.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs does not reflect the terrifying and horrible nature of the situation. I was very much disappointed by the way in which he has given the reply and by the mention of whatever little work is being done there. About four lakh to five lakh people of Kashmir valley were forced to migrate. Notwithstanding what has been said in the name of Kashmiri Pandits and kashmiriyat, the fact remains that 90% of the Kashmiri Pandits were forced to run away from there and they migrated to other places. Many judges, lawyers and professors belonging to this community were killed there and it was declared that there was no place for Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir and they will set up Nizam-e-Mustafa, i.e., Islamic rule there. Subsequently, Pandits were forced to leave the valley. This is a large-scale genocide. There cannot be any other bigger example of ethnic cleansing than this

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

one. The arrangements we have been putting in place or we should put in place for them are being treated in a very casual manner by us. Not a single person migrated from Gujarat and the Congress President used the term 'genocide' for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Not a single person migrated from there.

[Translation]

She used the word genocide for the incidents of Gujarat. That was not genocide. It was not possible prior to this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, no discussion was held in foreign countries in this regard, no discussion was held in U.N.O. and people kept mum regarding this matter. If 4 to 5 lakh people migrate, it is not a big issue even in the countries who are the advocates of human rights but it will create a storm if we talk about expelling five people of Bangladeshi origin, still these people are keeping mum.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs said in his statement. He has stated that Rs. 10 crore will be provided, 200 two-bed room flats will be constructed, if Kashmiri Pandits want to return. Is this the way he should speak? Will Rs. 10 crore suffice for five lakh Kashmiri Pandits? Monthly allowance per family has been raised to four thousand rupees from three thousand rupees and now it is being stated that 200 flats will be constructed for these people. Government is talking about the healing touch policy here. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Kashmir, if a terrorist surrenders then he is given Rs. 3 lakh and if he surrenders on his own, he will be given employment. 24000 jobs have been earmarked for them and on the other hand if a Kashmiri Pandit has been forced to leave his home, out of the 18000 jobs only three thousand people have been given the jobs, what will happen to the remaining fifteen thousand people? Last time out of the total jobs created for them, not even 500 Kashmiri Pandits have been given the jobs. Of the remaining 15 thousand people, some of them have retired; some of them have passed away. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded except the speech of Prof. Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what are they doing? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sharmaji, please take your seat. You will be given opportunity.

[English]

Shri Sharma, nothing will be recorded. Please do not do this. I will call you once.

[Translation]

I have not given him permission, you please take your seat. Why are you shouting?

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharma, I was to give an opportunity but now, I won't.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ATR of the Government is with me. It is stated in that as to how many people have been given employment. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a human problem. Let us listen. The Minister has given a very exhaustive reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, not 500 Kashmiri Pandits have been given jobs while 24000 jobs have been reserved for them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask, why the remaining 15000 Kashmiri Pundits have not been given jobs? My question is that

[English]

No action has been taken against even those who

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

have publicly acknowledged the fact that they murdered Kashmiri Pundits. Cases have not been registered and even if cases were registered, they were not investigated. No murderer has been brought to book. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

There is no doubt that not even one person has been convicted; not even one person has been punished. It is also surprising to see that not even one of those who attacked the Parliament has not been punished in view of the severity of the attack? He is not being punished. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That matter does not arise. Please do not bring it here. That will not be taken up here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kashmiri Pandits have returned their medals and all those who killed the Kashmiri Pandits are moving around freely.

[English]

Not even one has been convicted; not even one has been arrested; and no case has been registered against any of them.

[Translation]

All those were there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, put your question.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, I am putting the question. No action has been taken to protect and assist the people left behind the Valley. They have not been given employment nor have they been made eligible for the benefits which migrants are eligible. The 'healing touch' policy announced by the Government has so far not covered in it the victims of terrorism, Kashmiri pundits. The CM has several times promised to give employment to our youth but no employment has yet been materialised. There is no budget allocation for relief and rehabilitation of Kashmiri pundits from the State Budget. All measures are. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a matter of Central Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am coming to the question. ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling the facts.

MR. SPEAKER: We are not dealing here with the State matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: May I submit Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

It was yesterday itself that the hon'ble Members spoke on the Calling Attention for about 20-25 minutes and I have spoken just for three minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You have spoken for more than three minutes, I am watching the clock.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have spoken just for three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* Gurudas Das Gupta spoke for 20 minutes on that day.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not speak so.

[English]

Do not impute anything.

[Translation]

It is not good to speak so. I provide all the opportunity to speak.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Home Affairs would pay attention towards providing all the facilities to those migrant Kashmiri Pandits who are still living in the valley. Whether he would propose to provide employment to at least ten thousand unemployed Kashmiri Pandits in armed forces, Para-military forces, Central Government offices, public sector undertakings and in the departments of the State Government. Whether the Central and State Government agencies and banks would be asked to help them to create self employment? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring in the State Government here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Provide them infrastructure and marketing and to all those who have migrated to Jammu or Delhi,

[English]

two-room flats to all migrants in Jammu, Delhi, Udhampur, Nagrota and elsewhere

[Translation]

should be provided. Here even slum-dwellers are being provided two-room flats, when all slum-dwellers are provided a two-room flats, then there is some responsibility of Union Government towards the Kashmiri Pandits also. Whether a two-room flat to those Kashmiri Pandits living in Jammu, Nagrota and Delhi would be provided? You said that ten thousand flats were under construction and 250 would be constructed in the valley and it was not difficult to provide two-room flats to those 80 thousand families which have migrated and accounts for a living populace of 5 lacs people. What is the difficulty in providing flats to them while we are providing flats to two lacs slum-dwellers?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government propose to promulgate any ordinance seeking hand-over of all Hindu shrines and temples to Kashmiri Pandits? The Government has acquired their properties there and have not given compensation to them. Whether it is proposed to return their properties which have been taken over by the Government? Kashmiri Pandits are in minority there, the Prime Minister had said on that day

[English]

Minorities will have the first right of the resources of the Government.

[Translation]

Whether or not there is any right for the Kashmiri Pandits or minority people of Kashmir? Presently, atrocities and injustice is being meted out to Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir. The terrorists there are against them. No one is at present ready to go to Jammu, since it has been announced that if anyone. ...*(Interruptions)*... If anyone comes back to Jammu, he shall either have to accept Islam religion or talk of independence of Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This...* has been said by. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

[English]

I have deleted that. Why are you speaking?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It has been announced that no Kashmiri Pandit can come back unless he talks of independence of Kashmir. There does not arise any question of independence of Kashmir. So, the statement of the Minister of Home Affairs does not at all commensurate with the problem prevailing there. I would like to appeal him to solve their problems by holding meeting with them and present in the House a White Paper on the action taken on the Sushma Chaudhary's recommendations made by the inter-ministerial committee constituted by the Government itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not put my signature, but here is a very important question, therefore, may you allow me to ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you co-operate, I will see to it otherwise, not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you know the rule is very clear in this regard. Only one hon. Member has given notice and there is no right of others to join the discussion unless it is permitted. I will try to give opportunity to one or two Members.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, please put only question and no bhashan.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have stated just now that the problem of Kashmir is a human problem. Kashmir is called the crown of India and is an integral part of it. It is not good for us that its citizens are subjected to injustice and atrocities. I would, therefore, like to ask through you Sir, what was the outcome of the appeal made by the State Government as well as the Central

* Not recorded.

Government to the Kashmiri Pundits for returning to Srinagar? How many persons have returned there and what security measures were taken for the safety of those who have returned there. What arrangements have been made by the Government to ensure that their vacant shops, houses and other properties which had been captured by other people are returned to them in proper condition and what security arrangements have been made for the safety of the camps where they are living?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, please ask only question and no preface.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Malhotraji has stated that it is a matter of great pain and anguish for us that people of our country have been living as refugees for the last 17 years in our own country. Perhaps, there is no other country in the world where such a situation prevail – that people of a country are living as refugees in their own country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, would you not allow me to speak a few words?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are unprecedented sufferings there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put question, all are anquished.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, five lakh citizens of our country have been living in a sort of exile like situation for the last 17 years. I am not making any political point. It is the duty of all of us and that of the Government to think seriously about them. Piecemeal announcements are not going to solve the problem. I would like to know this much from the hon'ble Minister that

[English]

In a report prepared by J&K Centre for Minority's studies headed by M.N. Kaul a retired I.A.S. bureaucrat of the State Government on the socio-economic conditions of Kashmiris displaced people.

[Translation]

They have made recommendations and have pointed out in a paragraph that persons belonging to three generations are living in a 10 x 10 feet room. It is a part of the report. How tragic is it to find that persons of three generations have to live in a single room. I, therefore, would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government are going to take note of the report submitted by Shri Kaul Sahib and if so, by when?

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know a thing or two from the Minister. The Calling Attention Motion moved by Shri Malhotraji. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly put your clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I am putting the question. I would like to make two or three points which would clarify the situation. I live among the people who have migrated to Mutthi Camp, Nagrota Camp and Mutthi-II from Kashmir during the last 18 years of militancy. Majority of my constituency consists of migrant people. A large majority of them live in Jammu Parliamentary constituency. To enquire the situation, I would like to tell Malhotra Sahib that not only Kashmiri pundits have migrated from Kashmir valley, but lakhs of Muslims have also migrated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, the trouble is that you do not give notice.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: It is true that 80 to 90% of the migrated population are Kashmiri Pundits, but Malhotra Sahib should also bear this in mind that in addition to the Kashmiri Pundits lakhs of Muslims whether they are politicians, bureaucrats or Businessmen, have also migrated during militancy and they are now living in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and in different parts of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I would like to clarify two things.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not give clarification rather seek clarification from the Minister.

[English]

I would not allow it to be converted into a debate.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: He has stated that employment has been given to 24 thousand people, which is not true at all. This statement is absolutely wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

[English]

If we once break the rules, then this is what happens. I would not allow anything to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: The State Government have created 24 thousand vacancies. The Kashmiri Pundits should be given their due share in proportion to their ratio of population among the educated unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir. ...*

Today, I would like to ask to which Kashmiri Pundit injustice was done in Kashmir and against whom atrocities were committed there. He has made allegations. He should come out with specific figures and names of the victims. Whatever he has stated. ...* which temple has been damaged during the last 10 years? He has stated so in the House from which I can infer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. Why are you speaking? Have you put any question?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please show the proceeding to me, I would like to see it.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I would like to mention as he has also stated that the Government has made an arrangement for construction of some rooms for Kashmiri migrants in Kashmir. Funds have been provided for that separately. Our hon'ble Prime Minister went there last year. He remained in power for six years, but the migrants anyhow had to live without shelter in miserable condition, but now the new Prime Minister has directed to get 2 rooms

constructed for each family as construction work for thousands of houses is underway in Jammu irrespective of the possibility of their return to their homes. Whether they would go back or not but the Government have made arrangement for each and every one.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter of regret.

[English]

If you have a question, then please put it.

[Translation]

You gave the notice at 12.27 P.M. Shri Raghunath Jha, ask a question, if you want so.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record anything. Show the proceedings to me. I will delete every word of it.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to say that you are missing the opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I have to ask only a question. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me the opportunity to speak even when I was not one of the signatories. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I try my best to cooperate, but I will follow the rules.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, hon. Malhotraji raised a very important subject on the problem of Kashmiri Pandits. But in addition to highlighting their problems, he has also blended politics and communal languages with it. So, I want a clarification on this subject from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs as it is a well-known problem raising its head for the last 18 years. When this problem cropped up, neither the people from the present government nor the opposition were in power. The displaced Pandits migrated from the valley to Jammu, Delhi, Nagrota and many other places. In this context, I would like to know whether the Central Government propose to conduct a survey about their number, their needs, losses suffered by them and compensate them accordingly?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No cross talks please. The hon. Home Minister has made a statement. He is there to reply. Please do not interrupt.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, Shri Malhotraji has raised some questions. In this context I would like to clarify that the government will try to provide jobs to the needy in Jammu and Kashmir and even in other states. This has been provided by law. We shall make efforts to help them and steps would be taken in that direction. Question has been raised about providing them with houses, and their number mentioned here is not large. There is nothing wrong if any doubt crept up in the mind of Malhotraji. But, it is government's opinion that any one returning back to Jammu and Kashmir will reside in his own house and not one provided by the Government. The arrangement of the houses made by the government is for that short period when they have any problem in going back to their own houses. We see such a small number of houses for that particular reason. But, we expect that they should live in their own houses as they were living in the past. You are right when you say that their safety should also be ensured.

You talked about Hindu temples. The places of worship serves the same purpose whether it belongs to Hindu, Muslim or Christian Community. You are well aware of security of the two temples in Jammu and Kashmir. So, I need not elaborate that matter. But, you cannot stop a person who voluntarily wants to help in the maintenance work of a temple out of devotion. But, the residents of Jammu and Kashmir have taken the responsibility of the maintenance and upkeep of all the temples of that state. Even at the time of taking the responsibility, they did not think to keep others away from that temple. Here, the biggest thing is that the people of all religions have faith for these temples also. This is the biggest and the best thing and we will take care of it. Rasa Singh Rawat ji has told that many people here are residing outside the state, would you make efforts to send them back? We shall definitely make efforts in this regard. Whenever they met me or the Prime Minister, we ask them to go there and assure them that we shall always try to protect them if they go there. The problem is that sometimes they agree, sometimes they do not. But I would like to say that you are aware of the steps taken by the Government in Jammu and Kashmir to provide security there. There is no need to repeatedly tell us to what forces have been deployed there and in what manner they are being helped by these forces. As you also have said and the previous government too paid attention to it. It is right that the people migrating to Delhi and Jammu and other places from Kashmir and to those living in Kashmir are provided with small houses and they have to live in those small houses. They face difficulties in living those houses. Steps have been taken to remove their difficulties. Especially, the Prime Minister has provided

them huge funds and endeavoured to provide them two-room flats in place of single room flats. What have the previous Governments done? I also have the relevant figures thereto. But we do not want to hold any discussion by levelling charges and counter-charges against each other. What are the achievements during five years or two years? It is not a place to discuss it, so I don't want to discuss it. But what is my stand is that we try to remove the problems being faced by the people and consider over it. That is a good thing. I respect this attitude and endeavour and I will try to act accordingly.

12.54 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

It has also been said that the Government has acquired the property of the people there and paid no compensation thereof to them. I think it came in the limelight and when I visited there twice or thrice, I discussed this matter with the Government and officers there. At that time, I was told that it had not happened. But if it has happened, then the State and Central Governments have the responsibility to set the things right and we would definitely do so. If we receive anybody's application seeking compensation for the property acquired by the Government there and for which the Government has paid no compensation, I would like to say in this House that it is the responsibility of Central Government as well as of the State Government to provide them what they are entitled to have legally.

Raghunath ji had also raised the same question. We would definitely do it. ...*(Interruptions)* I have had a number of discussions with Kaul ji. He is an experienced and intelligent officer. With his opinion, we shall definitely try to do as much as we can. It is very difficult to say anything minutely by way of the Calling Attention Motion. I'm not saying whether there's a question or not. That has very successfully been tried to be solved. Despite that, it is very necessary to take steps to solve the question after understanding that.

I just request the hon'ble Members of the House that it is very necessary for us to accept and honour what is to be said in the House and we shall do that. So, whatever they say, should not be beyond the facts? If facts are distorted for political gains and you say something beyond the context, it is useless what you have said here in the House. It is my humble submission that it is the responsibility of the persons sitting here to act upon what you will suggest and we shall definitely adhere to it accordingly. Please do not present facts in a distorted manner. ...*(Interruptions)* Please keep it in mind that relations of people with each other should not be strained in the name of religion or caste. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is meaningless to fight in the name of religion. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not satisfied with the answer given by the hon. minister. Their problem is severe and grave. No one is paying attention to their problem, so we are staging a walkout in protest.

12.56 hrs.

(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members then left the House)

12.57 hrs.

- (ii) **Situation arising out of Global Warming affecting India's climatic condition as reported in UN Development Programmes Human Development Report and steps taken by the Government in this regard**

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Environment and Forests to the situation arising out of Global Warming affecting India's climatic conditions as reported in the UN Development Programmes' Human Development Report and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

*THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): I rise to respond to the Calling Attention Motion moved by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, hon. MP regarding "Situation arising out of Global Warming affecting India's climatic condition as reported in UN Development Programmes' Human Development Report, and steps taken by the Government in this regard".

It is a fact that Human Development Report 2006 has stated "most models suggest that the monsoon rainfall patterns will change". The assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability require a wide range of physical, biological and socio-economic models, methods, tools and data. As such, it is a very complex phenomenon. Monsoon itself is a complex phenomenon. Even though our understanding about monsoon is improving, its complexities are not yet fully understood.

Climate Modeling studies do have their utility in better

understanding the potential impacts. However, projected climate change impacts depend not only on the reliability on the climate models, but more importantly, on changes in atmospheric concentrations of green houses gases, which in turn depend on global emissions pathways, which again depend upon future global economic patterns. As such, we are confronted with profound scientific uncertainties as of today.

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 3rd Assessment Report, 2001 has noted that over the period since the industrial revolution, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased from 280 to 368 parts per million.

13.00 hrs.

While emphasizing the inevitable uncertainty involved, the Panel based on various scenarios, estimated that due to human activities by 2100, carbon dioxide concentration would be in the range between 540 and 970 parts per million. As a result, between 1990 and 2050, global mean temperatures may increase by between 0.8 and 2.6 degree Celsius and by 2200 between 1.4 and 5.8 degree Celsius. In addition, the Panel anticipated changes in the levels of precipitation during the 21st Century, both increase and decrease, depending upon the specific location, in the range observed in the last 50 years can be attributed to human activity. The 4th IPCC Report is still awaited, which would be out next year. It is expected that 4th IPCC Report would reduce the scientific uncertainties to an extent.

For extreme events, there is currently insufficient information to assess recent trends, and climate models currently lack spatial details required to make confident projections. I may add that UNDP report mentions the emerging results of modeling for Asian Monsoons, and not exclusively for Indian monsoon.

In order to meet the global challenge of climate change, international community had adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) In May 1992, which came into force on 21st March 1994 and its Kyoto Protocol, which came into force on 16 February 2005. India is a Party to UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. The objective of the Convention is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level is to be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. UNFCCC recognizes the legitimate need for developing countries for sustained economic

growth and poverty alleviation. It must be realized that developing countries, owing to their historical and current low per capita levels of GHG emissions, are not responsible for the problem. Abatement of GHG emissions will involve a significant economic cost. The question of global burden sharing in GHG emission mitigation, is thus an accepted concern in the climate change debate.

The Kyoto Protocol is an important agreement because it commits the developed countries, including economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by an average of 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels during 2008-2012. The Kyoto Protocol is the most significant agreement as yet to combat climate change. Although India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments, we are following a sustainable development path, ensuring energy conservation, improved energy efficiency in various sectors and use of renewable energy

Our development efforts itself could help the poor in adapting to the adverse effects of climate change, including monsoon.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the House that we would be studying the emerging picture as soon as the 4th IPCC Report is available. The Government is aware of the potential seriousness of the problem of climate change and is undertaking various steps to study, to analyse as also adapt to the emerging situation.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We are receiving alarming signals and warnings cautioning us about the imminent disastrous effects of global warming on India. According to the World Meteorological Organisation, this past decade from 1996-2005 has been the warmest decade in the history of earth. Therefore, Sir, we have to adapt to climate change irrespective of what we do. It is a phenomenon that we have to come to terms to live with.

Changes in climate and precipitation level impacts several sectors including natural and human systems, from agriculture to water resources, to forestry, to biodiversity, to healthcare and even to infrastructure.

[Translation]

Today, it is not a political issue. But in future, if we are unable to show awareness in the next 10-15 years, then it will definitely affect persons from all walks of life. It will not matter whether he lives in rural or urban area. Therefore, it is a very important issue and today we should discuss it in our country.

[English]

This matter also directly impacts on the economy of India because 70 per cent of the population is based on agriculture.

Sir, climate change has equity implications and accordingly it also affects sustainable development. I would like to quote the hon. Minister himself. He quoted from the Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change which says:

"Human induced climate change has a potential to trigger large scale changes in earth systems that could have severe consequences on regional or global scales. The probabilities of triggering such events are poorly understood, but should not be ignored given the severity of their consequences."

Therefore, the developmental implications of this climate change would be severe and catastrophic. The northern part of our country will experience melting of glaciers thus resulting in a larger flow of water initially into our rivers, but this flow will keep on dwindling not only in terms of volume but also in terms of our being able to recharge the ground water situation. So, we will have problems of water availability and problems of water scarcity.

There will be a reduction of yields across the country from Andhra Pradesh to Chhattisgarh and from Madhya Pradesh to Gujarat where it has been proved that if there is a two degree rise or more in temperature, crop yields from wheat to all other crops will be directly affected. Already we have a plateauing of agriculture yield and productivity and this will even hamper it more. There will also be a greater incidence of pests and insects as they thrive much better in higher temperature environments. Air pollution, desertification and loss of biodiversity will also be on the increase. In addition to this, the regional surface temperature will rise by close to five degree Celsius and 20 per cent rise in summer monsoon will create floods in certain areas and drought in other areas. The hydrological cycle in our country will also be altered. The Krishna, Narmada, Cauvery and Tapti river basins will experience severe drought water stresses on the one side and flood conditions will be experienced in Mahanadi, Godavari and Brahmani river basins on the other side. Due to the temperature rise, our GDP will be affected by close to 0.67 per cent and the sea level rising by 100 cms. will lead to a welfare loss close to \$ 1.3 billion per annum. Malaria, which is already rampant across our country, will increase in States like Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram. The transmission and duration window of this will also increase.

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

The World Bank study has also found that there is a direct correlation between climate change and farmers' suicides.

[Translation]

The person unable to produce depends on the money lender and at last he is compelled to commit suicide.

[English]

At least a thousand farmers have committed suicide in Vidharba region alone in the past year. Therefore, all across the board we have to fight this scourge. What can we do? In November this year, countries across the world converged on this platform, but the only thing that all the countries did was blame each other. I think it is important for us to look within and attack this problem.

So, we have to look at two routes. One is adaptation. What can we do to change the way we function to adapt to this challenge? The other route is mitigation. How can we lower our energy levels so as to stop this problem? As far as adaptation is concerned, we need to increase the efficiency of water use. About 80 per cent of our water is still used for agricultural purposes and our urban areas still waste a lot of water. Therefore, we need to change the management of our water resources and in this we can learn from Israel which has used drip irrigation extremely effectively. Then, we also need to be able to effectively price our public utilities. Today, electricity or water is not priced effectively in our country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, I need your protection. This is a very important matter which needs to be debated in this House at great length because it is going to affect the lives of one billion of our people. Therefore, it is very important that we look at effective pricing of our public utilities.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to discuss this matter at length, you can give a separate notice. In Calling Attention, you can only ask questions.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: I did, Sir. Now, please give me a couple of minutes more.

Sir, we also need to look at research activities. We need to develop new strains of crops that can take greater temperature as well as high salinity levels. We also need to look at crop species that are better suited for poor farmers. We need to look at enriching the IT base in agriculture information areas and bridge the gap in irrigation potential

by strengthening Self Help Groups and Water Users Associations. Most importantly, we need to have an index-based weather risk insurance for agriculture. We need to have more private companies like ICICI-Lombard come out and insure farmers not only against damage but also against less rainfall that is received. This is a new product that is coming to the market and we must make sure that the Government goes ahead with that.

As far as mitigation is concerned, we need to either reduce energy intensity or reduction in net CO₂ emissions, which the hon. Minister referred to.

Finally, I would like to ask the hon. Minister a couple of questions. Firstly, are we looking at carbon pricing and taxing in this country? Today, India contributes only three per cent of global green house gases as opposed to 5.2 per cent of the global average and 24 per cent contributed by the US. We have the potential to emerge as the leader to carbon credits among developing countries. So, are we looking at this?

Secondly, what is the policy support of the Government in looking at innovation and deployment of low carbon technology? Thirdly, are we thinking of removing the barriers to entry for energy efficient technologies? Fourthly, the measures that we are taking to inform, educate and persuade the people about the need for carbon free economy?

Lastly, fiscal incentives to promote drip irrigation and investment in cleaner fuel technologies and also look at greater number of projects in the clean development mechanism, for which you have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 17,000 crore. I think, this should be increased, at least, to Rs.20,000 crore to Rs.25,000 crore.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, if we want change, we have to mandate that change. As Mahatma Gandhi said: "we have to become the change we want to see in the world". Therefore, we must move for that change.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Though the rule does not permit, I am allowing a few hon. Members to raise questions only.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, because of this global warming, the rice production has already fallen, the sea food production is also reducing and there has been an overall reduction in glaciers in the Himalayan region from 2077 sq. kms. to 1628 sq. kms. And over all deglaciation of 21 per cent in four decades.

There is every probability that countries like Maldives will submerge under water within some years and a major portion of Bangladesh will also sink. Sir, 30 per cent to 50

per cent of the total fresh water comes from glaciers. If the glaciers fade away, it will affect the hydro electricity generation in States like Himachal Pradesh, Assam and the rest.

13.12 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

Madam, I have got only three questions to put to the hon. Minister. Firstly, what is the Government of India doing to bring in more and more countries under Kyoto Protocol, specifically, how to bring in the United States of America to agree to sign this Protocol.

Secondly, is the Government going to have alternative or eco friendly sources of energy so that there would be less burning of fossil fuels and less emission of green house gases?

Lastly, a number of thermal plants are going to be installed in this country, specifically in my own State Orissa. Yes, we want power to achieve our eight to nine per cent GDP growth annually. But will these thermal plants not add to the global warming? I give you one example. In my State, in a place called Talcher, there is a thermal plant. In the summer season, the temperature goes up to 50 degrees celcius and this time it has gone to 52 degrees celcius. So, what the Government is going to do to see that the thermal power industry improves this technology and cap the heat generated by its units?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Madam, I would just convey to you that we have agreed in the BAC meeting that all these days to accommodate the legislation, we will suspend Lunch Hour so that we can take up the Bills as early as possible. We have all agreed to that. I would request you that after the Calling Attention is over, we may take up legislative business and suspend the Lunch Hour.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I think, the House agrees to that. We will do that.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Always suspending the Lunch Hour is not good.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is good for the health.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Madam, Chairperson, global warming is not a phenomena' confined

to any particular country; it is a problem affecting the entire world. I congratulate Sindhiyaji for drawing the attention of the Government of India towards this problem in context of India. This problem is discussed at various world-level conferences being held all over the world. But, the problem needs some serious thinking and solution.

I would like to know from the Government whether it intend to organize a conference of Environment Ministers and Science and Technology Ministers and experts, having knowledge in this field from all over the world in India so that meaningful steps can be taken for solving this problem and protecting humanity.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Madam Chairperson, thank you for permitting me to ask a question on this important issue. Although Shri Sindhia has asked many important questions about this issue in the House, but, I also want to raise an important question in this House and wish that the hon. minister should answer that question. The Government of India had released a report on environmental change two years ago. It was mentioned in the report that

[English]

every degree of temperature rise would follow climate vagaries by 7 per cent and revenue losses up to 13 per cent.

[Translation]

It is a very serious and important matter. I would like a clarification from the hon. minister whether the Government have taken up this issue seriously and what are the steps taken for proper evaluation of that situation and whether we are progressing towards international cooperation?

The second point is whether the Planning Commission have taken a serious view of these facts as it is going to seriously affect the lives of the people as well as agriculture? Its deep impact will be felt especially in the schemes related to poverty alleviation.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): From the reply statement it has been acknowledged by the Government that, as such, we are confronted with profound scientific uncertainties as of today. It is a matter of great concern because Government itself is not able to confront the situation on their own.

The second thing is that the time-frame of the International Protocol has not been fixed. So, India has to

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

persuade still those countries which are yet to sign the Protocol of Kyoto because it is the burden of the developed country that we have been bequeathed on.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No. Only put a question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: According to the greatest scientist Chris Thomas the effects of climatic change should be considered as great threat of bio-diversity as the big three, that is, habitat destruction, invasion by alien species, and over-exploitation of humans. As per science we know that for our ideal climatic condition we have to retain the temperature of our climate to the tune of 15 per cent because 95 per cent of our climate consists of carbon-dioxide and oxygen.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please put a question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Madam, I am asking question.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: And you should ask a short question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I would like to ask the hon. Minister in charge of Environment. I think, you are aware that 15 per cent temperature is ideal for human activities. If there is no green house gas, the stability of our climate will be reduced to 18° centigrade.

So, I would like to know whether any climatic change has been taking place in India. Have you observed it? Do you have any idea as to what percentage of gas of the green houses being emitted? Do you have any idea about the rate of melting of our glaciers? I would also like to know whether ecological balance, which is ideal for human activity, has been maintained or not. What is the level of melting that is taking place in our glaciers?

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Madam, the bigger danger than that of weapons of mass destruction or that of HIV AIDS is the climatic change, which has probably destroyed the entire humanity, not only humanity but also the biological life of the world, and, therefore, it is a very serious issue.

Madam, I would like to ask some questions to the hon. Minister. This is not his responsibility alone. He is only the Minister of Environment. It is the responsibility of the Energy Ministry, Health Ministry, Agriculture Ministry, and several other Ministries. So, is the Government planning to set up a high-powered institutional mechanism, maybe headed by the Prime Minister himself, to address this big challenge that might wipe out the humanity, forget the GDP?

Secondly, Kyoto protocol is going to come to an end in 2012. We do not know the feature of this protocol. In fact, the framework of this protocol is available internationally to deal with climate change. When it comes to an end, we do not really know what is going to happen.

My dear good friend, Shri Scindia has asked a very pertinent question about CDM, green development mechanism. When the protocol is not there, there is no CDM. Therefore, is the Government planning to find out how to proceed further to engage all the countries of the world and to make sure that there is framework available beyond 2012? Moreover, the countries in the rest of world are putting pressure on India saying: "You are one of the greatest emitters. So, you should take a commitment." I understand what the Minister has said in his statement that our country being a poor country and we have development priorities and, therefore, we should not be allowed to take a commitment. What is the Government's response to this global demand that we should take a commitment? How are we going to deal with this? Is the Government thinking of bringing out a White Paper to encompass all these issues, take the Members of Parliament into confidence and also create an institution where each one of us can participate in it? This is something which is going to affect the poorest of the poor in the country. This is not the problem of the rich people, this is the problem of the poor people, and this is going to wipe out the humanity. So, I urge the Minister to answer this question. I know that his Ministry is only the nodal agency to take the blame. I would request him to please involve everybody including the Members of Parliament.

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West): Madam, I am coming straight to the question.

The Himalayan belt determines the climatic condition of India. If there were no Himalayas, then the whole Northern India would have been a desert. I have not seen any kind of policy from the Government side to conserve environment, life and cycles of the Himalayan Region. My specific question to the hon. Minister is this. There was a talk about the creation of the Himalayan Development Authority for quite some time. What is the Ministry doing at the moment to conserve the life of the animals, forests and the river chain system in the whole of the Himalayan Region? I would also like to know whether you have a massive plantation programme for reforestation in the Himalayan Region.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Madam, receding glaciers is one of the greatest menace. Snowline is also receding. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests the steps that the Government is taking to conserve that ecology and environment of Himalayas.

Have they studied the river Regime as to how much of volume of water is there in different catchment areas of different streams? I would like to know the type of strategy and policy that they are just initiating to increase the volume of water in different river catchment area. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to change the Forest Policy.

The Forest Policy should have a forest functional plan. A right perspective plan should be incorporated in future so that we can increase the volume of water in the catchment areas and to meet the requirement of drinking water, irrigation and also industry. So, the Govt. must have this type of policy or not?

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Hon. Madam Chairman, I have got a book titled 'National Environment Policy 2006'. On page 11 of the book, it has been written:

[English]

"The Policy will, accordingly, promote the internalization of environmental cause, including through the use of incentive-based policy instruments taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution."

The Heading is "Polluters' Page." It is on page 11.

[Translation]

I would like the hon. minister to inform the House about the time by which rules are likely to be framed for "polluters" mentioned on page 11.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Madam Chairperson, I also want to say something.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have already allowed many hon. members and the Members from your party have also been allowed.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Madam Chairperson, I am thankful to the hon. Member Mr. Scindia who brought this Calling Attention Motion and other Members who had expressed their concern over this important Motion.

By viewing the expressions that have been made in the House, including the Mover, I can broadly classify the issues into two. One is, what are all the impacts on the climate change? We have to do something domestically. What are all the efforts going to be taken by the Government

domestically? On the other hand, another one is, what are all the international events being contemplated on the climate change by way of Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?

Coming to the first point, 'yes', it is true. Of course, most of the Members expressed their views that what are all the adverse impacts due to the climate change and also about the domestic yardsticks. The domestic yardsticks are namely, agriculture, forestry, including bio-diversity, coastal zone areas, including the sea level rising, water resources, which include what some of the Members had put regarding Himalayas or Arunachal Pradesh about glacier melt, and human health care delivery system, including the vector borne disease contemplated by the Health Ministry.

Though some of the allegations have been expressed here, it is true that the climate change is not directly connected with the suicide of farmers. Maybe, it is indirectly connected. But coming to all the domestic needs, which may be directly or indirectly connected with the climate change, these are all the issues being looked after by various Ministries. But so far as my Ministry is concerned, in order to minimize the emission, the standards, which have been contemplated in the Environmental Protection Act for vehicles, industries and for other areas, are being updated day by day. Day by day we are giving new updates. It is being contemplated by way of rules under the Environmental Protection Act.

Another more important area in the field of climate change is afforestation. Afforestation is having its own co-efficient in terms of carbon emission and in terms of reduction of other emissions also. So, afforestation is being taken up by this Ministry, by the National Afforestation Eco Board. We are spending Rs.1200 crore in the Tenth Plan to promote the forestry.

Madam, I can be permitted to come to the other side regarding the international scenario for the climate change. As the hon. Member Mr. Mahtab put it, the climate change cannot be confined, cannot be interpreted or measured within the territorial limits. Whatever efforts taken by India, whatever efforts taken by the developing countries like India or some other countries like China, may be attempts to have some reduction in the climate change. That does not mean, we can win over and that we can exclusively achieve the climate change commitment whatever we have contemplated in the Kyoto Protocol or the United Nations Framework.

Madam, it is a common responsibility. The opening sentence contemplated in the Kyoto Protocol itself says that it is a common commitment but differentiated responsibilities. India is well within the limit of the emissions. We are not the

[Shri A. Raja]

polluters when it is compared with the developed countries. We are not doing any harm to the entire world. In spite of the fact that the developmental activities being taken place rapidly in the country, we were very categorical before the international forums and it has been proved by scientific methods that our emissions are only below three per cent which is well within the limits when it is compared to our population.

What can be done? Two instruments are available before us. One is the Kyoto Protocol and another is the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. Some of the hon. Members have asked - under the Kyoto Protocol what are all the efforts that are going to be taken by India and how the other countries, those who have not signed it can be brought under its umbrella. With all my sincerity I can submit before this House that it may be a Herculean task for India because we are a developing country. But we were very firm and categorical in the Kyoto Protocol that we are a developing country and we are facing problems with poverty and that the other industrial developmental growth must take place in the country and so we cannot give any commitment to reduce our emissions.

That does not mean India is not at all caring about the emissions. We are having our own system, as I put it earlier. Some of the legal measures have been taken under the Environmental Protection Act, the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 etc. There are various measures which are being taken in this regard. But, before the international forums, we were very firm that we cannot give any commitment to reduce our emissions. Some of the hon. Members including my predecessor Shri Suresh Prabhu spoke on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Please clarify whether you are signing that protocol or not as Italy has already signed. You should get inspiration from Italy and inform the House whether you are signing Kyoto Protocol or not? This is a very important issue.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: I will come to this point. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): We have already signed it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lakshman Singhji, this is not the way.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: My predecessor Shri Suresh Prabhu wanted to know whether any efforts are being made to bring the United States within the Kyoto Protocol. There was an attempt. It is true that the United States and Australia and some of the other developed countries were not inclined to put their signature in the Kyoto Protocol and as such they are not able to give any commitment to reduce their emissions. But equally it does not mean that the United States or Australia are not at all caring to reduce their emissions. The United States are having their own laws. When we went there and interacted with them, in the United States even the State-wise, the Provincial States are having their own laws are having their own laws to reduce their emissions.

But, by way of complementing the Kyoto Protocol, Australia had a Conference in the name of Asia Pacific Partnership. Though they are not coming within the domain of the Kyoto Protocol they attempted to address the issue beyond the Kyoto Protocol by collecting some of the other countries to reduce their emissions. India took part in the Partnership meeting which was held at Sydney last year where those who were not accepting the Kyoto Protocol were ready to come to certain limits to reduce their emissions without any commitment. We felt that it may be a complementary to the Kyoto Protocol and as such we went to the Partnership along with Australia and United States.

These are all the efforts being made at the domestic level and at the international level. India's position is limited. With limited scope, whatever be the best that can be done by the Government of India we are doing.

With these words, I conclude.

13.34 hrs.

MOTION RE: THIRTY SECOND REPORT OF THE
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th December, 2006."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th December, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

13.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Madam, I would request the Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Matters under Rule 377 are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (I) **Need to Include Prajapati/Kumhar community in the list of SCs/STs**

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR (Outer Delhi): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards inclusion of Prajapati (Kumhar) caste in the list of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes so that this caste can avail all types of reservation benefits provided to those castes in the Constitution. Prajapati caste constitute six percent of the population of the country but it could not make social, educational and economic progress even after independence and it is the most backward group among the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in all the above mentioned fields. It was placed as dalits in the census of 1911 due to its social, educational and economic backwardness. Even in the Simon Commission report of 1931, it was enlisted as Dalit caste. Many Commissions/Committees constituted by the Central/State government have recommended that it is a backward caste. In fact, Kumhar caste is included in the list of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Jabalpur, Rihwa, Satna, Sidhi districts of Madhya Pradesh and they are enjoying all the facilities and reservation of those castes.

So, I request the Central Government to give a serious thought to this proposal and include Kumhar/Prajapati caste in the list of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes by making necessary amendment in the Constitution.

- (II) **Need to take steps to make Brahmaputra river pollution free**

[English]

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): Water of almost all rivers in the country is polluted. It is heartening to know that there is marked improvement of water quality in certain very populated cities/towns situated on the banks of Ganga river and that National River

Conservation Plan (NRCP) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 160 towns along the polluted stretches of 34 rivers spread over 20 States. Brahmaputra river, is one of the largest rivers in India and regarded as the lifeline for people of whole of Assam and certain areas of the neighbouring States. Water of this river is extremely contaminated due to uncontrolled disposal of industrial effluent and urban sewage raising its pollution level very high. More than 16 million people in Guwahati and millions living on the banks of this river are exposed to water borne diseases. The livestock, fish and crops are also affected. Unfortunately Assam has not been included in the NRCP list. Assam is one of the most backward States – afflicted by severe unemployment and poverty. Most people here are ignorant about pollution and without means to adopt alternative methods of safe drinking water. Therefore, in the near future my State will not only be economically backward but physically ailing too. I therefore urge the Ministry of Environment & Forests to take immediate step so that the State Government in collaboration with Central Pollution Control Board takes up cleansing operation of Brahmaputra river on war footing.

- (III) **Need to open an L.P.G. agency in Chikhhil, district Navsari, Gujarat**

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY (Mandvi): Taluka Chikhhil in district Navsari of Gujarat is a city having population of three lac twenty five thousand. 75% of the population in this area is of Scheduled Tribes. This city comes under my Parliamentary Constituency. As there is no LP Gas Agency in Chikhhil, the people of this area have to go to nearby cities to get the LP Gas connections as well to re-fill the empty gas cylinders. Keeping in view the genuine problem of the people of Chikhhil, I request the Government that a LP Gas Agency may be opened in Chikhhil at an early date so that the people of this area may get LPG supply without much inconvenience.

- (IV) **Need to create a separate department within the Police Force for protection of child rights**

SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT (Mumbai North-West): Sir, 12 million girls are born every year out of which 3 million do not live to see their 15th birthday. One in every 4 girls and one in every 7 boys are sexually abused. There are 16 million working children and all these children are victim of human rights violation. Forty per cent of Indian population is below 18 years, which makes us the country having the world's largest child population.

A recent NDTV undercover operation exposed an ashram in Gahzlabad that housed 65 young orphan girls

*Treated as laid on the Table.

many of whom were mentally challenged. The physical and sexual abuse by ashram head was brought to light in the report exposing the report exposing the fact that there are many children who share similar fate in the country. The rescue of these girls were a long drawn affair. All what the local authorities should have done was done by the media NCW and NGO.

I request the government to ensure that all facilities, in institution, and homes where children live meets certain standards which are periodically monitored.

A separate department within the police force to deal with victims of abuse, children in difficult circumstances and rescued children may be created. Sensitise the police, Government Officers teachers, community leaders and grassroot workers so that they may report child abuse. Support NGO's who are working in the field of protection of children and child rights. Counseling and medical service in all children's facilities must be made mandatory. District wise vigilance committees comprising of police, NGO and local residents to monitor and check child abuse in their areas must be formed. Rehabilitation facilities must be put in place and special rehabilitation centres provided in each district. Police must be made accountable for any lapse in rescuing and rehabilitating children in distress.

(v) Need to raise Himachal Regiment in the Army

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): The young people of Himachal Pradesh are getting recruited in the Armed forces and are engaged in protecting the country. The maximum number of brave soldiers of the state have laid down their lives in the conflicts with China and Pakistan. Out of 4 Pram Vir Chakra awarded to the martyrs in Kargil, two were awarded to soldier of the Himachal Pradesh. Apart from this the soldier from Himachal Pradesh have been awarded 1 Ashok Chakras, 15 Maha-vir chakras, 14 Kirti chakras 67 Veer chakras and 47 Shaurya chakras. Almost every state and caste have regiment of its own but there is no regiment in the name of Himachal Pradesh. Our Chief Minister has requested the Indian Army, but nothing has been done. I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Central Government that immediate decision should be taken in this regard and the same should be announced in this very session.

(vi) Need to include Bareilly bypass work on National Highway No. 24 in Phase IIIA and start its work immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, Bareilly is

an important city of Uttar Pradesh which is situated at National Highway No. 24 between Lucknow and Delhi. Work for construction of Bareilly bypass road is in progress for the last 10 years. Land acquisition and DPR work has been completed but construction work has not been started till date. I have come to know that the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways has kept this construction work in phase-3B although this work should have been included in phase 3-A and construction should have been started immediately. I would like to request the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways through you to include this work in Phase-3 A and start the construction immediately.

(vii) Need to provide railway link between Neemach and Badi Saadri for the convenience of people from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, the gauge-conversion work on Neemach-Ratlam section of Western Railway is being done on war-footing and it is expected that it will be completed before March, 2007 and goods as well as passenger trains will start running on that track. It will not only accelerate the pace of development of this area but also boost the revenue earning of Railways. In this connection, there is another demand of the people of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan that if Badi Saadri is provided rail link with Neemach, then, it will provide a direct link between Badi Sadri and Jodhpur, as those places are situated at a distance of only 47 kilometres. It will provide better movement facility to the people of both the states and will be beneficial from the view point of public utility, regional development and railway revenue.

Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to take necessary action for providing a rail link between Neemach and Badi Sadri to fulfill the long-standing demand of the people of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and to allocate required amount for that purpose.

(viii) Need to provide compensation to the farmers of Rajasthan whose land has been acquired by army on Indo-Pak border.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar): Sir, for the purpose of carrying out barbed-wire fencing on Indo-Pak border, one to two acres of land of each farmer was acquired. The security forces deployed at the border prevent farmers from farming activities at those places. The farmers can neither do irrigation work nor sow seeds in their fields. Farmers of border areas are a distressed lot. They have been ruined due to it. I request the Central Government through you to provide compensation to the farmers on the

lines of compensations paid to the farmers of Punjab and Gujarat so that the farmers may not suffer.

- (ix) **Need to accord approval to the proposal of the Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up pilot project under Non-Conventional Energy Source.**

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government through you towards a gasifier plant under pilot project in Madhya Pradesh. Three bio-mass Gasifier plants of the pilot project under Non-Conventional Energy Sources scheme of the Central Government have been rendered as just show pieces within a few months of their installation Monetary and technical, both types of problems have cropped up in the functioning of plants installed by incurring expenditure of lacs of rupees. As a result, power supply is still a day dream for tribal villages. Eleven villages of Baitul, Harda, Hoshangabad, Mandla, Balaghat, Jhabua and Siwani Districts of Madhya Pradesh were included in that pilot project. Sir, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has placed its problem before Central Government demanding that an honorarium should be made available by the Central Government for at least two years. I request the hon'ble Minister to accord approval to the proposal of the State Government immediately.

- (x) **Need to conduct CBI enquiry into working of Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board.**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh had requested the Central Government to get the financial and other irregularities of Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Board Parishad investigated by C.B.I. In response to that the department of Public Grievances Government of India had requested the State Government through its D.O. Letter No. 228/32/2003 AVD-II dated 16.8.04 to issue a notification for C.B.I. inquiry.

But, that notification has not been issued till date, which is preventing the initiation of CBI inquiry.

So, I request the Central Government to take proper action in this regard and expedite the C.B.I. inquiry.

- (xi) **Need to set up an IIT in Palakkad, Kerala**

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): It is a long pending demand from the people of Kerala for setting up an IIT in Kerala. The Government of Kerala had taken up the matter with the Hon'ble Prime Minister and given an assurance for

the required infrastructural facilities for setting up IIT. Now the Government of Kerala have identified even the area and all the preliminary preparations have also been made. During the discussions with the Hon'ble PM and the Chief Minister of Kerala the Union Government have in principle agreed to set up the IIT in Kerala. The identified area for this is in Palakkad which is the ideal place for setting up of IIT.

I urge upon the Union Government to give early clearance for setting up IIT at Palakkad, which is the identified ideal place in Kerala.

- (xii) **Need to include 'MARATI' community in the list of STs**

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): In 1952 MARATI community was included in the List of STs and has been enjoying the facilities provided to the Scheduled Tribe people.

The Legislative Assembly of Kerala has unanimously passed the resolution to include this community in the List of STs. The Minority Commission and also the SC/ST legislative Committee strongly recommended for their inclusion. Considering these facts the previous and the present Government, Government of Kerala has also strongly recommended for the same.

I urge upon the Government to kindly consider this favourably and expedite the matter without further delay.

- (xiii) **Need to include Bhojpuri Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.**

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, almost 30 crores of people speak the Bhojpuri language in and outside the country. Over the years many films have been produced which have gained considerable popularity. These films studded with big cine-stars have been appreciated for their sociological concerns. The Bhojpuri speaking people are feeling humiliated. Demonstrations are being held in every nook and corner of the country. Memoranda have also been sent to the hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard. It is the demand of Bhojpuri speaking people that their language be included in the Eighth Schedule to the constitution. This step moved add to the dignity of the people living in the country as well as aboard.

- (xiv) **Need to restart the construction work of Over Bridge near Bihta Gumti, Bihar**

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, construction work of an over bridge near Bihta Gumti in my parliamentary

constituency was started by the Railways but the work has been stopped for some unknown reasons. A demand is being made by some people to construct it at any other place. It is a very crowded place. It is the connecting link to the NH. Heavy traffic movement takes place there which causes a lot of difficulty to the people. It has caused a considerable resentment among local people.

I, therefore, would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Railways and urge upon him through this House to kindly issue orders for early resumption of the construction work the Railway over Bridge near Bihta Gumil.

(xv) Need to provide stoppage of some trains at Sirhind, Punjab

[English]

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA (Ropar): Sirhind is located between Ambala and Ludhiana and is linked by train with Bhakra Nangal Dam. Those who have to travel to Bhakra Nangal Dam, Chakreshwari Devi Jain Temple, Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib, Sri Chakrasakhar Temple, Muslim Shrine Roja Sharif, Gurudwara Anandpur Sahib and Gurudwara Chamkaur Sahib have to either get down at Ambala or travel to Chandigarh and board or organize local road transport in order to reach these places. In case stoppages of train Nos. 2497 UP - 2498 DN Shan E Punjab New Delhi-ASR, 2317 UP-2318 Dn Akal Takhat Express, 3005 UP - 3006 DN Howrah-ASR Mail, 9367 UP - 9368 DN Malwa Exp. Indore-Jammu Tawi and 4859 UP-4860 DN New Delhi-ASR Express are provided at Sirhind, these places would come within reach and it would save a great deal of motor fuel and would prevent a lot of hardships of the traveling public. I would, therefore, like to request the Minister of Railways to immediately allow stoppages of above-mentioned trains at Sirhind.

(xvi) Need to run a passenger train in the morning hours between Patna and Islampur.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP PRASAD (Na'anda): Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government to Patna-Fatuha-Islampur Rail section under the Eastern Railway. At present there are trains for Islampur from Patna at 10.10 A.M., 11.35 A.M. and 12.30 P.M. and 8.30 P.M. on this rail section. Non availability of a train in the morning hours for Islampur from Patna causes a lot of inconvenience to the passengers. Besides, there always remain the possibilities of robbery. The passengers and the female passengers feel insecure while traveling by the Islampur passenger train which originates from Patna at 8.30 P.M.

I would, therefore, make a demand to the Government to introduce a new passenger train at 6.30 A.M. from Patna to Islampur which should reach Islampur at 9 A.M. and then originate from Islampur at 9.30 A.M. to reach Patna at 12 P.M. Further more, the time of the passenger train which originates at 8.30 P.M. from Patna should be changed to 6.30 P.M.

(xvii) Need to generate special Scheme for financing grain milling activity

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is having special schemes for financing activities like Fruit and vegetable processing, Food grain milling and Processing & refrigeration of dairy products and eight other activities.

While the government is concentrating on other activities it has selectively left grain milling. Grain milling is a large employer in many states including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. But living this activity has resulted in great difficulty for the people involved in this activity. The Annual Report 2005-2006 shows that the Government has allocation of less than 5% of it's allocation for this purpose. The justification given by the Ministry is that it was felt that priority should be given to processing and enhancing shelf life of perishable items so as to reduce wastage and encourage value addition in that sector. Considering that rice/pulses/flour are consumed in the processed form only the primary processing in these sectors adds little to shelf life, wastage control and value addition, it has been decided to not to accept fresh proposal for these sectors viz, rice, flour & pulse milling from the 2004-2005.

This is totally not acceptable. No body can consume unprocessed rice or flour. Only milling adds value to rice. No body can eat paddy. This decision appears to be taken without consulting all the stake holders. It appears that it had no approval from either the planning Commission of finance approval. I request the Honorable Minister to look into the matter and do the necessary for developing this industry.

(xviii) Need to stop the proposed establishment of the Atomic Energy Factory at Kovvada village, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): It is learnt that the Government of India is thinking to establish a Atomic Energy Factory at Kovvada village of Ranastalam Mandal, Srikakulam district Andhra Pradesh state. Entire the area people worried about this factory, they are

conducting Dharnas to stop the factory. It is very difficult to their livelihood. They are all living in thatched houses and they will go into the sea for the fish hunting. There is no alternate for their living. In this connection, I request to Government of India to stop the proposal of establishing the Atomic Energy Factory in that area and save the people.

(xix) Need to reconsider the imposition of income Tax on profits earned by Cooperative banks and review proposed amendment in the Banking Regulation Act

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): The imposition of Income Tax on the profits of Co-operative Banks and the proposed amendment in the Banking Regulation Act are having adverse impact on the spread of co-operative movement all over the country particularly in Kerala. The Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in Kerala are working as service co-operative banks. The total deposits of 1594 PACS in Kerala as on 31 March, 2005 was Rs. 12288 crore and the loans outstanding was 9919 crore. These PACS in Kerala are performing almost all types of banking business compatible in efficiency with even new generation banks. With these two measures mentioned above the profitability of PACS will come down and the people will lose their confidence in the PACS which will adversely affect savings mobilization. The PACS are also undertaking a variety of non credit activities like public distribution, procurement and marketing of agricultural produce, consumer Neethi Stores and Neethi Medical Stores etc. All these services will suffer if PACS are financially weakened. I therefore, urge the government to review the imposition of Income Tax on cooperative banks and the proposed amendment in the Banking Regulation Act.

(xx) Need to fulfill the demand of SC/ST employees of RPF for the registration of their Union as 'All India SC/ST Railway Protection Force Welfare association'.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, presently two trade unions of the Railway employees namely the AIRF and the NFIR are functional at the national level in the Indian Railways. This trade union, though includes the employees belonging to the SC/ST and OBCs, has been negligent to protecting the interests of the employees belonging to the said categories. Therefore, the employees of the above categories formed their own separate Association which facilitated disposal of their grievances. In the same way an association named All India R.P.F. Association is functioning in the Railway Protection Force. This association has also

representation of the SC's and ST's but it is also neglecting their interests. That is why a demand has been raised to form All India SC/ST Railway Protection Force Welfare Association to safeguard the interests of the employees belonging to the above categories and letters have been written to the Minister of Railways and the Senior Railway Officers by the Members of Parliament from various political parties in support of this demand. I myself had written a letter seeking registration of the above association but it has been stated by the Railway officers that it is not possible to have more associations in the Railway Protection Force which is not logical. It has been provided in the Article 19(c) of the Indian constitution that any group or group of individuals are free to form an association. Through this House I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that in order to safeguard the interests of the SC/ST Railway employees in the RPF, the All India SC/ST Railway Protection Force Welfare Association be registered like other association.

13.36 hrs.

**CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
(RESERVATION IN ADMISSION) BILL, 2006**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Shri Arjun Singh): Madam, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes of citizen, to certain central educational institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Arjun Singh ji, would you like to say something?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I have moved the Bill for Consideration.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes,

*Moved with the Recommendation of the President

the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes of citizen, to certain central educational institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Central Educational Institutions (reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006 moved just now by the hon'ble Minister as this Bill has been brought in to provide for the reservation in admission to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward classes of society in certain educational institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. I support the Bill as it has been brought in for the upliftment of the weaker sections of society and to provide equal opportunity to them but since, I am speaking in the official language Hindi and I have Hindi version of the Bill before me and I also have the English version on the other hand, I would like to seek your patronage as to which of the two I should follow. Firstly the Hindi version of the Bill shows intentions of the Government. I would like to draw your attention to the definition of the OBC given in the English version. First of all I quote it.

[*English*]

"Other Backward Classes" means the class or classes of citizens who are socially and educationally backward and are so defined by the Central Government."

[*Translation*]

The definition of the SC and ST is in accordance with the constitution and is not required to be quoted. The creamy layer has been extensively elaborated in the Hindi version. It reads: "Other Backward Classes' the class or classes of citizens who are socially and educationally backward and are so defined by the Central Government, provided..."

The proviso contains 7 lines wherein it has been stated to exclude the creamy layer. Whether it was referred at the last moment to the Standing Committee? When this Bill was moved by hon'ble Arjun Singh ji, Munsji was also present, it was stated that it was an error of translation which would be corrected. Whether it has been corrected? Had they presented the bill in the revised form the right message would have been conveyed. Now it contains the creamy layer also. Therefore, I want to know the intention of the Government. What actually does it want. It came to them as

an afterthought as to what was the stand of the allies and other parties? I am speaking about its authenticity. After all, what accounts for such a marked difference between the English and Hindi versions of the Bill?

[*Translation*]

The fourth clause in it, I shall also read Hindi version of the clause before you, but before that, I read English version of this clause.

[*English*]

"The provisions of Section 3 of this Act shall not apply to..."

[*Translation*]

These words have been written. In the Hindi version, it is written that the provisions of this Act shall apply to the following. In English version, there is no use of 'No' and in Hindi version, there is no use of 'Nahin'. The list of those which are not applicable, is given in it and the list of those to which it is not applicable, is also given in it. Nevertheless, it does not become relevant. I regret to say that such mistakes have been committed in Hindi to which the status of official language has been accorded in the Constitution: You are introducing this Bill for the weaker sections of the society. So much mistakes in their language? ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the time of introduction of the Bill, this mistake was noticed by me and I had told that this mistake occurred, and therefore, English version be deemed authentic. The Ministry did not return it, that's why such a situation has emerged. I would like to assure that the hon'ble Minister is going to get the Bill passed as per the English version that shall not contain the word 'Creamy Layer'.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: But, is not it a neglect of Hindi language?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Hindi has not been neglected in it. We have added the correction slip.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, whatever is there, is not being implemented.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said in the beginning that this Bill has been introduced for the welfare of a major section of the society that accounts for 52 percent of population and lacs of students belonging to it in the constitution, Reser-

vation was provided to the Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes in educational institutions but it was under the Government law and now after passing of this Bill, 15 percent reservation for SCs, 7.5% for STs and 27 percent reservation for OBC is stated to be given as statutory rights. I support this Bill for providing reservation in certain higher education institutions like IITs and IIMs.

This Bill contained 7 sections and one schedule under which the list of institutes of excellence has been given. Besides, the names of other institutions have also been added to this list. These include Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai and its constituents and the Tata National Northern India Institute which have been deemed as the Institutes of Excellence. This Bill shall not apply to these. Does it mean that they doubt the excellence of OBCs? When steps are being taken for upliftment of these people, and giving equal rights to them, under the schedule, then why it has been done so. There are Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research Centre, Bangalore; Physical Research Laboratory and Space Physical Centre also. Is there any doubt on being their Institutes of Excellence? It has been given in schedule as to who is poor, who is rich, who belongs to SC, ST, OBC or General Class. Then, on what basis they have been excluded. The hon'ble Minister may tell in his logical reply that all these are Institutes of Excellence and it should not have occurred. This is right to certain extent but whether they would be accorded the status of excellence later on when some people of these classes would get admission with their own qualification. Talent is nobody's inheritance. Hon'ble Minister is requested to give clarification in this regard.

Hon'ble Chairperson, Madam, before I start discussion about the Bill, I would like to say something about the OBC. I would like to say that

[English]

the backward classes or classes of citizens which form part of the weaker sections of the people, are socially stigmatized from time immemorial and educationally pushed back to a very distant position and made to suffer in their low social status compared to the advanced sections of the people into the disability they undergo due to the prolonged suppression and oppression and subjected to serious exploitation as well to unjustifiable and unreasonable discrimination on many grounds particularly in the matter of their legitimate rights, privileges and immunities pertaining to them as citizens of India.

[Translation]

But the Commission constituted for OBC is still silent. The Government paid attention to the Mandal Commission in 1993 and consequently, a provision is being made to provide reservation to them in educational institutions presently.

It's written in our Constitution.

[English]

securing to all its citizen, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity including social justice and political justice as well as equality of status.

[Translation]

Based on that OBCs, SCs and STs are being provided reservation in higher educational institutions. I, therefore, support this Bill. As I said, 82nd amendment to the Constitution was made in the year 2000 on the basis of provisions made in the constitution under articles 14, 15 and 16 falling under the Fundamental Rights, and articles 45 and 46 falling under the Directive Principles of State Policy and accordingly, a sub-section 338 was added under which the provision for reservation to the OBCs in higher education institution is being made.

Honourable Minister would pardon me because I am saying harsh words. This time their attention has been drawn towards higher educational institutions. The recommendations of Mandal Commission were implemented in the country in 1992-93 and your attention was drawn towards this side after fourteen years. A pro-active word comes — it seems it is exaggerating in this issue. It's so because you have introduced this bill for sake of vote banks and forthcoming elections in some state. Otherwise why such delay happened, what was the reason behind it, please clarify. The Commission for backward classes constituted under the Chairmanship of Kakasaheb Kalekar 41 years ago had recommended that facilities for OBC's may be provided in education. Thereafter BP Mandal came and under his Chairmanship second backward classes Commission was constituted. After constitution of that provision was made for Government jobs but this bill has come after 26 years of Constitution of Mandal Commission. The honourable Supreme Court had delivered its verdict in a case of Indra Sahani and others verses union of India. One after thirteen years now he has introduced this bill. There was Congress Government earlier also and now two and half years lapsed. OBC people have been waiting peacefully for this day. There was provision for reservation of SC, ST Government orders and Constitution also but there

[Prof. Raza Singh Rawat]

was not provision for OBC. Now honourable Minister has introduced this bill, of course, it is better balanced than never and I thank hon'ble Minister for bringing this Bill.

The ratio of population has been fixed in its section three. No census for OBC is conducted in our country but when National Sample Survey noticed with regard to Mandal Commission particularly about the number of OBC castes, it was calculated on the basis of State and Centre lists whereas SC and ST people have been counted from beginning and whenever census is conducted on every ten years, the population of SC people is 15 percent and the population of ST people is 7½ percent but reservation has been provided for 27 percent OBC population whereas Mandal Commission considered the OBC population 52 percent. SC population 15 percent and ST population 7½ percent. 15 percent seat for schedule caste and 7½ percent jobs are reserved for civil posts and services in Central Services and also on the educational institutions on the basis of that calculation. 27% reservation has been recommended for the OBC, though they are 52% of our population. But the hon. Supreme Court gave the ruling that the bench mark of 50% reservation should not be exceeded, therefore, 27% reservation was agreed to be provided within the benchmark figure. The OBC population is 52 percent. The Times of India has recently reported that OBC population is 41 percent, and some other reports say that the OBC population is 32 per cent. If OBC population is 32 percent and 11 percent of Muslim population is added to it, then the OBC population turns out to be 52 percent.

Madam, yet a provision of 27 percent reservation has been made for OBCs in educational institutions of higher learning. I would like to know whether this step has been taken in view of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission or the Government will put in place a mechanism to carry it further ahead? If OBC population is more, and there is a need of providing more reservation to them, then what would be the situation? In the southern States, like Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh, the policy of reservation was implemented much before independence. As a result of it, the total reservation amounts to 69% or 70% in some States and in others, it is even more than that. The OBC population of the country is 52 percent, which includes both Hindus and non-Hindus. There is a clause in this bill which says that it will not be applicable on minority institutions and minorities. I raise my objection to it, because recently the Government have got the bill passed and enacted the legislation in regard to Minority Commission and Minority Institutions under which the provision for admission for at least Muslim OBCs should be made. Why

they are being deprived of it? I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that whether it is Aligarh Muslim University or other institutions in regard to which the Government got the bill passed and enacted the legislation. A provision for reservation of Minority OBCs should be made therein.

It is often mentioned here that dalit Muslims, dalit adivasis and Christian adivasis should also be extended the benefits of reservation through this Bill. Most of the Minority Institutions are situated in Kerala. There are many old hi-tech institutions of I.I.T and I.I.M level, and large centers of excellence in Tamilnadu but SCs, STs, or Muslim OBCs have been deprived of admission in those minority institutions. The question of admission of Hindus does not even arise in these institutions, but the people of minority community, the wards of minority OBCs should at least be granted admission in those institutes. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to pay attention in this regard.

Madam, the hon'ble Minister has made a provision of 27 percent reservation in higher technical institutions. I would like to make two-three points. It is a good thing that lakhs of OBC students will get admission in central institutions like I.I.Ts, and I.I.Ms. It is a good thing that as per the 93rd Constitutional Amendment, the legislation has been enacted by the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies for the weaker sections and provision has been made to implement it in the central institutes with effect from the Session of 2007. It is a good thing that this kind of provision has been made. The Government has said that if there are 100 seats for general category students, it will remain unaffected and 100 more seats would be added for reserved category, which included 5% in the first year, 10% in the second year and 12 percent in the third year. This way 27% quota would be implemented in a phased manner in three years and in a span of three years reservation facility would be fully implemented in the educational institutions. General category students will not be affected by this. I would like to say that their interests have been kept in mind. Moreover, all expenses incurred an increasing the number of seats for extended quota of OBC-whether they are aided, unaided or government institutes – I.I.T. or I.I.M. would be borne by the Union Government, yet, the Government have not made things explicitly clear in the financial memorandum. If the Union Government does not grant funds where from will the State Government arrange these funds? They are not having resources to make finances available to these institutions. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Union Government should bear one time expenses of increasing the number of seats and infrastructure development, so that the target of extending 27% reservation to OBC in three year can be fulfilled in real sense of the term. SC and ST students should also be provided 15 percent and 7.5 percent reservation

respectively. While giving reply in regard to financial provisions, the hon'ble Minister should try to give clarifications in this regard. It is true that the already existing number of seats will not be decreased, but I would like to draw his attention towards one more fact that reservation was implemented to root out a social evil to create social uniformity and harmony, but, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a financial provision made in the fourth column which says:

[English]

"The provisions of Section 3 of this Act shall not apply to a minority educational institution as defined in this Act."

[Translation]

The definition of Minority Institutions has been given in this Act. I do not have time to repeat the entire definition. It is right that it will not be enforced in institutions of north-east where tribal particular lives, but it should at least be implemented in those minority institutions for minority OBCs or for dalit Muslims. I would like to make one thing very clear that we fully support reservation for OBCs. Islam and Christianity claim to profess equality; there are no high or low castes; there is no untouchability but when a provision for reservation was made in the constitution it was for socially and educationally backward classes. Now, the Sachchar Committee report based on religious communities is being discussed a lot. Now and then, the Government is giving some statements. As I said in the beginning, the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development is very pro-active these days. He may get it passed in a hurry and later on something else may happen as in Sachchar Committee's report 'minority' word has been used. We have given a dissent note on it that reservation should be based on castes, but any kind of reservation made on the basis of religion is unconstitutional and illegal and we oppose it. The OBC Muslims on the basis of social status, which have been included earlier in Mandal Commission report, should also be covered in this Act.

In the end, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister should give a clarification in regard to the castes included in the OBC list at State and at the Central level separately, because inclusion is there, but there is no exclusion. Since the Mandal Commission's recommendations have been implemented in 1993, this Act has been misused to gain political mileage, now it has taken the shape of a vote bank. Many castes raise their concerns in this regard. One can well imagine how unequal would be treated at par. I would like to tell the Government that many castes are being

included in this list because of pressure created by these castes, and their number is continuously increasing. If inclusion is being done, then sometimes exclusion has also to be undertaken. There is also the issue of creamy layer, as there are a few literate people among OBCs, therefore, in some states it has been done in regard to OBCs. Earlier, when hon'ble Shri Rajnath Singh ji was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, he, alongwith the Chief Ministers of 6 States including Karanataka categorised OBCs into three categories viz very backward class, backward class and most backward class so that facilities may be provided to them. Even then, if some castes are left out, they may be included in the creamy layer. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister to throw light on the issue whether arrangements in regard to scholarship, Finance Corporation and loan facility would also be made for OBCs on the lines of finance corporation for SCs and STs and scholarships and educational free ships given to SC and ST students. With this, I support this Bill.

14.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Madam, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006. This is one of the milestone Bills being brought forward by our Government.

Madam, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this innovative and important Bill to this august House. At the same time I would like to salute Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for her actions in helping to bring forward this Bill. At the time of formation of this Government under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, this Government announced a Common Minimum Programme in which a commitment was made for the weaker sections of the society – namely, for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the Minorities and Other Backward Classes – that they will be protected and their interests will be taken care of. In keeping with that commitment, a number of issues have been dealt with and decisions were taken and those are being implemented one by one. This historic Bill is also one such step that is being taken by this Government to fulfill the commitment of safeguarding the interests of the weaker sections of the society, more particularly, the people belonging to the Other Backward Classes.

My special thanks are also due to the hon. Minister for his untiring efforts in bringing this Bill and also for his

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commitment towards the weaker sections of the society, the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the Minorities and the Other Backward Classes. That is why today the mood amongst them is jubilant and happy. I belong to the OBC category. Time and again we had requested the hon. Minister, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the hon. Prime Minister to bring forward such a legislation and all of them had made a collective effort to finally bring forward this Bill and make a move towards implementing the commitment made to the nation through the Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, the OBCs constitute more than 60 per cent of the population in the country. Though there are Reports that say the OBC population is 42 per cent, 52 per cent, but the Mandal Commission Report has said that 52 per cent at the minimum is the OBC population in the country. I would, first of all, like to urge upon the hon. Minister to order for a caste census in order to clear the doubts of some vested interests in the country, who are putting it at 30 per cent and 40 per cent, about the percentage of OBC population in the country. If a Commission is set up and a census is taken on caste lines, then the truth will come out. There will not be any doubt about it.

Sir, the first Constitutional amendment in this regard was introduced and passed at the instance of our great leader the late Kamaraj, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The then Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru accepted his proposal of introducing a Constitutional amendment for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society in this country. That is how the concept of reservation came into the political system. It was again during the Congress Government at the Centre that the Mandal Commission gave its report and in keeping with the wishes and aspirations of the people belonging to the Other Backward Classes, 27 per cent reservation for people belonging to these classes were implemented in the year 1993 by the then Congress Government led by the then Prime Minister, the late Narasimha Rao.

At that time, I was the Minister handling the Department and so, I know the position. I should support the implementation of it. It is because at that time also, the condition was very crucial and many people were opposing it. Even Shri V.P. Singh had glamourised for the implementation of this Report and he announced it also. But he could not implement it because of certain vested interests in the country. But the Congress Party, with the commitment towards the weaker sections of the country, implemented it in 1993 with great care and ability. It was implemented and accepted by all sections in both the Houses and the people

of the country. That is how 27 per cent reservation in Central Govt. jobs is in place and the OBCs are enjoying it. From that day onwards, we have been insisting that reservation in education is a must and we have taken a number of steps for it. Again, after a lapse of 14 years, only when the Congress-led Government has come into power, this Bill could see the light of the day. It is the commitment of the Congress that, under the leadership of Madam Sonia Gandhi and the hon. Prime Minister, we have brought this Bill today. We always stand on what we say and it is on this direction that we see that this Bill is brought today. There was hue and cry from various sides to implement this reservation. Different quarters said that it should not be implemented at one-go.

A Committee was appointed under Shri Veerappa Moily and it submitted its report with a number of recommendations. In fact, the Veerappa Moily Committee is not giving help to the OBCs. It is contrary to the aspirations of the people of India and that is why, I urge upon the hon. Minister on this point. That Report says about 'in one-go, in one year and 5 per cent, 7 per cent and 5 per cent'. It is not going to materialize and it is not going to be easy. If 27 per cent is under constitutional authority, then where is the problem? I know that the hon. Minister is very much convinced and very categorical in saying that it should be implemented in one-go. Over months, I have been hearing his statements and I thank him for his commitment. I appeal to him being the senior most Minister in the Government and the senior most leader in the country. Through you Sir, I request that he should come forward to implement in one-go. It is possible to do justice to the OBCs if it is three years time because when you make it three years, there will be a problem. We are not against other communities. Let other communities enjoy the benefits. We are not against them. We have no problem regarding SCs or STs or minorities. We are not against these communities because we want all weaker sections in the country to be given weightage and they should get their due share. They should equally share the socio-economic benefits through our Government programmes and schemes.

I urge upon the Minister to kindly reject the Veerappa Moily Committee Report because that Report is not going to help the people in any way. That Committee has no commitment, conviction or wisdom. I am sorry to say this because I know the position as I also belong to one such community.

I wish that that Committee Report will be rejected, your will and wisdom will follow suit, and then things will be all right.

The other issue that I would like to deal with is, reservation has to be on the basis of population. Today though the population of such communities being 60 per cent and above, they are getting only 27 per cent reservation.

Why? The OBC communities are not very wealthy. If you see their position at the grassroots level, they are also like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In each and every community, there are rich and poor people. In this community also there are labourers, farmers, etc. and they do all sorts of jobs. This is also a hard fact.

I congratulate and thank the Government because through the Sachar Committee the Government has brought the minority issues into light. Likewise, I wish and demand, through you, that a Committee be formed to consider and find out the status of the OBC communities in the country so that the real picture will come out and we can certainly do justice to the OBCs. As Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given separate percentage of reservation, like 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent, likewise the OBCs should also be given 27 per cent. There should not be any problem. For minorities also, separate reservation should be given. There is no doubt about it because they also belong to weaker sections of the society.

The Sachar Committee has very categorically and clearly informed the people today. We should accept that. They should also get separate reservation for minorities.

In the implementation of the OBC reservation, we have been emphasizing two or three important issues. We do not have an OBC Parliamentary Forum. We do not have a separate Ministry for OBCs. When I was there in the Government, I recommended a separate Ministry for the Tribal Welfare. Today, it has come. I initiated and our Government initiated steps for having a separate Ministry for minorities. Today, it has come. But OBCs are clubbed with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It should be immediately bifurcated and a separate Ministry should be formed. Then only will the OBCs get their due share. Why I am demanding this is due to the following facts and figures. You will be astonished to hear that from 1996 to 2006, the amount allocated in the plan expenditure of the Government for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is: 2001-02 – Rs. 1,322 crore; 2002-03 – Rs. 1,410 crore; 2004-05 – 1,481 crore; 2005-06 – 1,495 crore. Out of these, the OBC share in 2001-02 was Rs. 71 crore; in 2002-03, it was Rs. 68.85 crore; in 2003-04, it was Rs. 62.10 crore and in 2006, it is Rs. 65 crore. See the anomaly. Sixty per cent of the population is getting only Rs. 65 crore. With Rs. 65 crore, what will the Department dealing with the OBCs do? They will pay only the salaries and allowances to the

officers of the Department. No money will go to the welfare and development of the OBCs. This is a hard reality and hard fact. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, I represent the Congress Party. I should be given more time. Nobody else is going to speak from my Party.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are six more Members to speak from your Party:

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Madam, even then you can give me some more time.

In the non-plan expenditure, the OBC community got Rs. 1.55 crore in 2001; in 2005 it was Rs. 2 crore only. This is the hard reality.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly see as to how the OBC communities are being treated. The OBC communities should be given the priority in the fund allocation also. That is why I demand a separate Ministry for them. If a separate Ministry for OBCs is formed, then they will take up issues on merit and the Government of India will have to announce more funds for their welfare and development.

With regard to the Budgetary Support, I had mentioned it. That is why, we wanted a separate Ministry. Then only the welfare and development of the backward communities will be taken care of.

The other issue is that from 1993 onwards, we have been implementing the 27 per cent reservation. There are vacancies over the years. If you see, the backlog vacancies are not being filled up because there is no mechanism. That mechanism is important. We want that to be implemented immediately. For example, I quote this example that in the Central Government services, the total number of Class-I officers is 81,325. The number of other communities is only 71,779 and OBCs are to the extent of 4,147. In Class-II services, the total number is 3,52,827 and the total of OBCs is only 59,000. In the public sector undertakings, the total number of people employed is 503337 out of which OC/Class-II is 3,65,785 out of which the other communities were 73,623. The total number of OBCs is only 3719. Likewise, in Class-II services, the total is 3,65,785 and OC people is 2,60,097 and the total number of OBCs is only 36,000. Please see the plight of the OBCs in the country.

Sir, you are the well wisher. You are the guardian of the OBCs, SCs, STs and the minorities. Under your leadership, I would request you to kindly see that the backlog vacancies in respect of the OBCs are filled immediately on a priority basis. When we were in the Government in 1991-

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96, for the SCs and the STs, I had done my best to clear the backlog vacancies. Three Special Recruitment Drives were conducted in the wisdom of the Government at that time. Subsequently, I do not know what happened. Now, I urge upon you, Sir, to see that the Special Recruitment Drive for the OBCs is ordered. They should get their due share. Now, only three to four per cent people in the Central Government services are from the OBC community and the remaining percentage has to be given immediately. Then only real justice would be given to OBCs.

Our friends were telling that there is no Commission for the OBCs, SCs, STs and the Minorities. Our Government during the 1991-96 period created three Corporations, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation was initiated. The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was initiated. The Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation and the Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation are there. These are all constitutionally appointed bodies. The Chairman and other members are functioning.

As I mentioned earlier, fund allocation to these Corporations are not adequate. If these Corporations are empowered with more powers, if they are given more money, they can do well in the field of education, employment and empowerment. They can cover all the three areas thereby the problem faced by the communities can be solved easily. That is why, I urge upon you, Sir, that these Corporations should be given more money, more importance and more allocation than what is given now.

I come to the Reservation Policy. Even in this Bill, there is no security for the community. There are one or two areas. In this Bill, it has been mentioned about certain institutions. As a Member from the ruling party, I cannot give notice of an amendment. So, I can only urge upon you to kindly remove the word "certain." If the word "certain" is removed, then the uncertainty would also be removed thereby all sections of OBCs will get priority. I would, therefore, urge upon you, Sir, that in your wisdom, you should bring forward an amendment to this Bill itself so that it will solve the problem.

The other thing is, there is no reservation in apprenticeship programme for the OBCs before appointment whereas it is provided for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. So, apprenticeship programme should be given to the OBCs also.

Then, after 1993, reservation in promotion for the OBC is a question mark even today. But our brothers and sisters belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled

Tribes are getting that benefit. So, the OBCs should also be given this benefit. If it is not given to them, then they will not be able to see any progress in their lives or achieve any position of esteem. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister to consider giving this benefit to them. For this, amendment of article 16 (4) (B) of the Constitution is required. Then only this problem can be solved. Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister to bring another Bill of this nature and solve this problem.

Then, representation for OBCs in the Interview and Selection Committees is not there now. I would request the hon. Minister to give direction through the Department of Personnel and Training so that they get this representation thus fulfilling their aspirations.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken too much time.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Madam, I will just conclude within a minute.

As you are aware, the OBC population varies from State to State. The Supreme Court has given a ruling that reservation should not exceed more than 50 per cent. In 1993, an all party meeting was called on this matter and all the leaders have agreed on this issue and so, only Tamil Nadu and Karnataka continue to have more than 50 per cent reservation now. Now, they need to go to court every time and get the remedy. A solution to this problem should be found immediately.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now. I am not going to you allow you more time.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: There are only two more issues Madam and after that I will conclude.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to bring a Bill for this purpose so that according to the desire of the State Government concerned and as per the Census of OBC population in each State, the States should be allowed to have population based reservation.

Then, the aspirations of the OBCs can be fulfilled only by creating a separate Ministry in the Government. I would request the hon. Minister to do the needful in this regard. Moreover, there are more than 170 hon. Members of Parliament belonging to the OBCs. So, a separate Parliamentary Committee should be constituted for the welfare of the OBCs.

I hope that all the issues raised by me would be favourably considered by the Government. I thank the hon. Minister for his untiring efforts to see that this Bill is passed.

I welcome this historic Bill. I would also like to compliment our hon. Leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for bringing this Bill and support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All the hon. Members are requested to take note of the time limit that I can accommodate more Members.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Madam Chairman, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Central Educational Institution (Reservation in Admission) Bill 2006.

Ironically, our country is divided by various castes. This issue was repeatedly raised even during the struggle for freedom and was even deliberated upon in the wake of independence. The fact is that the struggle for freedom came in full swing only when people of the country, be they dalits or those of the backward castes joined the struggle. Only when the downtrodden, backward class people came forth under the leadership of Gandhiji, the country witnessed the dawn of independence. It was felt that the way political freedom of the country could be attained through the participation of all and sundry; similarly, their participation would be imperative for economic independence. It was unfortunate that there was lack of educational standard among the backward, downtrodden and tribal sections of society and they were weak in this sphere. In 1927, when Sardar Bhagat Singh threw a bomb in this very Assembly, it contained a note with the message that India should be liberated from its helplessness. For this purpose, every man should come forward and strive to remove intellectual void and liberate mankind from all sorts of exploitation.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for this purpose that by making the provision of reservation in the Central institutions, he has given concrete shape to that idea. There was provision of reservation in other institutions earlier barring these. The speaker before me Shri Balu Saheb observed that it was quite ironical that on one hand we were providing reservation to these people to provide them support and on the other we never paid attention that all the reserved posts should have been filled.

Today we are discussing this issue. We should all feel that the categories called the tribals, dalits and other backward classes have made a major contribution in the economic development taking place in the country and the truth is that they are not getting their due. During this discussion in the House, I have learnt that the labourers engaged in the primary sector farming who belong to the

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes are not getting their due. Our minorities brethren have also participated in economic development. But the section living in the urban areas who are refined, who have always been financially successful have all along remained engaged in a lot of financial activities.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for ensuring reservation for the people belonging to the backward classes, dalits and tribals in the Central Educational Institutions and Universities. He deserves our applause for it. It is true that some time was taken for it. I have written several letters to the hon. Prime Minister and the former Prime Ministers during the last seven-eight years in this regard. Besides, I have written to all the concerned departments. I got the same reply from everywhere that action was being taken in that regard; however, no immediate action was taken. Eventually, this Bill was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for evaluation and today it has been brought for discussion in the House.

I hope that it will be implemented in all the Centrally funded institutions without delay. There was another suggestion that it will be completed by three years. That is why I would like to request him to complete it without any delay. As far as exclusion is concerned, it is true that as per the provisions of the Constitution there are several castes which cannot be included, however efforts to the contrary are being constantly made. As far as exclusion is concerned, I understand it would not be proper to exclude them on caste basis, since there are many financially weak persons in all castes. It may not happen that owing to certain wrong calculations, we start making exclusions on caste basis. We will be doing injustice to many if we start categorising them in upper section on the basis that their income has increased. So, in view of this all the people of these sections should get benefits of reservation. Therefore, while formulating the policy of exclusion it should be borne in mind that generalized attitude should not be adopted, particularly towards dalits or backward classes in any society which may create problems. This fact has also been brought to the fore in the report of the Sachar Committee that the minorities are in quite a miserable condition in the country. I think we will have to review it. The speaker prior to me opined that it should be reviewed keeping aside the religious grounds.

Madam, I wish to submit that the definition of backward classes, as given in the Constitution has been on economic and social basis. I feel there is a need to conduct a fresh survey or to review the survey already conducted in the past so that the backward people who have not been brought in the mainstream should get an equal opportunity to come in the mainstream of the society.

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Madam, the percentage of admission for getting higher education in the country is only 7 to 8 per cent. I think we are not viewing the situation realistically. I think the percentage of admission for getting higher education in our neighbouring countries in Asia and other big countries is 30 to 40 per cent. India is on a fast growth trajectory. I think that the Government of India will have to ensure that Indians develop economically and socially as well and for this purpose 30 to 50 per cent admissions for higher education will have to be ensured.

Madam, the figures tell us that vocational education in the country is in a very bad shape. I have stated in the House even in the past that it is time we should tap manpower resources from all the sectors in the country and make it a part of our foreign policy to outsource it to other countries. Today, the condition is that we have a large number of professionals migrating to foreign countries but if we wish to ameliorate the condition of the backward classes or tribals, then we will have to increase 5 per cent in vocational education at 10+2 level or in higher education. As I have been informed, there are approximately 143 trade in the country in which vocational training is being given and there are more than 3000 trades in the world in which vocational training is being given. All over the world 95 per cent people are given vocational training. I think it's a major backlog which needs to be removed.

The country is developing very fast. India is a young nation. We have approximately 50 per cent youth in the country. If we will acquire pragmatic approach towards education then the country would be able to achieve its target within a short period of time.

Madam, in regard to the Institute of Excellence, which has been referred to here, I would like to say that everyone should be treated equally. I would like to submit that if a person belonging to an upper caste has been given a chance, then next time a person belonging to the backward class should be given a chance. As my friend stated earlier that today education is being disseminated in the country. Our country is becoming a knowledge-based country. That is why we want everyone to have equal access to education. The list of institute of excellence can be increased or decreased. I feel that it is important to take the House into confidence to complete this process. The hon. Minister should make such a provision that there remains no scope for arbitrariness. I hope that in days to come, through the concerted efforts of the hon. Minister and the society at large, we would be able to create an environment in the society,

conducive to the development of each section of the society which would facilitate in achieving the target of development.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Madam, Chairman, today in this House the hon'ble Minister has introduced a historical and a very significant Bill. So, I welcome this Bill because this will provide an opportunity of education for the children of 52-54 per cent people who are socially, economically and educationally backward and are trying to come to the mainstream of society.

You must be remembering that even today this Bill has been circulated in the same format as it was introduced on the 25th of August and has been done so after adding two lines in the end. In page 2, and from line number 35 to 40 in Hindi, there was a mention of the creamy layer. Last time, at the introduction stage, it had been stated while opposing it that unconstitutional language has been used in this Bill and there is no provision for it in the Constitution. Mentality of some of the people is like that. Reservation is not a programme for poverty alleviation. It is our constitutional right which is a social issue. Many people are viewing from a different angle while discussing this matter. By trading off their intelligence, the array of talented persons out there want to sell the country. By selling their wisdom they have led the country towards adopting a new economic policy. I acknowledge that this is an international phenomenon but it will be better if they do not cudgel the brains on social issues. They can invest unlimited intelligence and talents in economic issues. It surprises me to see that a social issue is transformed into an economic issue by them. I would also like to praise and offer my thanks to the hon'ble Minister. The hon. Minister has brought this Bill after some painstaking efforts. From the initial stages itself; he has been very unflinching in his approach regarding the introduction of this Bill. This is an initiative towards ensuring social justice. It is for that reason also that I thank the hon. Minister. Everybody is aware of the Government servants who prepare the draft Bill.

Madam, you also know how the people of the executive prepare the draft of the Bill. That's why Rawatji had cast doubts on the motive. It is not a proper thing to cast doubts on the intentions of the UPA Government. There could be some disorder with regard to the intelligence. The officers who prepare the draft of the Bill are very learned people. IAS officers and officers subordinate to them are very intelligent people and they put such things with the use of 'ifs' and 'buts' that the purpose of the Bill gets forfeited in the courts of law. People with such levels of intelligence are involved in this. From page No. 2, and 35 to 40 lines have been deleted. We do not have its revised format as yet. Two lines were added as a result I feel that after the deletion of

lines this has become a better Bill. In the first page of the Bill in English it is written that

[English]

"To provide for the reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of citizens to certain central educational institutions established maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"

[Translation]

Benefit of doubt may be exercised with reference to the word "certain" in the Bill. I am a member of the treasury benches, therefore, I could not move an amendment and I maintain decorum. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards this and state that the word 'certain' may be got deleted. The people belonging to the institutions where this is to be implemented can claim that though it is applicable in some institutions, there is no mention about their institution in this. The word 'exclusive' has come up here. I want this word 'certain' to be deleted. The names of some of the institutions like that of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun have also come up in this. It has been excluded. Reservation will not be applicable in this institution. I am not getting its true meaning. Is nobody talented enough to carry out the data work of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing? This is beyond my comprehension. Rawatji has also made a mention of it. Thangabalu has made a mention of the word 'certain' towards the last part of his speech. There is also a mention of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. Are OBCs are not even fit for taking up jobs in the Laboratory? Government servants have given some names in the list as per their mentality and they have been accepted without serious review. There are some sensitive and technical institutions where the need to provide training and expertise can be accepted. People belonging to the OBC will not remain in the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun. What is going on here? Similarly, Jawahar Lal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore has also been included in this, which should be reviewed. An amendment should be introduced in this connection. Competent people should not be removed from there.

How some one's talent will be judged and what will be the parameters for that? I would like to present my views about this point. What is the parameter for judging talent according to the list of institutions to be excluded given in the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in

admission) Bill 2006? On what basis some people were classified as non-eligible? On what basis it was decided that they have got no talent, no qualification, no merit? How can one judge capability? It is a matter of capability.

14.41 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I would like to remind everybody that I was a member of this august House in the year 1990 and Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister at that time. This law was formulated on 7th August, 1990 and after getting the nod from the Cabinet it was introduced in the House. It provided for reservation to the OBCs in Government jobs. A provision to give 27% reservation in higher jobs was made and a decision to that effect was taken during Shri V.P. Singh's regime when the said decision was taken so many questions had cropped up. So, I would like to mention about them. It was introduced in the year 1990 and this case was referred to the hon'ble Supreme Court in the year 1992. For a couple of years, people were on the roads agitating against it. Struggle against it continued through the means of self-immolations. No assessment has been made about the undeclared reservation existing in the country even after the passage of 59 years since our independence. Undeclared reservation means which is not declared, nevertheless for all other purposes it is as good as declared reservation. There is reservation in all fields; there is reservation in educational sector, etc. Reservation is applicable in all higher educational institutions. In this way, they have a monopoly over it. Whenever there is a threat that this undeclared reservation is about to break up the hearts of some people start to crumble. In the year 1990 also the hearts of some people got shattered. Today also, it is heard that the doctors posted in Hospitals are bent on committing suicides. What is going on here? It can be comprehended if a new boy takes to the streets as some sort of harm can happen to him but the doctors who are agitating are already in service and they are trying to protect this undeclared reservation to not let their monopoly ever end. The OBC category was provided reservation to bring them into the national mainstream which should be 54%. Today, people with a new line of thinking have emerged in our country. A newspaper has come up with a new national sample survey. I saw it in the Indian Express Newspaper and there the report has shown that the number of the OBCs has come down. When the struggle starts to bring the OBCs in the mainstream, data are manipulated to show their reduced numbers. In the year 1996, I was serving as the Minister of Food of the Country. During that time, the Planning Commission had made an estimate of the BPL people. The estimate of the BPL people cannot be provided by the Ministry of Food, Planning

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

Commission can give it. At that time, Shri Madhu Dandavate was the deputy-chairman of the planning commission. He has been a patron of the poor and a socialist leader; he provided the statistics on the basis of which work to such a large extent was carried out. But the statistics of the year 2001 was reduced, and it has been stated that now there is 26% BPL people in the country. What it means is that 35.95% i.e., 36% of the people of the country were living below the poverty line. That figure has been reduced to 26%. Now also 26% is the accepted benchmark, even the statistics of the planning commission pegs it at 26%. In this way, the number of the poor in the country has been reduced. Now, when talks are on to link the OBCs with the mainstream and to implement the theory of social justice, statistics have been reduced and it is said that the number of OBCs are getting reduced, and their number stands at 35%. It is beyond comprehension that when we are talking of bringing OBCs into the mainstream of the nation through this Bill, which provides for reservation in admissions for the students belonging to OBC in certain educational institutions, medical and engineering institutions, their percentage has decreased. In 1990, it was contended that there was no need to provide them reservation in the jobs. They should rather be educated so as to ensure that talent and merit are not marred. It was an intellectually orchestrated argument. That is why I would like to dwell upon this argument, while other Members may speak on other points. There are a large number of intellectuals in this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more time than allotted. I can give you only 5 or 10 minutes.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I may not be able to speak if there are such interruptions. It is another issue. Four hours' time has been allotted to my party and my party has 24 or 25 members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ten minutes' time has been allotted to the party.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Three or four minutes must be left for me. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could allow me to speak for another 2 or 3 minutes. I was saying that in the year 1990, it was contended that there was no need to provide them reservation in jobs, rather, they should be imparted education. Priority should be given to them in education so as to ensure talent and merit in them. However, what we find is that when we are making provision for reservation in admissions for them, we see the incidents of suicides. Now they are protesting against reservation in admission too. The hon'ble Minister has made an effort to ensure that they get admission in engineering

and medical colleges and thus, he has introduced this Bill. As such admission will be ensured, then, it is upto the Professors, who are the upper caste people to fail or demerit them during the four years of their studies. Why are they so much worried? Why are they bent upon reducing the seats for the OBCs and in decreasing their statistical number? The Professors have got the right during these 4 years to carry out evaluations, to assess merit and in case they declare them failed in practical, oral or theory then there will be no question of merit. Why are they scared of giving them admission? Why do they want to impose an iron filter gate in the admission of OBCs in the name of creamy layer? Reservation in admissions is yet to take shape and the matter of creamy layer is being discussed. The manner of discussion in this country is unique and beyond my comprehension. We people are less intelligent as we belong to villages, come from the poor lot and have taken birth in villages. The more intelligent people are now-a-days talking about the creamy layer. Why not get the provision of creamy layer included in the Women's Reservation Bill as well and reach a decision. Why don't they get this provision included in this regard? There should be a uniform norm. Even before reservation in admissions has been implemented, the matter to exclude the creamy layer has been raised. A draft has been prepared and I am speaking on the subject, as there is a mention about the creamy layer in the Hindi draft. I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Minister as he has got it deleted. Once this provision is implemented and the benefit thereof accrues then only a creamy layer among the OBCs will come up. Let us first experiment with reservation in admissions for 10 or 15 years.

I would like to give an example. In the year 1992, the hon. Supreme Court had given its judgement regarding implementation of reservation in jobs. You would be surprised to know that though 14 years have passed, only 15.84% i.e. around 16% people have provided the benefit of reservation in the UPSC exams for IAS and IPS services. 27% reservation is yet to be achieved; 14 years have elapsed but only 16% people have benefited by the reservation in such services which means we have not achieved 27% mark as yet. Now the reservation in admission is proposed to be implemented in a phased manner in three years. It is true that there was lack of infrastructure but I would like this to be implemented in one go from the first year itself. If 5, 10, or 12 % reservation is implemented in higher or technical institutions during three years in a phased manner then I feel that we may not be able to implement this in engineering/medical/technical institutions, central universities, IIAMs and IITs and it will continue to remain constant at 5%, political situations keep on changing.

Finally, as far as the question of talent and merit is concerned, I would like to know as to what will be the parameters for measuring talent and merit? First, they should be given the opportunity and then their talent should be judged. Without giving the opportunity, they urge that the quality will come down with the implementation of reservation, as these people do not have talent. Firstly, opportunity should be given to them; if opportunity is given to OBCs they will definably prove their talent. This is the question of their share in government affairs; this is not an economic question. It is the question of their share in government affairs and educational institutions. It is the social obligation of the Government to bring 52 to 54 per cent people belonging to OBCs into the mainstream of the nation. Whichever Government be in power, I would like to request that the Government should pay attention towards two-three points which I have mentioned. In our country, some sections have monopoly in the emergency services like medical care etc. Therefore, the people belonging to such sections stop emergency services in the entire country. Hence reservation is very necessary so that these people do not have monopoly in medical and engineering and could not stop emergency services. The Government can fulfill its responsibility of continuing emergency service only when all sections have equal representation and there is a social balance. Hence, bringing OBCs in the mainstream is necessary to strike a social balance and to strengthen the nation.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): They are not in favour of reservation in Minority Institutions.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Don't change the constitution. It is written in the constitution that everyone's right is protected. ...*(Interruptions)* You politicize every issue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It is you who play politics and not we. ...*(Interruptions)* You will continue to speak like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): On behalf of the DMK Party, I welcome the Central Educational

Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006. This Bill is a historical event in this august House.

Sir, I come from the soil of social justice where P.V.R. Periyar, Perarinar Anna, Karmaveerar Kamarajar and our Thalaivar, Dr. Kalaignar were born. They are all the warriors and crusaders of social justice.

Today, I thank Annai Soniaji, our hon. Prime Minister Manmohanji and our Minister, Arjun Singhji for bringing this historical Bill. We have to particularly thank Mr. Arjun Singh because despite all criticism and agitation, he has brought this Bill.

As our leader Dr. Kalaignar says in Tamil: "Chonnathai Cheivom, Cheivathi Solvom" – and in English, it is "what we say we will do; what we can do, we will say."— today our Madam Soniaji and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohanji at the Centre are fulfilling the Common Minimum Programme.

In the State of Tamil Nadu our DMK Government under the leadership of Dr. Kalaignar Avargal has scrapped the entrance examination scheme in our State which will be helpful to the downtrodden people and promote social justice in our State.

Today, I am very happy that at last the Government of India has finally decided to pilot a Bill in Parliament to fulfill the long-awaited aspirations of the oppressed sections of the society, the OBCs and the SCs and STs. This effort of the Government, though belated, is in true sense, laudable as it is finally going to implement the provisions contained in Article 15(4) of the Constitution of India which empowers the States for making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens.

In our State, there was a case in 1951 – Chambagam Durairajan Versus State of Tamil Nadu – to provide a seat in the medical college. It was filed before the Madras High Court. At that time our Perarinar Anna, EVR Periyar, Karmaveerar Kamarajar and Dr. Kalaignar agitated in our State and successfully convinced the Central Government headed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in enacting the first Constitution Amendment by adding Article 15(4) to the Constitution of India on 2.6.1951 to give effect to special provision for advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

It is a matter of great astonishment and surprise that much time has lapsed in manifestation of the fruits to this class of people for the addition of Article 15(5), which came into effect from 20.1.2006 by the 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2005, the first constitutional endorsement

* Not recorded.

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

to make special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in admissions to educational institutions including private, unaided institutions and excluding minority institutions. I once again thank our hon. Minister Shri Arjun Singh for having brought this Bill for successfully passing it on the floor of this House.

Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India (original and unamended provision) empowers the States for making any provision for the reservation of appointments of posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State is not adequately represented in the services under the State. The Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs of this country have failed to understand as to how they will be able to fill the posts reserved for them until and unless suitable number of seats are reserved for them in the educational institutions for such a long period. This means that making a house in the first floor without any staircase and education is the staircase here. As such, without proper education to the Backward Classes and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people how can we give the posts and services in the Government service? It is an injustice to the socially downtrodden people for the past fifty years.

The logical way of attending to the cause of the OBCs, SCs and STs should have been first reservation of seats in the educational institutions so that they get appropriate education and professional training at par with the other classes and then suitable reservations for them in the appointments or posts.

On behalf of my Party and on my own behalf, I would like to make our categorical stand on the following two important issues. We are totally against debarring any group of OBCs, Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from getting the benefits of this reservation under the garb of creamy layer. We are also against the three-year phasing off of the reservation benefit for OBCs and earnestly urge the Government to reconsider the same for implementing this reservation in totality from the first academic year itself, thereby making it mandatory for the Central educational institutions to bring about the requisite increase in the strength of 27 per cent seats in the first year itself in one go.

This was stressed by our Dr. Kalaignar and the founder leader of the PMK Dr. Ramadoss who was stressing to delete the word in clause 5 of the Bill, Central educational institution, to increase the annual permitted strength over a maximum period of three years in certain exigencies. This should be deleted. As our Party is in the Government we

cannot bring any amendment. Our sincere request to the hon. Minister is to delete those words in clause 5 for three years in certain exigencies.

I once again support this Bill. Before I conclude, I urge this Government to bring suitable legislation for the backward classes people, the Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes people to give opportunity in the private sector companies.

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even after 59 years of independence the provision made for them in the Constitution does not ensure equal participation for them. They have been discriminated against. The number of seats have not been increased even after the implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendations. There has been large scale discrimination against the dalits, backwards and minorities in the field of education. Today, the hon'ble Minister has brought this Bill and I, on behalf of my party, support this Bill. The provision of reservation has been made for higher education; however, primary education has not been made compulsory as of now. This is the reason, why the backwards, dalits and minorities still need support in higher education. The Sachar Committee report clearly indicates that the minorities are in weaker position as compared to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. To improve their lot, I would request the hon'ble Minister to take proper measures and get a survey conducted and in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution deliver justice to the minorities, who are economically, socially and educationally backward. With these words, extending my support to this Bill. I conclude.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, at the outset, I must thank the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for bringing this Bill on the floor of the House to get the approval of the House so that it becomes a law and specially, 27 per cent reservation is made available to the OBCs. I must say that I am neither a lawyer nor an expert. I am a common man from the rural village. I am going through whatever has been drafted again and again, but I do not find coherence, according to my knowledge. Whatever is said in the earlier part of the Bill, I must bring that to the notice of the hon. Minister.

Sir, clause 2(d) defines 'Central Educational Institution'. It is mentioned in the Act that 'Minority Educational Institution' means an institution established and administered by the

minorities under clause (1) of article 30 of the Constitution and so declared by an Act of Parliament or by the Central Government or declared as a minority educational institution under the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004'. It means that this comes under Central educational institutions. That means whatever has been given in clauses 1,2,3 etc., that comes under Central educational institutions and there, this reservation will be applicable. According to my knowledge, when this Bill becomes an Act, reservation will be made available to SCs, STs and OBCs.

I would like to invite the kind attention of the hon. Minister to clause 4 (c), which says that: "The Act is not to apply in certain cases", and clause 4 (d) states that: "The Act is not to apply in certain cases." On the other hand, in this case, in clause 4 (c) it is mentioned that: "a minority educational institution as defined in this Act". It means that the reservation would not be available in these particular minority educational institutions.

I have already stated that I am neither a lawyer nor a Constitutional expert. I am a layman coming from the villages. I do not understand the difference between the earlier part of the Bill, and all that has been mentioned in clause 4 (c) of this Bill. Therefore, I would request the hon. HRD Minister to enlighten us about this issue, so that I can understand the issue and also tell the masses in my area as to what does the earlier one imply and what does this one imply.

I would like to highlight certain aspects of the reservation policy. It is there in the Constitution itself. If you permit me, then I would like to quote from article 30 (2) of the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you are allowed to quote from it.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The hon. Minister of HRD knows everything, but I would like to quote the latter part of article 30 (2), which states that:

"The State shall not, in granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language."

This is the main point, which I would like to highlight here. I think that the issue — which I had stated earlier, and the Constitutional provision in article 30 (2) are quite contradictory. How will it be helpful in the court of law when it comes for adjudication in the court of law?

Secondly, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon.

Minister that time and again the hon. Courts, especially, the Supreme Court and the High Courts are saying in their judgement that the creamy layer should be excluded from reservation, etc. Why is the Government or the hon. Minister not bringing this particular law, especially regarding reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution? We know that 15 per cent reservation is there for SCs, and 7½ per cent reservation is provided in the Constitution for STs, and this has been implemented all along during these 59 years of our independence. But this particular reservation policy is being debated in the court of law. Sometimes, the hon. Judges in the Supreme Court, and also in different High Courts intervene, and say that the creamy layer should be excluded. At different times they have made this point. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister. Why are you not bringing this particular Act in the Ninth Schedule? The court's jurisdiction would be debarred from adjudication for the SCs, STs and the OBCs if this is done. It would also guarantee that a particular percentage of jobs would be reserved for these categories, namely, SCs and STs.

So, I would request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to consider and bring this particular law into the Ninth Schedule of the constitution so that this argument that is raised in different times is set to rest and SCs, STs and OBCs are guaranteed the reservation that is being given to them.

As per the 2001 census, percentage of the categories of SCs has gone up. It was 15 per cent earlier and now it has become 16 per cent. As of now, the reservation given to SCs is limited to 15 per cent. Why should not the Government consider bringing in an amendment Bill before the House so that reservation is made available to the increased percentage of the SCs and other categories?

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the staggered implementation that is suggested by the Mooly Committee. Such staggered implementation would mean that in the first year, 27 per cent reservation would not be applicable to the OBCs; in the second year also certain students would be debarred from the benefit of reservation. That being the case, how can the Government ensure that the benefits sought to be given to the backward sections of the people reach those people?

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Bill. While I support the Bill, I must say that this should have been brought much earlier.

The proposal to give 27 per cent reservation for the

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

OBCs itself created some problems in different institutions. Even students of different institutions came on to the streets and created many troubles. All that would not have happened if this Bill had been brought earlier.

Our country has accepted the reservation policy for undoing the injustice caused to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. But this acceptance is not free from prejudice. It is not accepted by every section, by everyone in the country.

Caste system still persists in our country. There is a question. Why should there be reservation for the OBC? The Scheduled Castes and the Schedule Tribes may be treated as Backward sections. But apart from SCs and STs, why is OBC treated as a Backward section and why should reservation be provided for the Backward section? In our society, we are not blaming the present generation. Present generation is not responsible for that but the present generation cannot disown the past. They can not disown the present structure of our society; the injustice of our society.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are like slaves of our country. They were treated like that earlier, even in different parts of our country. Apart from slavery, there was untouchability. So, OBC is a section which has mainly suffered from untouchability. So, it is needed to distinguish OBC from SCs and STs.

Sir, I would like to say that the proposal of 27 per cent reservation for the OBC is very correct. This is not a new thing. It is contained in the Constitution. It is known to every hon. Member of this august House. In the Directive Principles of State Policy, it is stated that the State would promote with special care educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people. We are discussing here about access to education, particularly, access to higher education, not the economic aspect, so far as this Bill is concerned. It is clear and it is known to us that, the Ninety-Third Constitution (Amendment) Bill has been passed in this august House. It was passed unanimously by both Houses of Parliament. It was enacted with a view to promote educational advancement of the socially and educational Backward Classes of our society. So, those special provisions relate to admission of those belonging to the categories in all educational institutions, including private educational institutions, which are aided and unaided by the State. This kind of Bill is going to comply to that. It is our responsibility to support it and get it passed. This is our responsibility and we are going to comply to the Ninety-third Amendment but in this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what about the private institutions. It is only said about the Government-

aided institutions. So far as the Union Government-aided institutions are concerned, it is all right but what about the State-aided institutions? What about the private institutions. Hence, all these should be there.

All points are being debated. Firstly, if 27 per cent reservation is provided to the OBCs, then the quality of education would be diluted. It is not understood. This Bill is for the access to higher education - for admission only. It is not that it would dilute the standard of education or the result of any class or category but only for giving the opportunity to have access to higher education.

So, what is the harm in it? I do not know why they are hesitating. I think they are working with some prejudice. Their mindset is such, that they think that they should not allow the children from the downtrodden families to sit with their children on the same bench and in the same class. I would say that this is the prejudiced mind. So, the Government should firmly come out with something concrete in this context.

Another point is being raised about the question of creamy layer. So far as our census is concerned, there is no such provision. We do not know which is the creamy layer and which is not. So, raising the question of creamy layer is nothing but diluting the whole process. I am not in favour of it. OBCs should be taken as a whole and 27 per cent reservation should be provided to them.

I thank the hon. Minister for having brought this Bill for consideration and passing. I once again support it.

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda):
Sir, I rise to support the "Central Educational Institutions (Reservation In Admission) Bill, 2006", which seeks to provide reservation to the SCs, STs and OBCs in Centrally-Aided Educational Institutions. However, there are several shortcomings in the Bill.

India attained independence in 1947. The British flag was lowered and the tricolour was raised. India was partitioned. Many things changed. However, there was no change in the fate of Dalits. Even 60 years after we became independent, the Dalits are still lagging behind in the fields of education, health and employment. The Congress Party is solely responsible for the miserable condition of the Dalits in the country as it was in power for almost 50 years. The Congress Party did not take any concrete steps to ameliorate the plight of the Dalits. It made empty promises and gave false assurances.

I thank the Hon. Minister for having tabled this Bill in

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

this august House. It shows his concern for these deprived people. Better late than never.

Sir, we must strengthen the primary education sector in the country. Only then can these under-privileged sections reap the benefit of reservation. The primary education network in the country is in shambles. Things have come to such a pass that the drop-out rate of SC students is 72%. Among ST students, it is a whopping 80%. The drop-out rate among girl-students is even dismal. 80% primary schools do not have teachers. In many schools, there are only one or two teachers. Unless we bring a radical change in the primary education sector, providing facilities for higher education will serve no purpose.

Equal opportunity should be provided to all children at the primary education level. The syllabus of all education boards should be of the same level. Only then can the downtrodden segments of society reap the benefit of reservation as outlined in the Bill. Children can compete with each other only when there is a level playing field for all. Otherwise, the children belonging to the weaker and backward sections of society will lag behind in education and employment.

Sir, English should be taught at the primary education level itself. Reservation for the SCs, STs and OBCs should be provided in minority educational institutions as well as in private educational institutions. 'Positive discrimination' is the need of the hour. The Government schools and colleges are in a mess. The private educational institutions constitute 90% of our educational institutions. The poor, the deprived and the under-privileged are a hapless lot. They cannot afford the high fees charged by the private and minority educational institutions. In Punjab, all higher educational institutions belong to the private parties or minorities. These institutions have been unwisely kept out of the purview of reservation. If the Government is really keen to uplift the condition of SCs, STs and OBCs, reservation should also be provided in the private and minority educational institutions.

The Bill has kept the educational institutions where 'Super Specialization' is needed, out of the ambit of reservation. Sir, I appeal to the hon. Minister that this too, should be brought within the purview of reservation. The poor people cannot win seats in these institutions for their children by doling out donations.

The Bill seeks to provide only 15% reservation to the SCs and 7.5% reservation to the STs in the educational institutions. It is a drop in the ocean. 38% population of Punjab belongs to the Scheduled Caste category. Keeping in view the ground reality, at least 25% seats in the

educational institutions should be reserved for SCs and STs. In Punjab, there are 33 sub-castes that are included in the category of the Scheduled Caste. More than 50% of the Scheduled Castes belong to the 'Majhabi' and 'Balmiki' groups. Only 2% Scheduled Castes are getting the benefit of reservation whereas several other sub-groups are lagging far behind. They are the poorest of the poor and the most backward among the Scheduled Caste. When late Giani Zail Singh was the Chief Minister of Punjab, he had reserved 50% of the Scheduled Caste seats only for 'Majhabi' and 'Balmiki' groups. However, later on, it was discontinued. As a result, these groups were neglected. The Giani Zail Singh formula for reservation should be revived.

Sir, this Bill should ensure that the poorest of the poor and the most backward among the backwards get the benefit of reservation in educational institutions. The provisions of this Bill should be strictly implemented. Stringent punishment should be handed out to the erring educational institutions. We have framed a plethora of laws. But, their implementation is tardy and not up to the mark. The 85th Constitution Amendment is a glaring instance. It is rather unfortunate that it has not yet been implemented in Punjab.

Sir, judiciary should also be brought in the ambit of reservation. Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. Only the deprived and the under-privileged can empathize with their fellow beings. Hence, the scope of reservation should be widened to include judiciary and other such institutions. Only then can the SCs, STs and the OBCs reap the benefit of reservation as entailed in this Bill.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadhavpur): Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Indeed, this is a very important occasion when this Bill has been placed in the Parliament. I believe all of us should support it. We should set the reference as we could do at the time of 93rd Constitution amendment where almost near unanimity was there for giving Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs -reservation even in private unaided institutions except in minority institutions as defined by article 30 of the Constitution. In this case also, with near unanimity, we should achieve it. I would request all the distinguished Members and Groups of Parliament that they should take the same sort of view on this issue also.

Sir, basically without reservation in education, in some cases, reservation in employment is getting diluted. We might remember that during the 90s when the proposal for reservation in employment for the OBC was mooted, then one of the very important arguments that were put forth by those who opposed it was what was the utility of reservation in employment without reservation in education. It is now

[Dr. Sujan Chakraborty]

amazing to note that when now reservation is being proposed in education, those same people are opposing it for reasons that are best known to them and is beyond the comprehension of any sensible person. They basically are opposing their own arguments that they had put forward against reservation in employment in the 90s. We must remind them this fact.

According to the Report of the Mandal Commission, the OBC population in the country is estimated to be in and around 52 per cent. This figure could be debated and disputed. Here it is the question of reservation of 27 per cent of seats. This means the scope of reservation is one in every 2 OBC population. Therefore, it does not mean giving full equity to the OBCs in their reservation. So, the opposition does not seem to have much sting in their argument in this regard.

We should consider the fact that there is already some kind of reservation working in the educational institutions today in the name of capitation fees. What should one call this otherwise? Does that not mean buying admission with money? Is it not some kind of a reservation in education for the richer sections of the society? Those who are opposing this reservation, why are they not opposing the reservation arising out of the payment of capitation fee system? I would not be amazed to find that those who are opposing this move of the Government are those people who are running institutions where students are admitted with capitation fees. Therefore, this logic is not tenable.

Sir, this whole question has cropped up primarily because of another reason. The Constitution dictates that there should be education for all and the scope of education may extend from the primary level to the highest level as far as possible. What has been the outcome? Had we achieved this objective, then there would not have arisen this question of reservation of seats for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes. But it is unfortunate that even after 60 years of our Independence we have not been able to achieve that goal of 'education for all' and therefore, this question is cropping up time and again. There is a similar question on reservation in jobs as well. Would it be available and would it be so competitive? The opposition that is coming, I believe, would not have that scope to have that opposition. We should go into the basics. We should look at the society as it is stratified. We should accept the slogan of "quantity, quality and equity". If we adopt that approach, I think, things will be better.

In this case, enhancement of seats is being proposed.

The Government should say this in a very systematic manner. Reservation along with enhancement of seats would mean that by enhancing the quantity, the Government is adjusting the equity problem coupled with assurance of quality. By increasing the number of seats the Government is allowing students of another section of society, who are not having the scope, to enter into the arena of higher education. Therefore, it is not the question of compromise with quality. It should be seen in proper perspective – along with enhancement of number of seats both the factors of equity and quality is being matched. In a country like India this is most essential.

While supporting this Bill, I have two or three reservations. The population of OBCs is 52 per cent while their reservation is 27 per cent. Why not the real oppressed get a chance? If that be the case, then the exclusion of creamy layer is a must and, by including the creamy layer and by allowing 27 per cent reservation for 52 per cent, we are basically not accepting the scope of the most oppressed sections within the same group. Thereby, I believe, this creamy layer should not be included and should be rather excluded in the whole approach.

The second point is this. This could have been done earlier also. The 93rd Amendment has enabled that this can be extended to private institutions also. I would strongly propose that while the creamy layer should be excluded, it should be extended to private institutions also. While enhancing the scope of education, the total quantity, the provision of funds and its arrangements should very carefully be done in such a way that a feeling of deprivation may not come to many of our social groups within the country. From that end, it should be tackled.

I would, therefore, conclude with the approach that basically, in a country like India where caste and class division is there, a number of differences are there within groups, equitable participation of all groups is a must. While doing so, obviously, we have to count the question of quality, and the quantity enhancement may be a solution. Striking a balance between quality and quantity is most important in the whole exercise. I hope this Bill will go a long way for the total advancement of the country as a whole in education, employment and in social development of the country.

From that end, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Ajwar): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the most efficient hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development who has first of all shown concern for dalits and backward classes and has implemen-

ted the assurance for the dissemination of education among the dalits given by the Manmohan Singh Government under the leadership of hon'ble Sonia Gandhiji and has brought an important Bill in the House. The entire dalit, backward and downtrodden community of the country is all praises for him for this reason and express gratitude that he has fulfilled the assurance of reservation that was left out. It is true that the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations and making provisions for reservation has always been a difficult task. Whenever the reservation was put in place the people of this culture affected the normal life of the country. The day this Bill was envisaged and the statement of the Hon'ble Minister was widely reported, the so called well wishers of society tried to mislead the youth by raising a hue and cry. The All India Institute in Delhi became an epicenter of such activities. A vicious campaign was launched in the country as if a huge injustice was being done. However, the Government has shown its prudence in bringing this Bill which would definitely provide relief to the deprived classes of people. It is true that there has been adequate provision for reservation in the educational institutions particularly in States for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. However, the implementation of reservation has always been replete with lacunae, be it reservation in jobs or education. I would like to draw his attention to a large number of medical colleges and institutes where reservation is given to other backward classes. Although the verdict of the Supreme Court is very clear in Indira Sahani case, that the people belonging to these categories who come in general merit will not be included in the ambit of reservation as they have come on their merit. They will be included in the general category. Reservation will be given to the remaining 27 percent OBC students. However, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that even today there are such institutes wherein if the OBC candidate is ahead of the general candidates, he is included in 27 percent quota of reservation. If he protests, he is told that he has already been included in the 27 percent as if they were distributing some alms. That is why when he has brought this Bill I am about its implementation.

The intelligentsia managing the IIM, IIT and the national institutes raised a hue and cry about absence of infrastructure as on date. They contended that it was not possible for them to increase the number of seats all at once. All India Institute is such a big Institute. Every year 50 to 60 candidates are admitted there. I have been a doctor myself and have studied and taught in a professional medical college. As such, I do not think that if we double the number of seats, there will be any infrastructural problem like that of a shortage of hall, lecture, theatre, scientific laboratories etc. The Institution on

which Rs. 300-400 are spent every year may lack hostel facilities to some extent.

That is why, I feel that the provision of phased implementation as provided for in this Bill for institutions lacking proper infrastructure, proper academic staff should be done away with. Since it is my apprehension that the day the seats would be increased the technical education councils whether it is Bar Council, Medical Council of India or All India Institute of Education may come up with the objection that it would dilute the education quality. We have shortage of two lecturers, three X-ray machines and two laboratories. That is why, it is requested that it may be ensured. Is he starting their phase wise monitoring from the year 2007 or not? There are certain institutions having larger campuses and larger staff. So these institutions may implement 27 percent reservation in the first year, followed by 15 and 7.5 percent in the second and third years.

Super specialization has been kept out of the ambit of reservation. Everything is being given in piece meals. Earlier it was given in Arts College thereafter in Science College. Thereafter, it was given in other institutions of the country. Now, super specialization has been kept out of the ambit of reservation. I wish to submit that the boys doing MBBS first, would be doing MD, MS later. The same boys would alter and pursue Cardio Vascular Surgery, Neuro surgery and super specialization in other subjects. People are again being deprived of reservation in the name of super specialization.

In regard to many institutes including the major research institutes of national importance, I would like to submit that it is not true that we do not have meritorious students among the SC, ST and OBC categories who are doing research in such Institutes. There is a need to provide opportunity to several of those who might be engaged in research there. My submission is that those institutions have also to be brought out from the ambit and the said communities will have to be given the benefit of reservation to take them forward. I would also like to make another submission that presently people are required to pay an annual fee of Rs. two to three lac and I am of the opinion that the people belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories do not have that much money to pay. Therefore, we need to look at the fee structure also and give some kind of concessions in the form of cross subsidization in that the people having the capacity to pay more should be asked to pay more and those who can not afford to pay should be given some relief. Though it is said that banks do provide education loans but there are several bottlenecks in that regard. One needs to have a sizable property and other assets to give a guarantee for availing the loan. It is therefore, required to pay attention

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

to bring such changes in the fee structure so as to ensure the progress of the targeted sections of the people. I am fully convinced that the Government would leave no stone unturned to accommodate the people belonging to the said categories by increasing the number of seats in the educational institutes and making available adequate funds for the development of infrastructure in the said institutions. Besides, there should also be a penalty clause for the institutions failing to implement the fixed stipulations and regulations. One of the reasons for the lack of proper implementation of the reservation norms is the lack of any penal provisions. The candidates are rejected in the name of 'not being suitable' and the backdoor recruitments is made. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister especially towards the so called autonomous institutions. I am sorry to say that there are not even 5% teachers belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories in the Rajasthan University even though there should have been full compliance of the reservation norms. However, the stay from the Courts were regularly taken resort to and adhoc appointments were kept to be made. If a survey is conducted in so called autonomous institutions it would be revealed that a lot of arbitrary decision making takes place there. Therefore, I would request that there is a need to tighten the noose as far as policy matter in the said institutions are concerned.

With these words, I conclude while thanking the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development for bringing this Bill to provide reservation to the dalits, poor and the backwards in the said institutions. This country would always remember him for this step.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a list of more than 25 Members who are yet to speak. So, those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches can lay their speeches. They can give their written speeches. That will form part of the proceedings of today.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I and my party support this Bill brought to provide reservation in the central educational institutions.

Sir, there is a ongoing debate for the last several months whether merit is being compromised. In the context I would like to ask whether any one has gone through the history and background of our historical legacies which clearly points to one thing that the system of casteism is very much

a feature of our society. Despite the various subtle differences of the caste structure here and there in different states.

15.50 hrs.

(SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*)

The social stratification is prevailing somewhere on the basis of caste and somewhere on the basis of language but merit is not the monopoly of a particular caste. Some people argue that giving reservation would tantamount to compromising with merit. I would like to cite the example of southern States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka where reservation has been provided in the educational institutions for the last several years. But no such repercussions are being noticed there as apprehended. Those who are opposing this should understand that providing reservation is necessary to overcome the caste differences. It is a praiseworthy step of the Government and I support it.

I would like to apprise the House about my objection in this regard. Though the Bill mentions about the central educational institutions but what about the private educational institutions? Hon'ble Minister should try to clarify while replying and if he does so it would be a good thing. It is also mentioned that it would be implemented in three phases. It would take approximately 7-8 years involving an expenditure of approximately Rs. 16,000 crore. I demand to reduce the time period. I request that instead of phasing out, this system should be adopted at one go to correct the historical blunder of the country which had deprived the people for so long.

The minority institutions mentioned in the Article 30 of the constitution have been kept out of this which is objectionable. Article 30 gives freedom to the linguistic minorities as well as religious minorities to run their institutions. Out of the income made from the running of such institutions and they have also been given protection from the interference of the Government. I am of the opinion that if the need arises then even constitutional amendment should be made and minority institutions should also be brought under the ambit of these provisions.

I would like to cite a few examples in this regards. There is St. Stephens College in Delhi. Will the children of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes not be able to study there? We know that they cannot because the higher education is turning commercial. The Minister of Human Resource Development argue for whether or not the foreign name be given to the Universities. The Commerce Minister argues for opening FDI in higher education. I would not like to say much in this regard because it is not the subject of today's discussion. However, one can

easily see the condition of so called high quality educational institutions. For example, Manipal University. In several states, it has got the status of minority institutions and in several others not. Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards this. Reservation should also be provided on the basis of religion and an effort has been made in this direction at some of the places. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had tried to provide reservation in the educational institutions on the basis of religion. Similarly, Aligarh Muslim University had also tried to give reservation to Muslims. However, the judiciary decided against such steps. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the implementation of reservation in this private and minority institutions by making an amendment in the Article 31 (A) of the constitution would go a long way in making clear the intention of the Government and such a move would garner full support.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of Pattali Makkal Katchi and its Founder President, Dr. Aijya who is a crusader for social justice, I support this Bill with unwavering commitment. Our Founder President, who is widely acclaimed as a protector of social justice, has requested me to convey his deep sense of appreciation and congratulation to the UPA Government headed by the world-renowned economist Dr. Manmohan Singh and ably guided by the UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for piloting this very momentous legislation in this august House today.

Today, the 14th December, 2006 will be inscribed in golden letters in the annals of social history of India. It is a historic day, a day of joy and jubilation to all of us and to all lovers of democracy in this country because after attaining Independence nearly 60 years ago, for the first time we are opening up the doors of higher educational institutions of the Central Government to the OBCs who constitute 52 per cent of the population of this country. It is a victory for social reformers like Dr. Kalaingar, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Dr. Ayya, the Founder President of PMK, who are working for the social development of the people for many years. Perhaps, if Thanthai Periyar and Dr. Ambedkar had been alive today, they would have blessed this Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh and guided by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi from the bottom of their hearts because the dreams of these leaders are now becoming a reality. This Government has proved that Thanthai Periyar and Dr. Ambedkar were not mere utopians, but they were pragmatic

and practical people's representatives and personalities. Therefore, we heartily appreciate this Government for bringing this Bill today in this House.

Sir, I should appreciate this Government for many things in connection with this Bill. Firstly, we always believe that any growth process without social justice is meaningless. Today, we are talking in terms of 8 per cent or 9 per cent growth rate. But this growth rate should percolate the benefits of growth to all sections of the people equitably so that we get social justice. Through this Bill, this Government has demonstrated to the world and to this country that this Government is working for economic growth with social justice.

Secondly, by opening the doors of opportunities of higher education to the OBCs, this Government has removed an important anomaly or a paradoxical situation that has been developing in this country for the last 60 years. We have made reservation in employment, but unless people of a particular community or class are educated, they will not be able to get employment. Therefore, this Bill, by opening up the doors of higher education to the people, helps us to get employment. Employment gives social status to the people, it provides purchasing power, it provides economic status to the people and therefore this Bill has to be welcomed by all of us.

Sir, one of the criticisms against higher education is that only 6 to 7 per cent of the respective age group of population is enrolled in higher education. When we come to the OBCs, we find hardly 2 to 3 per cent of the people in this age group are enrolled in higher education which is because we have not provided opportunities of education to them for a long time. But this Bill provides this opportunity and therefore the enrolment of the people from these communities as well as in higher education system will improve.

16.00 hrs.

Another reason why we personally thank the hon. Minister for Human Resource Development is that we were given the apprehensive information that the creamy layer will be included in this Bill and we were told that the Standing Committee which perused this Bill has given the suggestion on the creamy layer, but we got a great relief when we found that the creamy layer was not included in this Bill. Therefore, we are happy and thankful to the hon. Minister.

While appreciating the hon. Minister for all these things and when we find that the under representation of OBCs is taken care of, this Bill will help to create an equitable society by equalizing educational opportunity to the people we feel

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

elected. Although, we compliment for all these reasons, we would like to ask one or two questions from the hon. Minister.

The first one is with regard to the Bill. The Bill says, in the first line, that it is applicable to certain educational institutions. Why the word 'certain' should be included is not clear. If you put 'certain' it will provide an opportunity to the bureaucrats to interpret that word in whatever manner they like. Therefore, we feel that to provide for the reservation in admission of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs to Central Educational Institutions established. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, please give me ten more minutes. I have many things to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Time is limited. You should conclude now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I have taken only two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Conclude now. You extend the time of the Bill, I do not mind. Please conclude now within one minute.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I am talking about equality in this House, but you are not allowing me to speak.

So, we would request the hon. Minister to delete the word 'certain'.

Then, when we make definition clauses, we should do that carefully. In clause (k), the Bill is mentioning the courses which are available in agriculture, medical, engineering and law and it has left out all the courses which are taught in the Central institutions, specially, the Central universities. I wish, this should be taken care of.

According to clause 4, the legislation will not be applicable to some of the institutions of excellence and all institutions in the scheduled areas and at the post Doctorate level. This must also be removed and taken care of.

The most objectionable part of this Bill to us is clause 5, which says that there will be an annual increase of seats. Now, the implication of this clause is that unless seats are increased, OBCs will not get even a single seat in any of these institutions. For example, today, in the existing situation, if there are 100 seats, SCs and STs get 23, OCs get 77 and therefore, the 100 is divided among them and the OBCs get 0 only.

After passing of this Bill, unless. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence please.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Unless the seats are increased from 100 to 154, the OBCs will not get 27 per cent of seats. Therefore, what is given by the right hand is taken by the left hand and there is no guarantee that all the institutions will increase the seats.

Now, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, what is the need for increasing the seats in other institutions for implementing reservation. When Shri V.P. Singh implemented the job reservation of 27 per cent, he did not increase the jobs from 100 to 154. He did not do that. Therefore, if justice is to be maintained, the seats, as it is, must be given and 27 seats out of 100 seats must be given to the OBCs from the next academic year. I do not think, anywhere in the country or anywhere in the world or a court of justice this will be justified because in the last 60 years, the 52 per cent of the OBCs did not get even a single seat and ten per cent of the people were enjoying 77 per cent of seats.

Today, if you want to stagger, if you want to maintain this parity, what you should do is that you should reduce the seats from 77 to 50 and even then the ten per cent of the people will get 50 per cent. This is inhuman and unjust. In a democratic society, which provides for equal opportunities of education, this is unfair. Democracy is for the people, by the people and if the people cannot occupy the position in education, in employment in proportion to the population, it would not be possible to ensure proper democracy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Therefore, unless this is given, the OBCs have no say at all. Therefore, I request the hon. Human Resource Minister to try to provide 27 per cent reservation, maybe by keeping the seats as it is. We are not for increasing the seats, not staggering the seats, but to try to give the existing seats and thereby contribute to the social, economic and political development of these people. And the exclusion of some of the institutions is not correct. Clause 5 in our view, must be totally removed. Only then the Bill will have the stated objective of giving 27 per cent reservation. In one place you say 27 per cent will be given, and in the other place you will say it will be given in three years time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now.

Shri L. Ganeshan.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Therefore, it is incompatible

with the concept of social justice. Therefore, it should be deleted. For that you will require. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate now Prof. Ramadass. You are making good points but there is time constraint.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: In our understanding in all the Central Universities of the country, you can straightaway give this 27 per cent reservation. In most of the IITs today, you can give 27 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now. It is the same point.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: We want this 27 per cent reservation at one go. And we would provide all our support to this Government for providing that kind of social justice. This is what would lead to the achievement of social justice. And I request this Government which is known for its social justice, which is known for social consideration to be able to take this legislation in the right earnest.

SHRI L. GANESAN (Tiruchirappalli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views which, in certain respects, would be strange for the people from the North.

I am very proud to say that I come from a State which is one of the pioneer States in the field of social justice. All of us talk about reservation. None of us would have been born when the first communal GO was brought in Tamil Nadu in the year 1927. Therefore, Sir, when I say this, my point would be a little bit different. I appreciate, Shri Arjun Singh, the concerned Minister for having introduced this Bill. But at the same time, if I say it is belated, it is delayed, you should not be offended. I cannot say how long it is delayed, how much it is belated. Mr. V.P. Singh, the then Prime Minister provided for reservation in Central Services around 1989-1990. What is the use of making provision for reservation in services when we are not prepared educationally? Therefore, reservation in education should be given first and foremost priority. It was in 1990 and now it is 2006. After so many years, you have brought in this legislation. When we say it is belated, it is delayed, much delayed and yet better late than never. Therefore, to that extent, I welcome it and at the same time I would like to point out certain things.

As far as it is concerned, many great leaders have made much service for social justice. Reservation is not an end in itself; rather, it is only a means to an end. Social

justice is the end. For this principle, our great leaders, our Thanthai Periyar – technically speaking in Tamil, PERIYAR means 'great man' he suffered. He sacrificed and fought tooth and nail for the sacred social justice. When many of you people never heard about social justice, our own Thanthai Periyar started the movement for social justice.

Then, great people like Anna and others were there. In 1927 - when I say this, my friends from the Congress Party should feel proud - when the Dravidian Movement people strived for certain rights, you should not feel shy, and you should be proud as much as we are. The communal GO of 1927 was struck down by the Supreme Court of India as soon as the sacred Constitution of India came into force in 1950 and the High Court of Tamil Nadu and the Supreme Court of India held that the communal GO of 1927 was null and void. Then, we started the fight. Periyar and Anna agitated. I should be very frank. I should have to thank Kamaraj, the great leader. He persuaded Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru - it is a dignified way of saying. Almost he begged Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the light of Asia, the first Prime Minister of India, a great leader, a man with forward looking, a leader with farsightedness, and but for whom, India would not have been a democracy by now. I should thank Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He had brought in the first amendment to the Constitution in the year 1951. My friends from the Congress Party can feel proud of. Why should they feel shy? ...(*Interruptions*) I know. You come to Tamil Nadu, and not in Parliament.

I am proud to talk about Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He was the first man to move the Amendment Bill in the year 1951. The Minister of Human Resource Development has now moved this Bill. I would say that it is very much belated. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru moved the Amendment Bill in 1951, and by means of which the policy of reservation still lives. Otherwise, everything would have gone to winds. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude within a minute or two.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Sir, I would like to quote the Resolution that was passed in the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1989. It says:

"This Assembly resolves to request the Union Government to play a major role in the advancement of socially and educationally backward communities as enshrined in Article 340 of the Constitution of India by extending reservation and special provisions under Articles 15 (iv) and 16 (iv) of the Constitution of India, and take a positive role to this important area of social justice expeditiously with due regard to recommen-

[Shri L. Ganesan]

dations contained in the Report of the Backward Classes Commission, 1980 headed by Thiru Mandal appointed by the Union Government."

This Resolution was passed in 1989 in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. That means, that was passed by Dr. Kalaingar. How long has it taken? Not only that, we have contributed many things towards this cause. Dr. Ramadoss in our State had fought for reservation to most backward communities. He fought. No doubt they have suffered. Some precious lives had been lost.

Subsequently, when Kalaingar came to power in the year 1989, 20 per cent reservation had been provided to most backward people, and we should thank him for that.

Sir, now, I am coming to the last part of my speech.

Mr. Minister, even today, you are not taking speedy steps. You are moving at snail's pace. I do not know, why. Why certain exemptions are given in the higher level of education, say, in Clause 4, I do not know. If they are not given exemptions, what harm will be caused, I do not know. ...*(Interruptions)*

Do you mean to say that it is the experience? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI L. GANESAN: About exemption in admission to provide reservations in higher level of education, I do not know why such certain exemptions are given. You have given exemption for institutions from implementing this reservation. I would like to like to know why do you have such an exemption. Please simply scrap it up.

In the end, I would request you, Mr. Minister, to be more dynamic. You are dynamic, there is no doubt about it, and we thank you for that. But you kindly be still more dynamic.

Sir, as my hon. friend, Prof. Ramadoss said, you scrap Clause 5, and throw away Clause 4 and implement every other things.

With these few words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ratilal Kalidas Verma. I would request you to be brief.

[*Translation*]

I request all the hon. Members of the House to speak

in brief as there are several Members to speak. I do not know how much more time it will take.

[*English*]

Kindly cooperate.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever Members belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes get an opportunity to say something, it is said that there is paucity of time. It is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a question of Scheduled Tribes. It is a matter of cooperation. I am not specifically telling you, rather I am appealing to all the hon'ble Members of the House that they should cooperate a little.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 58 years of independence. ...*(Interruptions)* Whenever this topic comes for discussion, it is said that there is paucity of time, less time will be given for speaking. ...*(Interruptions)* When will we get time? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): If the discussion is not finished today, it should continue tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: It is quite right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been decided by the Business Advisory Committee. We will have to talk to them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir the hon'ble Minister has brought a very important Bill; so, first of all I would like to extend my thanks to him for introducing such a Bill. Presently, it is the question of reservation in educational institutions. It is a very serious and thought provoking question. Presently, I am the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on SC and ST. Earlier too, I had been the Chairman for four years. We tour all over the country, be it banks or the oil companies or the private sector companies. The plight of the Scheduled Caste people is the same everywhere. Today, the Bill has been introduced to facilitate admission. Firstly, admission will be given to them, then they will study and become qualified for the service. Then the vacancy reserved for the SCs/STs by the Government of India will be filled up. However, I am very sorry to submit that even after 58 years of independence, even today reservation quota could not be filled up. Even today there is a backlog and new policy was to be adopted

after clearing the backlog. However the new policy is being adopted without clearing the backlog. It is on account of this that the staff all over the country are resentful.

Second thing that I would like to bring it to your notice is that as per the figures given in the Action Taken Report, the percentage of SC and ST in Government service as on 1.1.1965 was

[English]

in A group, it was 1.64 percent; in B Group, it was 2.82 percent; in C Group, it was 8.88 percent; and in D Group, it was 17.75 percent. This is the increase which the research has shown.

[Translation]

Today, I have the figures of the year 2003. From this figure you can see the extent of increase in it. Even after so many years the increase in Group A is 11.93 percent, in Group B 30.32 percent, in Group C 16.29 and in Group D it is only 17.98 percent respectively. It is not the complete picture and the figure is only for SCs. The condition of STs is more pathetic.

[English]

As on 1.1.96, for ST, the figures were like this. In A group, it was 0.75 percent; in B group, it was 0.3 per cent; in C group, it was 1.14; and in D group it was 3.39 percent. This is the increase in A group, B group, C group and D group.

[Translation]

In the year 2003, the increase in Group A is 4.18 percent, 4.32 percent in Group B, 6.54 percent in Group C and 6.96 percent in Group D. I am presenting before you the figures of the year 2003. The position is that the reservation quota has not been filled up till date. People are not getting employment and the issue of creamy layer is being raised to get them excluded. Earlier, agitation was going on all over the country against reservation and I am sorry that SCs, STs have already been associated with the judgement. Thus injustice is being done against the SCs and STs. I have been demanding for reservation in the House since 1989 and have been emphasizing that reservations should be included in the Ninth Schedule so that the court may not interfere in it and review it. It is on account of non inclusion in the Ninth Schedule that the reservation facility given to us is being withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be amazed to know that on behalf of our Committee part time jobs have been

recommended. It was recommended that sweepers should be made peons and watchmen should be made messengers. The Ministry issued a circular in this regard but repeated it subsequently on account of which the fourth grade staff of the entire country especially sweepers are very aggrieved. The Government may formulate new laws time and again, however, there is a need to change the mentality of the bureaucracy in the country. There is a need to change this mentality also because when we go to any city or State we find the same situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to submit about the public sector undertakings. As per the figures for the year 2004, in the Group A, SC were 12.61 percent, ST 3.99 percent, in Group B, SC were 13.18 percent, ST 6.12 percent and in Group C, SC were 19.74 percent and ST 9.77 percent. The percentage is very low. You can understand what will be their condition if privatization is done. The people of the private sector are not ready to accept it. What type of argument is it that if SCs/STs officers are appointed, it will erode their credibility and the performance of the institution will be affected. I would like to ask as to how the performance will be affected? Timely promotion is not given to SC/ST people and their CR gets adverse remarks and at the time of promotion, after the review of their CR it is remarked that -

[English]

You are not fit for this post.

[Translation]

We get such a reply. When we ask further it is said that

[English]

There is no suitable candidate available.

[Translation]

How is it that they are not getting suitable candidate? Today, lakhs of dalit educated youth are unemployed. They have passed BA, MA and have done B. Ed. For becoming teachers; however, they are not getting employment. They are getting only Rs. 2 thousand. So, I would like to demand that employment should be provided to them in private institutions as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the issue of not providing employment in small scale industries came before us, we opposed it, sat on dharmas and organized rallies. We do not live at the mercy of others, it is our right, it is not alms. We have been suffering for thousands of years in this society, atrocities have been committed against us in the society, we

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

have suffered social humiliation and our mothers-sisters have been raped. When Dr. Ambedkar witnessed such things in the society, he said that if we want to uplift this section of the society, reservation is essential for them. It is their right and not alms. The SCs/STs are not demanding this right as an alms. It should be implemented by the Government. The purpose is not going to be served by issuing only circulars. Policy implementation is a must.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the report of the SC/ST Committee laid on the Table of the House is not being followed. Banking sector and oil companies are not acceding to the demand. If they will not get promotion in class-1 and class-2 how will they go up?

[English]

There is no reservation for directorship.

[Translation]

Why is not reservation there?

Similarly, Reservation should be provided in judiciary as well. The senior judge of the High Court was eligible for promotion.

[English]

But there is no reservation in Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Unless there is reservation, they will not get justice. We demand that reservation should be provided to them in every field. I humbly request that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students having good percentage of around 80-90 percent, deserving and willing to get education abroad, should be provided financial assistance by the Union Government and 50 percent assistance should be provided by the respective State Governments because nobody opposes reservation there. This is my personal request to the hon'ble Minister who is an old and senior leader.

[English]

in which caste you were born. They are not asking any question about the caste. So, I request you to personally sanction some grant for the students of S.C. and S.T. to study abroad so that all the students of S.C. and S.T. will always be remembering you just like they remember Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It is my personal request to you.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP (Rajampet): Mr. Chairman, Sir,

I thank you for this opportunity. I rise to support the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister Shri Arjun Singhji helping the OBC families with 27 per cent reservation in Central educational institutions. The policy of reservation for the S.C. and S.T. was being implemented through executive order by the Central Government. The present Bill would provide statutory basis for reservation of seats to the S.C. and S.T. Besides, this Bill would provide, for the first time, reservation for students belonging to the Other Backward Classes in educational institutions maintained and funded by the Central Government keeping in view the following recommendation of the Mandal Commission.

"Seats should be reserved for OBC students in all scientific, technical and professional institutions run by the Central as well as the State Governments. This reservation will fall under Article 15(4) of the Constitution and the quantum should be the same as in the Government services, that is 27 per cent. The States which have already reserved more than 27 per cent seats for OBC students will remain unaffected."

While the recommendation of the Mandal Commission was implemented by the Central Government for reservation in Government jobs, it could not be done for admission in educational institutions.

The Congress Party, which is the champion of the S.Cs., S.Ts., OBCs and the downtrodden had earlier constituted such Backward Classes Commission on 29th January, 1953 headed by Kaka Sahib Kalekar, the then Member of Parliament. The Commission had recommended 70 per cent seats in all technical and professional institutions for qualified students from the backward classes. It was decided to leave it to the State Governments to draw up their own OBC lists. It is the Congress Party again which is bringing forward this Bill on reservations. On behalf of the families of OBCs, I convey my sincere thanks and best wishes to the hon. Minister Shri Arjun Singh.

In this connection, I would like to draw to the hon. Minister Shri Arjun Singh that the students from the other communities also are facing lot of inconvenience and difficulties. For example, I would like to mention about my State, the largest communities - Kapu, Baliya, Vontari Telaga and other communities are also seeking and they are fighting with the State Government to consider them as Backward Classes. The State is yet to consider them so. It has been referred to the Commission. The Commission is yet to decide the matter. Till such time, the students are facing a lot of inconvenience.

In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister and also all the colleagues here and the Union

Government to consider such cases and specially the communities that I mentioned which are in large numbers - Kapu, Balija, Vontari Telaga. The students who could also be benefited if they could come in the mainstream of this reservation.

There is no provision providing for reservation for women OBC students. I would request the Government to look into this aspect also and give special attention to the women students of OBCs.

Sir, before concluding, I would like to request the hon. Minister that infrastructure-wise, he has to take care of institutions, especially those in township areas. Normally, the students study in district headquarters. Then, they come to cities and well-developed cities. Naturally, there will be difference between them and as compared to the students who have studied in the cities, they may not be as competent. In order to overcome such a thing, I would request the hon. Minister to give adequate funds to the institutions developed in rural township areas.

At the end, I would request the Parliament, which had displayed a rare unanimity in enactment of 93rd Constitution Amendment Bill in January to provide legal support to the policy of reservation in admission to educational institutions, to show the same spirit in unanimously passing the historic Bill which is going to benefit millions of students belonging to the economically weaker sections of our society.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, reservation is a matter of right. It is a right conferred under the provisions of the Constitution. Unfortunately, there is a tendency to picture this right as a matter of quota. Quota involves concession, but this is not a matter of concession. We have heard about quota of kerosene, quota of food materials etc. They are concessions, but this is not a concession. This is a matter of constitutional right conferred to the weaker sections of the society who are socially and educationally backward. So, please treat it as a quota system, but it is a matter of right. This must be made clear without any ambiguity.

I have many things to mention, but I will take two points - exclusion of minority institutions and exclusion of creamy layer. These two are the basic issues. Before I go into the details about these two major issues, I would say that these two issues will come up for debate for a long time to come.

When this Bill was introduced in the House, the matter went up before the Apex Court in the form of a Public Interest Litigation. Hon. Apex Court made some observations and

those observations are pertinent in this context. Let me tell the first observation. On a careful reading of the Supreme Court judgement, we find that they were of the opinion that the concept of creamy layer should be made applicable to OBCs, and not only to OBCs but also to SCs and STs. That is the judgement that was given by the Bench. But the Government came with the clarification that the Supreme Court did not make such an order, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are not excluded on the basis of creamy layer. They said that this concept of creamy layer is not applicable to them. That was the explanation given and let it be there. The Supreme Court went forward to the extent of saying that it was interference with their rights.

Then, when the Apex Court was hearing a petition about validity of this Bill, they observed that the Government is not having sufficient data. So, they said that let us have the data on the basis of which the Government took the decision of giving reservation in institutions of higher education. It was said in the court that the matter was being investigated by a Standing Committee of Parliament. The court went on to direct the Attorney-General that the Report of the Standing Committee may be placed before that court for verification in a sealed cover. That was the first observation made by the Supreme Court.

We must understand the point that when a document is placed before this House, then it becomes a public document and there need be no sealed cover for it. Why should there be an issue of sealed cover when the Report has been presented before the House? Why should the court direct the Attorney General to place the Report in a sealed cover? Subsequently, they clarified this issue, but the intention of the Supreme Court was to get the Report even before it was presented in this House. Otherwise, there was no need to make an observation that it must be produced in a sealed cover. Subsequently, they also changed their position on this issue.

We would like to inform the public that the doctrine of Mandal Commission is accepted by a final decision of the Supreme Court, and it is not violating the basic structure of the Constitution. It is a right, and it has been accepted.

As regards the issue of creamy layer whether it could be extended to SCs and STs is a matter to be debated subsequently. The Standing Committee also recommended that the creamy layer should be excluded in this 27 per cent reservation. But the Supreme Court - in dealing with the Mandal Commission case - evolved a new formula, and that formula is the creamy layer formula. It is still there. How far it will go - when we pass this Bill - is a matter to be seen afterwards? Anyhow, our Party has taken a decision in

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

exclusion of creamy layer in the matter of OBCs. This is a debatable point, which will come up for discussion at a later stage. Therefore, I am not going to pass any remarks on it. But the creamy layer evolved by the Supreme Court is applicable for OBC, and this is the present legal position. Anyway, I leave it to the competent authority to decide on it.

As regards the issue of exclusion of minority institutions, it is a very very important point so far as my State is concerned. Christians and Muslims form the national minority, but in my State, 40 per cent of the population constitutes these two communities. If I may put it, about 80 per cent of all the higher educational institutions are controlled by these 'minority communities'. It would mean that Shri Arjun Singh's law will be available only for these 20 per cent of the institutions, which is a very grave situation.

Who is to decide about the minority community? In clause 2 (f), minority institutions have been defined. Minority institution is defined as a minority educational institution under the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004. I may recall that in 2005, when the amendment to the Constitution, namely, 93rd Amendment, was introduced in this House, I raised this very important point that there should not be any blanket exclusion to the minorities. Unfortunately, you have given a blanket exclusion to the minorities. What was the purpose of doing it? I am asking this because it is a very dangerous position. Now, Kerala is reeling under that position.

The Kerala Government has brought in a new Educational Act, and that is being challenged on the definition of minority institutions. If that is upheld, then the whole thing will go. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to make a clear stand with regard to the definition of minority communities. Otherwise, this Bill will not help the poor people, the backward community as well as the SCs and STs in my State. It would not help them because it is only 20 per cent there. Why do you give reservation if this is the case? I am asking this because it becomes a futile exercise. We have taken an unwise decision of giving total protection to minority institutions, which is uncalled-for, and unjustified in the nature of the case.

When that amendment Bill was being discussed in the House, I humbly drew the attention of the House to this fact. The hon. Minister would say, "Who is to decide the minority institutions". The State Government should be given the power to define a minority institution. How are they defined? An institution may be managed by a minority community but about 70-80 per cent of the students studying there are from non-minority communities. The students who are studying

in a so-called minority community institution belong to a majority community but the management rests with the minority community. This is the position. How can we correct that position? Who is to define a minority community institution? It is defined nowhere.

The Minorities Commission will always say that if it is conducted by a trust or some other agency, it is called a minority community institution leaving it to, if I may put it that way, the mercy of God the fate of these poor people belonging to the majority community, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Hindus as a whole who study in these institutions paying lakhs of rupees as capitation fee and tuition fee. How can we help them? I would like tell the Minister that he has done a very wrong thing in giving complete and total protection to minority communities without taking into consideration the circumstances obtaining in each and every State.

You take the case of the North-East. Christians are in majority there. So, a minority in a particular State may not be a minority in another State. It may vary according to the circumstances available in the State. These two questions, creamy layer and the minority institutions, will form the topic of the discussion. God save the hon. Minister Arjun Singh ji. This is my humble submission.

I support the Bill and we will ensure that the Bill is passed. But I would say that without defining the minority educational institutions, the Kerala State will be in difficulties always.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI (Hyderabad): Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the Bill that has been tabled in the august House. I have got some important points to bring to the notice of the august House.

The Sachar Committee report has been tabled in this House. It clearly states the educational backwardness of the Muslim community. According to Sachar Report, there are 39 per cent OBCs and 0.8 per cent Scheduled Caste in the Muslim community.

I support this Bill which provides reservation in Central Universities to SCs, STs and OBCs. However, I would like to know as to how fair it is to deny the benefits of reservation on the basis of religion, especially after the Government has tabled the Sachar Report in this august House which shows how bad my educational standards are and my conditions are.

I would just like to quote one point here as far as the report is concerned. Page 73 of Sachar Report clearly says,

"The percentage of population of graduates, as far as the Muslims are concerned, is 1.2 and those attending P.G. courses is 16.3." It is lesser in Muslims than in dalits also. You are not implementing these minority universities over there. But why is it that I am being denied such benefits? Moreover, the Presidential Order of 1950 contravenes the basic fundamental rights given in the Constitution.

How is it that only SCs belonging or professing the religion of Hinduism or Sikhism or neo Buddhism are being given reservation? Why not Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims? This question has to be pondered over by the Government. I would request you sincerely, Sir, that the Government should come forward and ensure that the 1950 Presidential Order, Schedule III is amended. It says that only a person professing Hinduism or Sikhism or neo Buddhism can be classified as Scheduled Caste. How is that possible? This Report of yours clearly says this. There is this argument about Muslims and OBCs. Why is it such a low percentage is there? This has to be looked into.

Lastly, about Jamia Millia University, how is that the present Vice-Chancellor wants to implement this present Bill in Jamia Millia University? Why has the Vice-Chancellor overnight changed this position? Why are we being denied such benefits? I would request you that this issue has to be taken care of. They have applied to the National Minority Education Commission also. It is pending over there. If Jamia Millia University is not a minority University, then, which is a minority university? This is a very important question. These are important points I wanted to bring to the notice of the august House.

I support this Bill. I hope that this UPA Government will take affirmative action and will not deny us reservation under Article 16(4). If people are opposed to reservations to Muslims, they should look into the pre-native history of Article 16(4). It is none other than Sardar Vallabhai Patel, who has stated 'classes' means 'Minorities'. He was the Chairman of that Advisory Committee. Why are Muslims having reservations in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka? Why can they not be given reservations nationwide? It has to be done. Literacy rate of 13 per cent of population is only 59. There is a huge difference between literate and educated persons. You can very well imagine 13 per cent of population with a literacy of 59 per cent. Hence, I would request that the Government should come forward with the proposal and I hope that the hon. Minister, when he stands up to reply would respond to this or this UPA Government has to amend 1950 Presidential Order. They have to take affirmative action under Articles 15(4) and 16(4).

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is debating Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Bill, 2006. The objective of this Bill is to provide reservation to SCs, STs and OBCs in educational institutes such as IITs and IIMs. While supporting the Bill, I would like to say that the BJP since Jansangh days has been in favour of reservation for SCs and STs including economically backward classes better known as OBCs. The reservation is in vogue in the States ruled by our party. OBC includes Muslim OBCs also, who are availing the benefits of reservation. There is a misunderstanding amongst the people. I have said so just to clear misunderstanding prevailing in the minds of the hon'ble Members. Section 4(c) of the said Bill provides the provisions of social Bill shall not apply to the minority educational institutions. I would say that the people who fought for the freedom of our country may not have even dreamt that the Government would draw a dividing line between the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. Since independence as and when the Congress came to power, it enacted such kind of laws and it never made efforts to bring the Muslims to the mainstream of our nation.

Sachar Committee was constituted and it has submitted its report. My party too, agrees with the points raised by the Committee that economic conditions of Muslims is very poor. The Congress party which has been at the helm of affairs at the center and in several States for the last fifty years is solely responsible for poor economic condition of Muslims and now they are trying to wash their countless sins. Through this Bill, the hon'ble Minister does not intend to provide reservation in the Minority educational institutions for SCs, STs and OBCs. According to the hon'ble Minister the reason for not doing so is that Article 30 of our Constitution has empowered Muslim or minorities to set up minority educational institutions, run them, earn profit or impart education based on linguistic and religion. My submission is that extending provision of reservation for SC/STs or OBCs in such institutes shall not violate the spirit of Article 30 of our constitution. The right to set up the institute, and to run them will remain with them and they can impart education on religious or linguistic basis. Also, they can earn profit. The expenses likely to be incurred on facilities such as reservation provided to SCs/STs and OBCs will be subsidized by the Government to said institutions. Traditionally, they are paid money. Application of said Bill to minority institutes will in no way violate the said three features, rather it would enable the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians to study together, they will stay together and live peacefully and cordially. Our country needs this kind of atmosphere.

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

Now, I would like to draw attention to the Bill passed earlier. SCs/STs and OBCs were not provided reservation in minority educational institutes under the provisions of the Bill passed earlier. Consequently, SCs/STs and OBC students got deprived of reservation in universities run by Sikh bodies in Punjab, universities run by Christian in Goa, and universities run by Muslims in Kerala. Unfortunately, such affected students have to migrate to other States. The cases of religious conversion by such students, just to seek admission in minority institutions have also come to notice. I charge the Government of encouraging religious conversion by making said kind of provision. It is condemnable and against the spirit of our constitution. In view of it, I urge the Government to incorporate a provision in present Bill to provide for reservation to SCs/STs and OBCs in minority educational institutions. The amendment moved by Shri Malhotraji and Shri Virendra ji should be accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tejaswini ji, you conclude your speech in 5-7 minutes.

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): For the first time, I find it difficult to cooperate with the Chair but I would try to give respect to the Chair's observation. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I would say that the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, hon. Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh and HRD Minister, Shri Arjun Singh are doing justice. It was a decade long injustice, which they are trying to correct and thereby trying to give justice to 60 per cent of the OBC people who were deprived of this Constitutional guarantee so far. We should bow our heads to them.

The Mandal Commission says that 52 per cent of our population is OBC but in reality it is 60 per cent. When the rest of India is enjoying the fruits of independent India, why 60 per cent of India should remain backward? Let my friends first give me an answer to this.

The word 'class' says, it is the divide between the rural India and urban India. Health, education, economy, social equality, civilization, all are vital factors which keep a society in balance.

Today, why is this imbalance? Opportunity is the greatest thing in the society. Rural children are unable to get proper education today. They are unable to get proper food. That is why, we have to achieve the spirit of the Constitution. It is the right of the OBCs. It is not a privilege for the OBCs to get 27 per cent reservation. That is why, with

pride our forefathers like Pandit Nehruji and Dr. Ambedkarji brought the first amendment in 1951 to correct this measure. The Directive Principles of the State enshrined in the Constitution direct the States to take care of the weaker sections including OBCs and save them from social injustice. That is why, we brought this Bill. It is because education is playing a vital role and education is a leveler. Today, there is no awareness. That is why, when the Bill for reservation for OBCs was introduced, a section of the society behaved in a manner as if heavens are going to fall and as if a crime is being committed on this Earth. If this 60 per cent people of the population rise and start protesting, where will be peace in the society? That shows their ignorance even today. We have not divided the society. Who has divided the society? As long as society is there, there will be caste and religion also. But that should not deprive rural India or poor people or OBC people of their constitutional right.

My second point is that today there is an urgent need to increase seats in the universities and educational institutions. There is a great demand for the education. Why our children, brothers and youths should be deprived of having higher education and quality education? After all India needs to take everybody together on this great motherland. Once I heard that the quality will suffer. Who has built this nation, your infrastructure and your buildings? All these things have been built by everybody. They have not been built by one section of the people.

As far as judicial battle is concerned, I can understand that it is a decade long battle. We have a history of that. Why have we come to Parliament? We have come to Parliament to correct these mistakes. We are representing different sections in Parliament. We are facing different situations. So, we have to correct this inequality in the society. It is the order of the day, need of the day and the demand of the day that we must provide proper reservation to the OBCs. Today, we are running Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Forum to address that problem. Can we answer why such a social cry and untouchability is there even today in this civilized society even after 60 years of our Independent India? As long as we are unable to correct these social evils, it is our duty to protect their basic rights. That is why, I once again compliment the Minister for bringing this brave Bill. In our State we have achieved this and for that I compliment the Government of Karnataka. I would appeal to all my friends from different Parties to accept this. We are seeking only 27 per cent reservation for 60 per cent population. So, there is nothing wrong that we are doing. All of us should raise our heads in pride that at least we are doing justice after 60 years through this Bill. I would like to see equality in this Independent India.

With these words, I would like to thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI KINJARAPL YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. The Preamble of the Constitution of India begins with assuring social, economic and political justice. The letter and spirit of the social justice has been reaffirmed by the first constitutional amendment moved by Panditji. Article 15(4) of the Constitution provides for special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Under Article 340 of the Indian Constitution, the Kelkar Committee and the Mandal Commission were constituted by the then Government.

17.00 hrs.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the Government had given 27 per cent reservation for the persons belonging to the Other Backward Classes in Government institutions and Public Sector Undertakings. But at that time they did not provide for reservation in the educational institutions. In the year 1990 Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. At that time we were studying in University and had questions in our mind about this issue. We felt that without reservation in education, reservation in jobs would have little value. How can people belonging to Other Backward Classes occupy higher positions without having the requisite higher education? How could they become eligible to fill such posts? Since then there have been agitations going on, this has been delayed but even then now the hon. Minister has brought this legislation and I would like to appreciate his efforts for that.

This was also an assurance given in the Common Minimum Programme. The UPA Government had made a promise to the country, to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes that 27 per cent reservation would be provided to them in educational institutions without any control. But according to this Bill, if one were to look at Sections 4 and 5, it would be seen that the Government proposes to put some speed breakers by saying that there would be some quota in the first year and then some quota in the subsequent years. I would like to appeal to the Government not to put these restrictions and provisions of Sections 4 and 5 may be removed from the Bill. The promise made by the Government in the Common Minimum Programme is that they would provide 27 per cent reservation for people belonging to the Other Backward

Classes; 15 per cent for people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and seven and a half per cent for people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. Then, why is the Government now putting these restrictions?

17.02 hrs.

(SHRI V. RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

Though my Party appreciates the effort, yet would like to request the Government to remove such restrictions. The Forum of the OBCs led by Shri Hanumantha Rao met the hon. Minister and the hon. Minister also was kind enough to accede to their representation. My demand is that provisions as contained in Sections 4 and 5 of the Bill should be removed and only then the people belonging to the Other Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes would be happy. These are my suggestions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Chairman of UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji who have brought this Bill after adequate consideration. I wholeheartedly welcome and support Central Educational Institutes Bill, 2006.

Though 59 years have elapsed since we became independent, yet the poor, the backward classes, SCs and STs have not been able to get due rights. A handful of people have held the sway over the property in the country, its art, culture and even education. The 75 percent population of our country fought for its freedom bravely and they had dreamt that they would be brought to the mainstream after its independence. I am pained to say that the Government have not given them their due rights and consequently, they are forced to fight for their rights.

Sir, after independence, it has become our constitutional right and we are not begging. It has been enshrined in our Constitution. We will never forget remembering Baba Saheb Ambedkar who advocated that special opportunities be given to the socially, economically and educationally backward people and reservation is one form of that. Twice Commissions were constituted for providing reservation in jobs to the backward classes. First, it was under the Chairmanship of Kaka Kalekar and second under B.P. Mandal in 1980. It submitted its report in 1980. After 10 years continuous struggle a Government under the leadership of Shri V.P. Singh was formed, who endeavoured to implement the recommendations of Mandal Commission. Matter came up before the Court and the Court gave its

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

verdict in favour of reservation. Reservation in jobs was provided to them in 1993.

The hon'ble Members from BJP were saying that they have been in support of reservation since Jansangh's birth. I would like to remind that they opposed Mandal Commission's implementation with the launch of Kamandal and put the country to flames. Mandal was not implemented, there would have been no Kamandal. Thus, BJP has a dual character, they say something and do a different thing. They were no much perturbed over it. Later, when they formed the Government they gathered courage to implement reservation. They said, they would neither support nor oppose, whereas, they are still opposing it. Policies are framed if a party has intention to do so and both the policy and intention of the UPA Government are quite clear. And that's how they implemented 27 percent reservation and made the parties opposing it to keep quiet. I am very sorry to say all this. I would like to refer to our leader Lohia ji who had said that the people belonging to all sections of society should get education uniformly whether one is the son of a king or a common people, son of a Prime Minister or a peon. I would like to salute that personality. If we want to bring equality and establish an equalitarian society we will have to maintain equality in everything. If education is not provided to them how will they make progress. When reservation advocated to provide reservation in education and not in jobs as it was argued that was lack of merit. The Government want to provide equal access of education to all but while on the one hand some children are studying in schools that have big buildings, on the other there are many schools that do not have even roof over it. On the one hand there are students that have comfortable furniture in their schools and on the other children sit on the ground. Similarly, in some schools delicious food is being served to school and on the other there are children, who are deprived of even bread and salt. How can poor children make progress in such two type of unequal systems. If equal opportunity and facilities are provided to SC, ST and OBC children then I claim that they will have 20 times more merit than the other children. However, the social system is such that we have only boycotted and insulted them. We are insulting them by calling them backward, OBC, dalit. Even today they have to bear insult in the villages. Our struggle against such thing will continue Reservation has been provided, however, out of that 27 percent was cut and the condition was imposed that it will be implemented phase wise. I was very sorry to see the Moyllie report. I do not know the intention with which the report has been submitted. If the intention is noble then why are they afraid of? The Government should implement it. The funds for this will be arranged. The Government have

thousands of crores of rupees with them. It should reduce the allocation for other things. If the Government really want the people belonging to backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to make progress, It should make adequate arrangement for ensuring the same. I feel that it will certainly be an injustice to them if the Government say that there is paucity of space, and funds and how can it be done at one go? The Government should reconsider the provision under which it intend to provide phase wise 27 percent reservation. I would like to request the Government that reservation should be provided at one go. The commitment towards social justice has been expressed in the common minimum programme of UPA Government. As per the commitment the Government should act for providing benefit of reservation to them. The Government will not provide benefit of reservation to them in some institutions. How did the Government conclude that the students belonging to OBC will not perform well in such institutions? What is the basis of such perception of the Government? It is injustice. The Government is providing reservation in some institutions. It is not clear from this Bill whether there is provision of reservation in the Central schools like Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas or not. I feel that reservation should be provided to them in higher education.

At the end I would like to submit that the Sachchar Commission was constituted by the Government and as per the report of the Commission it has been accepted that the condition of Muslims and other minority community is not good in terms of education and several other matters. Why did the Government not provide reservation for the upliftment of that community that constitute 12-13 percent population of the country? Justice would have been meted to that community if reservation had been provided to them. The Government should amend it. The Government should bring that community who have maximum population into the main stream of the nation. So reservation should be provided to them.

With these few words I would like to express my thanks to you and would like to the hon'ble Minister that he should remove these shortcomings. Opposition will continue to oppose the Government, however, the people of the country have given mandate to the Government so it should meet the expectation of the people. Till today they could not come in the mainstream of the nation. With these words I support this Bill and extending my thanks to the hon'ble Chairperson of UPA, the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Minister of Education, I conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in

the discussion on the Bill that has been introduced to provide reservation to people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes and backward classes in the central educational institutions. Along with this I would also like to congratulate Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of the country, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of UPA and Shri Arjun Singh, the Minister of Human Resource Development. However, I am very sorry to submit that we had got independence 57 years back but even after so many years we could not do justice to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Class people and now we are going to do justice to them. There is much delay in doing so. I would like to submit it with much grief that all the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC people of the country could not get their due share that should have been provided to them after independence. The upper class people have grabbed our share of independence as well so now the time has come to give us more justice. So I would like to submit that it will not be sufficient to provide only 7.5 percent reservation to STs, 15 percent to SCs and 27 percent to OBCs. If the population of general community has increased then the population of SCs, STs and OBCs has also substantially increased. So, I would like to demand that the percentage of reservation should be increased to 20 percent for Scheduled Castes, at least 15 percent for Scheduled Tribes and upto 30 percent for OBC. Only then the people belonging to these communities will get justice.

I would like to make one more submission that there is a need to set up separate IIT, IIAM, Central Agricultural University and All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences in those part of the country which are predominantly inhabited by people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. I am especially demanding a separate Kendriya Vidyalaya for Bodoland. I also demand for setting up of an IIT, an IIM and a Central Agricultural University and some polytechnic institutes. Presently there is not even a single medical college, university, engineering college or a polytechnic institute there. So there is a need to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya and a medical institute like AIIMS in Bodoland. All the Bodo boys and girls of our State are getting education through Bodo language but there are no good schools for them and large number of such students are studying in private schools but no Government grant is provided to such private schools.

[English]

So, Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to pressurize the Assam Government to bring all the non-provincialised

primary schools, middle-level English Schools, High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools under provincialisation system.

[Translation]

North Eastern Indira Gandhi Memorial Regional Institute of Health and Medical science is located in Shillong, however, reservation quota is not applicable in it. If the reservation is not enforced then how will the tribal students get an opportunity to study in that institute? Reservation should be implemented there as well.

[English]

So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to bring this premier Health and Medical Science Institute also within the ambit of the Bill for providing reservation at least to the Scheduled Tribes of North-Eastern region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is already over.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri S.K. Kharventhan wants to lay his written speech on the Table of the House. He is allowed to lay his speech. I thank him.

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): I am thanking the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Manmohan Singhji and Hon'ble Madam Soniaji and our Hon'ble Minister Arjun Singhji for the introduction of this landmark Bill for the welfare of scheduled castes, the scheduled tribes and other backward classes of citizens of this country.

As per a 3rd amendment during the year 2005 the clause 5 was inserted in Article 15 of our Constitution, with a view to promote the educational advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through special provisions relating to assistance of students belonging to these categories in all educational institutions, including private educational institutions whether aided or unaided by the State.

Originally there was no such provision in Article 15 of our Constitution. In the case of Champakam Dorairaj, state of Madras set aside the reservation of seats in educational institutions on the basis of caste and community provided by the then Government of Madras and by great leader Shri K. Kamaraj. Then late leader Shri K. Kamaraj requested Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru to amend the constitution to provide

* The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

reservation for weaker section in the society. Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru the then Prime Minister requested Dr. B.R. Ambedkar the then Union Law Minister to amend the article 15 of our Constitution. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar amended the article 15 and inserted sub clause 4 and it provide a blanket provision that nothing shall prevent the state from making special provision for the advancement of SC/ST and OBC people.

About 72% population and fervent work force of the country is still living in rural India. Out of the total rural workforce 39.50 per cent are cultivators and 33.20 per cent are agricultural labourers. The agricultural labourers needs reservation but it continues to by-pass them. As regards cultivators, all those upon the semi-medium size of holdings and who are wholly dependent on agriculture and other connective activities deserve the benefit of reservation.

Mandal Commission refer to the need for reservation in Educational Institutions. There are dozen recommendations in the report, which propose, apart from reservation in Government jobs and educational institutions, separate coaching facilities for students aspiring to enter technical and professional institutions and special vocation-oriented education facilities to upgrade the academic and cultural environment of OBC students.

The Reservation in education and public service began in the Madras Presidency as early as 1831. The British Rulers initiated this in response to demands from various groups. Then this movement was developed and achieved by late Leaders Shri K. Kamaraj and Shri E.V. Ramasamy Naicker. Tamil Nadu had 69% reservation even before the Mandal Commission recommendations. In Andhra Pradesh it was initiated in the 1970s while in Gujarat and Maharashtra the schemes were formalized 1980s and 1990s. At present Karnataka is having 50 per cent reservation out of which 32% for OBCs and 18% for SCs and STs in all the higher education institutions. From 1992 to 2002 over 25000, OBC students were able to get admission in professional colleges in Karnataka. Andhra Pradesh has 49.5% reservation and Kerala has approx. 50 per cent reservation for its OBC, SC and ST populations.

The present Bill pave way for poor rural students to get admission in Central Educational Institutions. By introducing reservation in Central Education Institutions whether it will affect the merit? Certainly not. Thousands of youths from rural areas are working in IT Sector throughout the world. Most of them hail from very poor families and studied in corporation schools or panchayat union schools. Some anti-

reservationists are arguing that OBC communities cannot throw up sufficient number of bright students to fill up their quotas in Higher Education Institutions. It is totally false. Assuming that 5000 students were to be admitted to IIT's every year and 27 per cent reservation was made for students belonging to OBCs, it would work out to 1350 seats for the OBCs. The number of ITTs aspirants from the OBC communities is about one lack. Reservation exists in many well known universities yet the quality or prestige of these universities has not been vitiated.

Even in USA affirmative action was promoted by President Lydon Johnson in 1974 to promote American Blacks who were deprived of most opportunities. The affirmative action was successful in Japan, Former Soviet Union, Former Socialist Countries of East Europe along with Cuba and Vietnam.

Immediately after the revolution, Lenin proclaimed the affirmative action known as "KORENIZATSIIIS" to provide affirmative preferences for non-Russians, Backward Ethnic Groups and poor Russians.

In this juncture, I want to mention the words of Rabindranath Tagore: "If our political progress is to be real, the underdogs of our society must be helped to become men".

Through this Bill our UPA Government decided to uplift the poor students to higher level.

Out of 110 crore population nearly 90 crore are poor OBCs, SCs and STs. All are thanking our Hon'ble Minister Shri Arjun Singhji for this landmark historic achievement.

[Translation].

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many learned Members have expressed their views, but it appears that when the Congress Government gets worried about its votes or it appears to it that the votes of a particular community may slip out, they bring such things half-heartedly. Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development that Lord Meghnath Sahaji has delivered a lecture today morning itself, in which he said that only reason that India has not made progress so far is that primary education of this country is not upto the mark. There are more than six lakh villages in the country. 75-80% people of the said society about which we are concerned live in villages. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan is being run, but the children of these people are not getting any benefit. You are well aware whether any infrastructure in schools exist or not and the people of villages cannot spend one lakh rupees on the education of their children. If

provision of reservation in educational institutions for higher education is made, then how come the person of the lower strata could reach upto that level. I would like to ask hon'ble Members, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and Shri Raghunath Jha about the percentage of children from villages reaching this level and that how could they get the benefit of reservation. The entire country is well aware of the fact that people from all sections of the society desire to get their children admitted in minority institutions so that they may get a good direction. We cannot even get our words admitted to those institutions, because our Government has presumed that 80% students from village schools do not have intelligence quotients. Therefore, reservation would not be implemented in 17 high-level institutions identified by the Government though according to science, every human being has same I.Q. and I.Q. increases with every generation. The children born in villages or in the poorest family or in rich family have the same I.Q. but it is very unfortunate that this Government is dividing us and are leveling allegation against us that we are opposing it. I would like to say that the NDA Government had implemented reservation process without any discrimination, we worked out properly in case of all arrangements. However, even after that it was felt that some people are being offended; as such, Sachar Committee was set up to provide reservation as per its recommendations. If the Government has guts, it can hold discussion on the Sachar Committee. The Government should hold discussion on the definition on minorities, but the Government are not willing to hold discussion on this and as such they bring bills, which clearly indicate that decisions are taken on political basis. But the benefit of decisions made to gain political mileage, do not reach the two-third part of the society. I reside in village and you people too live in villages a survey may be done to know as to how many children get proper higher education in villages. There are some families having all members as IAS, doctor or engineer and on the other hand there are families, where in case of even ten children, none have passed the high school. Who will pay attention to this fact? We want to impart good education to those children as well to get them admitted in the IIMs. An uproar was created in the entire country, when our Government tried to reduce the fees of the IIMs. The people wondered about our decision. However, the present Government have not tried to decrease the fees, but have instead increased it. The Government might be claiming that it would provide facilities, aid and will accomplish all the tasks, but whether the people are really being benefited. I would like to request him to bring this bill in the way that every section of the society gets the real benefit of it. Nobody is opposing the reservation policy of the Government, hon'ble Shri Arjun Singh ji, its real benefit would be reaped only when reservation policy would be extended to minority education institutions. The district I

hail from has 15 minority schools and people queue up to get admission in these schools. ...(*Interruptions*) There are hundreds of such schools in Delhi where our children can hardly get admission even after giving donation of Rs. One-two lakhs. I would like to suggest that your intention should not be malafide, and till the Government have good intentions, nothing good will happen to the society. These are mere talks. If we want to change the society drastically on the basis of this bill, it is not possible. The students become Collector, engineers and accomplish other tasks through their efforts. It is not so that much favours are being given. But favour would be done if everybody gets equal opportunity and treatment.

I would like to submit one more thing that at the time Kalekar report had been submitted, the number of OBC was 2000. Later, the number of other backward castes rose to 6500- how come it grew to 6500? Have new castes evolved. People finding it beneficial are getting their castes included in the list. The Government should decide as to which castes are eligible/ineligible for inclusion in the SC, ST and OBC list and it should give its decision on this basis only, because the problem is that some castes, which should have been in general category, are reaping the benefit of reservation and the really backward caste people do not get its benefit. I will not like to deliver a long speech, but would merely like to say that we have submitted amendment to the effect that the Minority Institutions should also be included in it. There is a wide gap in education being imparted to children studying in cities, who know how to operate computer and the children studying in villages. Till this gap is bridged, we will not be able to fulfill our objective of providing, facilities and aid to our targeted society. I would like to submit that the bill should be presented in such a way that the most downtrodden people of the society may get its benefit. Pandit Deendayal Ji had first of all said that the poor the poorest should be uplifted, but it is our misfortune that the present UPA Government is not worried about that class. I would like to say that poverty is not being uprooted, but the poor are being uprooted. I would like that the Government may pay attention in this direction to chalk out the ways and means to do the welfare of the common man.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome and support the Bill which has been introduced in this august House for making provisions of reservation in the educational institutions. First of all, I would like to congratulate Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, our Chairperson of UPA, the Prime Minister of our country, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh for their pains staking efforts to introduce this Bill in the House and select a committee closely pondered over some of the provisions incorporated in the Bill and the

[Prof. Chander Kumar]

provision regarding the creamy layer has been removed for which also I extend my congratulations. When the Mandal Commission Report was implemented, *Indira Sahni versus Union of India* case was filed in the Supreme Court. At that time Shri Shanta Kumarji was the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and I was a Member of the legislative Assembly there. While *Indira Sahni Versus Union of India* case was going on in the Supreme Court, Shri Shanta Kumarji engaged the services of an advocate on Government expenses to ensure that backward classes should not get any type of reservation but the Supreme Court of India gave judgement in favour of backward classes. In the judgement given by the Supreme Court of India in the *Indira Sahni versus Union of India* case, it has been stated that it is a constitutional provision that reservation should be given to backward classes. The Supreme Court gave the decision in favour of the backward classes. But the issue of creamy layer has been raised by the Supreme Court again. Therefore, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that he has removed the creamy layer from this Bill, but the Supreme Court has allowed the inclusion of the creamy layer. When they pass this Bill, when the rules will be framed, keeping in view the decision of the Supreme Court - they may have to bring an amendment again.

Through this Bill introduced in the Parliament, provisions have been made to waive creamy layer-they have made such provisions in the schedule where there is no provision for reservation for the OBCs. As already mentioned, satellite messages are received in remote sensing department. Interpretation is done on the basis of it and the interpretation is done on the field. If any map comes from the sensing department. It is also interpreted. From the said interpretations farmers of our villages know about the weather, the types of soil, the agriculture base and the technology to be provided to the villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that in the schedule under section-4B, Remote sensing institute have been exempted from any reservation. Similarly, there are many institutes where reservation should be provided to the educated OBCs. Therefore I desire that the section - 4B should be an open schedule so that each and every person may reach there as per his ability and merit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may have noted that the rich admit their wards to big engineering institutes and medical institutes by paying capitation fees, but the competence of the children paying capitation fees is not ascertained. Now a days exams have become regular phenomena in Universities. All the papers are being leaked. Who is behind

all these happenings? Are these being carried out by OBCs or SCs, STs? There is a gang active behind all these activities. My request to the hon'ble Minister is that whenever reservation is provided in universities, there should be a select committee which should be represented by one member from SC, ST to ensure that selection is fair, right and justice should be meted out to the poor. There is UPSC and State Subordinate Selection Commissions. But there is no due representation of SC, ST and OBC therein and these communities become victims of partiality. For this purpose there should be a proper mechanism in this regard so that Members of selection boards are selected from the communities so that justice may be done to the poor, poor farmers and labourers and their offsprings.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill and hope that the hon'ble Minister will make provisions for reservation to SCs, STs and OBCs through this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as per the List of Business, we are to take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion at 5.30 p.m. But I would like to get the sense of the House whether we shall continue with the discussion on the Bill or take the Half-an-Hour discussion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, let us continue the discussion on the Bill and if the hon. Member does not mind, the Half-an-Hour discussion may be postponed to tomorrow. The hon. Minister also has an engagement and shall not be present in the House if this is taken up after this Bill is passed. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Tomorrow is Friday and we have Private Members' Business. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can postpone the Half-an-Hour Discussion to tomorrow.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: We can have Half-an-Hour Discussion after the Private Members' Business.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We will continue the discussion on the Bill and the Half-an-Hour discussion can be taken up tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Mr. Arjun Singh has introduced a very

significant Bill in the House. This is a revolutionary Bill to provide reservation to the students belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs in the central educational institutions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 60 years of our independence is going to be completed, but SCs, STs or OBCs of our country are not being enrolled for admission to the levels which they ought to be. Therefore, I urge Shri Arjun Singh that though he is providing reservation in central educational institutions, but reservation should be provided in primary, high school and colleges also. In certain places this is the norm, but reservation is not given in all institutions. We should think in the direction of extending reservation in private institutions as well. There is a proposal for giving a total of 49.5% reservation in admission in which it is 15% for the SCs, 7.5% for the STs and 27% for the OBCs. My demand is that the Bill should be amended for the benefit of large number of economically backward students of other higher classes also. 10.5% percent reservation should be provided to the families of the economically backward classes. People belonging to such families should also get reservation. Therefore, there is a need to provide a total of 60 percent reservation. For this purpose there is a need to amend the Constitution. Till date so many amendments have been made, 105 constitutional amendments have been made till date.

17.37 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the architect of our constitution, Baba Saheb Ambedkar ji used to say that the changes should be made in the Constitution as the time warrants at a particular time. Parliament is empowered to amend the laws. At present we cannot go beyond 50 percent reservation but there is a need to contemplate about giving more than 50 percent reservation. There has been always a struggle for and against reservation. They felt that we are getting more than the required levels and we feel that they are getting more. They have been avoiding all these for ages, now we are also getting something, but they feel that what we are getting now is very much more than the required levels. So they should also get and we should also get as well. You do not be a dog in the manger — you avail the benefits and allow us to avail the benefits also — but till date only they were making efforts to reap the benefits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know the situation as you hail from Punjab and I belong to Maharashtra — I am aware of Maharashtra's situation and also that of the Punjab.

Everyone discusses these issues, but so far efforts have not been made to uplift the downtrodden. I had declared

in Parliament that for uplifting the downtrodden, it was necessary to reduce the status of prosperous people. We try to make progress but go downwards as the prosperous people try to become more prosperous. So, power is needed to make them prosperous. Manmohan Singh ji and Sonia Gandhi ji are with us but we cannot make progress unless and until Atalji and Advaniji come with us. They are least interested in our progress. But, Malhotraji, we are bound to make progress. It is needed to uplift the downtrodden and demote the status of the prosperous people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the proposal of Arjun Singh ji regarding reservation is a very good one. I would like to express my views in rhyme. Hamare Manmohan Singh Saheb kaa UPA sarkar

*Bahut hai achchha,
Ye bahut kaam kar rahe hein sachcha,
Sonia Gandhi jee ko har ghar kaa badhai
De raha hai Dalit kaa bachcha,
Lekin unke liye aapko bahut kaam
Kama hoga achchha—*

So you are doing a commendable job. Because of that, we fully support the Bill introduced by Arjun Singh Saheb. We can compete on the basis of merit only when our students get better education. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know that you were not in a position to occupy the post of Deputy Speaker, but now you are holding this post, they say that you are doing your job in a very efficient manner.

Sir, prior to my election as a Member of Parliament, people used to tell me that I knew nothing. But, after getting elected, I am doing my job very well and able to prove my worth. Our job as a Member of Parliament is to provide justice to the poor so we should work for their upliftment. I am grateful to you for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, there is no time available to any Party but still I have four or five speakers more on this Bill. So, it is my humble request to all of them to finish their speeches within two minutes.

Now, Shri Satpathy.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Central Educational Institutions (Reservations in Admission) Bill, 2006.

Sir, we know that the human nature does not allow that anybody gives anything to anyone else, and you have to be able to receive it. If we go according to this belief, we find that in this Hindu community in India, the upper castes, the

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

Brahmins, the kshatriyas and others have been considered as the creamy layer and thus deprived of reservation, which I wholeheartedly support because the perception is that they are ahead of the others. But, Sir, when we see the effects of reservation for the past sixty years, whether for OBCs or SCs and STs, we find that amongst that section of the society, those who have become the creamy layer, the upwardly mobile and those who have been benefited, are unwilling to let go of the benefits that they have received. Therefore, it can be safely assumed that in this country, today there is a backward race. Everyone wants to become backward. As Shri Gangwar has said earlier, from 2000 institutionalized or registered OBC castes, now we have 6,500. This number alone shows that we have got into a sick mode, a mode where people have become mentally sick, and everybody wants to be backward. People are tricking this system to get themselves registered as backward. Those who can try to manipulate and become backward and are willing to be registered as backward because they want the benefits. It is a 'grab grab' situation. We, politicians, here and who have been elected to this August or September or October House are unwilling to speak the truth. This is no more a august House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, give me some more time.

Sir, we are unwilling to find the truth; we are unwilling to say what the truth is; and we are unwilling to accept the reality of this country. It is a race. Everybody wants to become the champion of the backward. It does not matter if the champion is a Rajput or a King or a Zamindar. We saw that in 1990 when Shri V.P. Singh ventured out and wanted to be the champion. Now, we are seeing many more champions. But it is a sad state for this country that there is nobody who is willing to come up and say: "Bas Bhai Das varson ke liye Aarakshan Tha. The founding fathers of the Constitution in this country said that after ten years, you get rid of this reservation. Today, we are in a backward race, and we want to become more and more backward so that we get the benefits of this nation. Sir, when do we change this mindset? Will we remain as we are or will we change ourselves? That is the question.

Sir, it is a question of what kind of a society we want to create. I would like to question the hon. Members of Parliament from both sides of the House to give in writing that when they go to CGHS dispensary or RML Hospital, it should be mandatory that they should get a doctor who comes from their community or from the backward community, and they shall not ask for a doctor who is qualified.

If you say, on the one hand that there is no merit; if you say, on the one hand that merit does not matter; on the other hand, you are saying globalization; you are saying that we want to be competitive internationally. You have to recognize merit; you have to recognize merit only when you bring in the OBC or ST or SC from the lowest of the low, from the poorest of the poor. If they are fed well, clothed well, educated well, then they become competitive. We do not do that; we cheat them; we try to take their votes; we try to benefit from their backwardness; and we give them solace that: "Listen, you are backward; we will do something for you." ...*(Interruptions)*

But it is not them that we are benefiting. We have our eyes in the coming UP elections; we have our eyes on becoming the champions of the backwards.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, this is a repressive step; this is a very reactionary mindset, and I hope and believe that this Government and those who are present in this House today, will really consider this step and will think of the nation, think of India's future; and not become caste ridden, religion ridden, petty or small, but grow beyond all that. They have to rise above personal greed and party interests.

With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, I would like to extend my wholehearted support to this Bill on behalf of my party, CPI(M). I would like to point out that this is a historical and momentous one to benefit the backward sections of the society hailing from SC/ST and OBCs. All these days we have had the cart before the horse. Now we are setting right the fallacy and put the horse before the cart. Now the clock has been put back.

Based on the recommendations of the Mandal Commission the OBCs have been extended with the right to have job reservations in central government offices. After providing for job reservations to SCs/STs and OBCs only now we are going in for providing reservations in central educational institutions.

This Bill when passed will enable the backward sections of the society to get higher education. This will arrest the trend that was there for the past 59 years. From now on the higher education will be at the reach of the deprived sections like SCs/STs and OBCs. According to the statistics dished out by the Government only 6 per cent of our children would go upto the level of pursuing higher education. Only

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.*

6 persons among hundred people who go to schools have the consummation in the form of higher education. Most of the children from the backward sections of the society are not able to offer higher education because of their poor background, standard of living, poverty conditions, financial impairments and social disabilities. Their standard of living, their educational background and their economic conditions were posing problems and causing hurdles preventing them from going for higher education. This Bill will pave way for the children from the SCs/STs and OBCs to go for higher educations and job opportunities reserved for them.

Today we are in the age of Information Technology. We are witnessing a social divide that is emerging. We find computer literates on the one side and making money while there is another section not having access to the computers. This deprivation will lead them to further social and economic deprivation. A danger is looming large. As one who comes from Tamil Nadu that has championed the cause of social justice even before independence and one from Tamil Nadu that gave Thanthai Periyar to the world, I feel proud to welcome this Bill. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, it has always been in the forefront to ensure social justice by way of providing reservation in jobs and education. Only now the Centre is legislating in this regard. This needs to be implemented properly.

In this age of globalisation education is increasingly becoming a commercial venture. If we are to implement this Act in a full fledged manner we must ensure that education is not commercialised further. Privatisation of education and commercialization of education should be stemmed.

Education must get 6 percent of GDP as agreed upon in the National Common Minimum Programme that was given to the Government led by the UPA. I would also like to impress upon the Minister to ensure that the misleading word "certain" in clause 5 of this Bill is removed to allay apprehensions in the minds of the people as spelt out by some of my esteemed colleagues who spoke ahead of me.

Let me conclude with one suggestion. When a student from SC or ST or OBC community is applying for admissions in central educational institutions like IIM or IIT, even if they had indicated so in their applications, if they could get higher percentage of marks and find place in the merit list their names must find place in the merit list for open candidates. This is necessary because some more deserving and waiting candidates from the SC/ST and OBCs can get the benefit from the reserved list.

Even if they get 90% of marks they should be automatically taken to the open category lists. Only then we would be rewarding meritorious candidates from among the

SCs/STs and OBCs while providing social justice in toto. Extending my support to this Bill, let me conclude my speech.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Sir, this Bill is very important, but it requires some amendments. I would like to tell you about some issues. Doctor Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the creator of Indian Constitution had told the President of India while submitting the Constitution on 26th November, 1947 that we would get political equality on 26th January, 1950, but tend to get inequality in the social and economic spheres. We must end this paradox as soon as possible; otherwise the victims of such inequality will destroy this edifice of democracy which we have created with a lot of labour. The fact remains that we have never tried to bring equality during the last sixty years. So, this Bill calls for some amendments.

Who are those OBCs? Seventy-five percent of the original inhabitants of villages working as farmers and labourers belong to OBC group. My first demand is to amend the Constitution and implement reservation based on population. Moreover, this Bill should be implemented in the case of Minority Institutions also and reservation should be introduced in these institutions. We have provided for it in higher institutions but it needs to be implemented in the basic infrastructure. It was envisaged that the children of both the highest ranking official and a poor person will get education in the same institution. But, it could not be implemented. The higher fee being charged by reputed institutions is responsible for that. The well to do can afford to pay that fee but it will not be possible for a sanitary worker to do the same. He is compelled to enroll his children in the schools being run by municipalities or Gram Panchayats. So, the children belonging to lower classes are not able to uplift themselves. Census of OBC group has not been conducted in our country till date and it must be done as soon as possible.

Sir, a national sample survey was conducted in the recent past. The findings of that survey reveal that we have given 27 per cent reservation only in a few selected organizations. But, it should be given on the basis of their population. The education structure at grass-root level needs correction. Unless that correction is done, it is impossible to achieve equality in this country, if it is not possible now, it should be done in the future. But, the Government should keep it in mind that its aim should be to achieve equality, not to garner vote-bank.

Sir, this is the highest forum of the people. A study based on population is needed. Census for that purpose is also needed. A change aimed at uplifting the downtrodden on the basis of their population is necessary.

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

There is one more point which I want to elaborate. The private medical and engineering colleges charge exorbitant fees. Even the small dental colleges charge fee upto fifteen lacs although they do not mention it in their records. They charge sixty lacs for a seat in medical colleges. It is known to all. So, such corruption should be checked so that the downtrodden can progress and get admission in those technical institutions. If those things are not changed immediately, the scenario of the suicide by farmers will be repeated in other places also. There is a real possibility that the downtrodden may come out in streets and indulge in violent demonstrations. *...(Interruptions)* So, all this systems needs modification so that it does not take a violent turn.

I stand in support of this Bill, my party has supported it.

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the Central Educational Institute (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006. This Bill has been introduced in this House in this form after a lot of deliberations, thought, support and opposition. A lot of discussions held during this course and different opinions surfaced in this regard. If this has been our experience that there are some privileged people who always try to suppress, pressurize and exploit the majority of the people by their manoeuvring and strategy. A lot of discussion took place about merit. Fingers were raised against merit and ability of dalits, backward and downtrodden people. I would like to say that these are the people who had taken the responsibility of the country in past and ruled this country by making promises of all round development but they were not able to fulfill the promises made by them besides they could not even save the dignity of the country. Those people who boasts of their ability and efficiency, they actually helped in enslaving the country. When Sikander came here, he destroyed this country. Mughals enslaved this country. Britishers ruled here for so many years. *...(Interruptions)* But these people who are raising this issue of merit today were not able to defend their country at that time. *...(Interruptions)* Their attitude is very disturbing. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a new Member. I hope Chair will cooperate me. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way. Nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way to present your side of things.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your points is not going to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tapir Gao, you may speak for two minutes.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Paswanji, you're not going to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. You are wasting the time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is six o' clock. If House desires, we may extend House till discussion on this Bill and zero hour are not over.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): It's all right.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now. Nothing is going on record. You are wasting the time.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Gao ji, do you want to speak or not?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Sir, he is also our dalit brother. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You conclude your points in two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tapir Gao. You may speak for only two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you please ask him to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawaleji, you have already spoken, so you sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Tapir Gao will speak. You may speak for only two minutes.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are allotting me only two minutes to speak, but constitutionally, being a tribal, I have got 7.5 per cent right. So, I am converting it into minutes! ...(Interruptions) Sir, I am the last Member to speak on this Bill. Really, on behalf of the SC, ST and OBC community of this country, I salute the hon. Minister, Shri Arjun Singh. He is really working hard for the SC, ST and OBC people of this country. I can term Shri Arjun Singh as Arjun of kalyug but sometime, I find that Shri Arjun Singh stands without arms and ammunition in the warfield, fighting for the SC, ST and OBC community of this country. So, I would request him to equip himself with arms and ammunition so that in the warfield, he can really fight for the cause of the SC, ST and OBC community of this country.

First of all, I would like to mention that you are extending reservation in admission to Centrally-aided institutions, but I would request that the intention of the institutions should also be safeguarded.

It is a safeguard in the sense that first of all rules of institutions will have to be rectified. The intention of the institutions will have to be rectified. The OBC, ST and SC students are being mentally harassed when they get admission, and they are being harassed even for getting their ratings in the institutions. Therefore, they become blacksheep in the institutions.

We are aware that there is a law against atrocity. How we are to implement this law against these institutions? This could have been added in this Bill, which could have been a protection, and a weapon to protect and prevent the STs, SCs and OBCs atrocity in institutions. I would have felt happy, and the people of this country would have felt happier if reservation in admission for SCs, STs, OBCs and the minorities was also provided in the private institutions. It would have been made a better Bill. Hence, I termed you as a warrior without arms and ammunition as this is creating a social imbalance. We need to mix with the minorities, and we need to mix with the high-class people where the private institutions are doing a good academic job. Please give me some more time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not possible for me to give you five more minutes to speak on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO: The OBC, SCs, STs, and even the minorities could have been given quota in the private

[Shri Tapir Gao]

institutions. This would have made this a better Bill for the social development as well as the overall development of this country.

You are a good astrologer in the sense that you can determine that the tribal boys, girls and OBC cannot become scientists. I am saying this because you have excluded the creamy institutions of the country. Nearly 18 institutions have been left out where the SCs, STs, and OBCs cannot have reservation. You will have to find an institution like the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre for the SCs, STs and OBCs in this country where the OBCs, STs, and SCs can have the privilege to become scientists, doctors, superlative human beings, etc. But you have excluded these institutions.

Lastly, I need a clarification from the hon. Minister on one issue. Unlike other Ministers, you will take a very short time to respond, and within this short time I need a clarification on minorities. Is it the linguistic minorities or religious minorities? This has not been clarified in this Bill. Therefore, I seek your clarification on this issue, and I am sure that you will make it clear in the short span of your deliberations.

One Member said that the BJP has not done anything.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Gao, thank you very much. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO: But in 1997, Shri I. K. Gujral dereserved the reservation policy with five official memorandum, but the BJP restored those five official memorandum. This is the record of the BJP in this country.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Now, I would like to request the hon. Minister to respond to the discussion.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Further, political reservations have been extended by the BJP in this House. So, the BJP should not be blamed for it. BJP supports reservation, and the BJP supports the SCs, STs, OBCs and even the minorities of this country. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I request the hon. Minister to respond to the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, I would request you to give me two minutes to speak on this very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am very sorry, but I have already called the hon. Minister to respond on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have moved amendments on this Bill and you may please speak about that whenever you move amendments.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, you can speak at that time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, I will take only two minutes time from you to speak on this issue, and I will follow it too. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please sit down for two minutes.

[Translation]

Shri Ramchandra Paswanji name has been left out due to some reasons so please let him speak first.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Roseria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this House is supreme in this country and today we are going to do something in the interest of dalits and backward classes of this country in this House. After so many years of independence the issue of reservation for dalits is still being raised because people belonging to these categories could not get benefits from reservation. Today atrocities are being committed on dalits in the country which could not be prevented entirely. I would like to know from the Government the time by which backlog of vacancies reserved for these categories are likely to be filled up and get the benefit of it. It is not a matter to be taken lightly.

I have got hardly one minute to speak. So I would not take much time. I support this Bill. Certain comments about creamy layer have come from the Government's side and court has also given its opinion. I demand from Government that there is no reservation in judiciary, so reservation should be given to backwards, dalits and tribals in judiciary also.

Our public sector is being taken up by the private sectors

but there is no reservation for dalits in private sector. So reservation should also be there. There was reservation in public sector and now when public sector is going to be taken up by private sector and if reservation is not provided there then what will happen to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several honourable Members have expressed their opinion while discussing on this bill. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this bill. I would not take much of your time. I would like to mention that there should be reservation in private sector and judiciary also considering the upliftment of dalits. The Government must take action regarding the atrocities being committed on dalits.

I conclude with this and I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, I support the Bill piloted by Arjun Singh ji who is a very senior leader of the Congress party. There is only one point that I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister. There are a number of communities in Andaman and Nicobar islands who are asking for Scheduled Tribe status but are not getting it. So, before you he does all this, the hon. Minister must also kindly consider and see as to why communities like Oraon, Munda, Kiriya who are living in these areas are not getting this status. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider this.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members who spoke in the debate today and I am particularly obliged to them that they kept in view the fact that this proposal is the result of the Constitutional Amendment made in the 93rd amendment. The spirit behind that amendment has been kept in tact and an effort has been made to take a view which is as close to unanimity as possible.

At the outset, I would like to say that the Legislative Department has already issued a Corrigendum with regard to the mistake that was pointed out in the Hindi version and that Corrigendum was distributed also but still I apologise for the inconvenience that some Members had to face.

The first thing that I would like to mention very categorically is about the un-aided institutions, because there has been some confusion in the speeches that have been made as to whether this reservation will also be applicable to the unaided institutions. In this regard, I would

like to say that a Bill is under preparation, and very soon it will come before the House, which will take care of that aspect also.

Various points have been raised and I will put them in separate categories. Firstly, the suggestions have been made about the implementation of this law. Those suggestions are most welcome and I would like to assure you that at the time of its implementation, we will try to consult all Members of this House in various ways so that the implementation of this Act also becomes as unanimous as it is possible.

The minority issue seems to have focused the attention of some of the Members of the House. If I may say so, this issue has already been decided by the Constitutional amendment itself and, therefore, this law is obviously within the four-corners of that amendment. I cannot go beyond that in satisfying some hon. Members about the minority issue. Therefore, kindly bear with me as it is not within my power to do so. That decision was taken by this House on a Constitutional amendment and that is the last word, so far as we are concerned.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: That was only an enabling clause. You can easily delete the word 'minority'.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: It was a Constitutional amendment and now, when the Constitution stands amended, how can I say that this enables me to do this or that? The other point which has been made is that the Schedule that has been drawn up, is being treated as if we have made a division between institutions. The Schedule was introduced not because we are trying to divide the institutions but the Schedule was introduced. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Not the institutions alone but you are dividing the nation also. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Get out of that obsession of dividing everyone. Think of including everyone. That should be the spirit. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You are excluding the private institutions run by the. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, except the speech of hon. Minister, will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I do not want to enter into this debate because it does not help anyone. So far as these

* Not recorded.

[Shri Arjun Singh]

institutions are concerned, they have been included in the Schedule because basically they are not institutions where students are admitted for studies. They are basically research institutions. They have to be kept separate so that confusion does not arise there. If and when they become teaching institutions and they admit students, in the normal way, they will be attracted by this Bill.

At the moment they do not. They can also be amended by the permission of Parliament because none of this is going to go behind the back of this August House. All these institutions as they are, are research-based and in that we do not want to create any confusion. That is the basic reason.

So far as the question of Sixth Schedule in the North-East is concerned, we have kept all the institutions of the Sixth Schedule in the North-East out because they are predominantly populated by tribals and there we do not want this issue. So, it is a conscious decision and a decision which has been endorsed by the Standing Committee.

Many of the States, in fact, have already initiated action and they have made some laws in this regard to ensure the objectives of the Constitution Amendment. But this was needed because the Central institutions which are under the Central Government have to be made eligible for giving reservations to students in all Central institutions and this was a pledge which had been given by us at the time of moving the amendment to the Constitution.

Sir, a question has been raised about staggering and why this cannot be done at one go. Let me tell the hon. Members that the law permits any institution which wants to introduce it in one go can do it. There is no prohibiting it. But the fact remains and the hon. Members would kindly bear with me that there are practical difficulties as faculty and other factors are concerned and, therefore, the principle has to be of ensuring any question of convenience in the institutions. If they so desire and if it is necessary, they can do it within three years. So far as the Central Government is concerned, it will assist all these institutions in ensuring that ultimately the reservation for 27 per cent of OBCs becomes a reality in all Central institutions without any fail.

So far as the question of reservation in minority institutions is concerned, I have to say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): In case of reservation for minorities, it will be for minority institutions only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: If you are aware of the basic recommendation of Mandal, it has already enumerated, in

that list, the persons who are considered to be OBCs, whether they are Muslims, whether they are Christians or whether they are Hindus. Why can they not be admitted where everyone else is? What they want to do is certainly up to the Minority institutions. I have no objection if Minority institutions, on their own, wants to admit any people from there.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Will a Muslim OBC get admission in a Christian institution?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: If the institutions want to do it, who is stopping them?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: But as per this law, he will not get admission.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: As per this law, all people who come under the category of OBC are eligible to admission on the Central institutions. This is not for any individual institution. This is for Central institutions. If there is any default, you let us know and we will try to address it. Sir, I think these are some of the basic issues that were raised.

There is one thing which I would like to point out. In fact, the whole question of reservation started with the First Amendment of the Constitution which was moved by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru which took into account all the movements that have ultimately contributed to the freedom of India. The fact is, the Indian Freedom Movement is not only a political movement. It was a social movement also in which all the streams joined and then presented such a formidable opposition to the British empire that they had no choice but to pack up. All those social movements, whether they were in the South or in Maharashtra or anywhere else, constitute a very powerful stream in our national ethos and therefore, I would like to say that when Panditji moved his First Amendment, he was only taking note of what had gone into the Freedom Movement and what ultimately helped us to achieve freedom. Therefore, the 93rd amendment was moved and now, for the first time, a law is being made under that amendment so that all the rights that accrue to the SCs, STs and the OBCs become a statutory law which can be enforced. There should be no doubt that this is the will of this Parliament. There should be no confusion that this Parliament has decided both to amend the Constitution and now, to, with your help, amend the law and bring this law which will be the will of the Parliament and we stand by this law.

With these words, I would like the hon. House to pass this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKER (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will census be conducted?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No clarification is allowed. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of citizen, to certain central educational institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Definitions

Amendments made:

Page 2, for lines 22 and 23, substitute —

'(e) "faculty" means the faculty of a Central Educational Institution;' (1)

Page 2, for lines 36 to 41, substitute —

'(j) "teaching or instruction in any branch of study" means teaching or instruction in a branch of study leading to three principal levels of qualifications at bachelor (undergraduate), masters (postgraduate) and doctoral levels.' (2)

(Shri Arjun Singh)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 Act not to apply in certain cases

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Malhotraji, do you want to move amendment?

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I beg to move:

Page 3,—

omit line 12. (3)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is written in twelfth sentence of page 3 in clause 4"

[English]

"The provisions of Section 3 of this Act shall not be apply to" and it is written as "Minority educational institutions as defined in this Act".

[Translation]

I would like it to be removed and the reservation should be made applicable to all the minority institutions also. I am saying so for the reason that after these provisions no chance of getting admission will be left for those 70 to 80 per cent SCs, STs and OBCs who are getting admission in Kerala presently. Similarly, getting admission in the St. Stephen College of Delhi would not be possible. Admission may be got in Hindu College, but it would not be possible to get it in the St. Stephen College. 99 per cent of the students as well as 99 per cent of the teachers in St. Stephen are Hindus. Despite this fact, it would not be possible to get admission there as is being done presently because it is being managed by Christians. Admission may be got in Lady Shri Ram College, but not in the Queen Merry College. After this, it would not be possible to get admission in the Queen Merry College as is being done presently. At present, it is compulsory for them to give admission to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Likewise, there are other institutions also across the country. There are a lot of institutions in the North-East, and getting admission therein also would not be possible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a need to think over it that out of the existing higher education colleges in Punjab, some are managed by Christians, some by Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee and some by the Arya Samaj. Not only this, it is also mentioned in it that some colleges are managed by linguistic minorities. A person from Andhra Pradesh has set up a dental college in Ghaziabad. It becomes a minority institution. SCs, STs and OBCs would not be able to get admission in that also. Similarly, if a person from Punjab goes to Tamil Nadu and sets up an institution there, then it would also become a minority institution due to linguistic minority. I think what you are going to do will lessen

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

their number. Out of those who are getting admission today, 50-60 per cent will not be able to get admission thereafter and the increase in the number of seats would also not compensate that. It is a very wrong step and therefore I move this amendment and hope that this amendment would be accepted that the reservation for OBCs, SCs and STs should be made applicable to minority institutions also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I too want to speak for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may associate.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I had moved amendments separately, not together.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have moved them together.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I have not moved it together, rather I had moved it separately. ...*(Interruptions)* I have moved it separately, not together. It's written in it, but when I moved it, I did so separately. You please see our notices. Each one of us three had given separate notices regarding amendments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your notice is at no. 3.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: That may be so, but we three have been clubbed. But we have given notices separately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: O.K. you please speak.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The hon. Minister has said that because of the Constitutional Amendment, his hands are tied. ...*(Interruptions)* Why should minority educational institutions be excluded from the reservation for OBCs? Does it mean that the upliftment of the OBCs of this country is the responsibility of only the Hindus and that minorities do not have any responsibility towards them? That is the major question I am asking. Does it mean that minorities will share only the resources of this country and not the responsibility? That is why I am just asking this. Then, everybody says, everybody is a patriot. People also say that the country does not belong to the BJP alone. If that be so, then let the minorities also share the responsibility of uplifting the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs. That is my appeal. If that be so, then 12th line should be deleted.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not oppose the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister. But a very important point has not been included in the Bill. The point of reservation to SCs, STs and OBCs in minority educational institutions has not been covered therein. Consequently, it will widen the gap of economic and social inequality between the rich and the poor. The people of these categories would be deprived of their education, if they are not provided reservation in admission in these institutions. Moreover, these people are not in a position to get admission in big institutions by paying huge amount or giving donation. Hence, I move the amendment presented by hon. Malhotra ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you also want to say anything?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikulam): Sir, please give me a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. You have not given the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, he has not given the notice. How can he speak? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I regret that. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There should be a feeling of regret. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : I do regret. Because of you. ...*(Interruptions)* Introducing this amendment is clearly an endeavour towards violating the constitutional provision already made by us. I would like to categorically say that the OBCs, SCs and STs are getting admissions in various institutions in the country without making this amendment. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But now it would not be possible for them to get admission therein. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Why will they not be able to do so? ...*(Interruptions)* Please do listen. You have spoken. Will it be you only to stand and speak again and again? What we are for? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon'ble Minister should not lose temper.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I do not lose temper. It is a compulsion. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill introduced here is meant for the centrally aided government institutions. We should be proud of the institutions being run presently by the minorities because most of them have giving admission to the OBCs, SCs and STs and imparting education to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But now, they would not be able to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Why will they not be able to do so? Will it be possible because you say so? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

Nothing of your speech is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these Minorities institutions would not close their doors for those people of the country whom they have been having with them for centuries, even after paying many-many times by these people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall put Amendment No. 3 moved by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Virendra Kumar and Shri Kharabela Swain to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 7 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please give me a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No rule permits me to allow you.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I have my right to speak. I will not take more time.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time before the Bill is passed.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, on the eve of passing of this very important and crucial Bill, I have to make an observation. There is no OBC Parliamentary Committee to look after whether reservation is properly implemented or not. We have been ensuring the implementation of reservation in jobs. We are now giving reservation facility in the educational institutions. So, my request to the Government of India is that it should appoint one Parliamentary OBC Committee to review the implementation of this thing. That is my request.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is: "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.42 hrs.

**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Sikkim University Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th December, 2006."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Tripura University Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th December, 2006."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th December, 2006."
2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Sikkim University Bill, 2006, the Tripura University Bill, 2006 and the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 2006.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Urban Development Minister, through you, towards the illegal construction and encroachment of public land by the rich people. The Westend and Motel near Shiv Murthi and Ashoka Country Resort near Samalkha village are illegal constructions. As they are built by the rich persons on N.H.8 so they have got protection by Government officers, whereas jhuggis built on public land by poor people are very often demolished.

18.44 hrs.

(Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav in the Chair)

No Government officer dares to demolish the Swimming pool of the Hotel Vasant Continental which has been built in a public park of MCD, as it belongs to some big group. The construction of Tivoli garden in Chattarpur is totally illegal. The basement of the Hotel Grand in Vasant Kunj is being misused. The Hyatt International and the Ballast Western Surya fall in the same category. Is it the policy of the UPA Government to demolish the jhuggis of the poor and protect the encroached public land and illegally constructed hotels made by the big business houses and rich persons. The above mentioned examples indicate the same.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I demand from the Urban Development Minister to get all these matter examined immediately and take suitable action in this regard.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Poddar caste, Kamla Varna and Vaishya, all are in the OBC list of the Union Govt. The people belonging to Poddar caste are very backward-socially, economically educationally as well as politically in Bihar. The Bench of State Commission of Backward Classes too have felt that this caste should be preferred for inclusion in the Schedule-II in comparison of the Vaishya caste in the proposed list of the Centre and the Government of Bihar have recommended to the Central Government to include this caste in the list of notified scheduled Castes.

I, therefore, demand that the Poddar caste of Bihar may be included in the Union list of backward caste.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman Sir, there is a need for gauge conversion of Nagpur-Nagbheed narrow gauge rail line and raise the height of the platform of Gondia-Nagbheed rail line. The Nagpur-Nagbheed rail line is still 3 narrow gauge. There is a need to convert it into broadgauge. It has been mentioned earlier that the total cost to convert 114 kilometer rail line stretch would be near about Rs.114 crore. The Nagpur-Nagbheed rail line is an important one as it connects the districts of Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur. A number of rice mills and mineral deposits fall on this railway line. There are also bamboo forests and teak wood adjacent to this railway line. Nagbheed is the junction for Gondia to Chandrapur and Nagpur to Nagbheed rail lines. The Gondia-Chandrapur section has become broad gauge but the work of gauge conversion of Nagpur-Nagbheed railway line is still to be done. Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I make a humble request to the concerned Minister to make gauge conversion of this section and also increase the height of

platform falling on Gondla-Nagbheed railway line. Through you, I request the Minister of Railways to kindly include it in the coming budget itself in view of its urgency.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the illegal human organ trade in the country. Illegal human organ trade is flourishing in various parts of the country. Unscrupulous doctors in the private clinics remove organs of poor people by alluring them to given a paltry amount.

There is a network of organized human organ trade in the country. These organs are sold at high prices in the international market and the middlemen earn huge profit. There is an urgent need to give more teeth to the law so that the racket engaging these people is busted and strict action is taken against them.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take effective measures to prevent illegal human organ trade in the country.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I want to raise the issue of the process of selection of districts under Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Backward District Grant Fund.

Arunachal Pradesh has 16 districts, and out of these, two districts in Arunachal Pradesh are most backward in India in terms of education, literacy and development. But, I am very sad that out of the 200 districts selected under the Programme, these two districts are left out. Out of 16 districts, only one district is selected. I would like to ask the Government as to who is responsible for this wrong selection of districts. Madam Soniaji is also sitting here. These two most backward districts, namely East Kamang district and Kurung-Kumey district, are left out. These two most backward districts should be immediately included in this Programme. Only one district is selected, that is Upper Subansiri. There are other States which have only six or seven districts, they are also getting three or four districts included, but in my State only one district has been included out of 16 districts.

I would like to request the Government to take necessary action and see whether it is the mistake of the Planning Commission or it is the mistake of the Ministry of Rural Development. Kindly take action.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Union Government is making a cut in the supply of power from the central pool to various states including Chhattisgarh. In Chhattisgarh alone a cut of 300 megawatt

of power is being done and people there are facing a lot of difficulty because of it. In Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh the same situation prevails and power cut of 3 to 4 hours are being resorted to. The consumers are facing lots of hardships there and because of it they are very much unhappy with the Central Government. Industries have been closed down there due to the shortage of power and industrialists have to suffer the loss of millions and millions of rupees. People living in the villages are passing their days in dark and farmers are not getting even 4 to 5 hours of supply to run their tubewells, which is affecting their farming. These farmers are suffering a lot due to non availability of water.

Sir, Chhattisgarh witnessed a drought like situation last year and farmers suffered heavily on economic count due to non availability of water for irrigation. I therefore request this Government that the cut that is being made from the Central power pool for Chhattisgarh may immediately be stopped so that full supply is restored there benefiting the common man, farmers and industrialists living there. It would also help them to compensate their loss and remove darkness. I hope that the Union Minister would certainly lend an ear to my request and restore full supply of power there.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to raise a very important issue related to my State. I have been raising this issue for years that a National Capital Regional Territory upto around 100 Kilometers from the Capital city of the country has been set up. Every train reaching Delhi passes through Harayana. As the trains passing through the States are Mail Express, they do not stop in the State and even they do, it is for a few minutes. New trains are not being introduced and other trains are not provided halt. It is but natural that being National Capital Region many passengers commute to Delhi everyday.

Sir, the Delhi-Rohtak Section is the single section which has not been electrified as yet. It has not been electrified in spite of our repeated demands. The metro Rail Project is going on all the four sides of Delhi. Therefore, we had made a demand to develop Delhi Sonapat rail line and Delhi-Rohtak rail line on the line of Metro project gradually so that problem could be minimized to some extent but no action was taken.

Sir, the NCRT in Delhi was created with a view to developing the transportation system of the neighbouring regions on the same line so that people coming to Delhi by trains could return in the evening by train too but no new EMU train is introduced for the neighbouring region from Delhi and no sub urban facility is being provided, Moreover

the Delhi Rohtak section is also not being electrified. I, therefore, demand through you, from the Railway Minister to electrify Delhi-Rohtak Section, introduce EMU trains and develop Delhi-Sonepat line gradually on the lines of Metro Rail Project.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards Doha Asiad Games held recently. In these games, our sports persons performed very well. It deserves appreciation but their performance was not upto the expected level. If I compared the number of medals won by our country with the medals won by our neighbouring country China, we rank far behind. India bagged 6 gold medals only while China bagged 103. India won 11 silver medals while China won 60, India won 11 bronze medals while China won 32. If we take the total number of medals won by India into consideration, we will find that India has won 28 medals and China has won 195 medals.

Sir, I would like to say that our sports persons should be given due respect, they should be appreciated and given proper assistance so that they may be encouraged. All the more you know that Shri Jaspal Rana has proved to be a good sportsman and he has won the title of best sportsman in pistol shooting event. He is being honoured by the Government of Uttarakhand. Shri Dhoni is also going to be honoured by the Government of Uttarakhand. Through you I would like to request the other states that they should also come forward to honour such best sports persons in their States so that the sports persons in their States may realize that they should also perform well for the country.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, quite often, a large number of railway crossings remain closed due to movement of trains as well as heavy rush of traffic and as such, the people have to face a lot of difficulties. Sagar railway crossing situated on the road that leads to the railway station from Beena Naga in my parliamentary constituency often remains closed due to heavy rail traffic. Since convent school, college and station are located on the other side, the students and passengers from other side have to face a lot of difficulties. Many times, the passengers miss their trains due to closing of this crossing. Passengers and a number of serious patients, succumb to their ailments on the way because they fail to reach hospital in Bhopal in time.

So, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to facilitate the construction of railway overbridge over Jhansi crossing and Sagar crossing situated on the road leading to railway station from Beena.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that before commencement of each session the UPA Government have been saying to bring the reservation for women Bill and to get the same passed. In the Lok Sabha so as to ensure participation of women but during the whole session, no discussion on Women Reservation Bill takes place. The UPA Government have been constantly deceiving the women of the country. The women of the country are being cheated in the same way as is done with the children when they are lured that Chanda Mamma Aa Rahein Hein Khilona La Rahein Hein. Each time they are told that women reservation Bill would be brought in the next session and in this way two and half years are over. Many sessions have gone and this very session is also going to end, but the matter of reservation for women has never been discussed in the Lok Sabha.

I would like to request the Government to bring women reservation Bill and make a provision for more than 33 per cent reservation for women so as to enhance participation of women because women form about 50 percent of the society, so their role in the society should also be not less than 50 per cent. You bring the Women Reservation Bill and give an opportunity of rights and participation to women.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to raise an important matter in this House. In this country there are some companies which are taking benefit of people's sensitiveness and ignorance and are selling their products at the price many times higher than production cost through their agents, pharmacy centres and some doctors by making false claims through the advertisements.

There is a company Johnson and Johnson which manufactures soap, oil, baby powder, telecom powder, shampoo etc. To keep skin of the newborn baby clean and soft Johnson baby soap, baby powder are sold in markets by issuing false advertisements whereby the people are asked to use Johnson oil if they want hair to grow on their children's head. Similarly people are given suggestions to use Johnson shampoo for child's bath which would protect child's eyes from bad effect. By making all sorts of such claims they sell a soap worth Rs.15, at Rs.45; an oil bottle worth Rs.10 is sold at Rs.35-40. These companies launch big advertisements campaign to sell powder, shampoo etc. to the common people, poor families at double or four times higher prices with the connivance of some maternity hospitals, doctors and chemists.

I request the Government to, immediately, initiate a C.B.I. inquiry to inquire into the facts behind the advertise-

ments issued by the Johnson and Johnson company and find out the difference between the production cost and selling prices of the production of this company so as to stop looting by this company which has been looting money by taking the benefits of sentiments of the children and their parents.

19.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards expediting the work in connection with the expansion of Hubli Airport and modernization and completion of Bangalore International Airport.

Hubli is the second largest city in Karnataka and the heart of North Karnataka. It is very near to Mumbai, Goa, Humpi and Bangalore. It has got a lot of scope to develop socially, economically and educationally as part of Karnataka. Humpi is now a tourist spot and many national and international tourists are visiting this place day by day. There is an absolute necessity to expand the width and length of Hubli Airport, and it should be strengthened. Now, there is only Air Deccan flight facility. Other flights, like Indian Airlines, Jet Airways, are also required to provide the service to the public and tourists in the larger interests of this area.

Many industrialists and IT sector companies are ready to come here but because of lack of airport facility, they are not coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to upgrade this airport. Also, land is required. The Government of Karnataka has to provide 400 acres of land; and some houses have to be demolished in the larger interest of the public. I would request the hon. Minister to interfere in this matter immediately.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of Government to the fact that protecting cow and its progeny is like protecting the nation. Prosperity and well being of the farmers also depend on the protection and development of cattle. It is the cow and its progeny which should be given the credit for country's ushering in white revolution. Immediately after independence, the Agriculture Ministry of the Union Government had constituted the cattle preservation and development committee vide its resolution no..F-25-8/47D on 19-11-47. The Committee was of the view that cow slaughter is not

desirable in the country in any condition and it is mandatory to legally ban it. The prosperity of the nation depends on cow and its progeny. The country will find solace only when cow slaughter is banned completely. The Committee had also recommended that gausadans and gaushalas should be constructed in every nook and corner of the country so that resources could be mobilized for protecting old and shelterless cow progeny. Article 48 of the Constitution states that the State shall develop agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and take steps in particular for protecting and developing cow progeny and prohibiting slaughtering of milch cattle and animals used in agriculture and transportation. Section 51-A (g) of the constitution reaffirmed that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and develop the environment and forestry and have compassion for living creatures.

Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that when there is a provision in the Constitution and the National Commission on cow progeny had also recommended and when farmers are committing suicides, there is a need to check the illegal smuggling of cow progeny to Pakistan and Bangladesh. Immediate action should be taken to put a complete ban on cow slaughtering thereby giving a boost to the prosperity of the farmers and sustain white revolution in the country.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Union Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. The unemployed youth belonging to Tribal and Scheduled Castes communities in Chhattisgarh are feeling hurt for the negligent attitude shown towards them by the Raipur Railway Recruitment Board in the recruitment process. They wanted to submit a memorandum in the office of DRM, Raipur Railway Division in this regard. Thousands of young boys and girls were present there. They waited patiently for hours together but neither any railway officer came to meet them nor their memorandum was received. Suddenly the RPF personnel started lathcharge on them and inflicted fatal blows on. Several women and young boys got multiple head, foot and hand injuries and were hospitalized. This has created resentment among the youth of Chhattisgarh.

I request the hon'ble Minister to suspend the guilty officers immediately and conduct an impartial inquiry into the incident. If the Government fails to do so, a large scale agitation will definitely take place there. There is a resentment among thousands of young girls and boys because of the barbaric attitude of RPF personnel. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir,

through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important and sensitive matter. The results of entrance test conducted for civil services, 2006 were declared on 10th August, 2006 by Union Public Service Commission (7766). However, a large number of examinees were dissatisfied with the result. They are agitating also. The reason is that as per the self assessment made by the students from text books, those who scored less marks have been included in the list of successful candidates. In such a scenario, the students have requested the Commission and sought some information under the purview of the recently passed Right to Information Act, 2005. They sought information in respect of subject-wise and reservation based cut off marks, the marks obtained by an individual, optional subject, model reply of general awareness paper and the scaling method and how it is used by UPSC, why the question paper of Public Administration was cancelled? However, after one month, the Commission did not agree to the demands and gave the logic that the requisite information does not come under the ambit of crucial secret Act, Intellectual property right and matter of public interest. Therefore, the requisite information cannot be furnished to the students.

As per the provisions of Union Public Service Commission, the transparency seekers appealed in the appellate tribunal against the said logic of the central information officer. The Commission also placed the same logic and described the nature of examination as unpredictability of methodology. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am explaining it. It is a very important matter. Please listen to it.

As per the provision of RTI Act, 2005, aggrieved students registered their complaint against these decisions in Central Information Commission.

A full bench of Central Information Commission heard the arguments between UPSC and aggrieved students on 16th October, 23rd October and on 23rd October and gave its decision on 13 November which is as follows:-

UPSC should disclose the marks obtained by the students within two months. It should also disclose the cut off marks of the students within two weeks and in the absence of any such provision at least the cut-off marks of successful candidates should be revealed.

Every thing should be placed before the experts through a Committee within one month.

However, UPSC did not accept the decision of Central

Information Commission and filed an application in the Delhi High Court on 27th November for an interim relief and the Court gave stay order on it till 16th January.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to take cognizance of the matter. The result of the examination was declared on the basis of the above said demands but even after 4 months, the students are still fighting for this purpose.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Union Public Service Commission and all State Service Commissions are constitutional bodies under Article 315. State Service Commission has been disclosing the marks obtained by the successful and unsuccessful candidates even before the enactment of the Right to Information Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: For example, Rajasthan Public Service Commission is declaring the marks obtained and detailed scaling methodology for the Rajasthan Civil Services examination since 1999 onwards. This year Karnataka State Information Commission has directed the Karnataka Public Service Commission to disclose the marks obtained and to show the answersheets to the applicants. In the recent time, Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission and Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission are also disclosing the marks obtained. But I am sorry to say that UPSC is not following this. A large scale agitation is taking place due to the participation of OBC, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Students in these exams. The declared result has deprived them of their Right to Information under RTI Act. There is something fishy in it. Therefore, through you, I request the Government to intervene without delay to give justice to the agitating OBC, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribe students. ...*(Interruptions)* Large scale irregularities have been committed and Government should intervene immediately to give justice to them.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram to the problems faced by the farmers, particularly of my constituency Bellary and Bellary district.

Many of us call farmers as the backbone of our country and annadata, the food-feeder. But the farmers are in a big trouble in Bellary constituency and they are committing suicides. The farmers have been facing severe drought for five years. This year also, Bellary district is announced as drought prone area by the State Government. The situation

of farmers is very serious. Nearly 50 farmers have committed suicides in Bellary district and nearly 700 farmers have committed suicides throughout Karnataka.

The Union Government has to come forward on a war-footing basis to help the farmers of my Bellary district and constituency. Therefore, I demand from the Union Government to waive off the loan, along with interest, borrowed by the farmers of Bellary district from the nationalised banks and co-operative banks.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Rural Development admitted a few days back that the schemes being sponsored by the Union Government in certain States are not being properly implemented and the funds are being misused. Through you, I would like to bring it to the cognizance of the Government that Uttar Pradesh is a vivid example of this. Funds have been given there for the Central Government schemes. However, the matching grant supposed to be given by State Government has not been provided; Over and above the funds provided by the Union Government have been misappropriated. The funds have been diverted particularly in the distribution of Sari, girl education fund, allowance to unemployed youth etc. The works to be performed under the 20-point programme have been stopped. Now it is being said in the meetings organized by APC that the first installment may be treated as the final one. Funds will not be released any more. This is a serious issue.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to set up a monitoring cell. That monitoring cell should review that actually how much fund given by the Central Government was spent in the implementation of the schemes in Uttar Pradesh. If the funds have not been utilised, then who is responsible for it and what measures and action have been taken against them. I want the Government to take cognizance of this issue.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thanks a lot. Only one train Rewa-Delhi Superfast Express is plying for 22 Vidhan Sabha constituencies falling under the three districts Rewa, Satna and Sidhi of Rewa Zone. It's timings are very odd. The departure time of the train is scheduled at 10.30 and it arrives here at 2.30. It has been repeatedly demanded to change its timings since it is usually late by 3-4 hours. Similarly, the timings of Mahakaushal Express plying from Jabalpur has been changed. Earlier that train used to start at seven O' clock and reach Jabalpur at 11 O' clock. Now that train starts at 9.30 and reaches here at 3-4 O' clock. This train is regularly late.

It is requested that timings of Rewa-Delhi Superfast Express and Mahakaushal Express coming from Jabalpur to Nizamuddin should be changed so that traders, students, workers, office employees and politicians may fulfill their duties after reaching in time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would request the Government and my old friend hon. Minister of Railways to change the timings of Rewa-Delhi Superfast Express and revive the previous timings of Mahakaushal Express. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Swaroop Prasad ji, today your issue cannot be taken up. Please send your notice tomorrow before 9.30 a.m. so that it could be taken up.

The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

19.15. hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 15, 2006/Agrahayana 24, 1928 (Saka)

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