

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Tenth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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Dated.....16 Jan 2008

*(Vol. XXV contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

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**NEW DELHI**

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

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*Thursday, March 1, 2007/Phalgun 10, 1928 (Saka)*

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for adjournment motion. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Adjournment Motion is not admitted.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translatoin*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, adjournment motion has not been admitted. ...(*Interruptions*) We had demanded that the Hon. Prime Minister should come up with a statement on Quattrochi issue in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us take up the Question Hour, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: For two days, there was no Question Hour. I am appealing to you that after the Question Hour, you can raise all these issues. We would be debating the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want to run the House!

...(*Interruptions*)

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

We have no problem to discuss any issue, including Quattrochi issue but let us dispose of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Then, we can take care of all that. ...(*Interruptions*) We would respond to all the issues after disposing of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour should take place.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your problem?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): You know that Quattrochi issue is related to Bofors. ...(*Interruptions*) The prestige of the country is involved on Bofors' issue. Hundred MPs resigned their seats on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You want me to resign now!

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: No, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 11.30 a.m.

11.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.*

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11.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir,\* demand is that the Hon. Prime Minister should come up with a statement in this regard in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, we highly condemn this allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Development of Railway Stations as Model Stations

\*41. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria prescribed for selecting any railway station for development as a model railway station;

(b) the details of additional facilities provided in the model stations;

(c) the details of those railway stations in West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand which have been approved to be developed as model stations during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the railway stations proposed to be developed as model stations in these States in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) While presenting the Railway Budget 1999-2000, the then Minister of Railways declared that all efforts will be made to make at least one station in each division as model station where higher level of passenger amenities will be provided. Consequent upon the announcement so made, 61 stations were initially selected as model station. Later on, more model stations were added from time to time. Now as per the announcement made during the presentation of Railway Budget 2006-07, all 'A' and 'B' category stations have been selected as model stations.

(b) Model Stations are to be provided with 'Desirable Amenities' such as retiring room, waiting room with bathing facility, cloak room, enquiry counter, interactive voice response system, public address system/computer based announcement, book stalls/other stalls of essential goods, refreshment room, parking/circulating area with lights, electronic train indicator board, public phone booths, water coolers, standardized signages, modular catering stalls, pay & use toilets, unreserved ticketing system, provision of ATMs etc.

Among 'A' Category stations, Non Suburban stations having annual passenger earnings more than Rs. 50 crores are called A-1 category stations and are provided with additional facilities like provision of cyber cafes, provision of atleast one AC VIP lounge, food plaza, train coach indication system, CCTV for announcement and security purpose, coin operated ticket vending machines, pre-paid taxi service, static mobile charging facility, facelift of station building including facade etc. These are prescribed desirable amenities for A1 category of stations only. Detailed list of desirable amenities to be provided at A1, A & B category stations is annexed as Statement. Provision of various amenities would depend on the category of the station.

(c) 8 stations from the State of West Bengal, 20 stations from Bihar and 4 stations from Jharkhand have been identified for development as model station during the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07. These are:

Bihar	Akshayawat Rai Nagar, Araria Court, Nayagaon, Narkatiaganj jn., Purnea jn., Sagauli jn., Sultanganj, Patna Sahib, Bakhtiyarpur, Biharsharif, Jamui, Jhajha, Kiul, Lakheesarai, Rajendra Nagar (T), Rajgir, Anugarh, Narayan Road, Raxaul, Saharsa and Madhubani.
Jharkhand	Sahibganj, Barharwa, Barkakana and Garhwa Road.
West Bengal	Barrackpur, Nalhati, Rishra, Srirampur, Rampurhat, Sheoraphulli, Chandannagar and Purulia.

(d) Railways are now giving priority to complete the development of stations which are already selected. No further stations have yet been identified.

**Statement**

				Station Category
Sl.No.	Amenities	A-1	A	B
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Retiring room	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Waiting room (with bathing facilities)			
	— Upper Class	Yes	Yes	—
	— 2nd Class	Yes	Yes	Yes
	— Separate for ladies (combined upper and 2nd Class)	Yes	Yes	—
3.	Cloak room	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Enquiry Counter	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	NTES (National Train Enquiry system)	Yes	Yes	—
6.	IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System)	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Public Address system/Computer based announcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Book stalls/other-stalls of essential goods	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	Refreshment room	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Parking/circulatory area with lights	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Washable apron with jet cleaning	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Electronic Train indicator board	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Public phone booth	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Touch Screen Enquiry system	Yes	Yes	—
15.	Water vending machines	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Water coolers	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Signage (standardized)	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Modular Catering Stalls	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Automatic Vending Machines	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Pay & Use Toilets on platforms & circulating area	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	UTS (Unreserved Ticketing System)	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Computerization of complaints	Yes	Yes	—

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Provision of cyber cafes	Yes	—	—
24.	Provision of ATMs (preferably with ticketing facility)	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Provision of at least one AC VIP Lounge	Yes	—	—
26.	Food Plaza	Yes	—	—
27.	Train coach indication system	Yes	—	—
28.	CCTV for announcement and security purpose	Yes	—	—
29.	Coin operated Ticket Vending Machines	Yes	—	—
30.	Pre-paid Taxi service	Yes	—	—
31.	Static mobile charging facility	Yes	—	—
32.	Facelift of station building including facade	Yes	—	—

#### **Growth of Auto Industry**

\*42. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual production of the auto industry in the country has been constantly increasing over the years;

(b) if so, the average annual rate of increase from 2000-2001 to 2005-2006;

(c) the extent of average annual percentage of exports achieved by the auto industry during the said period; and

(d) the expectation of the Government on the increase for the years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The annual production of the auto industry in the country has been constantly increasing.

(b) The average annual rate of increase of production of the automotive industry from the year 2000-2001 to 2005-2006 was 17%.

(c) There has been a growth in the percentage of exports to turnover of the automotive industry during the

period from 2000-2001 to 2005-2006. The percentage of exports to the turnover of the automotive industry has increased from 6.20% in 2000-2001 to 11.77% in 2005-06.

(d) According to Society to Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), the production of the automotive industry is expected to achieve a growth rate of over 20% in the year 2006-07 and about 15% in the year 2007-08. The export during the same period is expected to grow over 20%.

[Translation]

#### **Petrol Pumps on National Highways**

\*43. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps opened on the National Highways in each State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a number of petrol pumps are being illegally operated without proper clearance from the Ministry of Surface Transport (Road Transport) along with the National Highways;

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

(d) the action taken against those petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) The particulars of number of Retail Outlets opened on the National Highways in each state during the last 3 years, year-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Setting of the norms for access to fuel stations, service stations and rest areas along the National Highways is within the purview of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH). An inter-ministerial meeting was held in February 2003 between that Ministry and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in which the need for quickly sorting out the issues raised by the oil companies with regard to application of the (proposed) new norms and guidelines for the existing retail outlets and for new retail outlets was recognized and the relevant issues were discussed in detail. It was agreed at the meeting that the (proposed) new norms for setting up of

fuel stations and service stations would be applicable to all those retail outlets commissioned after the issue of the guidelines, while all the existing petrol pumps would follow the IRC 1983 norms and that for dispensation of case-to-case basis, proposals for relaxation would be examined. It was also agreed based on the discussions that the oil industry and MoRTH would meet and reconcile the differences with regard to the proposed norms shortly.

The new guidelines were issued by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in September 2003. Subsequently, all the oil marketing companies in the public sector, viz., IOC, HPCL, BPCL and IBP applied to National Highways Authority of India for clearance of their sites. As on date, a total number of 1167 applications are pending clearance. MoRTH has cited deficiencies in the case of petrol pumps which had been commissioned before the issue of 2003 guidelines Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the oil marketing companies have taken up these issues with MoRTH for early disposal of all such pending cases.

#### Statement

*The state-wise/year-wise no. of petrol pumps on National Highways opened by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) during the last three years*

States	IOC			BPC			HPC			IBP		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	39	31	15	17	11	6	0	0	15	13	7	2
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Assam	1	6	6	1	1	1	0	3	6	7	1	1
Bihar	10	11	15	10	1	7	3	9	1	19	14	9
Chhattisgarh	8	13	12	5	9	6	4	7	5	0	3	6
Delhi	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	8	6	17	8	10	6	10	10	13	1	2	1
Goa	2	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	32	33	20	8	3	6	8	21	10	30	11	3
Himachal Pradesh	6	14	5	2	4	1	2	5	5	3	10	5
Jammu and Kashmir	7	4	6	3	9	4	1	7	2	0	2	1



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jharkhand	1	12	14	1	7	6	8	6	5	15	1	5
Karnataka	60	44	26	10	5	3	0	0	17	13	2	4
Kerala	14	17	6	4	14	8	0	1	11	5	13	3
Madhya Pradesh	35	23	22	11	22	11	13	9	8	3	0	2
Maharashtra	19	11	14	14	18	13	18	12	12	6	2	1
Manipur	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1
Meghalaya	3	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0
Mizoram	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Orissa	20	34	27	10	6	14	1	2	5	13	14	2
Punjab	17	17	13	5	6	9	7	22	14	44	21	9
Rajasthan	46	29	25	18	17	4	10	27	14	22	16	4
Sikkim	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	26	21	20	11	18	8	7	5	8	14	13	2
Tripura	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Uttaranchal	13	4	3	4	3	2	8	0	2	0	5	2
Uttar Pradesh	37	37	31	18	14	12	5	15	10	21	27	18
West Bengal	15	9	14	5	3	13	4	1	2	8	2	0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Total	425	389	321	169	184	143	111	162	171	244	174	81

IOC-Indian Oil Corporation, BPC-Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, HPCL-Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, IBP-IBP Co. Ltd.

**Construction and Expansion of Airports**

\*44. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:  
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from the State Governments regarding construction and expansion of airports in their States;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The requests received from the State Governments airportwise are as under:—

**1. TAMIL NADU**

- (i) Chennai (expansion and modernization)
- (ii) Coimbatore (expansion of Terminal Building and runway)
- (iii) Madurai (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)
- (iv) Tiruchirappalli (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)
- (v) Tuticorin (expansion of runway).

**2. KARNATAKA**

- (i) Belgaum (expansion of Terminal Building and runway)
- (ii) Bellary (operationalization of the airport with required infrastructure development)
- (iii) Bijapur (Greenfield)
- (iv) Gulbarga (Greenfield)
- (v) Hassan (Greenfield)
- (vi) Hubli (expansion and modernization of Terminal Building and expansion of runway)

(vii) Karwar (Establishment of a Civil Enclave on Naval airstrip)

(viii) Mangalore (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)

(ix) Mysore (operationalization of the airport by constructing a new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)

(x) Shimoga (Greenfield)

**3. ANDHRA PRADESH**

(i) Visakhapatnam (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)

(ii) Vijayawada (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)

(iii) Tirupati (expansion of runway, construction of a new Terminal Building and cargo complex)

(iv) Rajahmundry (construction of a Terminal Building and strengthening and expansion of runway).

(v) Cuddapah (Greenfield)

(vi) Warangal (Greenfield)

**4. KERALA**

(i) Kannur (Greenfield)

(ii) Calicut (expansion of modification of Terminal Building)

(iii) Trivandrum (construction of an Integrated Terminal Building)

**5. PONDICHERRY**

(i) Pondicherry (expansion of runway)

(ii) Karaikal (Greenfield)

**6. LAKSHADWEEP**

(i) Agatti (expansion of runway)

**7. RAJASTHAN**

(i) Kishangarh near Ajmer (Greenfield)

**8. UTTARAKHAND**

- (i) 'Naini Saini, Gauchar, Chinyalisaur' (these are State Government airports. The State Government has requested for their upgradation by Airports Authority of India)

**9. UTTAR PRADESH**

- (i) Agra (Greenfield)

**10. PUNJAB**

- (i) Halwara near Ludhiana (Civil Enclave at Indian Air Force airstrip)

**11. MAHARASHTRA**

- (i) Nagpur (modification and expansion of Terminal Building and creation of a cargo complex jointly by Airports Authority of India and Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation).
- (ii) Gondia (Pilot and Ground Engineers Training Institute)
- (iii) Baramati (development of the airport for ATR operations).
- (iv) Raipur (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)

**12. MADHYA PRADESH**

- (i) Bhopal (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)
- (ii) Indore (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)

**13. GOA**

- (i) Dadolim (a new Integrated Terminal Building)
- (ii) Mop (Greenfield)

**14. ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

- (i) Karsinsga near Itanagar (Greenfield)
- (ii) Passighat (Greenfield)

**15. SIKKIM**

- (i) Pakyong near Gangtok (Greenfield)

**16. NAGALAND**

- (i) Cheithu near Kohima (Greenfield)

**17. MEGHALAYA**

- (i) Tura (new Terminal Building and expansion of runway)

**18. MANIPUR**

- (i) Imphal (night landing facilities)

**19. WEST BENGAL**

- (i) Asansol (Greenfield)
- (ii) Kolkata (modernization and expansion)
- (ii) Malda (operationalization of the airport with required upgradation)
- (iv) Cooch Behar (extension and strengthening of runway and renovation of Terminal Building)

**20. JHARKHAND**

- (i) Ranchi (construction of a new Terminal Building)

The proposals received are at various levels of consideration/implementation in the Airports Authority of India and Government.

**Production of Crude Oil**

\*45. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:

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

(a) the targets set for production of crude oil during each of the last three years and achievements made thereof;

(b) the details of the investment made during the said period, company-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the demand of petroleum products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Targets/projections for crude oil production during each of the last three years and achievements made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture (Pvt/JV) companies are as under:

MMT (million metric tonne)

Year	Targets/Projections	Achievements
2003-04	33.497	33.369
2004-05	33.624	33.980
2005-06	34.564	32.187

(b) Plan outlay expenditure by ONGC and OIL in the last three years *i.e.* from 2003-04 to 2005-06 and investments made by private/JB companies in the corresponding period are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	ONGC plan outlay expenditure	OIL Plan Outlay expenditure	Expenditure by Pvt./JV companies
2003-04	6851.98	577.85	714.87
2004-05	10681.29	872.71	1076.05
2005-06	11421.03	993.97	1824.15

(c) The significant steps initiated by the Government and public sector undertakings for meeting the demand of petroleum products in the country, inter alia include:

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;
- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes;
- (iii) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells, etc., in producing areas;

- (iv) acquisition of oil and gas assets abroad in order to ensure hydrocarbon security for the country.
- (v) Long term agreement for import of LNG.
- (vi) Transnational gas pipeline.
- (vii) Exploring potential of alternate sources.
- (viii) Conservation of petroleum products.
- (ix) Setting up Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

[English]

#### Industry Status of Tourism

\*46. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who arrived in the country and the revenue earned therefrom during 2006-07;

(b) whether tourism has been accorded the industry status;

(c) if so, whether the Government has proposals to boost up the development of this industry by giving suitable incentives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The estimated number of foreign tourist arrivals to India during 2006 is 4.43 million. The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 2006 is estimated at US\$ 6569 million.

(b) to (d) Tourism sector comprises activities of several service providers like tour operators, travel agents, airlines and hotels. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) have announced packages for the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal by way of concession under Excise Duty, Income Tax exemption and investment subsidy etc. for certain identified thrust industries, including Eco-Tourism industries set up in these States. Besides, the Ministry of Tourism provides assistance of upto Rs. 50 crore in the form of grant for large revenue generating tourism projects through the

State Corporations under its plan scheme 'Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects'. Under its plan scheme 'Incentives to Accommodation Infrastructure', the Ministry provides assistance in the form of capital grant for budget category hotels.

*[Translation]*

#### **Sachar Committee Report**

\*47. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report of Sachar Committee constituted to look into the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report has been laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 30th November, 2006. It is also available on the website of the Ministry [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in) Chapter-12 of the report titled "Perspectives and Recommendations" contains the major recommendations of the Committee. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of Government.

#### **Air Linking of Cities**

\*48. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country and the number out of them which are operational;

(b) whether the Union Government has received requests from various State Governments to connect more cities in their respective State with air-links;

(c) if so, the number of such requests received from the State Governments during the last three years State-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on each of such requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are about 455 airports/airstrips in the country belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI), State Government, Defence (including those with AAI Civil Enclaves) and private licensed aerodromes. AAI operates and maintains 127 airports including Civil Enclaves at Defence airfields for commercial airlines operations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Number of the requests received from the State Governments are as follows: Andhra Pradesh (2), Bihar (1), Chhattisgarh (1), Gujarat (2), Himachal Pradesh (1), Karnataka (1), Madhya Pradesh (3), Maharashtra (2), Mizoram (2), Nagaland (3), Orissa (1), Pondicherry (1), Tamil Nadu (3), Tripura (2), Uttar Pradesh (2), ~~Uttaranchal~~ (1), West Bengal (3) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2).

(d) Government has laid down ~~Route Dispersal~~ Guidelines with a view to achieve ~~better regulation~~ of Air Transport Services (ATS) taking into account the needs of different regions of the country, including the North-East. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

*[English]*

#### **Luxury Tourist Trains**

\*49. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have proposed to launch luxury tourist trains for promotion of tourism in their States;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received by the railways in this regard and the action taken by the Railways thereon alongwith their present status; and

(c) the other measures taken by the Railways for the promotion of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways has received proposals to run luxury tourist trains from the State Governments of Karnataka, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Approval has been given by the Ministry of Railways to run luxury tourist trains in Karnataka at Punjab. The proposal to run luxury tourist train from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is being examined whereas the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has not sent any comprehensive proposal in this regard.

(c) The Railway is encouraging chartering of Trains, Coaches, Hill section trains as well as operation of complete tourist packages. In addition of these Budget Hotels at 100 locations have also been considered to be set up to promote tourism. New IRCTC can book upto 15% of AC berths and 10% of sleeper berths as per demand in different trains to cater to tourism packages being run by tour operators.

Indian Railways has been selling Indrail Passes to foreign citizens wherein journey tickets can be availed for as many destinations, as per choice as can be possible within the time period for which the pass has been bought. These provisions by Indian Railway are contributing immensely in tourism activities in India.

#### **Merger of Air India and Indian Airlines**

\*50. ADV. SURESH KURUP:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted to suggest measures for merger of Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the IA and AI Employees Unions have also been consulted for resolving various issues relating to employees of those airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken for merger of both the airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Group of Ministers (GOM) has recommended that the proposal to merge Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited into a new entity may be approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) 11 Employee Unions/Associations etc. of Air India and 8 of Indian Airlines were invited for discussion at Minister level on 17.01.07. Thereafter, the consultations with various Employee representatives have continued.

(e) Matter is under active consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]*

#### **Indo-Myanmar Gas Pipeline Project**

\*51. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether Myanmar has expressed its inability to supply gas to India through on-land pipeline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the present status of the Indo-Myanmar gas pipeline project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Government of the Union of Myanmar had invited bids for purchase of gas through the pipeline route from A-1 and A-3 blocks. Gail (India) Ltd. (GAIL) submitted its bid in September 2006. The pipeline from Myanmar is envisaged to be laid down via the north-eastern states of the country. GAIL has completed Detailed Feasibility Report, Environment Management Plan and Rapid Risk Analysis study for the project.

Subsequently, Myanmar intimated to GAIL that they were reviewing their decision to sell this gas through the

pipeline route. While exploring other options of selling the gas, Myanmar asked for a bid for, purchase of 3.5 MMTPA of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). GAIL has submitted its bid to Myanmar in response to the same in December 2006.

An Indian delegation visited Myanmar during January 9-11, 2007. During the visit, the issue of import of Natural Gas from Myanmar through transnational pipeline was discussed with Ministry of Energy, Myanmar. The Myanmar side indicated that out of the presently available gas of 4.8 trillion cubic feet (tcf), their Government would like to earmark a portion of this gas for their domestic requirement, and that the balance gas would not be sufficient for viable export. Myanmar has taken up drilling in A3 block and based on the result of drilling and quantity of gas available, would take a decision on selling the gas through available options.

[English]

#### **Duty Free Shops**

\*52. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals to open duty-free shops in the cities where branded imported liquor, cigarettes and cosmetics etc. can be made available;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has not received any proposal to open duty free shops in the cities.

[Translation]

#### **Hoax-Calls about Bombs in Trains**

\*53. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations of the Railways have been interrupted due to hoax-calls about bombs or due to recovery of bombs in trains in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during 2005-06 and 2006-07, zone-wise; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Railways to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The movement of trains is interrupted for conducting anti-sabotage checking of coaches due to hoax calls regarding placement of bombs in trains or due to recovery of bombs in trains in various parts of the country.

(b) The number of incidents of Hoax Calls received and number of incidents of recovery of bombs during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 (Upto 22nd February 2007) are furnished as under:—

Railways	Number of incidents of receipt of hoax calls		Number of incidents of which bombs recovered	
	2005-06	2006-07*	2005-06	2006-07*
1	2	3	4	5
Central	7	14	—	—
Eastern	4	3	2	2
East Central	—	—	1	1
East Coast	—	1	—	—
Northern	18	7	—	—
North Central	1	3	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
North Eastern	5	3	—	—
Northeast Frontier	3	—	—	—
North Western	2	4	—	—
Southern	15	21	—	—
South Central	6	10	—	—
South Eastern	—	—	—	—
South East Central	1	—	—	—
South Western	2	2	—	—
Western	14	29	—	—
West Central	4	13	—	—
Total	84	110	3	3

\*Upto 22nd February 2007.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Ministry of Railways in this regard:—

1. Detailed guidelines have been issued to be the field officers regarding action to be taken in case of hoax bomb calls and the Railways have issued Joint Procedures in this connection to tackle hoax calls in tandem. Concerned officers have been advised to install Caller Identification System in all Public Interface Telephones over Railway system.
2. Close co-ordination is maintained and all possible assistance is provided by the Railways to the Civil Police as well as Government Railway Police in conducting anti-sabotage checks of the trains in view of any bomb hoax calls or recovery of bombs in trains.
3. Frequent announcements through Public Address Systems are made at important and sensitive Railways stations to alert the traveling passengers for reporting the matter to Police, Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force personnel regarding any unclaimed or unattended baggage in trains and on platforms.

4. Railway Protection Force Sniffer Dogs, wherever available, are being deployed at sensitive Railway stations for anti-sabotage checking.
5. Checking of passengers and their baggages with the help of Door Frame Metal Detectors, Hand Held Metal Detectors, Sniffer Dogs etc. are being conducted at sensitive Railway stations.
6. Regular sharing of Intelligence information between Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police is being ensured through institutionalized procedures.

[English]

#### Allotment of Petrol Pumps

\*54. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its recent judgement has cancelled over 70% of the allotments of petrol pumps;



(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to review and revise the criteria for allotment of petrol pumps to persons belonging to classified categories as well as general categories;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The Supreme Court has so far disposed of 280 cases (Retail Outlet dealership/ LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships) out of the total 414 cases. Out of the 280 cases, the Supreme Court has so far upheld the recommendation of two-judge committee for cancellation of the selection made by the then Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) in 147 cases (52.5%).

(b) The Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) was dismantled with effect from 1.4.2002 and thereafter DSBs were dissolved on 9.5.2002. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were given commercial freedom in the selection of locations and dealerships of petroleum products, based on the broad policy guidelines framed by this Ministry in August 2003, aimed at making the selection process more objective and transparent. At present, there is no proposal to review the existing guidelines as these provide for use of objective criteria in the evaluation process and selection of dealers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

#### **Reduction in Retail Prices of Petroleum Products**

\*55. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether there has been decline in prices of crude oil in the international market;

(b) if so, the quantum of decrease in the prices as compared to the first half of the year 2006;

(c) whether the Government proposes to further reduce the retail prices of petroleum products in view of the decline in prices in the international market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average price of the Indian Basket, based on international crude oil prices, was \$64.57/bbl during January-July 2006 and \$61.44/bbl during August-December 2006. Thus, crude oil price has declined by \$3.13/bbl (4.85%).

(c) and (d) On the basis of decline in international prices, the prices of petrol and diesel were reduced on 30.11.2006. It was again reduced on 16.2.2007. The reduction was Rs. 2/- per litre and Re. 1/ per litre for petrol and diesel respectively on each occasion (Delhi Price). It may be noted that the prices of domestic LPG were last revised on 5.11.04. However, the basic price of PDS Kerosene has not been changed since 1.4.2002. The international oil prices continue to fluctuate. The Government is keeping a close watch on the volatile prices.

#### **Private Players to Operate Passenger Trains**

\*56. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering any plans to permit the operation of passenger trains by the private sector and also to permit construction and owning of locomotives, coaches and tracks by the private players in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are studying investment models for train operations in other countries and has decided to adopt the operations system of Sweden; and

(c) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) There is no plan to permit transportation/ running of passenger trains by the private sector. However, some commercial activities concerning passenger trains can be permitted to be undertaken by the private sector. There is no plan to allow ownership of locomotives and tracks as of now, by the private sector for passenger train operations on the Indian Railway network. However, tourist passenger coaches can be jointly owned. It has been decided to explore the feasibility of setting up manufacturing units for locomotives and coaches in a Joint Venture involving private sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Provision of Children with Disabilities**

\*57. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the guidelines of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), each school in the States should have at least one special Educator and one resource centre of children with disabilities;

(b) if so, the number of States which have such facilities in schools;

(c) whether as per the survey conducted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in consultation with RCI, most of the States have not fulfilled the RCI guidelines;

(d) if so, the names of the States and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make some more provisions in favour of the children with disabilities in regard to education;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that each State fulfils the norms of RCI in regard to children with disabilities?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (g) Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) has not issued any such guidelines. Education of children with disabilities in schools up to senior secondary level is promoted by Govt. of India through two schemes-Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC). The schemes aim at providing educational opportunities for disabled children in general schools by facilitating their inclusion, integration and retention. These schemes are implemented through the State Governments, UT Administrations and by Non- Governmental Organizations. In IEDC, over 2 lakh disabled children in over 90,756 schools were integrated during 2005-06. In Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, out of 20.17 lakh identified

children with disabilities, 15.60 lakh children have been enrolled in schools.

#### **Setting up of Oil Refineries**

\*58. SHRI B. MAHTAB:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new refineries and to increase the existing refining capacity of the refineries in the near future;

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

(c) whether the Government has fixed any target for setting up of new refineries during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the likely effect on prices of petroleum products in domestic market due to the setting up of new refineries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) The refinery sector was declined in June, 1998. Since then a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries.

Companies in both public and private sector, including Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Reliance Industries Limited, Essar Oil and Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited have proposed to set up new refineries/increase the capacity of existing refineries. The details of the location, capacity/increase in capacity are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) New refining capacity is likely to have a favourable impact on prices as supply of petroleum products will increase. In addition, new capacity will boost

export earnings from export of petroleum products through retention of value addition, and will further enhance energy security of the country.

***Statement***

Name	Refineries	Capacity/ expansion (in *MMTPA)
<b>A.</b>	<b>New</b>	
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	Paradip (Orissa)	15.00
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	Bathinda (Punjab)	9.00
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	Bina (Madhya Pradesh)	6.00
Reliance Industries Limited	Jamnagar, Gujarat	29.00
Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited (NOCL)	Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu	6.00
<b>B.</b>	<b>Expansion of capacity</b>	<b>Increase in existing refining capacity (in MMTPA)</b>
IOCL	Panipat Additinal expansion	3.0
IOCL	Haldia Refinery expansion	1.5
Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)	Mangalore Refinery	5.31
BPCL	Kochi Refinery, Kochi	2.0
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)	Manali Refinery	1.7
HPCL	Mumbai Refinery	2.4
HPCL	Visakh Refinery	7.5
Essar Oil Limited	Vadinar Refinery	3.5
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)	Tatipaka	0.08

\*Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum

**Indo-Russia Co-operation In Petroleum Sector**

\*59. SHRI JUAL ORAM:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed any MoU with the Russian Oil Companies to study the possibilities of mutual projects in exploration, production and the marketing sector in India, Russia and other countries;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to India from the agreement;

(d) whether India and Russia have also agreed upon partnership with regard to Sakhalin III and IV projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the shareholding of both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gazprom on 21.02.2006 and with Rosneft on 25.1.2007. MoU with Gazprom envisages studying the prospects of joint participation in oil and gas projects in India, Russia and third countries. As per the MoU with Rosneft two Joint Study Groups would be formed, one for upstream and the other for downstream activities.

The two MoUs are likely to bring ONGC closer to the two National oil and gas companies of Russia resulting in joint operations and possibly acquisition of further oil and gas properties in Russia and other countries for achieving oil security of the country.

(d) No, Sir.

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

#### **Srinagar (Badgam) International Airport**

\*60. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction and development of Airport at Srinagar (Badgam) is in progress for international flights;

(b) if so, the progress so far made and the target fixed for completion of the project;

(c) whether the Government has drawn up any plan about the Srinagar (Badgam) International Airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) 70% work has been completed and expected date of project completion is June 30, 2007.

(c) and (d) Selection of routes for operation of flights is decided by the airlines. So far no airline has indicated its intention for international operations from Srinagar airport.

Direct operation of Haj flights from Srinagar to Saudi Arabia takes place.

*[Translation]*

#### **Maintenance of Temple in Uttarakhand by Archaeological Survey of India**

264. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to, state:

(a) whether the Government plans to get the temples of Uttarakhand, Badrinath and Kedarnath, maintained by Department of Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether action to check encroachment in surrounding areas of Badrinath Temple is included in this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The temples at Badrinath and Kedarnath situated in the State of Uttarakhand are not centrally protected monuments and there are no plans at present to bring them under the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

#### **Pending Proposals for Handicapped**

265. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of releasing grants in two installments to the organisations working for welfare of handicapped, women and children are lying pending with the Government on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to release the grants in lump sum to the organisations in rural areas timely in view of the difficulties being faced by them in running the said schemes for want of funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the grant-in-aid schemes, there is no provision for release of advance grant in lump sum to any organisation. The release of the grant-in-aid is made in two installments to the NGO's based on the criteria like utilization certificate, audited accounts, performance, inspection report and recommendations from the State Government.

*[English]*

#### **Length of Runway**

266. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether length of the runway of Bangalore airport is less in comparison to the runways of other national level airports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the expansion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The length of the runway 09/27 at Bangalore International Airport managed by HAL is 3306 m which is of comparable length to runways of other national level airports.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Lonand-Baramati Broad Gauge Line In Pune Division**

267. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether laying of Lonand-Baramati Broad Gauge Line in Pune Division of Central Railway is under construction;

(b) if so, the length of the line to be laid and the cost of the project;

(c) whether the Railways is also planning to operate goods transport facilities at Lonand Railway Station to ease the pressure on Pune Railway Station;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the South bound goods trains proposed to be diverted from Daund-Baramati-Lonand instead of entering into Pune; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Length: 52 Kms.

Anticipated cost: Rs. 138.48 crore.

(c) and (d) Lonand railway station is already having goods facilities. One additional goods line is proposed to be provided at Lonand after completion of project. However, this facility will not ease the pressure on Pune goods shed.

(e) and (f) Goods traffic coming via Manmad-Daund and going South, would get diverted from Daund-Baramati-Lonand route thus, easing the pressure at Pune.

*[Translation]*

#### **Amenities for Passengers at Railway Stations**

268. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amenities available to the passengers at railway stations under Ratlam-Maksi (Western Railway) and Shamgarh-Nagda (Western-Central); and

(b) the amenities proposed to be provided during 2007-08 at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Minimum Essential Amenities as per the norms and according to the category of station under Ratlam-Maksi and Shamgarh-Nagda sections have already been provided. However, provision of enhanced amenities at stations is

a continuous process and every year number of such works are taken up based on importance of station and inter-se priorities. Such works are exhibited in the Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme, Part II presented every year in the Parliament along with Budget documents. In addition, improvement at stations is also carried out as a part of 'Doubling', 'Traffic Facility works', 'Gauge Conversion', 'Computerisation' etc. under relevant Plan Heads. Such up-gradation works are completed at large number of stations every year.

[English]

#### **Promotion of Indian Culture in North-Eastern States**

269. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to protect, development and promote and Indian Culture in North-Eastern States and Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent during the last three years for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Culture has been making all efforts to protect, develop and promote culture in North Eastern States including Sikkim by undertaking various activities in the states through several Schemes of the Ministry as well as its attached/subordinate offices and autonomous organizations. 10% of the total Annual Plan allocation of the Ministry is earmarked for the development of Art & Culture in the North Eastern States and Sikkim. A special festival titled-Octave has been introduced since 2006 for highlighting the culture of the North East.

(c) The details of the amount spent for developing and promoting culture in North Eastern States and Sikkim during the last 3 years in respect of organizations/schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Organisations and the Actual/Certified Expenditure for the Activities of North Eastern Region during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Organisation	Actual Expenditure		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Archaeological Survey of India	63.20	94.16	78.72
2.	Sangeet Natak Akademi	121.21	14.71	267.90
3.	National School of Drama	79.47	71.84	109.91
4.	Sahitya Akademi	35.00	34.22	50.64
5.	Lalit Kala Akademi	13.50	35.03	57.06
6.	Setting up of MPCC	00.00	280.00	207.00
7.	CCRT	50.37	55.00	99.02
8.	Zonal Cultural Centres	621.35	151.64	396.44
9.	IGRMS, Bhopal	38.55	30.00	45.81
10.	GSDS	00.00	24.93	27.37

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Kalakshetra Foundation	4.84	1.94	1.80
12.	Anthropological Survey of India	20.59	55.31	65.63
13.	National Museum Institute	00.00	1.62	00.00
14.	Victoria Memorial Hall	25.20	31.05	47.16
15.	National Archives of India	00.00	00.00	12.19
16.	National Council of Science Museum	317.53	260.21	149.87
17.	National Museum	36.21	20.38	00.00
18.	Indian Museum	217.50	654.50	1047.57
19.	Promotion of Local Museum	499.00	103.53	50.53
20.	RRRLF	215.68	150.21	307.22
21.	MAKAI Kolkata	17.90	8.37	9.00
22.	Allahabad Museum	00.00	3.04	7.99
23.	NRLC Lucknow	1.77	00.00	00.00
24.	Assistance to Dance Drama & Theatre	85.86	113.21	79.37
25.	Building Grant to Cul. Organizations	65.94	107.14	374.86
26.	National Library, Kolkata	00.00	00.00	2.72
27.	Assistance to Tribal/Folk Art	00.00	00.00	10.67
28.	National Mission for Manuscripts	00.00	00.00	20.26
<b>Total</b>		<b>2530.47</b>	<b>2322.30</b>	<b>3506.45</b>
<b>Budgetary allocation for the activities of North Eastern Region</b>		<b>2200.00</b>	<b>3545.00</b>	<b>5511.00</b>

### **Security at Airports**

270. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:  
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce high technology materials for effective security at all domestic/international airports of the country especially at Kolkata and Hyderabad Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the necessary steps being taken by the Government to implement the above material at all airports; and

(d) the estimated cost likely to be incurred on the above work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to install security equipments like Bio-metric access control system, In Line X-ray Baggage Inspection System (X-BIS), Explosive detection equipment, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), Perimeter

intrusion detection system etc. at all the major airports in the country including Kolkata & Hyderabad airports.

(c) All concerned Airport Operators/agencies have been directed to take immediate necessary action to upgrade security technology. Introduction of In Line X-BIS at all Hypersensitive Airports is under various stages of implementation by the agencies concerned.

(d) In Line X-BIS order placed for international airports namely Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Calicut and Srinagar for cost of Rs. 45 crores.

Explosive Trace Detector order placed for Rs. 91.00 crores approximately including existing Customs Duty.

The other security equipment being installed and their cost are as under:-

Metal Detectors	—	Rs. 577 crores
X-ray Baggage Inspection System	—	Rs. 34.00 crores

[*Translation*]

#### **Survey for Oil and Gas Discoveries in Ganga Basin**

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted surveys to explore the possibility of oil and natural gas in the States situated in Ganga Basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith outcome thereof, Statewise; and

(c) the time by which by exploration is likely to be started from these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/JV companies have carried out exploration in Ganga Basin falling in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar. In the last three years, exploratory inputs expended in Uttar Pradesh by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies were 878 Kilometres of 2-D seismic and one exploratory well.

To accelerate exploration in Ganga Basin, 6 exploration blocks have already been awarded under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). In addition, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has carried out an aeromagnetic survey across Uttarakhand.

No commercial hydrocarbon reserves have been established in Ganga basin till date.

[*English*]

#### **Plant for Maintenance of Aircraft in Nagpur**

272. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the well-known aviation company Boeing has finalized an agreement to establish a plant for maintenance of aircraft in Nagpur;

(b) if so, whether initial arrangements have been made for the establishment of necessary subsidiary industrial units for this plant;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work of establishment of this plant is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Pursuant to the decision to the purchase of aircraft from M/s. Boeing by Air India, as a part of its contractual obligation, M/s. Boeing has offered to facilitate setting up of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at Nagpur in India. Boeing has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government of Maharashtra for land and an MRO agreement with Air India in this regard. Site for the facility is being finalized.

(d) It will not be possible to indicate a definite time frame for completion of the work of establishment of this plant at this stage.

[*Translation*]

#### **Monuments in Gujarat**

273. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:



(a) the details of centrally protected monuments in Gujarat;

2003-04 Rs. 132.53 lakhs

2004-05 Rs. 150.75 lakhs

(b) the amount spent on maintenance and upkeep of these monuments during the last three years; and

2005-06 Rs. 171.62 lakhs

(c) the revenue earned by the Government from these monuments during the said period?

During the year 2006-07, an expenditure of Rs. 182.08 lakhs has been incurred upto January, 2007.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The detailed list of 202 centrally protected monuments/sites in Gujarat under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The revenue earned from these monuments during the last three years is as under:

2003-04 Rs. 19.18 lakhs

2004-05 Rs. 23.12 lakhs

2005-06 Rs. 25.35 lakhs

2006-07 Rs. 20.01 lakhs

(Upto December, 2006)

(b) The expenditure incurred on conservation, preservation, maintenance and development of their environs during the last three years is as under:

### *Statement*

#### *List of Centrally Protected Monuments under the Jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in Gujarat*

Sl.No.	Name of Monument/Sites	Location	District
1	2	3	4
1.	Three gates besides Bhadrakali temple	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
2.	Bhadra gate besides Bhadrakali temple	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
3.	Sidi Saiyad's Mosque	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
4.	Ahmed Shah's Mosque	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
5.	Teen Darwaja or Tripolia Gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
6.	Shah kupa Masjid	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
7.	Jami Masjid	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
8.	Tombs of Queens of Ahmed Shah	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
9.	Ahmad Shah's Tomb	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
10.	Panch Kuwa gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
11.	Queen's Mosque in Sarangpur	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
12.	TOmb	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
13.	Brick Minars	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
14.	Sidi Bashir's Minar's & Tomb (Shaking)	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad

1	2	3	4
15.	Delhi Gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
16.	Kutub Shah's Mosque	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
17.	Dadra Hari's Mosque & Tomb	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
18.	Dada (Bai) Hari's Stepwell	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
19.	Kalulpur Gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
20.	Sarangpur Gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
21.	Dariya Pur Gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
22.	Premabhai Gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
23.	Mata Bhawani's Well	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
24.	Achyut Bibi's Masjid & Tomb	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
25.	Dariya Khan's Tomb	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
26.	Muhafiz Khan's Mosque	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
27.	Rani Rupavati's Mosque	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
28.	The Shahpur Kazi Mohmad Chisti's Masjid	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
29.	Saiyyad Usman's Mosque & Tomb	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
30.	Shah Alam's Tomb with all surrounding buildings in the group	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
31.	Small Stone Mosque (Rani Masjid)	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
32.	Rauza of Azam Khan Mauzzam Khan	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
33.	Dastur Khan's Masjid	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
34.	Rani Sipri's Mosque & Tomb	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
35.	Astodia Gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
36.	Malik Alam's Mosque	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
37.	Raipur Gate	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
38.	Inlet to Kankaria Tank	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
39.	Bibiji's Masjid	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
40.	Haibatkhan's Masjid	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
41.	Baba Laluli's Masjid	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
42.	Nawab Sardar Khan Masjid and outer gate in survey No. 6814	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad

1	2	3	4
43.	Nawab Sardar Khan's Rouza with its compound bearing C.S. No. 6811	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
44.	Tomb of Mir Abu Turab	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
45.	Jethabhai's Stepwell	Isanpur	Ahmedabad
46.	Small Stone Masjid (Gumle Masjid)	Isanpur	Ahmedabad
47.	Tombs (Qutub-i-Alam)	Vatva	Ahmedabad
48.	Great Mosque	Sarkhej Roza	Ahmedabad
49.	Great Tank, Palace & Harem	Sarkhej Roza	Ahmedabad
50.	Pavilion	Sarkhej Roza	Ahmedabad
51.	Roza of Baba Ishaq and Bawa Ganj Bhaksh	Sarkhej Roza	Ahmedabad
52.	Tomb of Bibi (Rani) Rajbai	Sarkhej Roza	Ahmedabad
53.	Tomb of Mohammed Begarh	Sarkhej Roza	Ahmedabad
54.	Tomb of Shaikh Ahmed Khattau Ganj Baksh	Sarkhej Roza	Ahmedabad
55.	Jami Masjid	Dholka	Ahmedabad
56.	Malav Tank	Dholka	Ahmedabad
57.	Khan Masjid	Dholka	Ahmedabad
58.	Bahlol Khan Gazi's Mosque	Dholka	Ahmedabad
59.	Ruined Building	Dholka	Ahmedabad
60.	Ancient site at Lothal	Saragwala	Ahmedabad
61.	Masjid of Ragusha Pir	Ranpur	Ahmedabad
62.	Jami Masjid	Mandal	Ahmedabad
63.	Kazi Masjid	Mandal	Ahmedabad
64.	Saiyad Masjid	Mandal	Ahmedabad
65.	Mansar Talav & Shrines	Viramgam	Ahmedabad
66.	Ancient site Gohilwad Timbo (Mound)	Amreli	Amreli
67.	Fresco on the wall of Kashivisvanath temple	Padar Singha	Amreli
68.	Ancient Site	Venivadar	Amreli
69.	Stepwell	Borsad	Anand
70.	Jami Masjid	Khambhat	Anand

1	2	3	4
71.	Ancient site/Mound	Sihor	Bhavnagar
72.	Darbargarh	Sihor	Bhavnagar
73.	Ancient site/Mound	Vala	Bhavnagar
74.	Jain temples	Talaja	Bhavnagar
75.	Talaja Caves	Talaja	Bhavnagar
76.	Jami Masjid	Bharuch	Bharuch
77.	Old Ruined temple of Mahadev	Bawka	Dahod
78.	Tomb of Sikander Shah	Halol	Godhra
79.	Ek-Minar-ki-Masjid	Halol	Godhra
80.	Panch-Mahuda-ki-Masjid	Halol	Godhra
81.	Tomb	Halol	Godhra
82.	Helical Stepped well (With 50 feet space aruond at pathway 10 feet vide to nearest road	Champaner	Godhra
83.	Sakar Khan's Dargah	Champaner	Godhra
84.	City Gate	Champaner	Godhra
85.	Citadel walls	Champaner	Godhra
86.	City walls at S.E. corner of the citadel going up the hill	Champaner	Godhra
87.	East and South Bhadra Gates	Champaner	Godhra
88.	Sahar ki Masjid (Bohrani)	Champaner	Godhra
89.	Three cells	Champaner	Godhra
90.	Mandvi or Custom House	Champaner	Godhra
91.	Jami Masjid	Champaner	Godhra
92.	Stepwell	Champaner	Godhra
93.	Kevada Masjid	Champaner	Godhra
94.	Tomb with a Brick dome in the centre and small corner domes	Champaner	Godhra
95.	Canatoph of Kevda Masjid	Champaner	Godhra
96.	Nagina Masjid	Champaner	Godhra

1	2	3	4
97.	Cenatop of Nagina Masjid	Champaner	Godhra
98.	Lila Gumbaj	Champaner	Godhra
99.	Kabutarkhana Pavilion	Champaner	Godhra
100.	Kamani Masjid	Champaner	Godhra
101.	Bawa Man's Mosque	Champaner	Godhra
102.	Gate No. 1 Atak Gate (with two gateways)	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
103.	Gate No. 2 (with three gateways) Budhiya gate	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
104.	Gate No. 3 Moti gate Sadanshah-Gate	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
105.	Gate No. 4 with big bastion with cells in the interior	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
106.	Sat Manzil with steps right upto bastions	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
107.	Mint above Gate No. 4	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
108.	Gate No. 5 Gulam Bulan Gate	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
109.	Gate No. 6 Buland Darwaja	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
110.	Makai Kothar	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
111.	Patai Rawal's Palace with tanks	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
112.	Gate No. 7 Makai Gate	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
113.	Gate No. 8 Tarapore Gate	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
114.	Fort of Pavagad & ruinated Hindu temples & Jain temples on the top of Pavagad Hills	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
115.	Naviakha Kothar	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
116.	Walls of fort on top	Pavagad Hill	Godhra
117.	Rudra Mahalaya temple	Desar	Godhra
118.	Kankeshvara Mahadev temple	Kakanpur	Godhra
119.	Ratnesvara Old temple with sculptures screen	Ratanpur	Godhra
120.	Rudabai stepwell	Adalaj	Gandhinagar
121.	Durvasa Rishi's Ashram & its site	Pindara	Jamnagar
122.	Kalika Mata temple	Navi Dhrewad	Jamnagar
123.	Gokeshwara Mahadev temple	Lowrali	Jamnagar
124.	Gandhi fortress & temple in Survey no. 106	Old Dhim	Jamnagar

1	2	3	4
125.	Temple of Rama Laxman	Baradia	Jamnagar
126.	Dwarkadhish Group of temples with its outer compounds Sl.No. 1607, 1608, 1609	Dwarka	Jamnagar
127.	Kshatrapa Inscriptions	Dwarka	Jamnagar
128.	Rukmini Temple	Dwarka	Jamnagar
129.	Dharashnvel Temple (Magderu)	Dharashnval	Jamnagar
130.	Guhaditya temple in S.No. 655	Varvada	Jamnagar
131.	Junagadhi (Jain) Temple	Vasai	Jamnagar
132.	Kankeshvara Mahadeva temple & other shrines	Vasai	Jamnagar
133.	Gop (Sun) Temple	Nani Gop	Jamnagar
134.	Ashokan Rock (Edicts)	Junagadh	Junagadh
135.	Buddhistic Cave	Junagadh	Junagadh
136.	Baba Pyare, Khapra Kodia caves	Junagadh	Junagadh
137.	Ancient Mound	Intwa	Junagadh
138.	Jami Masjid	Mangrol	Junagadh
139.	Bibi Masjid	Mangrol	Junagadh
140.	Raveli Masjid	Mangrol	Junagadh
141.	Ranchhod Rayaji Temple with wasterland around the chowk of Mahadeva Temple	Mul Dwarka	Junagadh
142.	Vithalbhai Haveli	Vasco	Kheda
143.	Bhamaria Well	Mahamadabad	Kheda
144.	Temple of Galteshwar	Samal	Kheda
145.	Tomb of Saif-ud-din & Nizam-ud-din	Sojali	Kheda
146.	Tomb of Mubarak Saiyyad	Sojali	Kheda
147.	Rao Lakha Chhatri	Bhuj	Kachchh
148.	Siva temple	Kotai	Kachchh
149.	Excavated Site	Surkotada	Kachchh
150.	Malai Mata temple	Paladdar	Mehsana
151.	Hingloji Mata temple	Khandosar	Mehsana

1	2	3	4
152.	Sabha Mandapa (Double Shrines) & the ancient shrines	Khandsoan	Mehsana
153.	Jasmalnathji Mahadev temple	Asoda	Mehsana
154.	Ajpal Kund	Vadnagar	Mehsana
155.	Inscription and Arjun Bari Gate	Vadnagar	Mehsana
156.	Torana	Vadnagar	Mehsana
157.	Knd	Vijapur	Mehsana
158.	Sun temple, Surya kind with adjoining other temples & loose sculpures	Modhera	Mehsana
159.	Gateway of Khan Sarover	Patan	Patan
160.	Rani-ki-vav	Patan	Patan
161.	Sahastralinga Talao (Excavated)	Anavada	Patan
162.	Shaikh Farid Tomb	Patan	Patan
163.	Jami Masjid	Sidhpur	Patan
164.	Ruins of Rudra Mahalaya temple	Sidhpur	Patan
165.	Nilkantheswar Mahadev temple	Sunak	Patan
166.	Sivai Mata temple	Sunak	Patan
167.	Nilkantheswar Mahadev Temple	Ruhavi	Patan
168.	Two small shrines Sanderi Mata temple	Sander	Patan
169.	Sitamata temple	Piludra	Patan
170.	Torana with Sun image	Piludra	Patan
171.	Limboji Mata temple	Delmal	Patan
172.	House where Mahatma Gandhi was born	Porbandar	Porbandar
173.	Old Parsvanath temple	Vadodara	Porbandar
174.	Caves	Miyani	Rajkot
175.	Tomb of Sikandarshah	Prantji	Sabarkanta
176.	Group of temples	Khed & Roda	Sabarkanta
177.	Dargah known as Khawaja Dana Saheb's Rouza	Surat	Surat
178.	Old English Tombs	Surat	Surat

1	2	3	4
179.	Tomb of Khawaja Safar Sulemani	Surat	Surat
180.	Old Dutch & Armenian Tombs & Cemeteries	Surat	Surat
181.	Ancient site comprising S. Plot No. 535	Kamrej	Surat
182.	Fateh Burj	Vyara	Surat
183.	Ranak Devi's Temple	Wadhwan	Surendranagar
184.	Ancient Mound	Rangpur	Surendranagar
185.	Sun Temple	Thangadh	Surendranagar
186.	Navlakhta temple	Sejakpur	Surendranagar
187.	Ancient Site/Mound (Ganesh temple) in village	Sejakpur	Surendranagar
188.	Darbargarh	Halwad	Surendranagar
189.	Ananteshwara temple	Bhadia Anandpur	Surendranagar
190.	Fresco Rooms in Bhau Tambekar's Wada	Vadodara	Vadodara
191.	Historic Site S.No. 431, 435	Vadodara	Vadodara
192.	Hazira or Qutubuddin Mahmud Khan's Tomb	Danteshwar	Vadodara
193.	Ancient Site (Excavated)	Kayavarohan	Vadodara
194.	Gateway of Torana	Kayavarohan	Vadodara
195.	Ancient site of Samshyapura	Goraj	Vadodara
196.	Vadodara Gate & its adjacent construction Hira gate with S.No. 38, 41, 45, 47 & Ticca No. 102 & 103	Dabhoi	Vadodara
197.	Hira Gate with S.No. 38, 41, 45, 47 & Ticca No. 102 & 103	Dabhoi	Vadodara
198.	Mahudi (Champaneri) Gate & adjacent construction	Dabhoi	Vadodara
199.	Nandodi Gate with adjacent construction	Dabhoi	Vadodara
200.	Saptamukhi Vav	Dabhoi	Vadodara
201.	Microlithic site S.No. 311, 12, 13 & 298	Amarjapura	Vadodara
202.	Ancient Site (Kotada)	Locality- Dholavria, Tehsil- Bhachau	Bhuj



*[English]***Wildlife and Forest Tourism**

274. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote wildlife and forest tourism in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken to tap the tourist potential;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for financial assistance to develop tourist infrastructure in these States during the last year and the current year, so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Integrated development of places of tourist interest/spots in the country including wildlife and forest tourism is continuous process. The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ UT Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for grant of central financial assistance every year to them for the following schemes:

- (i) Tourist Circuits
- (ii) Product Infrastructure & Destination Development
- (iii) Large Revenue Generating projects

On submission of project proposals, they are appraised as per scheme guidelines and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head.

The position of funds released during 2005-06 and 2006-07 (till December, 2006) to the States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Amount sanctioned during	Amount sanctioned during
		2005-06 (Rs. in lakh)	2006-07 (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Madhya Pradesh	3037.39	3599.78
2.	Maharashtra	2075.04	2760.05

**Non-stop Flights between Kolkata and New York**

275. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India (AI) is going to start non-stop flights between Kolkata and New York;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which AI is likely to attract more passengers on this route and compete with other airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The need for operating new services from various cities including Kolkata is regularly reviewed by Air India taking into account demand and availability of aircraft. There is no plan to operate non-stop services from Kolkata to New York at present.

(d) Air India has very attractive market fares between Kolkata and New York. This is due to special Prorate arrangements with domestic carriers on the Kolkata-Delhi/ Mumbai-Kolkata sectors which helps the passengers to connect on to Air India's direct service between New York and Mumbai/Delhi.

**Impact of Terrorist Activities on Tourism**

276. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether violence and extremist operations in Assam and the North East has adversely affected tourism in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of tourists arrived to these places during the last six months and the comparative figures for the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Incidents of violence and extremism may have immediate and localized adverse impact on tourism, but after the immediate impact is over, the tourist traffic picks up again, as is evident from the following figures of tourist arrivals to North East during 2003, 2004 and 2005.

State/UT	Tourist Visits		
	2003	2004	2005
Assam	2163285	2295378	2478434
Meghalaya	378257	445902	381000
Manipur	93180	93725	94615
Mizoram	35408	38924	44988
Tripura	260527	264078	219007
Nagaland	6348	11140	18353
Arunachal Pradesh	2318	5009	3294
Sikkim	191627	245365	268267
<b>Total North East</b>	<b>3130950</b>	<b>3399521</b>	<b>3507958</b>

The figures of tourist visits to North East for the last 6 months are not available.

[*Translation*]

#### **Complaints against LPG Distributors**

277. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributorship in each State particularly in Uttar Pradesh alongwith the company-wise and location-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of complaints received against these distributors during the last three years in each State, particularly in U.P.; and

(c) the number of distributors against whom the complaints have been received alongwith the number of distributorship cancelled on the basis of these complaints during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As on 01.01.2007, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 9344 LPG distributorship in the country including 1159 LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The details regarding company-wise and location-wise LPG

distributorships are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

(b) and (c) Since 1.4.2003 and up to January 2007, OMCs have received 4431 complaints against their LPG distributors in the country. Out of the above, 606 complaints pertain to LPG distributors in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Similarly, complaints have been received against 2381 LPG distributors of OMCs during the last three years and up to January, 2007. Out of above, 238 LPG distributors pertain to Uttar Pradesh.

Action against erring distributors has been taken by OMCs in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement. During the period from 1.4.2003 and up to January 2007, OMCs have terminated 34 LPG distributorships in the country, including 3 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

[*English*]

#### **Indian Restaurants Abroad**

278. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC has received any offers to open Indian restaurants abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plans have been finalised in this regard;

(d) whether any plans have been finalised in this regard;

(e) the steps being taken to improve the hospitality ventures within the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The following steps are being taken to improve the hospitality ventures within the country:-

- Repairs, maintenance and renovation works are carried out in ITDC hotels through internal generation of funds to maintain minimum international standards.
- ITDC also mobilizes funds for renovation plan through market borrowing from financial institutions/banks.
- New services/facilities are being provided in the hotels to make them more competitive.
- ITDC has also allowed private participation in the operation of restaurants, showrooms, health clubs etc. in Delhi based hotels by leasing them to private parties in licence basis.

#### **Jan Kerosene Pariyojana**

279. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Jan Kerosene Pariyojana;

(b) whether the Government proposes to extend this scheme to some more areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government approved an innovative pilot project for radically revamping the PDS kerosene distribution network to ensure that this heavily

subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries, as well as to reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS Kerosene for adulteration. The pilot project under the name of Jan Kerosene Pariyojana (JKP) was launched with effect from 2nd October, 2005 initially for a period of 6 months. Government has been reviewing the JKP from time to time and is taking necessary action to further streamline the system. The JKP pilot project has been launched in 414 blocks spread over 24 States in the country. However, the State Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan have decided not to continue with implementation of JKP pilot project in 24 blocks and 13 blocks in the States with effect from 1.7.2006 and 1.10.2006 respectively.

Based on the Diagnostic Study conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and reviews taken by the Government, the pilot scheme was initially extended for 3 months up to 30th June 2006 and again up to 30th September 2006. It has now been further extended up to 30th June 2007. Thereafter, the working of the Scheme would be assessed and based on the experience gained, the Government will consider scaling the Scheme to cover the entire country.

#### **Ongoing Projects of Railways**

280. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequent increases in the prices of steel and cement have an adverse impact on the ongoing and pending railway projects in the country are also the prime reason for target failures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have taken any remedial measures to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The frequent abnormal increase in prices of steel and cement generally have an adverse impact on the progress of projects. In some cases, it has been the reason for termination of contracts affecting the targets.

(c) and (d) The price variation formula, covering for variation in prices has been suitably modified to

incorporate variation in prices of steel and cement with respect to Wholesale Price Index of respective subgroup.

### **Public Amenities in Railways**

281. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways consider to introduce eco-friendly toilets which do not allow refuse to fall on the tracks in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the likely expenditure and time by which such toilets are likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Indian Railways are in the process of developing/procuring environment friendly toilets for passenger coaches. Besides efforts to develop such toilets in the country, action is also in hand to procure small quantities of such toilets for field experience before resorting to bulk fitment. Presently one order for 80 Nos. of such toilets has been placed recently at a cost of approximately Rs. 3 crores. Another procurement is in process.

The time frame for large scale fitment of such toilets will depend on the experience gained during field trials with the limited quantity being procured.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

### **Committee on Security Arrangements at Airports**

282. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures taken by the Government for security arrangement and financial growth aviation sector;

(b) whether any committee has been constituted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the committee has handed over its report to the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Prescribed security arrangements at the airports which, inter-alia, include the security of passengers, cabin baggage, hold baggage, cargo, mail, physical security like parameter protection, access control in the airport and access control to aircraft are already in force. Beside this, threat perception is reviewed from time to time. On receipt of any threat to civil aviation operation from terrorist outfits, the security arrangements at airports are suitably strengthened through enhanced security checks, intensive surveillance introducing secondary security checks, intensive surveillance introducing secondary security checks at the ladder point. In order to promote financial growth in aviation sector, Government has taken measures such as providing concession in airport charges for aircraft upto a seating capacity of 80 seats being operated by domestic scheduled operators.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not raise.

### **Joining of Army by Women**

283. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage the rural women of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh to join the Army; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Government encourages eligible women to join the Army as officers irrespective of state or region. The enrolment is for all Indian women and not confined to rural or urban areas or regions.

### **Foreign Tourists**

284. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of foreign tourists visit India every year and the increase registered in their number in comparison to last year;

(b) the country-wise details of the foreign tourists who visit India every year alongwith the name of the country from where largest number of tourists come to India; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The number of foreign tourist arrival to India during 2006 is provisionally estimated to be 4.43 million, showing an increase of 13.0% over the corresponding figures of 3.92 million during 2005.

(b) The foreign tourist arrivals to India from the top 10 countries during the year 2005 are as given below:

Sl.No.	Country	Tourist Arrivals
1.	U.K.	651083
2.	U.S.A.	611165
3.	Canada	157643
4.	France	152258
5.	Sri Lanka	136400
6.	Germany	120243
7.	Japan	103082
8.	Malaysia	96276
9.	Australia	96258
10.	Italy	67642

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to attract more foreign tourists to India include:-

- Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;

- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Creation of World Class Collaterals;
- Direct co-operative marketing with the Airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas;
- According greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions;
- Optimizing the PR and Publicity;
- Use of Internet and web marketing;
- Generating Tourist Publications; and
- Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

#### **Extension of Rajkot Express to Rewa**

285. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether washing pit at Rewa Railway Station under Jabalpur Division of Western Central Railway has been made operational;

(b) if so, the number of trains being maintained by washing pit at present;

(c) whether any feasibility study has been conducted to extend the Rajkot Express to Rewa now when the washing pit has been made functioning there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) One train number of 1509/1510 Rewa-Bilaspur Chirmiri Passenger is maintained in the washing pit at Rewa.

(c) and (d) Extension of 1463/1464—1465/1466 Veraval-Rajkot-Jabalpur Express upto Rewa has been examined but it has not been found feasible at present.

*[English]*

#### **Landings and take-offs at Delhi Airport**

286. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether aeroplanes have to wait for an hour to take-off from Delhi airport due to lack of space;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to meet the shortage of runway space in the near future;

(c) the extent to which the Airport Authority of India (AAI) has been able to meet the anticipated growth in air traffic in Delhi; and

(d) the immediate steps likely to be taken to find ways to meet the demand of space for landings and take-offs at Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Delay happens to some flights during the period of bad weather (fog, thunder storm, dust storm etc.) and peak traffic periods and due to the bounding of flights.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) On an average during periods of two runway operations about 35-40 aircrafts land or take-off in one hour at Delhi airport. New procedures have been implemented to handle increased traffic by using both runways. Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (SMGCS) is used by Controllers to visualize the traffic conditions on ground during foggy weather. To meet the increased traffic demands action has been initiated for the construction of new runway, additional taxiways and parking bays.

#### **Re-Designing of the Air-Conditioned 3 Tier Coaches**

287. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are actively considering a proposal to re-design the air-conditioned 3 Tier Coaches for general trains and increase its carrying capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total revenue likely to be earned by the said proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new design and layout for Air Conditioned 3 Tier coach with enhanced passenger carrying capacity of 81 passengers has been finalized. A prototype coach has been manufactured and is presently undergoing design validation trials.

(c) It is not feasible to predict the likely revenue to be earned by the proposal.

(d) Subject to design certification in the trials, the production of such coaches shall commence during 2007-08.

#### **Defence Production Park in Kerala**

288. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has mooted a project for setting up of a Defence Production Park in Kerala;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the details of factories in Kerala which are supplying products for Defence Units and Defence Factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Minister of Industries, Government of Kerala has made a request asking various Defence Organisations to identify suitable projects for manufacturing in hi-tech areas, by setting up a Defence Production Park, in Kerala state. Presently there is no plan to set up a Defence Production Park in the country.

(c) The list of factories in Kerala supplying defence products, which are registered with the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence, is enclosed as Statement.

**Statement****List of Factories in Kerala**

Sl.No.	Factory Name & Address
1	2
1.	Appollo Tyres Ltd., Perambra, Thrissur-680689
2.	Keltron, Keltron Equipment Complex, Karakulam-695564
3.	Western India Plywoods Ltd., Mill Road, Baliapatam, Cannanore
4.	CII Guardian International Ltd., 131, Panampilly Nagar, Cochin-682036
5.	FCI OEN Connectors Ltd., P.B. 1958, Thykoodam, Vyttila, Kochi-682019
6.	Guardian Controls Ltd., 131, Panampilly Nagar, Cochin-682036
7.	Keltron Controls Ltd., P.O. Aeroor, Alappuzha-688534
8.	OEN India Ltd., Vyttila, PB No. 1952, Cochin-682019
9.	Hindustan Furnaces (P) Ltd., Shomur Road (P.O.) Viyyur, Trichur

Sl.No.	Name of Road Over Bridge (ROB)	Location	Term	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Niphad ROB in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 99-B on Igatpuri-Bhusawal Sec	Kms 218/8-9	Cost sharing	General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) approved. State Govt. is requested to take up the entire work on BOT basis
2.	Bortembe ROB on Igatpuri-Bhusawal Sec	Kms 139/6-7	BOT	Approval to GAD is under process.
3.	Ghoti-ROB on Igatpuri-Bhusawal Sec	Kms 145/12-14	BOT	GAD approved.
4.	Ghoti-ROB Widening Igatpuri-Bhusawal Sec	Kms 147/20-21	BOT	GAD approved.

1	2
10.	JK Rubber Products, Industrial Estate, PO Balla Via-Anandashram, Kanhangad
11.	Steel and Industrial Forgings Ltd., Atani Post, Thrissur-680771
12.	Vajra Rubber Products Ltd., XXI/371-A, Pyngode, Konathukunnu (PO), Thrissur District-680123

**[Translation]****Flyovers in Nasik**

289. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to construct flyovers in Nasik District is pending with the department of Railways;

(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) No, Sir. No proposal for construction of Road over bridge on cost sharing basis is pending with Railways. However, seven works are under construction on BOT (Build Operate and Transfer) Scheme.

(b) and (c) BOT works and their status is as under:

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Padli ROB Widening Igatpuri-Bhusawal Sec	Kms 153/24-25	BOT	GAD approved.
6.	Lasalgaon-ROB in lieu of LC No. 105-A on Igatpuri- Bhusawal Sec	Kms 235/22-24	BOT	GAD approved. The response from State Govt. is awaited.
7.	Nandgaon ROB in lieu of LC No. 114-A on Igatpuri- Bhusawal Sec	Kms 285/2-4	BOT	Railway portion work completed. Approach work 95% completed.

*[English]*

#### **Allotment of Retail Outlets to Pending LOI Holders**

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

(a) whether the oil companies are not performing their obligations for procuring the fresh sites for the development of retail outlets to be allotted to the pending LOI holders belonging to corpus funds scheme as advertised;

(b) if so, whether it has caused the harassment to such pending LOI holders;

(c) if so, the time by which oil companies are likely to procure the sites; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are required to procure suitable site and make available the ready retail outlet to the LOI-holder with all basic facilities at its own cost, under the Corpus Fund Scheme. For procurement of land for setting up retail outlets under this scheme, OMCs apply to State Governments and land owning authorities for making available suitable plot of land in the advertised area. Regular follow up is done thereafter with the authorities. Simultaneously, steps are taken to release advertisement in news papers for procurement of land from private parties to avoid delay in land procurement in case Government land is not available.

In case no offer is received against the advertisement, the process of advertisement is repeated at regular intervals. Moreover, keeping in view the hardships faced by the pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders, Ministry vide letter dated September 6, 2006, had issued broad guidelines for operation of temporary Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) retail outlets. As per these broad guidelines, the temporary COCO retail outlets are to be offered to the LOI-holder under Special Scheme (Operation Vijay-Kargil), Discretionary Quota Scheme, Corpus Fund Scheme and other categories, in that order.

(c) and (d) As the process of procurement of land for setting up of retail outlets involve an extensive procedure, a definite time frame cannot be indicated.

#### **Protection and Promotion of Culture Heritage**

291. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise details of schemes undertaken by the Government for protection and development of cultural heritage of the country during the last three years;

(b) the achievements of the Government in terms of making innovations in spreading Indian culture in the remote areas of the country during the last three years; and

(c) the details of amount allocated for the States for the purpose during above period, State-wise?



THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Culture has formulated many schemes for preservation/ protection of Cultural Heritage of the country for which grant is released to non-governmental organisations. No grant is released direct to State Government for implementation of these schemes.

(b) The Ministry through its own schemes as well as those of autonomous organizations and attached/ subordinate offices is spreading Indian culture in the remote areas of the country. A large number of individuals and voluntary organizations in rural areas have benefited from the various schemes of financial assistance.

(c) Does not arise on account of reasons brought out at (a) above.

#### **Competition amongst Airlines**

292. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is intense competition amongst the airlines in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan to create a Corporate Vision and a strong middle management strategy for the future to handle the present situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the year 2005 and 2006 six new Schedule airlines commenced their operations and NOC for import of 136 aircraft in all was granted to Scheduled Airlines leading to higher competition amongst airline operator. With the entry of new schedule private airlines, the domestic passenger traffic has increased from 17.7 millions in the year 2004 to 32.2 millions in the year 2006.

(b) and (c) Government owned airlines Air India and Indian Airlines have their own corporate vision and strategy to face the competition. The Private Airlines are free to chalk out their management strategies and business plans.

*[Translation]*

#### **Cancellation of Allotment of Petrol Pumps**

293. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:  
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

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

(a) the action taken by the Government on the order of Supreme Court cancelling the allotment of petrol pumps and oil depots made during the N.D.A. regime; and

(b) the number of such allotments being cancelled along with the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Ministry has advised Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for compliance of Supreme Court orders in the matter.

(b) The Supreme Court has so far upheld the recommendation of two judge committee for cancellation of the selection made by the then Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) in 147 cases of Retail Outlet dealerships/LPG distributors/SKO-LDO dealerships in various States across the country.

#### **Dedicated Freight Corridor Projects**

294. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:  
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the routes approved for construction of Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Projects;

(b) the progress made so far for development of these Dedicated Freight Corridor Projects; and

(c) the time frame fixed for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Eastern Dedicated Railway Freight Corridor Project will start from Ludhiana in Punjab and will terminate at Son Nagar. This route will be extended to the proposed Deep Sea Port in Kolkata area considering the possibility of increase in freight traffic on account of this port. Western Dedicated Freight Corridor will start from Jawaharlal Nehru Port and will be routed via Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Palanpur and Rewari to Tughlakabad/Dadri.

A new Public Sector Undertaking named Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been formed to implement the projects. As per the present estimate, the work on the projects will be completed in about 5 years after the start of construction of the project.

#### **CNG Facilities**

295. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) the number of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations operating in various cities in the country at present city-wise;

(b) whether the Government has planned for private and joint-ventures to produce and market CNG throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received requests from the State Governments for providing CNG facilities in their States;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) the cities where CNG filling stations are likely to be opened during 2007-2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) According to information provided by various

companies, the number of CNG outlets operating in various cities in the country are as below:-

Name of the Cities	No. of CNG filling stations
Mumbai	115
Thane	6
Mira-Bhayandar	2
Delhi	145
Noida	1
Vijayawada	5
Hyderabad	1
Kanpur	4
Lucknow	4
Agra	1
Agartala	1
Ahmedabad	64
Ankleshwar	1
Bharuch	1
Surat	20
Vadodara	3
Gandhinagar	1
Hazira	1
Total as on date	376

(b) and (c) With the objective of promoting investment from public as well as private sector for laying natural gas trunk pipelines and city/local natural gas networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. To implement city gas distribution systems, GAIL and Oil Marketing Companies have formed the following Joint Venture Companies:

- M/s Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) in Mumbai.
- M/s Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) in Delhi.

- M/s Bhagyanagar Gas Limited (BGL) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- M/s Central UP Gas Limited (CUGL) in Kanpur.
- Green Gas Limited (GGL) in Lucknow and Agra.
- Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited (MNGL) in the State of Maharashtra except Mumbai.
- Aavantika Gas Limited (AGL) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(d) and (e) Government has received requests from certain State Governments to extend CNG in the states. As mentioned in reply to part (a), a large number of CNG outlets have been opened in many cities. GAIL (India) Limited and Oil Marketing Companies have formed many Joint Venture Companies for implementing city gas distribution networks. Providing of CNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

(f) According to information provided by the various companies, CNG stations are likely to be opened in the cities of Indore, Pune, Rajkot, Faridabad, Rajamundry, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Dewas, Vapi, Valsad, Mehsana, Anand, Bilimora, Nadiad, Mehsana, Kalol, Himmatnagar, Surendranagar, Vadhan, Limdi and Morbi in 2007-2008.

[English]

#### **Sound and Light Shows at Udaygiri Caves in Bhubaneswar**

296. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to organize sound and light shows at Udaygiri Caves in Bhubaneswar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which such shows are likely to be started at Udaygiri Caves?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Department of Culture has sanctioned and released Rs. 125.00 lakhs in the year 2002 to Indian Tourism

Development Corporation (ITDC) as deposit work for mounting Sound & Light ad Udaygiri caves in Bhubaneswar. The execution of the works is in progress and civil works are nearly complete. The script for the show has been finalized and it is expected that the Sound and Light show may be commissioned shortly.

#### **Appointment of CMD in ONGC**

297. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:  
SHRI MANORANJAN BHATKA:  
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

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

(a) since when the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has fallen vacant;

(b) whether there has been inordinate delay in the appointment to the said post;

(c) if so, whether the panel recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board has been scrapped;

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

(e) the fresh initiatives taken by the Government for appointment of Chairman-cum-Managing Director in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) The post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has fallen vacant with effect from 25.5.2006, consequent on the expiry of the five-year term of Shri Subir Raha, then CMD, ONGC. The proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for appointment of Shri R.S. Sharma, Director (Finance), ONGC, from the panel recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) as CMD ONGC has been returned by the Competent Authority with direction to provide for fresh selection from a wider choice including candidates from outside PSUs, and also that the selection of CMD, ONGC be made through a Search-cum-Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, PESB. Action in this regard is being taken.

**National Gas Grid**

298. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up National Gas Grid on the lines of power grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the details of the benefits likely to be accrued from setting up of such gas grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) While there is no proposal to set up a national gas grid, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks', with the objective of promoting investment from public as well as private sector. The broad objectives of the policy are:

- (1) To facilitate open access for all players to the pipeline network on a non-discriminatory basis;
- (2) To promote competition among entities, thereby avoiding any abuse of the dominant position by any entity;
- (3) To secure consumer interest in terms of gas availability and reasonable tariff.

A number of companies including GAIL (India) Limited, Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) in the public sector and Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGITIL) in the private sector are at present laying pipeline infrastructure for transportation of gas linking production centres to demand centres, in various parts of the country.

**Deployment of Tourist Police**

299. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to the State Governments to deploy Tourist Police for safety and security of monuments and foreign tourists at all tourist destinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have deployed the Tourist Police in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that all States deploy Tourist Police at the tourist destinations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To ensure the safety and security of monuments and foreign tourists, the Ministry of Tourism has advised the State Governments to deploy Tourist Police at important tourist destinations.

(c) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi etc., have deployed Tourist Police force in one form or another.

(d) Law & order is a subject which falls under the purview of the State/Union Territory concerned. However, in order to ensure the safety & security of tourist the Ministry of Tourism has been making endeavour to persuade the State Governments/Union Territories to deploy tourist police and make appropriate security arrangements at important destinations in the country.

**Black Marketing of LPG**

300. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:  
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of large scale of black marketing and diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to involve or take co-operation from the general public to curb/check such malpractice;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported instances of diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by their LPG distributors. OMCs take action under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and/or Distributorship Agreement against their distributors who are found involved in diversion/black marketing of domestic cylinders. In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 to take action against illegal use of domestic LPG.

(b) to (d) Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

In addition, the following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

- (i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited.

The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

- (ii) The officials of OMCs carry out random check at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. In terms of the MDG, in case of establishment of any diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken 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 of 3rd offence.

- (iii) Government have advised OMCs to introduce different colours for domestic & non-domestic cylinders. This is expected to help in controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

[Translation]

#### Funds for development of SCs and OBCs

301. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and released by the Union Government to various State Governments under various schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) particularly for providing assistance to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes living below poverty line during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, State/UT-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether all the State Governments have utilised the above funds;

(c) if so, the details of utilisation of funds under the schemes during the said period, State/UT-wise and scheme-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the complaints received regarding misutilisation of funds by States/UTs during the said period and the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(f) the measures taken by the Union Government for monitoring of proper utilization of funds by the States/UTs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) No

State-wise allocation is made under the schemes for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The release of Central Assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes is based on the specific proposals as also the utilization certificates for the funds released during the previous year. The period of utilization of funds varies from scheme to scheme. Details of the funds released to various State Governments and Union

Territories in respect of schemes for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes along with utilisation of funds (wherever applicable) during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 are given in the enclosed Statement I & II respectively.

(e) and (f) No such complaint has been received. The utilization of funds is monitored through regular reports and evaluation studies.

***Statement I***

***Central Scheme for Special Central Assistance for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan***

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2005-06		2006-07	
		Released	Utilised*	Released	Utilised*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4532.05	5495.22	2758.95	
2.	Assam	623.82	894.80	499.74	
3.	Bihar	0	618.00	1155.65	
4.	Chhattisgarh	400.01	393.08	449.99	
5.	Gujarat	797.50	1143.24	912.92	
6.	Goa	0	0.10	0.00	
7.	Haryana	1483.7	1442.03	1070.43	
8.	Hiamchal Pradesh	566.62	516.06	446.09	The information will become due after 31.3.07
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	142.15	101.50	145.53	
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	550.61	
11.	Karnataka	2322.63	1838.62	2260.90	
12.	Kerala	0	198.69	109.32	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2627.28	3493.23	3563.41	
14.	Maharashtra	2511.20	2113.73	3392.12	
15.	Manipur	22.47	0	6.86	
16.	Orissa	1576.33	1375.79	1629.26	
17.	Punjab	0	659.16	864.83	
18.	Rajaasthan	3328.75	3644.71	4048.51	

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Sikkim	17.73	17.73	32.43	
20.	Tamil Nadu	4306.62	6326.60	4382.47	
21.	Tripura	243.98	1168.61	230.58	
22.	Uttar Pradesh	11007.30	7821.84	8680.37	
23.	Uttaranchal	806.48	608.48	328.16	
24.	West Bengal	3294.38	3294.38	3185.14	
25.	Chandigarh	25.00	18.02	0.00	
26.	Delhi	79.51	42.08	53.27	
27.	Pondicherry	20.49	12.14	6.10	
Total		40736.00	43241.48	40763.74	

\*This includes expenditure out of unspent balance from previous years.

*Central Assistance released and utilized during 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the provision of the protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2005-06		2006-07	
		Central assistance released	Central assistance utilised	Central assistance released	Central assistance utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	388.38325	393.515	270.86	The information will become due after 31.3.2007
2.	Bihar	13.00000	19.29	13.00	
3.	Chhattisgarh	46.38000	48.065	52.345	
4.	Goa	0.10000	NR	—	
5.	Gujarat	281.03000	287.170	240.085	
6.	Haryana	73.96025	99.92250	61.07	
7.	Jharkhand	—	15.60	40.00	
8.	Karnataka	852.66150	681.365	780.165	
9.	Kerala	117.52000	NR	22.000	

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Madhya Pradesh	820.01000	737.36	712.195	
11.	Maharashtra	426.86000	392.505	142.725	
12.	Orissa	1.20000	4.70963	7.780	
13.	Punjab	21.37500	97.93	55.867	
14.	Rajasthan	87.00000	127.89	21.000	
15.	Sikkim	1.75000	1.875	2.425	
16.	Tamil Nadu	160.72000	NR	43.000	
17.	Uttaranchal	37.00000	14.48	4.000	
18.	Uttar Pradesh	414.10500	666.91	663.235	
19.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50.00000	49.3619	56.8019	
20.	Pondicherry	37.94500	36.3621	40.000	
Total		3831.00		3228.5539	

*The Scheme of Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1317.22	1060.72
2.	Chandigarh	0	148.92
3.	Gujarat	384.31	
4.	Haryana	115.3	144.1
5.	Himachal Pradesh	100.91	
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	50.44	
7.	Kerala	198.16	144.12
8.	Madhya Pradesh	246.1	
9.	Rajasthan	257.17	
10.	Uttar Pradesh	480.39	306.25
Total		3150	1804.12



*Central assistance released and utilized (by the State Govt's/UT Administrations) during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the Post Matric Scholarship for SC students*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2005-06		2006-07	
		Released	Utilised*	Released	Utilised
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9435.46	10448.73	3414.24	
2.	Assam	490.41	468.86	374.86	
3.	Bihar	1100.00	NR	1892.74	
4.	Chhattisgarh	526.00	685.08	734.00	
5.	Goa	3.00	8.66	19.29	
6.	Gujarat	940.12	1254.89	1432.67	
7.	Haryana	456.00	554.45	733.86	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	143.87	59.87	99.29	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	136.31	81.10	173.64	
10.	Jharkhand	Nil	280.9	0.00	
11.	Karnataka	2652.00	3137.44	5142.22	
12.	Kerala	3771.00	4233.62	2453.14	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3064.10	3136.96	2827.98	
14.	Maharashtra	8490.95	NR	2733.36	
15.	Manipur	126.43	126.42	139.32	The information will become due after 31.3.2007
16.	Meghalaya	8.33	NR	1.62	
17.	Orissa	Nil	0.00	1739.78	
18.	Punjab	Nil	372.23	1091.50	
19.	Rajasthan	1508.34	1552.54	3804.48	
20.	Sikkim	Nil	0.00	4.48	
21.	Tamil Nadu	6982.18	6170.38	2819.97	
22.	Tripura	222.39	222.39	161.22	
23.	Uttar Pradesh	11087.00	11083.00	5124.07	
24.	Uttaranchal	296.13	424.74	555.47	
25.	West Bengal	3279.00	2531.96	3534.42	
26.	Daman and Diu	0.50	NR	2.23	
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	NR	0.00	
28.	Delhi	Nil	NR	0.00	
29.	Puducherry	90.00	115.60	100.00	
Total		54809.52		41109.65	

\*amount utilised includes unspent balances from previous years.

*Central assistance released and utilized (by the State Govt's/UT Administrations) during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the Post Matric Scholarship for SC students*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2005-06		2006-07	
		Released	Utilised*	Released	Utilised
1.	Andhra Pradesh	262.37	423.17	311.42	
2.	Assam	2.10	3.66	1.25	
3.	Bihar	0.00	6.44	0.00	
4.	Chhattisgarh	49.06	21.68	45.33	
5.	Goa	1.56	0.62	0.93	
6.	Gujarat	354.03	411.98	590.23	
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	3.66	23.67	
8.	Kerala	0.00	1.686	3.40	
9.	Madhya Pradesh	10.50	54.62	6.30	
10.	Maharashtra	215.62	365.605	129.35	
11.	Orissa	0.00	2.085	0.00	The information will become due after 31.3.2007
12.	Punjab	0.00	27.50	29.26	
13.	Rajasthan	31.94	72.28	103.31	
14.	Tamil Nadu	86.47	125.41	174.15	
15.	Tripura	7.57	7.67	9.35	
16.	Uttar Pradesh	44.16	102.53	129.49	
17.	Uttaranchal	4.78	5.375	7.24	
18.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	25.25	
19.	Puducherry	10.00	2.99	10.00	
Total		1080.16	1638.961	1599.93	

\*amount utilised includes unspent balances from previous years.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	Fund allocated Boys Hostel		Fund allocated Girls Hostel		Fund allocated Upgradation of merit		Fund allocated Coaching & Allied	
		2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		2136	2200	2300	2400	1800	300	320	256
1.	Andhra Pradesh	516.2029	246.3	125.00	1011	44.4	44.4	16.09	125.32
2.	Bihar	0		0		10.95		0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Chhattisgarh	242.675	345.09	96.90	300.2	10.50	7.36	0	0
4.	Gujarat	0.00	—	60.00	109.56	12.36	4.11	0	0
5.	Haryana	0.00	—	0	—	8.70	—	15.56	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	951.8261	—	955.7005	69.08	0	—	0	0
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.3900	—	0	—	0	—	0	0
8.	Jharkhand	111.441	182.13	111.441	19.54	0	—	0	0
9.	Karnataka	0	151.5	0	222	0	28.2	0	0
10.	Kerala	0.00	—	0	—	1.5	2.41	0.00	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	108.00	152.73	153.12	163.47	270.00	58.8	0	0
12.	Orissa	0	—	0	—	186.37	—	0	0
13.	Punjab	0	—	0	—	0	—	3.62	0
14.	Rajasthan	0	167.4	96.75	—	0	12.32	0	0
15.	Sikkim	0	—	0.00	—	3.00	3	0	0
16.	Tripura	151.890	—	0	—	3.00	3	0	0
17.	Uttar Pradesh	169.5750	—	226.10	—	37.17	45.16	0	0
18.	West Bengal	0	—	0	—	34.34	28.97	0	0
19.	Delhi	0	—	0	—	0	—	10.00	0
20.	Pondicherry	0	—	242.52	—	0	—	0	0
Total		2258.00	1245.15	2067.53	1894.85	622.290	237.73	45.27	125.32

**Statement II***The Schemes for Other Backward Classes*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Pre-Matric Scholarship				Post-Matric Scholarship				Hostel for OBCs			
		2005-06		2006-07		2005-06		2006-07		2005-06		2006-07	
		Amount released	Utilisation	Amount released	Utilisation	Amount released	Utilisation	Amount released	Utilisation	Amount released	Utilisation	Amount released	Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	457.86	Utilised	510.00	*	299.02	Utilised	364.73	*	440.00	Utilised		
2.	Bihar			216.38	—	6.56	Utilised	601.78	—			207.79	*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Chhattisgarh											14.62	
4.	Delhi					5.00	Utilised						
5.	Goa					13.90	Utilised						
6.	Gujarat	456.65	Utilised	346.12	—	344.12	Utilised	401.96	—				
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16.50	Utilised					35.57	—	27.25	Utilised	183.48	
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	61.26	Utilised	103.11	—	224.24	Utilised						
9.	Jharkhand											39.08	
10.	Karnataka			122.34	—		Utilised	539.66	—	258.75	Utilised	30.00	
11.	Kerala									48.50	Utilised		
12.	Madhya Pradesh									370.01	Utilised	369.27	
13.	Maharashtra					56.56	Utilised						
14.	Orissa											37.52	
15.	Punjab	100.00	Utilised			138.42	Utilised						
16.	Rajasthan			310.00	—	235.24	Utilised	351.80	—	52.50	Utilised		
17.	Tamil Nadu	400.00	Utilised	400.00	—	290.25	Utilised			252.00	Utilised	346.50	
18.	Uttar Pradesh	296.11	Utilised	225.60	—	640.31	Utilised	671.56	—	159.93	Utilised	295.12	
19.	Uttaranchal	11.58	Utilised	16.40	—	72.53	Utilised	81.94	—				
20.	West Bengal									86.16	Utilised	16.26	
	UTs.												
21.	Pudicherry							44.10	—				
	North East States												
22.	Assam							110.95	—				
23.	Manipur	50.00	Utilised	65.32	—	203.34	Utilised	100.00	—	58.33	Utilised	45.51	
24.	Tripura	121.03	Utilised	139.74	—	111.13	Utilised	131.94	—	38.84	Utilised		
25.	Sikkim							8.06					
	Total	1970.99		2455.01	—	2640.62		3444.05		1792.27		1855.15	

\*The information will become after 31.3.07

*[English]***Voluntary Retirement by Military Nurses**

302. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the AFMS for voluntary retirement of serving Military Nurses during the last three years till date;

(b) whether the number of Military Nurses taking Voluntary Retirement Scheme/Quitting the service has increased following the redesignation of Rank Structures of Military Nurses; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such exodus of Military Nurses?

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

(a) The number of applications received for premature retirement/resignation of Military Nursing Service Officers during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	premature Retirement	Resignation	Total
2004	110	65	175
2005	77	46	123
2006	94	56	150
2007 (till date)	08	02	10

(b) and (c) There is no change in the rank structure of Military Nursing Service Officers. Premature retirement/resignation applications are submitted by the Military Nursing Service Officers mainly on the grounds of compassionate circumstances. The interest of the state is kept in view while considering such cases.

**New Ground Handling Policy for Metro Airports**

303. SHRI UDAY SINGH:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised a new ground handling policy to allow three agencies to perform the job at six major airports that handle a large chunk of aviation traffic;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the salient features of the proposed new policy;

(c) the extent to which it will help to bring international standards to airports in metropolitan cities and restrict the number of agencies involved in ground handling services;

(d) the corrective measures taken to address the apprehension expressed by the private airlines over the policy;

(e) whether separate security measures have been taken while assigning ground handling work to foreign companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) New ground handling policy is under formulation.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

**Setting up of Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)**

304. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision to set up the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) to facilitate the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up of the said Authority; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to set up the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) as per the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006. Ministry of Health & Family

Welfare which has been assigned responsibility of the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, is taking action to set up FSSAI within 6 months.

#### **National Mission for Manuscripts**

305. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mission for Manuscripts in collaboration with UNESCO has drawn up guidelines for more access to archives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The National Mission for Manuscripts is collaborating with UNESCO (India Office) on a short-term project on "Development of Legal and Policy Frameworks, and Protocols for Promoting Equitable Access to Documentary Heritage, relevant to India and South Asian Countries. The project examines the provisions for the accession and transmission of manuscripts in the possession of State and digital copies of manuscripts from various repositories, through a clear understanding between the holder of the manuscript and the Mission on the legal rights of each party.

#### **Income of AI on Cargo to Gulf Countries**

306. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total income derived to the Air India (AI) Company through export of vegetables and other essential commodities to Gulf countries during the last three years;

(b) whether the Air India (AI) Company has entrusted this entire service of transportation of Air India Express Company; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and its likely effect on the earnings of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The total income derived to the Air India through exporting of

vegetables and other essential commodities to Gulf Countries during the last three financial years viz. 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-06 was Rs. 11,574.11 lakhs, Rs. 12,231.24 lakhs and Rs. 9613.42 lakhs respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Railway Route from the Palakkad Division**

307. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has expressed its concern over the proposal of the Railways to remove certain stretches of railway route from the Palakkad division which may lead to the dismantling of the Palakkad Division itself due to the lack of minimum specified route length required for a normal division; and

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

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

(b) Palghat division has sufficient Route Kilometres and workload even after creation of Salem division with proposed jurisdiction.

*[Translation]*

#### **Utilisation of Royalty Amount**

308. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale for providing royalty to oil and gas producing States;

(b) whether the purpose for which the royalty is given, is not being fulfilled by State Governments;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to make provisions for using the money of royalty for development of the places due to which royalty is given;

(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 OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As per the terms of Oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act 1948 and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules 1959 as amended from time to time, royalty is payable to respective State Governments for the oil & gas production in the States.

(b) The purpose has not been specified in Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.

(c) Utilization of royalty amount, so obtained, is the prerogative of concerned State Governments.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Regular Trips by Pawan Hans Helicopter Services**

309. SHRI MANORANJAN BHATKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to fly Pawan Hans Helicopters Services regularly between Port Blair and Great Nicobar to ferry the general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has already given two Dauphin helicopters on wet lease basis to Andaman-island

connectivity. Andaman & Nicobar Administration is accordingly utilising the same for various tasks including running regular passenger services connecting important islands.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Schemes run by NSKFDC**

310. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being run by National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) for the overall social and economic upliftment of safai karamcharis and their dependents;

(b) the dates since when the said schemes have been under implementation and the details of annual amount spent thereon every year;

(c) the funds allocated and released by the corporation and utilised by State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) during 2006-07, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which the said schemes have been successful in upliftment of safai karamcharis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The details of the schemes of NSKFDC are as follows:

Name of the Scheme	Date of introduction	Funds released during 2005-06 (Rs. in crores)
Term Loan Scheme	24.01.1997	29.80
Micro Credit Finance (MCF)	24.01.1997	2.68
Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY)	01.10.2003	19.12
Education Loan	01.10.2003	0.01

(c) The state-wise details of funds allocated and released by NSKFDC and utilised by SCAs during 2006-07 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) An independent evaluation of the schemes of NSKFDC conducted by Indian Social Institute, New Delhi has revealed that these schemes are helping the target group in settling in alternative occupations.

***Statement***

*State/UT-wise details of funds allocated and released by NSKFDC and utilised by SCAs during 2006-07 (upto 31.01.2007)*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State of SCA	Funds allocated	Funds Disbursed	Funds utilised*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	725.00	422.24	803.65
2.	Assam	42.00	0.00	46.12
3.	Bihar	120.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Chandigarh	32.00	6.75	6.47
5.	Chhattisgarh	425.00	255.70	3.65
6.	Delhi	37.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	10.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	265.00	1137.36	54.98
9.	Haryana	112.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	185.00	216.90	4.50
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	62.00	0.00	98.44
12.	Jharkhand	62.00	62.50	25.33
13.	Karnataka	740.00	792.70	432.34
14.	Kerala	32.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	590.00	833.82	864.50
16.	Maharashtra	490.00	202.35	331.84
17.	Manipur	17.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	17.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	17.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	39.00	165.40	2.22



1	2	3	4	5
21.	Pondicherry	70.00	3.66	0.00
22.	Punjab	75.00	25.21	20.12
23.	Rajasthan	370.00	98.44	152.95
24.	Tamil Nadu	32.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	20.00	0.00	2.25
26.	Uttar Pradesh	440.00	410.10	763.42
27.	Uttaranchal	42.00	0.00	65.53
28.	West Bengal	32.00	12.20	0.00
Total		5100.00	4645.33	3678.31

Note: \*Funds utilised also include utilisation of funds released in previous years.

**Upgradation of Food Laboratory  
in Madhya Pradesh**

311. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for upgradation of Food Testing Laboratory in the State;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which approval would be accorded to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A proposal for upgradation of Food Testing Laboratory under the Food and Drug Administration of Madhya Pradesh has been received by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The proposal has been approved. The approval in this regard has been conveyed to the organization. However, the organization has not agreed to adhere to the conditions of extending the testing facilities to the food processing units in and around area on commercial basis as the laboratory is being funded out of public funds. The matter is being further re-examined.

*[English]*

**Royalty on Production of Oil and Gas**

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

(a) the revenue collected as royalty on production of Oil and Gas from exploration and production companies during each of the last three years;

(b) the projected production, supply and demand of natural gas during 2007-2015;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy to protect its revenue collection, allow exploration and production companies to sell natural gas at any price to the consumers and avoid any loss of revenue in terms of royalty and profit to the government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Royalty paid to the Central and State Governments on production of oil & gas during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount (In Crore)
2003-04	3854.69
2004-05	4904.08
2005-06	6113.38

(b) As per report of the working group on Petroleum & Natural Gas for the XI Plan (2007-2012), the supply and demand projections are as under:-

Sl.No.	Year	Supply	Demand
1.	2007-08	110.99	179.17
2.	2008-09	153.58	196.64
3.	2009-10	242.47	225.52
4.	2010-11	267.09	262.07
5.	2011-12	285.42	279.43

(Figures in MMSCMD)

(c) and (d) The Government does not propose to formulate a new policy at the moment. As per the existing provisions of the Production Sharing Contracts, the Operators are free to sell the gas at market driven prices.

#### **Amendment in Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972**

313. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make amendment in the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 to keep an eye on export and import of antiques;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed law is likely to be made more stringent with a view to make offences cognizable;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has decided to take up the matter with those countries where the artifacts have been smuggled; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is proposing to make amendments to the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 to make the provisions more stringent with a view to curb illegal trafficking in antiquities.

The proposed amendments provide for periodical verification of the registered antiquities, higher punishments for commission of certain offences punishable under the Act, restriction on transfer of antiquities to foreign nationals, restrictions in making unauthorized replicas of antiquities, making certain offences under the Act non-cognizable and non-bailable, etc.

(e) and (f) Whenever reliable information is received about the presence of smuggled Indian antiquities in any other country, steps for its retrieval are being taken up in accordance with the establishment procedures.

Details of such cases under process presently are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### ***Cases under Process for Retrieval of Indian Antiquities from Abroad***

- (i) Five sculptures from British Museum, London.
- (ii) Astronomical Tools (5) from Egypt.
- (iii) One sculpture of Thirthankar from Washington.
- (iv) One sculpture of Nataraj from London (U.K.).
- (v) One sculpture of Varah from Switzerland.

#### **e-Booking of Air Tickets**

314. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether procedure of e-booking of the air tickets is flawed in view of reported fraudulent buying of tickets in case of private airlines;

(b) if so, the year-wise status of such cases in the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb such menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Director General of Civil Aviation, the regulatory authority has not received any complaints regarding fraudulent buying of airline e-tickets.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Allotment of Gas Agencies**

315. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil PSUs have not allotted any Gas Agency since 2003;

(b) whether few Letter of Intent issued in the year 2003, have not been given dealership so far;

(c) if so, whether present strength of Gas Agencies in all over the country is sufficient to fulfil the day-to-day requirement of LPG;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for stopping the allotment of new Gas Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have allotted 1140 LPG distributorship since 2003 and up to 01.01.2007.

(b) OMCs have issued 15 Letter of Intent (LOI) for setting up of LPG distributorships in the year 2003 which are pending for commissioning due to various reasons such as non-availability of land, construction of godown, court cases/complaints, statutory clearances from various authorities, etc.

(c) to (e) As on 01.01.2007, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 9344 LPG distributorships in the country. Through these distributorships, OMCs are serving about 932 lakh LPG customers in the country. The genuine demand of customers registered with LPG distributors is being fully met.

Government have given freedom to OMCs to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 791 locations for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations.

**Expansion of Indian Railways Operation to Sri Lanka**

316. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways propose to expand its operation to Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be spent on this joint venture;

(c) whether the Railways also propose to explore the possibility of extending its network to other SAARC countries;

(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) Yes, Sir. Surveys have been taken up for providing rail connectivity in five locations each in border areas of Nepal and Bhutan. Ministry of External Affairs through RITES had carried out a feasibility study for Indian-Myanmar Rail Link.

**New Maynaguri-Jogidhopa Railway Line**

317. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction at New Maynaguri-Jogidhopa line;

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the railway line has been diverted and being constructed a New Maynaguri-Abhayapuri line instead of Jogidhopa;

(d) if so, the reasons for such diversion;

(e) whether the public, local representatives and the demand committee were taken into confidence while the decision for diversion was taken; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge work taken up. The overall physical progress is about 15%.

(b) Completion target has not been fixed.

(c) No, Sir. Take off point of the line at Jogighopa end is Abhayapuri as envisaged at the survey stage.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### Setting up of Refinery in Barmer

318. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of setting up of refinery in Barmer, Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government is facing obstacles in setting up of a refinery in Barmer district of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to remove these obstacles;

(e) whether any target has been fixed by the Government for starting and completion of the work for the refinery; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) In consideration of the difficult characteristics of the Rajasthan Crude Oil, being very heavy and highway waxy in nature (with very high pour point) and the difficulty in transporting it to a distant Refinery location for further processing, it was envisaged that feasibility of setting up a well-head Refinery be explored by a JV of MRPL, ONGC and Cairn. MRPL was nominated to purchase the crude.

Based on a Preliminary Feasibility Study and Economic viability analysis of the project, it has been reported that:-

(i) To process the heavy & waxy Rajasthan Crude, a highly complex configuration of the Refinery shall be required.

(ii) A crude oil pipeline connecting the Oil field with the nearest sea Port shall be necessary:

(a) to provide evacuation of the Rajasthan crude in the early phase due to mismatch between the schedule of Crude oil production and commissioning of the Refinery.

(b) for bringing in imported Crude oil in the later phase to ensure optimal capacity utilization of the refinery commensurate to huge investment in the asset.

(iii) major part of the refined products will require long-distance transportation/evacuation, largely to the demand centres, overseas, in view of low demand in the State of Rajasthan and refining self-sufficiency in the neighbouring states.

The cumulative impact of the above requirements call for huge investments, much higher than the investments required for the development of normal refineries which (i) are based on lighter crude oils, sourced from various locations, without any short-life span supply constraints and (ii) are located closer to the demand centers or have easy access to export markets.

(b) and (c) ONGC has reported that the economic viability of the high investment requires fiscal incentives and other benefits from the Government of Rajasthan, much higher than the Refinery Projects in other parts of the country. ONGC have requested the State Government to consider the required fiscal incentives and support, for the viability of huge investments in the Well-head Refinery Project.

(d) to (f) On receipt of a favourable consideration of the incentive package and other support from the Government of Rajasthan, ONGC would be able to draw the action plan for development of the Refinery.

*[English]*

#### Light Combat Aircraft

319. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has undergone user trials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Tejas compare with other multi role aircraft in the world;

(d) whether it is a fact that due to delay in implementing the project the LCA technology has become outdated; and

(e) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Five Tejas are currently being flight tested for Initial Operational Clearance by the Indian Air Force pilots posted at National Test Centre of Aeronautical Development Agency, Ministry of Defence. So far 629 flights accumulating 334 hours have been completed. Twenty aircrafts have been ordered by the Indian Air Force as the first lot.

(c) to (e) The Light Combat Aircraft, which is multi-role aircraft, employs the same technologies which are existing in the other multi-role aircrafts in the world. These technologies are digital fly-by-wire flight control system, digital avionics, glass cockpit, composite structure, open system architecture avionics and state-of-the-art sensors and technologies. Its performance is comparable to the other multi-role aircraft in the same class of light-weight combat aircraft.

*[Translation]*

#### **Certificate and Pension to Handicapped Persons**

320. **SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that handicapped persons are facing difficulties in obtaining handicapped certificate and pension and there is no clear cut rehabilitation policy in this regard in the country as appeared in the Dainik Jagran dated February 03, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the extent of financial assistance and other relief including pension provided to the handicapped persons and the details of the benefits received by them from the Union and State Government, State-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):** (a) to (c) The Government has issued guidelines for evaluation & assessment of various disabilities for issue of disability certificates and the States/UTs have constituted medical boards at the district level for issue of these certificates. Camps are being organized at block/panchayat level for the purpose particularly in the remote areas. Necessary guidelines have been issued to the States/UTs to ensure issue of the disability certificates with least difficulty and in shortest possible time. National Policy for Persons with Disabilities has been adopted in February, 2006, which deals with all aspects including rehabilitation.

(d) Disability pension/Unemployment allowance to the persons with disabilities is provided by the State Governments/UT Administrations, details with regard to which are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Status regarding grant of unemployment allowance and disability pension
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Unemployment Allowance of Rs. 75/- p.m. Disability Pension of Rs. 125/- p.m.
2.	Chhattisgarh	Disability Pension of Rs. 150/- p.m.
3.	Delhi	Unemployment allowance of Rs. 350/- p.m.
4.	Goa	Disability pension of Rs. 750/- p.m. with 5% annual increase
5.	Haryana	Disability Pension of Rs. 600/- p.m.

1	2	3
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	Disability Pension of Rs. 300/- p.m.
7.	Kerala	Special pension scheme for disabled persons having an annual family income of Rs. 12,000 or less.
8.	Mizoram	Disability Pension of Rs. 100/- p.m.
9.	Meghalaya	Disability Pension of Rs. 50/- p.m.
10.	Nagaland	Disability Pension of Rs. 100/- p.m.
11.	Orissa	Disability Pension of Rs. 100/- p.m.
12.	Punjab	Disability Pension of Rs. 250/- p.m.
		Unemployment Allowance of Rs. 150/- to Rs. 600/- p.m. depending upon the educational qualification.
13.	Rajasthan	Disability Pension of Rs. 200 p.m.
14.	Sikkim	Subsistence allowance of Rs. 500/- p.m. to 1500 persons with disabilities at any given time due to limited budget.
15.	Tamil Nadu	Unemployment allowance of Rs. 400/- to Rs. 500/- p.m. depending upon educational qualification.
16.	Tripura	Unemployment allowance of Rs. 500/- p.m. to blind persons. Blind persons below poverty line are given unemployment allowance of Rs. 1000/- p.m. and disability pension of Rs. 300/- p.m. to all disabled persons.
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Disability Pension of Rs. 125/- p.m.
18.	Uttaranchal	Disability Pension of Rs. 400/- p.m.
19.	West Bengal	Disability Pension of Rs. 500/- p.m. to a fixed number of disabled persons due to limited funds.
20.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Unemployment allowance Rs. 100/- p.m.
21.	Chandigarh	Unemployment allowance of Rs. 150/- to Rs. 400/- p.m. depending upon educational qualification.
22.	Lakshadweep	Disability Pension of Rs. 100/- p.m.
23.	Pondicherry	Unemployment allowance of Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- p.m. depending upon educational qualification.

*[English]***Issue/Sale of Railway Tickets**

321. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
 SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
 SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:  
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
 SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:  
 SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
 SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to issue/sale of railway tickets through banks, post office, petrol pumps and other means;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with concerned departments/authorities for issue/selling of railway tickets;

(d) if so, the details and the terms and conditions thereof;

(e) the charges levied on availing such facility;

(f) the places where such facility is to be started initially;

(g) the time by which such facilities is likely to be available to railway passengers;

(h) whether the Railways have ascertained the implication of such system before its introduction; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (g) With a view to improve disbursement of railway tickets, following steps have been taken:-

- (i) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with State Bank of India (SBI) and six other Nationalized Banks namely Punjab National Banks, Dena Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and Union Bank of India to install ATMs at 1393 locations across the nation.

Out of 1393 locations, facility of issuing tickets through Internet will be provided at 857 locations.

- (ii) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with District Magistrates of Nawashahar, Kapurthala and Muktsar Districts of Punjab, Government of Andhra Pradesh (e-Seva) Department of Information Technology (e-Suvidha) and District Magistrate of Bareilly of Government of Uttar Pradesh, Government of Manipur (Manitron), Government of Rajasthan (E-Mitra Society), District Magistrate/Indore (Samadhan Samiti), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Sify Cyber Cafes, Distributors of ITZ Cash Card, Done Cash Card Utility Limited and Hughes Communication India Limited for issue of e-tickets and services are operational at their outlets.

- (iii) Decision has also been taken for issue of railway tickets through Post Offices.

The broad terms and conditions, the charges to be levied for these facilities and other details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(h) and (i) These agreements are being signed after careful examination keeping all the possible repercussions in mind and all necessary safeguards have been taken to avoid its misuse.

***Statement******Terms and Conditions for issue of Railway Tickets through various agencies*****1. Issuing of tickets through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)**

- (a) Tickets will be issued through the Kiosks installed by the side of the ATMs with PCs connected to Internet.
- (b) The Bank will have to issue tickets through ATMs on fixed service charges to be paid by the passengers on different type of tickets. Banks will have the discretion of fix transaction charges for issue of tickets through kiosks.
- (c) Initial and recurring cost of installation of ATM structure and electricity and connectivity charges will be borne by the Banks.

- (d) Banks will have to pay annual license fee to be fixed by the Railway for each of the location.
- (e) The facility of issuing e-tickets through ATMs is likely to be provided at 857 locations.
- (f) A time period of twelve to fifteen months from the date of signing of MoU have been given to the Banks for installation of ATMs at various locations.

**Issuing of Tickets through Petrol Pumps and other agencies:**

- (a) The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) shall provide to the agents, the facility for transacting with Indian Railway's Passenger Reservation System through the Internet.
- (b) Indian Railways rules for reservation and booking of E-tickets shall apply to all such transactions along with special conditions imposed for Internet based E-Booking.
- (c) That terms & conditions of service applicable on E-booking of tickets through IRCTC's Website is Mutatis Mutandis applicable on the tickets booked by the Agents.
- (d) These Agents are required to purchase a class 3 personal digital certificate from any Indian Certifying Authority for their authorized user the details of which will be provided by them to IRCTC.
- (e) When any Agent logs In, IRCTC application will authenticate the digital certificate, and if authorized, will allow him/her to book without applying any restriction on number of tickets to be booked.
- (f) The Agents will book the ticket as per the normal flow, and will give the identity card details of any traveler.
- (g) Payment by the Agents to IRCTC for E-Booking tickets will be made online, and only Direct Debit using Internet Banking and Cash Card options will be made available for such payments.
- (h) Details terms and conditions and charges to be realized by the agents are available on the website of IRCTC i.e. [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in).

**3. Issuing of Tickets through Post Offices**

The proposal for selling of tickets through Post Offices is under finalization in consultation with Department of Post.

**Computerised Railway Reservation Centres**

322. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of computerised Railway Reservation Centres operating in various cities/towns and Railway Stations under East Coast Railways as on date;

(b) whether the Railways have any proposal to open new computerised Railway Reservation Centres during 2007-08; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Computerised Centres are operating at 54 locations in cities/towns and railway stations under East Coast Railway namely Anugul, Balugaon, Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar (Assembly), Bhubaneswar (Chandrasekharpur), Berhampur, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Cuttack (RCD), Chatrapur, Chilka, Dhenkanal, Jaipur Keonjhar Road, Kendrapada, Khurda Road, Puri, Puri (Bagala Dharmasal), Paradeep, Palasa, Talcher, Duvvada, Jagdalpur, Jeypore, Koraput, Paralakhemundi, Raygada, Simhachalam, Srikakulam, Srikakulam Town, Visakhapatnam, Visakhapatnam CBO, Viskhapatnam (MVP Colony), Visakhapatnam (Naval Base), Visakhapatnam (Gujwuka), Visakhapatnam (Gyanapuram), Vizianagaram, Bargarh Road, Balangir, Hirkud, Kantabanji, Resinga, Mahasamund, Sambalpur, Sembalpur Road, Titlagarh, Nawapara Road, Jagatsinghpur, Sonapur, Bhawanipatna, Dantewara, Keonjhar Road, Malkangiri, Parvathipuram and Boudh.

(b) and (c) Computerised Reservation centres are likely to be commissioned shortly at 143 locations as detailed in the enclosed Statement.

- |          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ahwa  | Western Railway            |
| 2. Along | Northeast Frontier Railway |



3. Along (Defence) .	Northeast Frontier Railway	33. Deogarh	Eastern Railway
4. Ambassa	Northeast Frontier Railway	34. Dharmund (Defence)	Northern Railway
5. Anini	Northeast Frontier Railway	35. Dhuliyan Ganga	Eastern Railway
6. Anjaw	Northeast Frontier Railway	36. Goda	Northern Railway
7. Attari Railway Stations	Northern Railway	37. Getore Jagatpura	North Western Railway
8. Auraiya	North Central Railway	38. Gohana	Northern Railway
9. Bagmara	Northeast Frontier Railway	39. Greater Noida	Northern Railway
10. Bairagarh (Defence)	Western Railway	40. Gurgaon IInd location	Northern Railway
11. Banmankhi	East Central Railway	41. Gyalshing	Northeast Frontier Railway
12. Banmor	North Central Railway	42. Hojai	Northeast Frontier Railway
13. Baraut	Northern Railway	43. Howbagh	South East Central Railway
14. Bareilly Cantt	Northern Railway	44. IIT/Guwahati	Northeast Frontier Railway
15. Barsi Town	Central Railway	45. IIT/Delhi	Northern Railway
16. Basni	North Western Railway	46. Ins Angre	Western Railway
17. Bhinga	North Eastern Railway	47. Jaipur Town	East Coast Railway
18. Bijapur City	South Western Railway	48. Jamia Millia Islamia Univ.	Northern Railway
19. Bishnupur	Northeast Frontier Railway	49. Jangipur	Eastern Railway
20. Bomdila	Northeast Frontier Railway	50. Jashpur	South East Central Railway
21. Car Nicobar	Eastern Railway	51. Hajipur	Northern Railway
22. Ceeri/Pilani	Northeast Western Railway	52. Jodhpur Cantt	North Western Railway
23. Champhai	Northeast Frontier Railway	53. Jowai	Northeast Frontier Railway
24. Chandel	Northeast Frontier Railway	54. Junnardeo	Central Railway
25. Chandimandir (Defence)	Northern Railway	55. Kailashahar	Northeast Frontier Railway
26. Changlang	Northeast Frontier Railway	56. Kamtaul	East Central Railway
27. Chikmagalur	South Western Railway	57. Kanker	South East Central Railway
28. Chungthang	Northeast Frontier Railway	58. Karnataka Legislators Home	South Western Railway
29. Churachandpur	Northeast Frontier Railway	59. Kasauni	North Eastern Railway
30. Collectorate Compound Chhapra	North Eastern Railway	60. Khagraghat	Eastern Railway
31. Daporijo	Northeast Frontier Railway	61. Khaira	North Eastern Railway
32. Debagarh	East Coast Railway	62. Khajoli	East Central Railway

63. Khamangaon	Central Railway	93. Nasirabad	North Western Railway
64. Khonsa	Northeast Frontier Railway	94. Navapur	Western Railway
65. Kiphore	Northeast Frontier Railway	95. Naya Ghaziabad	Northern Railway
66. Kolasib	Northeast Frontier Railway	96. Nayagarh	East Coast Railway
67. Kuchaman City	North Western Railway	97. Nongpoh	Northeast Frontier Railway
68. Kurung Kumey	Northeast Frontier Railway	98. Nongstoin	Northeast Frontier Railway
69. Lalgarh	North Western Railway	99. Oras	Central Railway
70. Laukha Bazar	East Central Railway	100. Pondol	East Central Railway
71. Lawngtlai	Northeast Frontier Railway	101. Paonta Sahaib	Northern Railway
72. Lemakhong (Manipur)	Northeast Frontier Railway	102. Parasia	Central Railway
73. Longleng	Northeast Frontier Railway	103. Partapur (Defence)	Northern Railway
74. Lucknow Cantt (Defence)	Northern Railway	104. Patna Airport	East Central Railway
75. Lunglei	Northeast Frontier Railway	105. Peren	Northeast Frontier Railway
76. Madras High Court	Southern Railway	106. Phaphund	North Central Railway
77. Majhulia	East Central Railway	107. Phek	Northeast Frontier Railway
78. Mamit	Northeast Frontier Railway	108. Phulbani	East Coast Railway
79. Mandi Dabwali	North Western Railway	109. Poonch	Northern Railway
80. Mangaldoi	Northeast Frontier Railway	110. Poonch (Defence)	Northern Railway
81. Mangan	Northeast Frontier Railway	111. Porompat	Northeast Frontier Railway
82. Mango	South Eastern Railway	112. Raiwala (Defence)	Northern Railway
83. Mantripukhi	Northeast Frontier Railway	113. Rajnagar	East Central Railway
84. Meerut Cantt (Defence)	Northern Railway	114. Rambagh (Srinagar)	Northern Railway
85. Mohamadabad	North Eastern Railway	115. Roing	Northeast Frontier Railway
86. Mokokchung	Northeast Frontier Railway	116. Sahibabad	Northern Railway
87. Mon	Northeast Frontier Railway	117. Saiha	Northeast Frontier Railway
88. Morigaon	Northeast Frontier Railway	118. Sakri	East Central Railway
89. Nabarangapur	East Coast Railway	119. Senapati	Northeast Frontier Railway
90. Nagaon	Northeast Frontier Railway	120. Seppa	Northeast Frontier Railway
91. Nagrota	Northern Railway	121. Serchhip	Northeast Frontier Railway
92. Nalia	Western Railway	122. Singtam	Northeast Frontier Railway
		123. Sundergarh	South Eastern Railway

124. Suratgarh Cantt	North Western Railway
125. Tamenglong	Northeast Frontier Railway
126. Tamkhui Road	North Eastern Railway
127. Tawang	Northeast Frontier Railway
128. Thoubal	Northeast Frontier Railway
129. Tiruvanmiyur Railway Station	Southern Railway
130. Titwala	Central Railway
131. Tuensang	Northeast Frontier Railway
132. Tura	Northeast Frontier Railway
133. Udaipur	Northeast Frontier Railway
134. Ukhrul	Northeast Frontier Railway
135. Una (Gujarat)	Western Railway
136. Utarlai Railway Station	North Western Railway
137. Venkatagiri	South Central Railway
138. Vijayanagar	Western Railway
139. William Nagar	Northeast Frontier Railway
140. Wokha	Northeast Frontier Railway
141. Yingkiong	Northeast Frontier Railway
142. Ziro	Northeast Frontier Railway
143. Zunheboto	Northeast Frontier Railway

#### **Ahmedabad Airport**

323. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project of Rs. 291 crores has been prepared for International Airport at Ahmedabad and project is pending for clearance from Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to start the work on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The project of construction of a New International Terminal Building at Ahmedabad Airport at a cost of Rs. 290.92 crores has been approved.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already taken up the project execution.

#### **Promotion of Cultural Tourism**

324. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to promote cultural tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken to attract the Buddhist tourist specially from the South East Asian and East Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has launched a campaign titled "Cultural and World Heritage Sites of India" in the domestic market to promote cultural tourism.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism had undertaken a major campaign titled "Come to India and Walk with the Buddha" in the predominantly Buddhist market in South East Asian and East Asian regions during 2004-05. The current year's campaign also highlights our Buddhist heritage in the said market.

India's cultural heritage including Buddhist Heritage is also given worldwide publicity through the official website of the Ministry and production of publicity material for distribution by India tourism offices in India and abroad.

*[Translation]*

#### **Air Service to Shirdi**

325. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to link air connectivity to world famous Sai Baba Shirdi Dham situated at Ahmednagar in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the progress made in this regard so far along with the reason for delay; and

(d) the time by which the world famous Dham is likely to be connected with Air service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no proposal under consideration to construct an airport at Shirdi. However, State Government of Maharashtra through Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation (MADC) had got the area surveyed and identified 450 hectares of land close to Shirdi for an airport. MADC has also appointed M/s L & T Ramboll as consultant for the preparation of preliminary viability report.

#### **CPSUs in Chhattisgarh**

326. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Heavy Industries and Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) being run by the Union Government in the State of Chhattisgarh at present;

(b) the profit/loss of those Heavy Industries and CPSUs;

(c) the number of CPSUs declared sick out of them at present;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their revival; and

(e) the name of CPSUs out of them which are being considered for disinvestment by the Government along with the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Two Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) namely Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd. and Central Coalfields Ltd. are having their registered offices in the State of Chhattisgarh.

(b) The profit earned by these CPSEs during 2005-06 was Rs. 5.68 crore and Rs. 1711.66 crore respectively.

(c) and (d) None of these CPSEs are sick as both are having positive network.

(e) There is no decision of disinvestment in respect of these CPSEs.

*[English]*

#### **Review of Category-III Fog Equipment**

327. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether category-III equipment is not of much use and passengers have to face flight cancellation and hardships of cold weather;

(b) if so, whether the Government has reviewed the category-III equipment installed at Delhi and other airports in the country to cope with foggy weather;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the situation to avoid inconvenience to the passengers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. ILS Category III has been useful to the airline pilots during the periods of poor visibility conditions at IGI Airport, Delhi when the visibility drops even upto 50 meters. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has provided ground complement of CAT III B ILS at runway 28 and Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control Systems (ASMGCS) at IGI Airport. The system works with the complementary system on board the aircraft. Ground complement of the system has been found to be working satisfactorily and is being used by CAT III compliant pilots and aircrafts.

(d) ILS facility at Kolkata is being upgraded to CAT-II. It is also proposed to upgrade ILS facility to CAT-II at Lucknow, Amritsar and Jaipur airports.

#### **Century Old Railways as 'Heritage Railways'**

328. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have planned to earmark the century old railways as 'Heritage Railways';

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted for the proposals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Modernizing of Railway Signaling, Track and Rolling Stock**

329. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to invest over Rs. 1 lakh crores for modernizing of Railway signaling, track & rolling stock;

(b) if so, the details of break-up for proposed investment; and

(c) zone-wise works to be undertaken and fund to be allocated for said works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Modernization of railway signaling, track & rolling stock is a continuous process and funds are being made available in the annual plan as per requirement subject to overall availability of resources.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Basic Facilities to Rajya and Zila Sainik Boards**

330. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajya and Zila Sainik Boards do not even have basic facilities in terms of manpower and accommodation;

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

(c) whether the Union Government had written to State Governments to fill up vacant posts in these Boards at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the response received by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) There are 32 Rajya Sainik Boards and 352 Zila Sainik Boards under the administrative control of various State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Some of the Boards do not have adequate manpower and accommodation.

(b) The authorized and existing manpower in these Boards is 4317 and 3286 respectively. The shortage of manpower is because some of the State Governments/ Union Territories have not filled up the vacant posts.

(c) and (d) The Government has requested State Governments to fill up the vacant posts in these Boards expeditiously and in their response State Governments have assured positive consideration.

*[Translation]*

**Theft of Idols from Jain Temple**

331. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ten idols of ashtadhatu from a Jain Temple of Gurgaon have recently been stolen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Haryana State Police, 10 Astadhatu idols were reported stolen from Jain temple located in Jacumpura, Gurgaon. The thefts are not from centrally protected monuments.

The list of idols stolen is enclosed as Statement.

(c) To ensure protection of the ancient sculptures and artefacts in nationally protected monuments, sites and museums, watch and ward staff have been deployed. Their strength has been supplemented by private security guards, State Police and Central Industrial Security Force.

**Statement****List of Ten Idols of Astadhatu Stolen from Jain Temples in Gurgaon Recently**

1. Two idols of Aadi Nath Bhagwan which are made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu), brass (Yellow) coloured, 12 inches in height Bull Sign.
2. One Idol of Khadgaon Bahubali which is made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu brass) (Yellow) coloured, 9 inches in height
3. One Idol of Mahabair Bhagwan which is made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu), brass (Yellow) coloured, of 12 inches in height Loin.
4. One idol of Chahu Mukhi which is made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu), brass (Yellow) coloured, 4 inches in height.
5. One Idol of Parsho Nath which is made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu), brass (Yellow) coloured, 4 inches in height Sharp.
6. One Idol of Panch Parmeshri which is made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu), brass (Yellow) coloured, 4 inches in height.
7. One Idol of Arihant Bhagwan which is made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu), brass (Yellow) coloured, 4 inches in height.
8. One Idol of Chobisi which is made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu), brass (Yellow) coloured, 4 inches in height.
9. One Idol of Mahabir Bhagwan which is made up of mixture of eight metals (Asta Dhatu), Brass (Yellow) coloured, 4 inches in height.

**[English]****Centrally Protected Monuments in Rajasthan**

332. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally protected monuments in Rajasthan;

(b) the amount spent on protection and preservation of these centrally protected monuments during the last three years; and

(c) the revenue earned by the Government from these monuments during the above said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The list of 160 centrally protected monuments/sites in Rajasthan under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India is enclosed as statement.

(b) The expenditure incurred on conservation, preservation, maintenance and development of their environs during the last three years is as under:

2003-04	Rs. 341.34 lakhs
2004-05	Rs. 279.97 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 285.00 lakhs

During the year 2006-07, expenditure of Rs. 295.00 lakhs has been incurred upon January, 2007.

(c) The revenue earned from these monuments during the last three years is as under:

2003-04	Rs. 39.70 lakhs
2004-05	Rs. 57.17 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 55.76 lakhs
2006-07 (Upto January, 2007)	Rs. 50.85 lakhs

**Statement****The List of centrally protected monuments/sites under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in Rajasthan**

Sl.No.	Name of monument/site	Locality	District
1	2	3	4
1.	Adhai Din-ka-Jhonpra	Ajmer	Ajmer
2.	Baori on the Ajmer-Jaipur Road	Ajmer	Ajmer

1	2	3	4
3.	Badshahi Haveli	Ajmer	Ajmer
4.	Delhi Gate consisting of one archway	Ajmer	Ajmer
5.	Gateway of Taragarh Hill	Ajmer	Ajmer
6.	Marble Pavilions and Balustrade on the Ana Sagar Bandh and the Ruins of the Marble Hamman behind the Ana Sagar Bandh	Ajmer	Ajmer
7.	Saheli Bazar Buildings in Daulat Bagh	Ajmer	Ajmer
8.	Tomb of Allauddin Khan known as "Sola Thumba"	Ajmer	Ajmer
9.	Tomb of Abdulla Khan and his wife	Ajmer	Ajmer
10.	Tripolia Gate	Ajmer	Ajmer
11.	Magazine Building in Akbar Fort	Ajmer	Ajmer
12.	Kos Minar erected by Emperor Akbar	Ajmer-Jaipur Road	Ajmer
13.	Kos Minar erected by Emperor Akbar	Ajmer-Jaipur Road	Ajmer
14.	Kos Minar erected by Emperor Akbar	Chatri	Ajmer
15.	Sarai	Chatri	Ajmer
16.	Kos Minar erected by Emperor Akbar	Chugra	Ajmer
17.	Kos Minar erected by Emperor Akbar	Hoshiara	Ajmer
18.	Kos Minar erected by Emperor Akbar	Hoshiara	Ajmer
19.	Kos Minar erected by Emperor Akbar	Kair	Ajmer
20.	Kos Minar erected by Emperor Akbar	Khanpura	Ajmer
21.	Mahal Badshahi	Pushkar	Ajmer
22.	Bhandasar Jain Temple	Bikaner	Bikaner
23.	Jain Temple of susani Goddess	Morkhana	Bikaner
24.	Siva temple and ruins	Arthuna	Banswara
25.	Mahakal and two other temples	Bijolia	Bhilwara
26.	Rock Inscriptions (12 century)	Bijolia	Bhilwara
27.	Rock Inscriptions within the Paraswanth Temple compound (12 century)	Bijolia	Bhilwara

1	2	3	4
28.	Ancient temple known as Kaneriki Putali	Khadipur village	Bhilwara
29.	Wall Paintings of Hardoi School in the palace	Bundi	Bundi
30.	Ancient Mound	Nainwa	Bundi
31.	Ancient Mound	Keshwarai Patan	Bundi
32.	Ghateshwar Temple	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
33.	Kund	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
34.	Shrinagar Chawri	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
35.	Temple of Ashtamata	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
36.	Temple of Ganesh	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
37.	Temple of Sheshashayan	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
38.	Temple of Shiv and Kund	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
39.	Temple of Trimurti	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
40.	Temple of Vamanavatar known as Narad Temple	Badoli	Chittaurgarh
41.	Fort of Chittaur as a whole	Chittaur	Chittaurgarh
42.	Mahanal Temple & Math	Menal	Chittaurgarh
43.	Hathiwada enclosure with inscription together with adjacent in S. Plot No. 301	Nagari Chittaurgarh	
44.	Ancient site and remains together with adjacent area comprised in whole of survey No. 2 991, 992, 993, 994/1, 994/3, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000 and 1002	Nagari Chittaurgarh	
45.	Archaeological sites & remains	Nilodh/Jeora	Chittaurgarh
46.	Ancient Mounds	Badopal	Hanumangarh
47.	Ancient Mounds	Bhadrakali	Hanumangarh
48.	Ancient Mounds	Dhokal	Hanumangarh
49.	Fort Bhatner	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh
50.	Three Ancient Mounds	Kalibangan	Hanumangarh
51.	Ancient Mounds	Manak	Hanumangarh
52.	Ancient Mounds	Munda	Hanumangarh



1	2	3	4
53.	Ancient Mounds	Peer Shultan	Hanumangarh
54.	Ancient Mounds	Pilibangan	Hanumangarh
55.	Two Ancient Mounds	Mathula	Ganganagar
56.	Ancient Mounds	Chak 86	Ganganagar
57.	Ancient Mounds	Bhannar Thedi	Ganganagar
58.	Ancient Mounds	Binjor	Ganganagar
59.	Ancient Mounds	Baror	Ganganagar
60.	Ancient Mounds	Rang Mahal	Ganganagar
61.	Ancient Mounds	Tarkhanwala Dera	Ganganagar
62.	Jain Temple Inscription	Baroda	Dungarpur
63.	Somnath Temple	Deo Somnath	Dungarpur
64.	Buddhist Caves and Pillars	Binnayaga (Dag)	Jhalawar
65.	Caves of Naranjani etc.	Binnayaga (Dag)	Jhalawar
66.	Ancient Ruins	Dalsanagar (Gangadhar)	Jhalawar
67.	Ancient Ruins	Dudhaliya (Dag)	Jhalawar
68.	Buddhist Caves	Hathiagor	Jhalawar
69.	Buddhist Caves, Pillars, Idols	Kolvi (Dag)	Jhalawar
70.	Old Temples near the Chandrabhaga	Jhalrapatan	Jhalawar
71.	Ancient Mound	Abaneri	Dausa
72.	Baroi	Abaneri	Dausa
73.	Harsat Mata ka Mandir	Abaneri	Dausa
74.	Banjaron ki Chhatri (containing two pillars similar to railing pillars of Bharhust Stupa)	Lalsot	Dausa
75.	Ancient Mound	Maheshra	Dausa
76.	Ancient Mound	Raniwas	Dausa
77.	Ancient Mound	Sikrai	Dausa
78.	Sun Temple	Amber	Jaipur
79.	Jama Masjid	Amber	Jaipur
80.	Laxmi Narain's Temple	Amber	Jaipur

1	2	3	4
81.	Sri Jagat Simonai ji temple	Amber	Jaipur
82.	Pundrik ji-ki-Haveli Paintings in a room	Brahmpuri	Jaipur
83.	Temple containing Fresco paintings	Gulta ji	Jaipur
84.	Excavated Site	Sambhar	Jaipur
85.	Excavated Site	Bairat	Jaipur
86.	Fort including Ancient Temples	Jaisalmer	Jaisalmer
87.	Ancient Site	Lodruva Patan	Jaisalmer
88.	Fort	Mandore	Jodhpur
89.	Ruins of Temples	Ganesh-Ganj or Atru	Baran
90.	Yupa Pillars	Badea	Baran
91.	Temple (12 century)	Baran	Baran
92.	Ancient Rins and Structural Remains	Krishnavilas	Baran
93.	Old Temples, Statues and Inscriptions	Shargarh	Baran
94.	Siva Temple and two unpublished Gupta Inscriptions	Charchoma	Kota
95.	Temple, Fort wall and Statues	Dara or Mkunadara	Kota
96.	Temple with Inscriptions	Kanawa	Kota
97.	Percian Inscriptions in a Baori	Alanpur	Sawai Madhopur
98.	Jain Temple	Sawai Madhopur	Sawai Madhopur
99.	Ranthambhor Fort	Ranthambor	Sawai Madhopur
100.	Harshnath Temple	Sikar	Sikar
101.	Bisal Deo ji's Temple	Bilaspur	Tonk
102.	Ancient Mound	Bundwali Doongri	Tonk
103.	Ancient Mound	Gariagarh (Newai)	Tonk
104.	Devapura Baroia Mounds	Jhalia	Tonk
105.	Hathi Bhata	Khera	Tonk
106.	Ancient Mound	Nagar	Tonk
107.	Excavated Site	Nagar	Tonk

1	2	3	4
108.	Inscription in Fort	Nagar	Tonk
109.	Mand Kila Tal Inscription	Nagar	Tonk
110.	Yupa Pillars in Bichpuria Temple	Nagar	Tonk
111.	Inscription	Panwar	Tonk
112.	Excavated Site	Rairh (Newai)	Tonk
113.	Kala Pahar Temple	Todarai Singh	Tonk
114.	Kalyanrai ji's Temple	Todarai Singh	Tonk
115.	Laxmi Narainji's Temple locally known as Gopinathji's Temple	Todarai Singh	Tonk
116.	Old Baories locally known as Hadirani-ku-kund	Todarai Singh	Tonk
117.	Pipa ji's Temple	Todarai Singh	Tonk
118.	Akbar's Chhatra	Bayana	Bharatpur
119.	Ancient Fort with its Monuments	Bayana	Bharatpur
120.	Brahmabad Idgah	Bayana	Bharatpur
121.	Islam Shah's Gate	Bayana	Bharatpur
122.	Jahangir's Gateway	Bayana	Bharatpur
123.	Jhajri	Bayana	Bharatpur
124.	Saraj Sad-ullah	Bayana	Bharatpur
125.	Usa Mandir	Bayana	Bharatpur
126.	Lodhi's Minar	Bayana	Bharatpur
127.	Delhi Gate outside the Bharatpur Fort	Bharatpur	Bharatpur
128.	Fateh Burj near Anah Gate	Bharatpur	Bharatpur
129.	Jawahar Burj and Ashtadhatu Gateway inside the Bharatpur Fort	Bharatpur	Bharatpur
130.	Moat surrounding the Fort wall	Bharatpur	Bharatpur
131.	Fort was including Chowburja gate and approach bridges at the chowburja and ashtadhatu gates	Bharatpur	Bharatpur
132.	Deeg Bhawan (Palaces)	Deeg	Bharatpur
133.	Looted gun	Deeg	Bharatpur

1	2	3	4
134.	Marble Jholla	Deeg	Bharatpur
135.	Chaurasi Khamba temple	Kaman	Bharatpur
136.	Ancient Mound	Malah	Bharatpur
137.	Ancient Mound	Noh	Bharatpur
138.	Collasal image of Yaksha	Noh	Bharatpur
139.	Lal Mahal	Rupvas	Bharatpur
140.	Shiva temple	Neelkanth	Alvar
141.	Ancient site	Bhangarh	Alvar
142.	Ancient Remains	Pandrupol	Alvar
143.	Lal Masjid	Tijara	Alvar
144.	Ancient Ruins	Kalyanpur	Udaipur
145.	Sas Bahu Temples	Nagda	Udaipur
146.	Fort of Kumbhalgarh as a whole	Kumbhalgarh	Rajasamand
147.	Ghat with inscriptions pavions and Toranas (together with adjacent area comprised in S. Plot No. 344)	Nav Chowki Rajasamand	Rajasamand
148.	Archaeological Sites and Remains	Gilund	Rajasamand
149.	Babur's Garden (Charbagh)	Dholpur (Jhor)	Dholpur
150.	Jogni-Jogna Temple	Dholpur/Sone-ka-Gurja	Dholpur
151.	Shergarh Fort	Dholpur	Dholpur
152.	Wall painting in the palaces of Maharaja Gopal Lal	Karauli	Karauli
153.	Haldighati	Dara	Rajsamand
154.	Badshahi Bagh	Nathdwara	Rajsamand
155.	Chetak Samadhi	Raktatalai	Rajsamand
156.	Rakta Talai	Tehsil-Nathdwara	Rajsamand
157.	Ruined Palace of Maharana Pratap at Chavand	Sarada	Udaipur
158.	Mahal known as Hawa Mahal, Veerpura (Jaisamand)	Sarada	Udaipur
159.	Hawa Mahal known as Roothi Rani Ka Mahal, Veerpura (Jaisamand)	Sarada	Udaipur
160.	Brahma Temple	Pushkar	Ajmer

**Quality of Drinking Water**

333. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any complaints about the quality of drinking water being served to its passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on site generation of Sodium Hypo Chlorite technology based on use of common salt for large scale chlorination of 'Drinking water' in Indian Railways is standardized by Bureau of Indian Standards;

(d) if so, the details of the code and reference thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for adopting such technology by the Railways as a matter of policy;

(f) whether the Railways propose to review this important aspect of public hygiene in its right perspective; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No separate statistics are being maintained regarding complaints about the quality of drinking water.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) On site generation of Sodium Hypo Chlorite technology based on use of common salt for large scale chlorination of drinking water has not yet been standardized by Bureau of Indian Standards.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) This is one of the many other methods being adopted by the Railways and has been found to be an improvement on other existing systems.

(f) and (g) On receipt of representations against use of the technology, matter has been reviewed and Zonal Railways have been directed to conduct laboratory testing of samples.

**'Bharat Darshan' Train**

334. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of 'Bharat Darshan' a special tourist train introduced by Railways;

(b) the circuits/routes in which such trains are presently running;

(c) the number of tourists who have availed the benefit of the scheme alongwith response thereof during the last one year;

(d) whether the Railways propose to introduce more such trains in other circuits/routes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Ministry of Railways runs the Bharat Darshan trains, which takes the tourists to various important tourist destinations across the country. The aim to run which trains is to give opportunity to a common Indian citizen to see the country at an all inclusive price of Rs. 500/- per day which include train journey cost, food, sight-seeing, guide etc.

(b) to (e) No specified circuits/routes have been laid down. Accordingly, itineraries of different durations and routes are formulated and advertised to meet the needs of people, living in different parts of country. The destinations covered are spread over the country. During the last one year 7905 citizens have availed of this benefit. The response is encouraging and the occupancy in the recent trips has shown improvement.

*[Translation]*

**Price of Eatables at Food Plazas**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the eatable sold on newly built plazas at railway stations are costlier than the market price;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(c) whether the Railways have any control over the price of eatables sold in these food plazas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to provide the eatables to passengers at an affordable/reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Price of food sold in food plazas are determined by market forces. There is no intervention of the Government in this regard. Railways provide standard meals breakfast, tea/coffee at reasonable prices fixed with the approval of Railway Board, which are made available through pantry cars, refreshment rooms, stalls and trolleys.

*[English]*

#### **Oracle E-Business Suite**

336. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has selected the Oracle e-Business suite to automate and streamline all its processes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which this venture will increase the efficiency of IRCTC?

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

(b) The details of Oracle E-Business Suite implemented in IRCTC are as under:

1. Oracle Financials which includes general ledger, accounts payable and receivable, fixed assets and the property manager modules for the company.
2. Oracle Purchase & Inventory modules for the company.
3. Oracle Human Resources Management System (HRMS) for IRCTC's employee.

(c) The Oracle E-Business is expected to improve the efficiency of IRCTC in the following ways:

(a) **Efficient Work Flow:** The Oracle E-Business suite (ERP) has best international qualities used by different organization, to eliminate redundancies in the processes.

(b) **Integrated Modules:** Provides complete integration of systems across the departments in a company as well as across the enterprise as a whole. Different modules of ERP can seamlessly integrate different departments where they can share common data thereby reducing the departmental communications.

(c) **Centralized Data Maintenance:** Better visibility at corporate level—Possibility of all kinds of reports for management for quick and strategic decisions.

(d) Access to different user groups with role bases access by ensuring complete information security within organization.

#### **Shifting of the Headquarter of Western Railway**

337. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the Gujarat State for shifting the Headquarter of Western Railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) The location of the Headquarters of a Railway is decided on the basis of operational and administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations. The present arrangement is working satisfactorily. In view of these, there is no need for shifting the Headquarters of Western Railway to Ahmedabad.

#### **Revival of Instrumentation Limited**

338. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any revival package for Instrumentation Limited is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration for giving Palakkad Unit an independent status and making it as a Subsidiary Unit of Instrumentation Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal on the revival of Instrumentation Limited has been recommended by the Board for Reconstruction for Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) envisaging inter-alia cash assistance and non-cash assistance in form of waivers and conversion of loan into equity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Hydrocarbon Deposits**

339. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to take quantum jump in the field of Hydrocarbon in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the potential of Hydrocarbon deposits of the country at present;

(d) the steps taken to find out hydrocarbon deposits of the country and to exploit the same;

(e) whether there is any major improvement in the search of Hydrocarbons by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC); and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes Sir. As per the draft XI Five Year Plan Programme, major activities in hydrocarbon Exploration & Production sector are expected to take a quantum jump as against the likely achievements in X Plan.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Total prognosticated hydrocarbons resources of the country have been estimated about 28 billion tonnes. As on 1.4.2006, out of this, in place oil and gas reserves of 8.7 billion tonnes has been established.

(d) Following steps have been/are being taken to explore and exploit hydrocarbon deposits in the country:-

- Carving out more and more areas for areas for exploration for offer under various round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- Use of simulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- Supplementing efforts to explore non-conventional energy sources such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

(e) and (f) ONGC has achieved its X-Plan (2002-07), targets for the seismic data acquisition. Against the planned target of 35286 Line Kilometers of 2D seismic and 34834 sq. km 3D seismic the total acquisition as on 01.01.2007 has been 59144 Line Kilometers of 2D seismic & 81169 sq. km of 3D seismic. Against planned exploratory well drilling target of 561 wells the achievement as on 01.01.2007 has been 550 exploratory wells. During the same period (2002-07) against the planned inplace accretion target of 548.43 million metric tonne (MMt) Oil+Oil Equivalent Gas (O+OEG), the total inplace accretion as on 01.04.2006 has been 507.24 MMt (O+OEG). For 2006-07, as inputs are all inplace, ONGC would possibly be achieving its exploratory drilling and in place accretion targets before the end of this year. Due to application of EOR/IOR techniques, incremental oil gain was 22.6 MMt by ONGC from 2000-01 to 2005-06.

**Statement**

The major indicative physical parameters for the XI Five Year Plan vis-a-vis likely achievements in X Five Year Plan are as follows:-

Parameter	X Plan Target	Likely Achievement in X Plan	Indicative Physical Parameters for XI Plan
<b>Seismic Surveys</b>			
2 Dimensional (GLK/LK)	98327	64867	128424
3 Dimensional (sq km)	48305	63947	150573
<b>Exploratory Drilling</b>			
No. of Wells	871	944	1100
<b>Development Drilling</b>			
No. of Wells	883	1191	1680
<b>Hydrocarbon</b>			
<b>Inplace accretion (MMT)</b>			
Domestic	785-914	1813.42	1829.44
<b>Production Oil (MMT)</b>			
Domestic	165.24-169.38	167.74	211.64
Overseas	5.2	16.83	35.51
Total	170.44-174.58	184.57	247.15
<b>Production Gas (BCM)</b>			
Domestic	167.43-176.50	158.79	224.56
Overseas	4.94	5.41	9.67
Total	172.37-181.44	164.2	234.23
<b>Production Oil &amp; Gas (MMTOE)</b>			
Domestic	332.67-345.88	326.53	436.2
Overseas	10.14	22.24	45.18
Total	342.81-356.02	348.77	481.38
GBM Gas Production (BCM)	—	—	3.78
UGC Gas Production (BCM)	—	—	2.99



*[Translation]***Gangmen Workers In Various Zones**

340. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gangmen on roll in various railway zones particularly in Solapur zone in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Railways have appointed the gangmen in proportion to the railway routes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On roll strength of gangmen/gangmate in zonal railways as on 1.12.06 is as under:

Central	14147
East Coast	6658
Northern	17104
North Eastern	6638
North Western	7819
South Central	15313
South East Central	7475
Western	13142
Eastern	9759
East Central	12722
North Central	10405
Northeast Frontier	11800
Southern	11076
South Eastern	10269
South Western	3905
West Central	10409

On roll staff strength of Solapur Division is 1843.

(b) The gang strength is calculated as per the Report of "Manpower Cost Norms for Track Maintenance" (MCNTM) Rational Formula

(c) By the above formula, the per km mandays required is worked out.

(d) not applicable.

*[English]***Data of OBCs Employed In Registered Companies**

341. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to compile a data of persons belonging to backward classes employed in registered companies; 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.

**Reserves and Surpluses of Profit Making PSEs**

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

(a) total reserves and surpluses of profit making Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount of investment made by the above PSEs during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Total reserves and surpluses and investment in terms of gross block of the profit making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) for the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	No. of profit making CPSEs	Total reserves & surpluses	Investment in terms of gross block
2003-04	139	257405.70	498884.03
2004-05	143	307555.05	544061.56
2005-06	157	353641.62	596317.78

*[Translation]***Expert Committee to Review Sick Mills**

343. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken or propose to take any steps for constituting an Expert Committee to review the phenomenal increase in the number of sick mills particularly in the backward and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and other mechanism adopted to review these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) No Expert Committee has been constituted for this purpose so far as the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises is concerned.

(c) Matters relating to sickness in Industries are governed by Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act (SICA), 1985.

*[English]***Selling of Rail Waste Material**

344. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is selling the rail waste materials (like iron rods, etc.) every year;

(b) if so, the details of revenue earned therefrom during 2005-2006; and

(c) the details of such materials still in stock in each Railway Zone?

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

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

**Statement**

Railway	Revenue earned during 2005-2006 (In Crores of Rupees)	Stock as on 1.2.2007 (In Metric Tonnes)
1	2	3
Central Railway	116.53	15317.000
Eastern Railway	143.38	19012.000
Northern Railway	166.39	38757.000
North Eastern Railway	34.53	5358.137
Northeast Frontier Railway	36.26	3518.000
Southern Railway	125.12	12113.000
South Central Railway	110.20	7291.000
South Eastern Railway	84.10	13807.000
Western Railway	63.33	28203.000
North Western Railway	75.27	15640.112
East Coast Railway	31.05	3428.955
North Central Railway	103.00	2045.933

1	2	3
East Central Railway	39.94	1141.245
South East Central Railway	54.36	2928.341
South Western Railway	25.12	9433.000
West Central Railway	87.89	6461.000
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	5.54	226.027
Diesel Loco Modernisation Works	16.23	2582.642
Diesel Locomotive Works	4.45	572.901
Integral Coach Factory	19.43	2709.781
Metro Railway	1.44	99.000
Rail Coach Factory	15.87	1395.128
Rail Wheel Factory	4.90	1270.000
Total	1364.33	193310.202

#### LPG Filling Stations

345. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) filling stations/Auto Gas Stations in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of vehicles authorised to run on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is on the high side in comparison to the available facility of LPG supply;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up more LPG filling stations/Auto gas stations in the country during 2007-2008;

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

(f) the other corrective steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a), (d), (e) and (f) Government have permitted

the sale of auto-LPG for vehicles *vide* Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicle) Order, 2001. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) set up Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) based on their commercial considerations and upon the availability of suitable sites in various cities to meet the requirement of auto LPG.

At present, OMCs are operating 181 ALDS in the country and propose to set up 251 more ALDS in the country during the year 2007-08. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) While the vehicles are authorized to run on LPG by the State Governments, OMCs are meeting the demand of auto LPG through their refineries/imports.

#### *Statement I*

#### *State-wise details of ALDS operating by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of ALDS
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16
2.	Chhattisgarh	2
3.	Delhi	17
4.	Gujarat	13
5.	Karnataka	30
6.	Kerala	15
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7
8.	Maharashtra	33
9.	Punjab	3
10.	Rajasthan	4
11.	Tamil Nadu	24
12.	Uttar Pradesh	5
13.	West Bengal	12
Total		181

**Statement II**

*State-wise details of ALDS proposed to be set up by public sector oil marketing companies during the year 2007-08*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of ALDS
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35
2.	Gujarat	18
3.	Haryana	11
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
5.	Karnataka	37
6.	Kerala	19
7.	Madhya Pradesh	11
8.	Maharashtra	31
9.	Orissa	3
10.	Punjab	18
11.	Rajasthan	27
12.	Tamil Nadu	18
13.	Uttar Pradesh	16
14.	West Bengal	5
Total		251

**Sea Bird Project near Karwar, Karnataka**

346. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Sea Bird Project is being implemented near Karwar in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the time by which the Naval base in Goa is likely to be shifted for Sea Bird Project; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed and fully operational?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Naval base at Goa will continue to be operational.

(c) The majority of works of the present phase have already been completed and the base has been operationalized.

[Translation]

**Gauge Conversion in Nanded Rail Division**

347. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain some irregularities have been come to the notice of the Railways in works related to gauge conversion in Nanded rail division;

(b) if so, whether the department has conducted any investigation into the matter;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the construction work of the under bridge on Islapur Jaldhara and Islapur Cosmet Rail Road is of a substandard level and the said road is now in a completely dilapidated State; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the persons responsible in the matter?

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

(b) to (e) The matter is under investigation.

**Unloading of Goods at Railway Stations**

348. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various parties in connivance with local employees manage to get their goods unloaded out of turn at railway stations in Uttar Pradesh despite the announced policy of 'first come, first served' for rack placement;

(b) if so, the details of such cases came to light during the last three years at various stations;

(c) the details of raids conducted by Vigilance Wing of the railways in this connection and the action taken against the culprit in each such case;

(d) whether unloading of goods of various public sector organisations is adversely affected due to the said practice; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to bring about transparency in functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No such complaint has been received.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Rules are strictly followed with full transparency.

*[English]*

**Parents and Senior Citizens (Welfare and Maintenance) Bill, 2006**

349. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Parents and Senior Citizens (Welfare and Maintenance) Bill, 2006 has run into rough weather between Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Panchayati Raj about its implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and main points of contention between the two Ministries;

(c) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) propose to re-examine the Bill in the light of the twin issues raised by both the Ministries;

(d) if so, the present status of the Bill; and

(e) the time by which the Bill is likely to be passed and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Bill has been finalized. However, it is not possible to indicate a specific time-frame.

*[Translation]*

**Opening of CNG Outlets**

350. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) outlets opened up in each of the States particularly in Jharkhand during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government has not opened up the outlets as per the fixed targets particularly in Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the remaining outlets are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The number of CNG outlets opened during the last two years is given below:-

Name of the State	CNG station opened during the last two years
Delhi	26
Maharashtra	45
Andhra Pradesh	06
Uttar Pradesh	09
Tripura	01
Gujarat	85
Total	172

Due to lack of connectivity for gas supply, on CNG outlets have come up in the state of Jharkhand.

(b) to (d) The expansion of CNG infrastructure in different cities in the country is being taken up in a phased manner. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of CNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

**Opening of Stalls for Selling Agriculture Products**

351. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating on a scheme to open special stalls to sell agricultural products at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether the scheme is to be implemented at all railway divisions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any rules have been framed by the Railways to appoint an agent to sell agricultural products at railway stations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (f) It has been decided to explore the feasibility of additional transport volumes by leveraging surplus railway land through partnership with Agri-retail chain providing outlets of farmers to sell their produce eliminating middlemen.

[*English*]

**Airports in Karnataka**

352. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is developing new airports on a fast track in Gulbarga, Hassan, Shimoga and Bijapur while expanding existing ones at Mangalore, Belgaum and Hubli;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of each project;

(c) whether the Government in a recent study, has found adequate potential for daily flights to these destinations;

(d) if so, whether the State Government has also approached private airline operators, including Air Deccan asking them to consider flight services to the proposed airports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposals to construct a new Terminal Building for 500 passengers at Mangalore airport and expansion of runways at Belgaum & Hubli airports.

State Government of Karnataka has also requested for developing new Greenfield airports at Hasasn & Gulbarga, Bijapur and Shimoga. There are well laid down procedures for development of greenfield airports and the above proposals have to conform to the prescribed conditions before being considered for final approval.

(c) Airline Operators are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance with Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG).

(d) and (e) State Government of Karnataka has intimated that M/s Air Deccan may operate their flights from Hassan & Gulbarga airports subject to required infrastructure at these airports.

**Private Airlines to Gulf Countries**

353. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to open Gulf and other routes to private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected increase in traffic with the introduction of the new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the decision taken on 29th December, 2004, the Government decided to permit Private Indian Scheduled Carriers having continuous 5 years operations in domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft to operate on international routes except to the Gulf countries of UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait & Saudi Arabia, which shall be reserved for Air India and Indian Airlines for a period of 3 years.

### Joining of IA/AI with Star Alliance

354. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) are planning to join Star Alliance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the joining with Star Alliance is beneficial to IA and AI; and

(d) the details of international airlines which have joined Star Alliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Both Indian Airlines and Air India have yet to take a firm decision on the choice of Alliance that they would join.

(d) As per information available, the following airlines are the members of Star Alliance:-

Air Canada, Air New Zealand, Air Nippon Airways, Asiana Airlines, Austrain Airlines, BMI, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Spanair, Swiss, TAP Portugal, Thai, United Airlines, US Airways, Blue-I, Croatia Airlines and Adria Airways.

[Translation]

### Private Investment In Railway Projects

355. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of Railway schemes lagging behind the schedule for want of resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mega projects are being formulated with participation of private sector to meet the shortage of resources; and

(d) if so, the details of such projects alongwith amount of private investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Railways have a huge throwforward of projects requiring about Rs. 54000 crore for completion with limited availability of funds. The projects are executed as per the availability of resources.

(c) and (d) Some of the projects of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) executed/formulated with private equity participation are as under:-

	Name of the Project	Amount of Private Equity (Rs. in crore)
(i)	Gandhidham-Palanpur Gauge Conversion	— 40.00
(ii)	Haridaspur-Paradip New Line	— 107.50
(iii)	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam New Line	— 113.40
(iv)	Bharuch-Dahej Gauge Conversion Project	— 20.00
(v)	Surat-Hazira New Line	— 50.00

[English]

### Reduction In ATF Prices

356. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation and other petroleum companies have decided to reduce prices of ATF on account of drop in International crude prices;

(b) if so, whether Government would impress upon the private airlines to reduce fares *suo moto* in line with fall in International ATF prices; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Government does not have any administrative pricing mechanism in respect of ATF and Oil companies are free to fix prices based on market forces.

(b) Domestic air fares are not regulated by the Government after the repeal of Air Corporation Act 1953.

Domestic Airlines are free to charge air fares in their commercial judgement.

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

*[Translation]*

#### **Misuse of Funds**

357. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released any funds for the upgradation of the airports;

(b) if so, the details of such airports alongwith the fund released during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding misuse of these funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government provides Budgetary Support to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of the airports in North-East region and other crucial areas. During the years 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06, Government had released Rs. 22.08 crores, Rs. 30.00 crores & Rs. 36.00 crores respectively to AAI as Budgetary Support. The Budgetary Support is not released airportwise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Double Tracking of Railway Lines**

358. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the absence of double tracks in different rail-sectors in the north east has been a major hurdle in the speedy movement of railway passenger and good traffic;

(b) the sectors on which double tracking of railway lines has been completed in north east States during the 10th Five Year Plan so far; and

(c) the details of the sectors proposed and projected with double tracking system during the rest of the 10th and 11th Five Year Plans?

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

(b) No conventional doubling has been done in North Eastern States in 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) The work of doubling of New Guwahati-Digarur has been included in budget 2007-08. The doubling of Digarur-Lumding may be considered in the coming years depending upon requirement of traffic.

#### **Booking of Peaks**

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

(a) whether the number of peaks booked by the Indian and foreign expeditions through Indian Mountaineering Federation has increased during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of peaks booked for the next climbing season;

(d) whether any peak fee is charged by the IMF;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the income generated therefrom during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007; and

(f) the facilities provided by the IMF to the expeditions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The number of peaks booked by the Indian and foreign expeditions through Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) during the last three years are as under:



Year	Number of Peaks	
	Indian	Foreign
2004	64	40
2005	47	46
2006	52	36

The above figures do not indicate an upward trend in the number of Indian and foreign expeditions booked through IMF.

(c) The number of peaks booked, through IMF, for the next climbing season as on 24th February, 2007, is as under:

- (i) Indian-23
- (ii) Foreign-10

(d) and (e) Handling charges are collected by IMF from foreign expeditious depending on the height and location of the peak booked. 25% of the handling charges collected are given to the concerned State for development and conservation of their respective areas. Handling charges are not levied on Indian expeditions. An amount of Rs. 43,90,250/- and Rs. 33,34,500/- was collected by the IMF as handling charges during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, respectively.

(f) The IMF provides mountaineering gear to the expeditions. It also provides library and reading room facility including films, slides, latest maps and satellite imagery for effective planning, dormitory facilities and use of an auditorium. The IMF also maintains an interactive website.

#### **International Airport at Bangalore**

360. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority is likely to miss the target date for the completion of the work on international airport, as work on the six lane expressway linking the City with Devanahalli has made little headway; and

(b) if so, the steps the Union Government proposes to take to expedite the work on the six-lane expressway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The airport is being constructed by M/s. Bangalore International Airports Ltd. (BIAL). The construction work is progressing as per schedule.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Inclusion of Castes in SCs and OBCs List**

361. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of new castes included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes during last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted for inclusion of castes in the list of SCs and OBCs;

(c) whether proposals for inclusion of more castes in the list SCs and OBCs have been received from State Government and Union Territory Administration during the last one year;

(d) if so, the names thereof and their present status, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the time by which the said castes are likely to be included in the list of SCs and OBCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No community has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes during this period. As regards Other Backward Classes, the names of communities are as under:-

(i) Andhra Pradesh: 1. Sikligar, 2. Siddula, (ii) Bihar: 1. Bakho (Muslim), 2. Thakurai (Muslim), (iii) Delhi: 1. Rai-Sikh (Mahtam), (vi) Goa: 1. Bhandari Naik, (v) Gujarat: 1. Jagri, 2. Khavas, 3. Sagar, (vi) Karnataka: Hindu Sadaru, (vii) Maharashtra: Yellam/Yelam, (viii) Orissa: Tamuli, (ix) Uttar Pradesh: Unai Sahu.

(b) The criteria followed in regard to Scheduled Castes is extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability. For Central list of Other Backward Classes,

the National Commission for Backward Classes has formulated comprehensive guidelines, which include specified social, educational and economic parameters.

(c) and (d) The details are given in the Statement annexed.

(e) No time frame can be assigned.

### **Statement**

The State-wise details of proposals received for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes are as under:

#### **(I) Scheduled Castes:**

##### **(i) Uttar Pradesh:**

Machchua, Machchuara, Kewat, Mallah, Bind, Dheemar, Batham, Kahar, Kashyap, Godia, Chai, etc. These proposals have been referred back to the State Government for additional ethnographic information. 2. Namosudra, Madhya Pradesh (Dhobi). The proposal has been referred to the Registrar General of India for obtaining their comments, as per approved modalities.

#### **(II) Other Backward Classes:-**

##### **(i) Andhra Pradesh:-**

Chakali Vannar, 2. Devaravandlu, Yellemavandlu, Mutyalammavandlu, 3. Veerabhadreya, 4. Kalinga, 5. Goud and 6. Bare. The Questionnaire has been sent to the State Government and Public Hearing was also held on 18.11.2006.

##### **(ii) Bihar:-**

1. Kewarth, 2. Bhat (Muslim), 3. .... / Faqir/Diwan/Madar (Muslim), 4. .... / Julaha/Ansari, 5. Chhipi, 6. Ittarosh/Ittarosh/Gadheri/Itpai/Ibrahimi (Muslim), 7. Jadupathiya, 8. Pardha, 9. Badhai, 10. Bania (.... Modak)/Mayara, Bihayut Kalwar, Kalal, Barnwal, Batham, Vaishya, Gonadar, 11. Sutradhar, 12. Jat (Hindu), Saharsa, Supaul, Mahdepura and Arariya Districts, 13. Jat (Muslim) only in Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Kagharia and Arariya District. 14. Gadaria (Muslims), Donwar, 15. Donwar, 15. Donwar, 16. Surajpuri (Muslim). The Questionnaire has been sent to the State Government.

##### **(iii) Karnataka:-**

1. Baggaru, 2. Bavandhi, 3. Dasari along with its 2 synonyms (i) Dasar (ii) Chakravadya Dasa, 4. Ghisade, 5. Gurkha, 6. Jangala along with its synonyms (i) Telugu Jangama (ii) Pakanathi Jangama, 7. Kodagu Kapala, 8. Kumbri Marati (Uttar Kannada District), 9. Malaya, 10. Mudhar, 11. Panguai and its synonyms Pangusal, 12. Raya Rawath and its synonym 'Ravath', 13. Tewar along with its synonyms (i) Kalari (ii) Kallar to be included in Sl.No. 154 of Central List. (Maravar is in Sl. No. 154 which is a synonym in the State List), 14. Banjari along with synonyms (i) Brinjari (ii) Vanjara (iii) Wanjarl (iv) Lambaid (v) Gore or Gorla, 15. Daverl, 16. Garudi along with synonyms (i) Garudiga (ii) Garadiga, 17. Paradhis, 18. Girini Waddar along with synonyms (i) Tudug Woddar (ii) Kallu Vaddar (ii) Mannu Voddar (iv) Bhandi Vaddar, 19. Banna (Kodagu District), 20. Kodagu Heggade (Kodagu District), 21. Gurava along with its synonyms (i) Gurou, 22. Amma Kodava, 23. Anappan, 24. Andi along with synonyms Andipandaram, 25. Baandhi, 26. Bolahallala along with synonyms Ballala, 27. Bhatial along with synonyms Bhattia, 28. Chakkan, 29. Dogra, 30. Gulli, 31. Jetti/Jatti along with synonym (i) Mallaru Malla Kshatriya (ii) Mushtiga, 32. Kalavanthi to be included under Sl. No. 167 as a main caste to Bhogam Telgua, 33. Kanakan along with synonym Kanakar, Karunika, 34. Kshatriya/Kahatri, 35. Malawa, 36. Maleya, 37. Aryan, 38. Raju Kshatriya along with synonyms (b) Raju-Raju (c) Rajuwar/Rajuvar/Rachevar, 39. Somavamsha Kshatriya, 40. Stanika, 41. Tulu along with synonym of Tuluva, 43. Ushatama (Dharwar, Belgaum, Bijapur, Gadag District), 43. Kodagaru, 44. Veerashaiva Lingayath, 45. Marata along with synonyms of Are Kshatri, Are Maratha, Arya, Aryaru, Konkani Maratha, Kshatriya Maratha, Kulawadi, 46. Christian, 47. Bant along with its synonym PARIVARA BANT, 48. Jains (Digambaras), 49. Ambi, 50. Barika, 51. Rajabhoi, 52. Gangamathastha, 53. Jalagara, 54. Kabber, 55. Konkani Kharvi, 56. Koli, 57. Kolimahadev, 58. Maddar, 59. Moger, 60. Parivara, 61. Pagi, 62. Begadi, 63. Bagali, 64. Bududki, 65. Chhetri, 66. Garadi, 67. Killikayata, 68. Gam Vokkal, 69. Grama Vokkalu, 70. Brahma Kapali, 71. Jogtin, 72. Kapali, 73. Raval, 74. Ravalia, 75. Are Kasai, 76. Ari Katikelu, 77. Kalal Khatik, 78. Maratti, 79. Suryavamsha Kshatriya, 80. Ladara, 81. Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad, 82. Batter, 83. Burned, 84. Gouriga, 85. Gowri, 86. Gowrimaratha, 87. Gowriga, 88. Nairi, 89. Jeeragar, 90. Padithi, 91. Gauli, 92. Gavali, 93. Gavli, 94. Konnar, 95. Konnur, 96. Krishna Gavali, 97. Maniyani, 98. Telugu Gowda

(Chickmangalur & Hassan District), 99. Talawara/Talwar Boya, 100. Myasa Nayaka, 101. Byada, 102. Bargi, 103. Hirshikari, 104. Bovi, 105. Mansuri, 106. Velluthedan, 107. Padiar, 108. Seregara, 109. Belchad, 110. Poojari, 111. Hala Kshatriya, 112. Desha Bhandari, 113. Deveramakkalu/Divaramakkalu, 114. Gamalla, 115. Halepaikaru, 116. Nadar, 117. Thiyyan, 118. Chakrasali, 119. Gunga, 120. Ganga, 121. Ganagi, 122. Kula, 123. Kumbard, 124. Sajjan Kumbara, 125. Pariyala (Dakshina Kannada & Udupi), 126. Vajantri (Uttara Kannada District), 127. Agni Vamsha Kshatriya, 128. Agnivanni, 129. Badigar, 130. Bailapatar, 131. Bailu Akkasali, 132. Bailu Kammara, 133. Konkani Achar, 134. Kambar, 135. Kamsan, 136. Kanchagar, 137. Kanchora, 138. Mesta, 139. Sohagar, 140. Tacehan, 141. Thattan, 142. Gadiga, 143. Gunagi, 144. Maravan, 145. Upanador/Upa Nadavar, 146. Kurni, 147. Thogataru/Thogatiga, 148. Thogataveera/Thogatagera/Thogataveera Kshatriya/Thogaja Pushpanjali, 149. Padma Shali/Padma Sali, 150. Pattasali, 151. Sengundhar, 152. Jandra, 153. Swakula Sali, 154. Somvamsha Sahasrajuna Kshatriya, 155. Vaniyan, 156. Sadru, 157. Sadumata, 158. Sadkula, 159. Sadar, 160. Sadu Gowda, 161. Sadu Gowdar, 162. Sadara, 163. Sadari, 164. Sadara Gowa, 165. Kothati, 166. Kottegara, 167. Kotteyara, 168. Kumara Khatriya, 169. Kshatriya Komarpant, 170. Hallikar Vokkaliga, 171. Namdhari Vokkaliga, 172. Gangadkar Vokkaliga, 173. Das Vokkaliga, 174. Reddy Vokkaliga, 175. Marasu Vokkaliga, 176. Raddy, 177. Hallikar, 178. Gouda/Gowda, 179. Kapu, 180. Heggade, 181. Kamma, 182. Gownder, 183. Uttama Kolaga, 184. Gowda Banajiga, 185. Banajiga Setty, 186. Dasara Balija/Dasara Balajiga/Dasara Banajiga/Dass Banajiga, 187. Bale Chetty/Banagara, 188. Reddy (Balija), 189. Uppar (Balija), 190. Tuleru (Balija), 191. Lingayath sub groups of Helava, 192. Ambiga, 193. Bhoyl, 194. Gangamath, 195. Kshurika, 196. Navalig, 197. Navi, 198. Kamsala, 199. Panchal, 200. Chattada Vaishnava/Sattada Vaishnava/Sattada Srivaishnava, 201. Kadri Vaishnava, 202. Sameraya, 203. Sattadeval, 204. Sattadavan, 205. Vaishnava, 206. pichigutala, 207. Bunde-Besar, 208. Daalija, 209. Sunnagara, 210. Bhomtra, 211. Giddki, 212. Dombidasa, 213. Atti Vakkal, 214. Halakki Vakkal, 215. Kare Vakkal, 216. Gam Gawada, 217. Nath Panthi, 218. Kolyiri, 219. Nedara, 220. Yelegar, 221. Sikkaligar, 222. Uppilayan, 223. Chappar Band (Muslim) 224. Chappar Banda, 225. Modihar, 226. Advigolla, 227. Nikamakkalu, 228. Ramoshi, 229. Servergar, 203. Bandari, 231. Khummara, 232. Gorava, 233. Kurba, 234. Hajam, 235. Kavutiyani, 236. Nadig, 237. Navaliga, 238. Shambhukula Kshatriya, 239. Kuravan, 240. Badiwadli, 241. Bogar, 242. Dajvanga Brahman, 243. Gejjigar, 244. Kammar, 245. Kamasala,

246. Kaensar, 247. Soni, 248. Viewa Brahman, 249. Kaniyur, 250. Saniyar, 251. Winker, 252. Juloha, 253. Hatgar, 254. Sakula Sale, 255. Pategar, 256. Bogam Teluga, 257. Servgara, 258. Chattada Srivaishnava Shrivaisnava. For Sl. No. 205, Questionnaire has been sent to the State Government and in regard to Sl. No. 206 to 258, further action has been initiated.

*[Translation]*

#### **Setting up of LPG Distributorships**

362. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made efforts to set up more LPG distributorships in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to set up more LPG distributorships during the year 2007-2008; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Government have given freedom to OMCs to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship.

OMCs have ommissioned 1070 LPG distributorships in the country including 23 LPG distributorships in the State of Gujarat during the last two years and up to December, 2006. The State-wise details of LPG distributorships are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

(c) and (d) Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 791 locations for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The State-wise details of LPG distributorships are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identification of suitable locations, arranging land for setting up of godown, obtaining various statutory clearances. etc.

[English]

#### **Monsoon and Winter Tourism Destinations**

363. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified monsoon and winter tourism destinations to promote tourism during that period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of hotel occupancy during the last two years and the current year so far, in the country;

(d) whether the Government proposed "Special Tourism Package" both for domestic and foreign tourists during the season; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Identification & development of tourism destinations is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments & Union Territories. However, India Tourism offices in India & abroad promote the tourism products of all States/ Union Territories which includes monsoon & winter tourism destinations.

(c) Based on the information complied from returns submitted by approved hotels to Ministry of Tourism, the overall occupancy of these hotels was 65.1% in 2004 and 67.7% in 2005.

(d) and (e) Formulation of tour packages is primarily the responsibility of the Airlines, tour operators & travel agents. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India does not formulate any tour packages.

#### **Tourist Infrastructure in Agalega Islands**

364. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Mauritius has offered Agalega Islands to India on a long-term lease primarily to develop the same as a tourist destination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to develop a port, apart from tourist infrastructure in the above island; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No such proposal has been received by Ministry of Tourism.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Reconstruction of Over Bridges at Jhansi-Manikpur Railway Line**

365. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of locations of the over bridges on Jhansi-Manikpur Railway line;

(b) whether still there is a need to construct more over bridges due to traffic pressure at a number of places;

(c) if so, whether the Railways are contemplating to construct the said over bridges soon by conducting a survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Only one, near Banda at Km. 1319/10-11.

(b) Yes, Sir. Six level crossings No. 422, 454, 432, 476, 369 & 497 are qualifying for replacement by Road Over Bridges on cost sharing basis as having traffic density of more than one lakh TVUs (Traffic Vehicle Units).

(c) and (d) State Government has not yet sponsored proposals duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites

required under extant rules. As and when firm proposals are received from State Government, Railway can take further action.

#### **Entry of Vehicles in Ranthambore National Park**

366. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the double Bench of Rajasthan High Court has once again permitted entry of vehicles in Ranthambore National Park;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether earlier the Single Bench of Rajasthan High Court had restrained private owners from operating their vehicles inside the National Park;

(d) if so, the details thereof and its effect on the tourists;

(e) the total loss suffered by the Tourism industry due to ban on entry of Vehicles in park; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make up this loss of revenue?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Double Bench of Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur in its Order dated 22.12.2006 in D.B. Civil Special Appeal (W) No. 1465/2006 preferred by the State Government permitted the entry of vehicles in Ranthambore National Park up to 15.01.2007 which was further extended *vide* Order dated 12.01.2007 till further orders.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Single Bench of Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur in S.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 8888/2006 preferred by Giriraj Goyal and others *versus* State of Rajasthan in its Order dated 08.12.2006 restrained the entry of vehicles in Ranthambore National Park till further orders. In compliance of this Order, entry of vehicles in the park was stopped.

(e) and (f) No assessment of loss suffered by Tourism Industry has been done by the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan.

*[Translation]*

#### **Nasik as a Karmabhoomi of Dada Saheb Phalke**

367. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has declared Nasik city in Maharashtra as "Karmabhoomi of Dada Saheb Phalke";

(b) if so, whether any proposal to organize Dada Saheb Phalke award ceremony in Nasik is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No sir, there is no such proposal declaring Nasik city in Maharashtra as Karmabhoomi of Dada Saheb Phalke.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Allotment of COCOs**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the allotment of certain COCOs developed on the lands/sites of the private land owners have been stayed;

(b) if so, whether the Government Oil Companies have analysed the legality regarding the allotment of such COCOs to the land owners as per the policies of the respectively Oil Companies; and

(c) if so, the observations thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Public Sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have reported that in line with the terms of the lease agreement executed for such lands, they have full rights to appoint any third person as dealer for such COCOs in accordance with the prescribed procedure. Necessary action is being taken by the OMCs to defend the cases in various courts.

**Orders for BHEL, Jhansi**

369. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the orders received by the Bharat Heavy Electircals Limited (BHEL), Jhansi Unit for the manufacture of engines during the last three years;

(b) whether BHEL has increased its capacity, machines, other instruments used in the manufacture of engines and trained its manpower accordingly;

(c) whether BHEL, Jhansi Unit is at the verge of closure due to non-receipt of orders; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check its closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Jhansi Unit has not received any orders for the supply of engines (mainline Electric Locomotives) from Railways during the last three years.

(b) BHEL had created capacity for manufacture of 30 electric locomotives per annum in early 90's and manpower was trained accordingly. No further capacity was added during the last three years in view of non receipt of orders from Railways.

(c) and (d) Specialized manufactured capacity created by BHEL, Jhansi unit for Locomotive Engines is at present unutilized due to non receipt of orders from Railways. However, the capacity is being used to manufacture alternate product.

**Train Accidents**

370. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents which occurred in the country since November, 2006;

(b) the persons killed and injured as a result thereof alongwith the loss of properties suffered, accident-wise;

(c) the compensation/*ex-gratia*/ relief paid to injured persons and kith and kin of the deceased, accident-wise;

(d) the *prima-facie* cause of each accident;

(e) whether inquiries have been conducted to ascertain the exact cause of such incidents;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon, accident-wise; and

(g) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to curb train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) There have been 35\* consequential train accidents on Indian Railways during the period from November, 2006 to January, 2007, in which 75\* persons lost their lives and 216 sustained injuries. Loss of railway property on account of these accidents has been estimated to be Rs. 23.44\* crores. A sum of Rs. 1.61\* crores as *ex-gratia* has been paid in cases where admissible. Compensation, however, will be payable after the claim cases are filed and awarded by the Claims Tribunals.

Out of these 35\* accidents, 7 cases are being enquired into by the respective Commissioners of Railway Safety, and in case of remaining 28, departmental inquiry committees were constituted. Depending upon findings of the enquiry reports, so far finalized, action as warranted is in progress including punitive action under Discipline and Appeal Rules against those found responsible. Accident-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(g) All possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents. These measures include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of accidents from 473 in 2000-2001 to 234 in 2005-2006. In the current financial year, from April 2006 to January 2007, the number of consequential train accidents has been 172\* as against 202 during the corresponding period of last year.

\*Figures are provisional.

## Statement

Sl.No.	Date	Type of accident	Railway	Section	Train No.	Brief Particulars	Casualty Killed	Injured	Cost of damage In Rs.	Ex-gratia/Compensation	Prima-facie cause	Type of Inquiry	Findings/Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	10.11.06	Derailment	Western	South Hawdore	113 Dn Passenger	18 Coaches derailed	167	307265	8000		Failure of track equipment	CPS	Under progress	-	-
2	15.11.06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	Koppekkudi-Kannayam	2652 Up Express	One Ambassador car derailed against the train engine	1				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable
3.	20.11.06	Derailment	North Eastern	Thane-Satara Chowpatti	404 Dn Passenger	One coach derailed					Overloading and coach defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Loss of Life, Guard and SPMV	DMAR action under process.
4.	20.11.06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	Pilane-Mahabaleshwar	3307 Express	One school van derailed against the train engine	3	23			Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users	Not applicable
5.	25.11.06	Unmanned Level Crossing	East Coast Railway	Pajane-Thangal	8428 Express	One car derailed against the train engine	2				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
6.	25.11.06	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Western	Maria Road-Bhauri	4085 Express	One jeep derailed against the train engine	1				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable
7.	26.11.06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	Mandak-Schwarze	Up 1104 Goods	One tractor lorry derailed against the train engine	2				Gate was in open condition	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Gatekeeper	DMAR action under process.
8.	02.12.06	Derailment	Eastern	Saldapuri-Bangalore	3971 Up Express	Double of 10th Pn 1st down on coach rail	35	16	228542	1930000	Failure of Railway staff	CPS	Final report submitted	-	-
9.	04.12.06	Collision	Central	Nagpur-Jabalpur	6239 Express & Baidar Electric Engine	Baidar electric engine bumped against the rear of S.R.	2		16000	500	Swamping by Blower	CPS	Under progress	-	-
10.	07.12.06	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Western	Durgam-Patparghat	2 Dn Passenger	One jeep derailed against the train engine	7	4	3910		Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of Road users	Road users.	Not applicable
11.	08.12.06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	Mumbai-Patparghat	4183 Up	One Honda car derailed against the train engine	5				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of Road users	Road users.	Not applicable
12.	10.12.06	Derailment	Western	Ambur-Patparghat	4 ACP Passenger	Three coaches derailed			6000		Rail track	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	SEPMV & Driver	DMAR action under process.
13.	10.12.06	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western Frontier Railway	New Jalgaon-New	Up 1200 Goods	One truck derailed against the train engine	2	3	2000		Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of Road users	Road Users	Not applicable

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
14.	13.12.26	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Eastern	Goods Machine	180 Up Passenger	One tractor trolley derailed against the train engine	3	26570			Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users	Not applicable.
15.	13.12.26	Derailed	South Eastern	Passenger Engines	2871 Express	One coach derailed		19418			Intervention caused by cable laid adjacent to track	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	SE/Passy	DAR action under process.
16.	13.12.26	Collision	Central	Chennai-Sing Tamil-Nadu	TL 43 EMU & T 140 EMU	TL 43 EMU derailed in rear of T 140 EMU	24	90000	31959		Derailed TL 43 passed signal at danger	CPS	Under process	-	-
17.	24.12.26	Unmanned Level Crossing	Eastern	Dumkai Kankarbhata	3111 Up Express	one motorcycle derailed against the train engine	1				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable
18.	26.12.26	Derailed	Northern	Ludhiana-Pat Bareilly	On Gurgaon Goods	27 wagons derailed		2475000			Reduction	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Control, Loco Phil, SE/Passy	DAR action under process.
19.	26.12.26	Collision	South Central	Mumbai Pune	7653 Express and empty 8200 goods	Derailed goods train loaded in rear and side collided with passenger train	2	432000	1600		Derailed goods train entered railway crossing side collision	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Loco Phil, Asst. Loco Phil and Guard	DAR action under process.
20.	26.12.26	Derailed	Northern	Patna Jalandhar	2582 Express	Train Engine & one coach derailed		22800			Improper setting of route	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Asst. Station Master	DAR action under process.
21.	31.12.26	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Alkhalda Ludhiana	4815 Up Express	One Train Saver derailed against the train engine	1				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable
22.	31.12.26	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Si Gurgaon-Bahadur	2482 Express	One loaded car derailed against the train engine	2	3			Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable
23.	01.01.27	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Noida-Hazrat Nizamuddin	TL 34 Passenger	One tractor derailed against the train engine	1				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users	Not applicable
24.	04.01.27	Derailed	Northern Ferozpur Railway	Nor Majhi Majhi	Up 1004 Goods	7 coaches derailed		95115004			Minor accident	Departmental	Minor accident	Minor accident	Not applicable
25.	05.01.27	Collision	Northern	Noida Gurgaon	On Gurgaon Station Goods & D TND Goods	On TND Goods derailed in rear of Gurgaon Station Goods	2	4510000			Signal mistook and derailing of goods without checking with train Station Master and Section and Main of lower track of A-25	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Station, Signal Inspector and Master Coffman	DAR action under process
26.	10.01.27	Derailed	Eastern	Pimpri Gurgaon	Coal Goods	Train engine & 4 wagons derailed		1150005			Derailed signal at danger	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Loco Phil and Asst. Loco Phil, Guard and Station	DAR action under process



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
27.	12.01.07	Dundrum	East Central	Redburn- Garda Road	Up Pigeon Green	Busier engine 3 & 4 engines disabled	6	7	102700		Yet to be established	CPS	Under progress	-	-
28.	14.01.07	Dundrum	South Western	Heave- Marple	Triple Light Engine	Three engine disabled					Track dented	Departmental	Under progress	-	-
29.	20.01.07	Dundrum	North Central	Marple- Bowl	Up Main Special	Train engine disabled			500		Compensated by Driver	Departmental	Fallout of Railway staff	Less Plot and And Less Plot	DART when under process
30.	21.01.07	Unmarked Lost Crossing	Medium	James Tins- Pottland	8102 Express	On Train Stave dented against the train engine	2				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Real users	Not applicable
31.	21.01.07	Unmarked Lost Crossing	Sub Central	Midland Pottland	2710 Express	Unknown vehicle damaged movement of train	1	4	30000		Indiscretion by witnesses vehicle	CPS	Real report submitted	-	-
32.	24.01.07	Marked Lost Crossing	Northwest Frontier Railway	Barnes-Hill Jedburgh	Up NBO Goods	One track dented against the train engine	1	4	30000	800	Gate was in open condition and Driver passed gate signal at danger	Departmental	Under progress	-	-
33.	24.01.07	Unmarked Lost Crossing	Medium	Lidstone- Farnham	3 LF Passenger	One third car dented against the train engine	3				Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Real users	Not applicable
34.	27.01.07	Dundrum	East Coast Railway	Edwidge- Jarrowgate	MUPG Goods	12 engine disabled			1750400		Negligence of private driving owner	Departmental other than Railway staff owner	Fallout of Railway staff owner	Private siding	Not applicable
35.	28.01.07	Dundrum	Southern	Jarrowgate- Knapton	2874 Express	5 coaches disabled		10	470000	500	Not able	CPS	Real report submitted	-	-
Total							75	216	23445704	1610000					

Figures are provisional.

*[Translation]***Performance of Navratna Status Companies**

371. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector companies with Navratna status have increased their business in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of their annual growth rate during the said period;

(c) the share of exports in their businesses; and

(d) the annual savings made by these companies through import/export during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):  
(a) and (b) The details of the turnover and annual growth rate of the existing 9 Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The share of export in turnover of these nine Navratna CPSEs during last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The details of imports and exports made by 9 Navratna CPSEs and excess of imports over exports during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement I**

(Rupees in crore)

	Name of CPSE	2003-2004	2004-2005		2005-2006	
		Turnover	Turnover	Rate of Growth in turnover over 2003-04	Turnover	Rate of Growth in turnover over 2004-05
1.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	8019.03	9527.14	18.81%	13374.03	40.38%
2.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	48254.3	58969.99	22.21%	77035.92	30.64%
3.	GAIL (India) Limited	11945.18	13591.38	13.78%	16351.29	20.31%
4.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	50339.1	59264.55	17.73%	68161.77	15.01%
5.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	115874.75	137659.83	18.80%	168854.71	22.66%
6.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited	6369.6	5592.39	-12.20%	5560.98	-0.56%
7.	NTPC Limited	18868.4	22564.92	19.59%	26142.92	15.86%
8.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited	32078.38	46364.37	44.53%	47966.4	3.46%
9.	Steel Authority of India Limited	21528.39	28629.94	32.99%	28265.57	-1.27%

**Statement II**

(Rupees in crores)

Name of CPSE	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
	Exports	% of exports in Turnover	Exports	% of exports in Turnover	Exports	% of exports in Turnover
1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	1742.84	21.73%	1572.77	16.51%	1788.48	13.37%
2. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	1319.21	2.73%	1943.41	3.30%	4285.64	5.56%
3. GAIL (India) Limited	19.03	0.16%	76.95	0.57%	18.58	0.11%
4. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	1123.59	2.23%	1943.51	3.28%	3271.39	4.80%
5. Indian Oil Corporation Limited	3632.83	3.14%	3540.62	2.57%	5574.48	3.30%
6. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
7. NTPC Limited	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.31	0.00%
8. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited	372.6	1.16%	1206.27	2.60%	2608.49	5.44%
9. Steel Authority of India Limited	1687.77	7.84%	1335.06	4.66%	1091.11	3.86%

**Statement III**

(Rupees in crores)

Name of CPSE	Value of Exports (Fob)	Value of Imports	Excess of Imports over Exports
1	2	3	4
1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited			
2005-06	1788	2357	569
2004-05	1573	1726	153
2003-04	1743	1227	-516
2. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited			
2005-06	4286	22379	18093
2004-05	1943	6922	4979
2003-04	1319	4847	3528

1	2	3	4
<b>3. GAIL (India) Limited</b>			
2005-06	19	102	83
2004-05	77	98	21
2003-04	19	208	189
<b>4. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited</b>			
2005-06	3271	20063	16792
2004-05	1944	13948	12004
2003-04	1124	9312	8188
<b>5. Indian Oil Corporation Limited</b>			
2005-06	5574	68196	62622
2004-05	3541	46494	42953
2003-04	3633	36170	32537
<b>6. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited</b>			
2005-06	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	0
2003-04	0	0	0
<b>7. NTPC Limited</b>			
2005-06	0	690	690
2004-05	0	145	145
2003-04	0	126	126
<b>8. Oil &amp; Natural Gas Corporation Limited</b>			
2005-06	2608	3013	405
2004-05	1206	3145	1939
2003-04	373	678	305
<b>9. Steel Authority of India Limited</b>			
2005-06	1091	6148	5057
2004-05	1335	4617	3282
2003-04	1688	2430	742

*[English]***Workers in Food Processing Industry**

372. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of workers involved in Food Processing Industries in the country at present;

(b) the number out of them who are in the unorganized sector; and

(c) the over-all growth-rate the industry has achieved during the financial year 2006-2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) According to Annual Survey of Industries 2000-2001, there were 10,19,793 workers in the country in the organized sector, while the Unorganised Manufacturing Sector Survey of National Sample Survey Organisation (2000-2001) indicates that 68,42,000 workers were involved in the unorganized industries in the food processing sector.

The figure for the over-all growth-rate of the industry during the financial year 2006-2007 would only be available after the closure of the financial year.

*[Translation]***Lucrative Schemes for Air Passengers**

373. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce 'Touch 10' and 'Touch 20' schemes for the passengers travelling regularly in the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has launched a short-term promotional scheme Touch-10/Touch-20, which is valid during the period 1st December, 2006 to 31st March, 2007. The offer is aimed at promoting select domestic sectors, which need support

to improve seat occupancy level and is open to Indians and Foreigners purchasing tickets in India. Under the offer, any passenger who undertakes 10 or 20 trips on the specified Indian Airlines/Alliance Air domestic sectors would qualify for free award ticket(s).

**Crimes in Railways**

374. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of incidents of cheating, looting and other crimes in the trains and at the stations;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during 2006-07 and the action taken in those cases, zone-wise;

(c) whether connivance of railway employees in these incidents have been ascertained;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Railways against those employees; and

(f) the measures taken by the Railways to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is a decrease in the number of incidents of crimes reported in trains and at stations over Indian Railways during the year 2006 as compared to the previous year 2005.

During the year 2006, in all 17,864 cases of crime viz. murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, robbery, cheating, thefts etc. were reported in trains and railway premises as against 19,058 such cases reported during the previous year 2005.

(c) to (e) All cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the concerned Government Railway Police (GRP) of State Governments.

As and when involvement of any Railway employee in such cases is reported, departmental action is initiated against them in addition to prosecution by the Government Railway Police concerned.

(f) Following measures are being taken by the Railways to check such incidents:-

- More than 2230 trains are being escorted on an average by Government Railway Police.
- To effectively supplement the efforts of the Government Railway Police in controlling crime on the Railways, more than 1450 trains are being escorted on an average by Railway Protection Force after the amendments of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989.
- Suitable Public Awareness programmes are launched at sensitive and important Railway stations so that hapless passengers do not fall prey/victim of cheats and gangs indulging in drugging of passengers, etc.
- Regular co-ordination meetings with State Police and Government Railway Police authorities are held to discuss crime trends and formulate effective strategies to contain crimes.

[English]

#### **Cancellation of Flights**

375. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:  
SHRI M. APPADURAI:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several flights to and from Delhi and other Airports in the country were cancelled, delayed and disrupted during the winter season due to heavy fog or change in direction of winds;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated loss suffered and the number of passengers affected thereby;

(c) the reasons for the disruption despite provision of modern equipments;

(d) whether the affected passengers have been provided any compensation by the concerned airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Special Tourism Status to Certain States**

376. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have been accorded Special Tourism Status;

(b) the funds allocated by the Government to each of such States during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to accord special Tourism Status to Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism does not accord Special Tourism Status to the States.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

#### **PNG Network**

377. SHRI JUAL ORAM:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the details of the cities covered under the piped natural gas network in the country, as on date;

(b) the companies involved in the supply of PNG to households in various cities;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any Action Plan to lay piped natural gas supply network in some more cities during the year 2007-2008;

(d) if so, the details of the cities identified for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which PNG network is likely to be set up in all the major cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The cities covered under the piped natural gas network in the country are Delhi, Mumbai, Agartala, Surat, Hazira, Junagam, Vasva, Mora, Damka, Bhatli, Kawas, Rajgiri, Suwali, Icchapore Ankleshwar, Bharauch, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Vidyanagar, Anand, Morbi, Gandhinagar, Duliajan, Digboi, Dibrugarh, Moran, Naharkatiya, Sivasagar, Nazira, Simaluguri and Tinsukia.

(b) The companies involved in the supply of PNG to households in the country are Indraprastha Gas Limited, Mahanagar Gas Limited, Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited, Gujarat Gas Company Limited, GSPC Gas Company Limited, Assam Gas Company Limited and Adani Energy Limited. Apart from these, Vadodara Municipal Corporation and Charotar Gas Sahakari Mandali Limited are also involved in the supply of PNG.

(c) and (d) While the Government has not prepared any Action Plan to lay piped natural gas during the year 2007-2008, it has prepared a regulatory framework for encouraging investment in this area by enacting 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notifying the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. GAIL and its Joint Venture Companies have planned supply of PNG to the cities of Kanpur, Lucknow, Agra and Vijayawada during the year 2007-2008.

(e) The implementation of city gas distribution projects is linked with availability of gas, commissioning of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

*[Translation]*

#### **Dividend by Oil Companies**

378. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether public sector oil companies have announced interim dividend in the month of December, 2006;

(b) if so, the quantum thereof, company-wise; and

(c) the comparative figures of dividend as against the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The details of interim dividend announced by the major oil PSUs in the month of December, 2006 company-wise as compared to the previous financial year are as follows:

Name of the Oil PSUs	Dividend paid (Rs. in Crores)	
	2006-07 (Interim)	2005-06 (Final)
ONGC	3849.97	3564.83
IOCL	700.81	1460.02
OIL	235.40	567.11
HPCL	203.60	101.80
BPCL	216.93	90.39
GAIL	465.11	845.65

*[English]*

#### **Separate Track for Freight Trains**

379. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a separate track for freight trains from Mumbai and Calcutta to New Delhi for rapid freight movement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dedicated Railway Freight Corridor Project on Western and Eastern Routes were included in Rail Budget 2006-2007. The estimated cost of Western Corridor between Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Tughlakabad/Dadri is Rs. 16,592 Crore. The estimated cost of Eastern Corridors between Ludhiana and Son Nagar is Rs. 11,589 Crore. The Eastern Corridor will be extended to the proposed Deep Sea Port in Kolkata area considering the possibility of increase in freight traffic on account of this port. A new Public Sector Undertaking named Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been formed to implement the projects.

**Modernisation of Air Traffic Control System**

380. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:  
DR. K. DHANARAJU:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Delhi Airport's grounded truth" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' on February 12, 2007;

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

(c) whether the basic tool of Air Traffic Control (ATC), the communication system between ATCs and pilots are outdated and sometimes the aircraft radio picks up FM music channel instead of the pilot's instructions; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report primarily highlighted the inadequate infrastructure *vis-à-vis* increase in traffic which results in delays. The report is exaggeration of the factual position. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has implemented a new parallel taxiway and rapid exit taxiways for both the runways and also implemented simultaneous use of the two runways. This has reduced the delays for arrivals and departures and enhanced the runway capacity significantly to the maximum of about 40 movements per hour. The Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) has also initiated actions for constructions of additional runways and parking stands, etc., to further enhance the capacity and to minimize delays.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The ATC system and communication tools at IGI Airports, Delhi has been provided with the latest State-of-the-art VHF Transmitters and Receivers with Digital Voice Control System (VCS) for communication between the Controller and the Pilot. VHF Transmitters and Receivers installed on ground are regularly checked and maintained at optimum serviceable levels for operation.

With regard to reception of FM Music channel in the aircraft, it is stated the equipments on board the aircraft are maintained by the concerned airlines.

**Congestion Charges from Passengers**

381. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:  
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that private airlines are levying congestion charges on the passengers;

(b) if so, the sectors in which there is congestion and the sectors for which airlines charges congestion charges;

(c) whether the Government proposes to put any check on private airlines for charging such levy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some Airlines are levying congestion surcharge. However, domestic air fares are not regulated by the Government after the repeal of Air Corporation Act, 1953 in 1994. Domestic airlines are free to charge air fares as per their commercial judgement.

[*Translation*]

**Financial Position of Public Sector Oil Companies**

382. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) the financial position of the public sector oil companies during 2006-07 as on date with comparison to 2005-06, company-wise;

(b) whether due to decline in international prices of crude oil, the profit margin of the public sector oil companies is likely to come down;



(c) if so, to what extent;

(d) whether the oil marketing companies have again sought revision of the prices of petroleum products;

(e) if so, the details; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Profit After Tax of public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) during 2006-07 (Apr-Dec' 06) as compared to 2005-06 is given below:

(Rs. Crore)		
Company	Apr-Dec' 06 (3 Quarter)	2005-06 (Full Year)
IOC	5890*	4915*
BPC	1136**	292**
HPC	1022	406
IBP	107	12
Total	8155	5625

\*Includes exceptional item.- Profit of Rs. 3224.78 crores, being long term gain on sale of 20% of IOC's shareholding in ONGC Limited during April'2006. During the Financial Year 2005-06 IOC had a profit of Rs. 438.86 crore on sale of 50% of IOC's shareholding in GAIL.

\*\*After merger with KRL.

(b) to (f) Keeping in mind the interest of common man, the Government has not increased the prices of petroleum products in line with the international oil prices. Due to this, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have

reported under recoveries in marketing of sensitive petroleum products to the tune of Rs. 41,200 crore during April-Decemeb'06. However, Government along with oil companies have decided to absorb 87.5% of this burden and only 12.5% is to be borne by consumers. The Government have agreed to issue oil bonds worth Rs. 28,300 crore during the current financial year. Besides the upstream oil companies have also contributed to the tune of Rs. 24,000 crore towards under-recoveries suffered by the OMCs.

#### Pending Compensation Claims before RCT

363. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:  
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to accident compensation claims and refund of fare disposed off by the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) alongwith amount of compensation paid during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of compensation claims pending before the RCT till date;

(c) the time since when these cases are pending and the reasons for delay in disposing off these cases;

(d) the average time taken in disposal of such cases; and

(e) the measures taken by the Railway for speedy disposal of pending compensation claims and the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of disposal of claims cases:-

Year	Accident claims compensation case u/s 124A of Railway Act, 1989		Refund of fare cases	
	No. of cases	Amt. Decreed (Rs.)	No. of cases	Amt. Decreed (Rs.)
2003-04	438	5,58,91,500	9	34,451
2004-05	373	4,31,41,538	5	3,574
2005-06	175	4,51,82,850	2	400
2006-07 (Upto 31.12.06)	238	3,09,23,259	2	3568

(b) 274 number of Accident Compensation Claims cases and 2 number of Refund of Fare cases are pending as on 1.1.2007.

(c) Agewise pendency of Train Accident cases as on 1.1.2007.

Less than one year	One year old	Two year old	Three year old	Four year old	Five year old & above 5 years	Total
113	70	36	46	6	2	274

Agewise pendency of Refund of Fare cases as on 1.1.2007.

Less than one year	One year old	Two year old	Three year old	Four year old	Five year old & above 5 years	Total
1	1	0	0	0	0	2

(d) The details of average time taken in disposal of cases:-

Year	Accident Claims Compensation cases	Refund of Fare Cases
2003-04	417 days	669 days
2004-05	761 days	826 days
2005-06	447 days	515 days
2006-07 (Upto 31.12.06)	279 days	171 days

(e) (1) RCT (Procedure) Rules have been amended as under for expeditious disposal of cases:-

- An application for accident compensation cases can be filed before the Bench having territorial jurisdiction over the place from which the passenger purchases ticket/obtains his pass, or where the accident or untoward incident occurs or where the place of destination station lies or where the claimant normally resides.
- RCT to pronounce an order within 21 days after the date of final hearing.
- Earlier the affidavits were attested by Notary Public. For the convenience of claimants, the Registrars of RCT have also been empowered to attest the same.

(2) Chairman Railway Claims Tribunal is empowered to depute a Member of one Bench to the other Bench for holding Circuit Bench to clear the backlog in case of vacancy in that Bench.

(3) Following administrative measures are also taken:

- an Accident cell is set up at each Zonal Head quarter to provide assistance for filling accident compensation claim and monitor them till the satisfaction of decree in the Railway Claims Tribunal.
- After the decree has been passed in accident cases, Railways have to ensure that cheques are issued and dispatched within period of 15 days.

No time-frame can be prescribed for disposal of cases as the Railway Claims Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body. However, Chairman/RCT is requested from time to time to arrange Circuit Benches to clear the backlog in case of vacancy of a Member at a particular Bench.

*Reasons for delay:-*

- Adjournment sought by the Applicant/their Counsel for producing evident, etc.
- Transfer of claims cases from one Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) Bench to the other, sought by the claimants.
- Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants.

**Hotline Service between India and  
Pakistan Coast Guards**

384. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a hotline service between Indo-Pak Coast Guards has been started to monitor the coastal boundaries and facilitate exchange of information between the two countries as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara', dated February 1, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Coast Guard is facing a shortage of jawans to defend the coastal boundaries of the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to meet the shortage; and

(e) the extent to which hotline service has proved to be useful?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) to (e) A hotline connectivity has been successfully established between Indian Coast Guard and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency on 14th November, 2006. The hotline has enabled online exchange of information on International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) violation by fishing vessels of respective sides. There is a regular exchange of communication between Director General of Indian Coast Guards and Director General of Pakistan Maritime Security Agency at 0930 hours (Indian Standard Time) on every Wednesday. The establishment of hotline connectivity has paved a way for maritime cooperation between the two Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies. The Indian Coast Guard is a growing organization and providing of requisite manpower is an ongoing process. For filling up of vacancies, recruitment is conducted on regular basis. The Coast Guard is adequately equipped to defend the coastal boundaries of the country.

*[English]*

**Cess on Passengers**

385. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose cess on passengers travelling by air for developing greenfield airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the proposed cess is likely to be utilised; and

(c) the estimated amount likely to be generated through this cess?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Training to Pilots under Low-Visibility**

386. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has upgraded the syllabus for training pilots so that all of them could get trained to operate flights under low-visibility conditions due to fog;

(b) if so, whether all the private carriers have been instructed to implement the scheme forthwith;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Director General of Civil Aviation is considering relaxing the current prescribed norm for take-offs which calls for a minimum visibility of 550 meters may be lowered the norm to 150 meters of runway visibility range; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Directorate General of Civil Aviation on 22.11.2005 has revised the training requirement of pilots for operating on Instrument Landing System (ILS) Category-II and Category-III to enable pilots to operate in low visibility conditions by amending Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7, Series "X", Part I.

(b) and (c) The compliance of CAR is mandatory for all airline operators.

(d) and (e) In accordance with ICAO Guidelines, the requirement for Low Take-off Minima for scheduled Operators are under review in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in consultation with the operators for necessary implementation.

**National Institute of Food Technology,  
Entrepreneurship and Management**

387. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management with a view to improve the quality of food processing 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 OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government is setting up a National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management at Kundli in the State of Haryana. The Institute will function as a knowledge centre in food processing with emphasis on inter-disciplinary research, developing new products and processes, incubating innovative ideas, provide a forum for intense interaction with industry, Government, consumers and experts on the emerging contours of the food processing industry, guide and advise on the HRD support required for the sector and the regulatory framework for the industry. The Institute is likely to be partly operational this year.

**Fast Food Chains in Railways**

388. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to rope in fast food chains and install vending machines for beverages and food items in trains and at stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have decided to have modular kitchens and a spic and span atmosphere in trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Six reputed caterers in the catering/hospitality business including fast food chains have been invited to participate in the bidding process for setting up of food plazas/fast food units/quick service food kiosks at stations. Eighteen companies in manufacturing business of food and beverages have been empanelled for participation in the bidding process of automatic vending machines.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to redesign/modernize pantry cars by installation of modern gadgets/equipments. This process is now in its initial stage.

**Construction of New Railway Terminals**

389. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved construction of new railway terminals in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of such terminals on which construction work has actually been commenced;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on those terminals and the time schedule for completion thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not commencing construction work on the remaining terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) One new passenger terminal at Chitpur (Kolkata) in West Bengal was approved in 2003-04 at a cost of Rs. 90.5 crore. The terminal station with platform No. 1, 2 and 3 alongwith foot overbridge, station building and other related passenger amenities works has been commissioned on 30.01.2006. Works of platform no. 4 & 5 and other related works will be completed by 31.12.2007.

(c) An amount of Rs. 45.14 crore has been incurred on Chitpur terminal upto 31.03.2006. The expenditure incurred during the current year is approximately Rs. 14

crore (provisional). The terminal is likely to be completed during 2007-08.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Butterfly Park**

390. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up Butterfly park on the lines of Kuala Lumpur and a night safari as in Singapore to boost tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the site identified thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development of tourist infrastructure facilities is primarily the responsibility of State/UT Governments. Ministry of Tourism extends central financial assistance for the tourism projects received from the State/UT Governments, which are prioritized in consultation with them. In 2003-04, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 500.00 lakh in favor of Govt. of Karnataka for development of Bannerghatta Biological Park, which has a Butterfly park. During the current financial year, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 15.00 lakh for preparation of Detailed Project Report to set up a night safari park at Darjeeling, West Bengal.

[Translation]

#### **IOC-Reliance Agreement for Supply of Cooking Gas**

391. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between Public Sector Undertaking Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Reliance Industries for supplying cooking gas to household through pipelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the cities in which piped cooking gas is likely to be provided by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Hospitality Management Institute of Kerala**

392. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned and provided any financial assistance to the Government of Kerala to establish a Hospitality Management Institute in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Norms Defying by Pilots**

393. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DGCA has recently ordered grounding of some pilots of private airlines for defying flying hours norms;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any further action against such pilots commanders who have been found defying various norms of the DGCA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A surprise check was carried out by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and it was observed that eight pilots had exceeded the laid down norms of Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) limits.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the Aircraft Rules, 1937, DGCA has taken action against the erring pilots, which included off-rostering of pilots, warning and imposition of financial penalty.

#### **Setting up of Strato Tropo Radar Centres**

394. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Strato Tropo Radar Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the centres are likely to be set up; and

(d) the likely benefits of the centres?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Dual Pricing for Cooking Gas**

395. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce dual pricing for cooking gas to tackle the burden of subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute an independent Regulatory Body to fix the prices of petroleum products and proposes to extend the

benefits of subsidy on petroleum products on the poor only;

(d) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the subsidy on kerosene provided during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to check the misuse of the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce dual pricing for domestic LPG.

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

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 3.4.2006 as Act No. 19 of 2006 to regulate refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas.

(e) The amount of subsidy provided from Budget on PDS Kerosene during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) While the distribution of PDS Kerosene is controlled by the State Government Authorities, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) also take various steps to check diversion of this product such as doping of kerosene with marker, strengthening of distribution network through Jan Kerosene Pariyojna, close monitoring of transport trucks, retail outlets through Global Positioning System (GPS) and regular inspections by field staff. In respect of domestic LPG, Government is closely monitoring the distribution of domestic LPG to check diversion for unauthorised uses like commercial establishment, illegal LPG vehicles. Government has advised OMCs to monitor dealer-wise sales in order to check the misuse of domestic LPG.

**Statement***Total subsidy paid on PDS Kerosene state-wise during last three years*

(Rs. in crore)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.37	0.69	0.75	2.81
Bihar	154.16	78.09	78.33	310.58
Jharkhand	48.85	24.19	24.19	97.23
Orissa	66.73	33.25	32.96	132.94
Sikkim	1.29	0.64	0.61	2.54
West Bengal	168.26	82.75	82.88	333.89
Arunachal Pradesh	1.99	1.14	1.02	4.15
Assam	57.94	29.26	28.75	115.95
Manipur	4.39	2.18	2.13	8.70
Meghalaya	4.56	2.25	2.34	9.15
Mizoram	1.49	0.73	0.73	2.95
Nagaland	3.06	1.56	1.55	6.17
Tripura	7.01	3.57	3.66	14.24
Chandigarh	2.57	1.25	1.33	5.15
Delhi	41.21	19.43	18.19	78.83
Himachal Pradesh	12.13	5.91	6.08	24.12
Haryana	32.48	16.10	15.97	64.55
Jammu and Kashmir	19.68	9.57	9.37	38.62
Punjab	58.33	27.65	27.62	113.60
Rajasthan	86.15	42.25	41.80	170.20
Uttar Pradesh	297.29	152.22	149.67	599.18
Uttaranchal	21.25	9.97	10.03	41.25
Andhra Pradesh	97.92	47.22	48.81	193.95
Karnataka	92.15	44.25	44.16	180.56

1	2	3	4	5
Kerala	41.44	20.49	20.05	81.98
Lakshadweep	0.15	0.05	0.05	0.25
Pondicherry	2.24	1.10	1.10	4.44
Tamin Nadu	105.61	52.69	53.36	211.66
Chhattisgarh	29.89	15.18	15.18	60.25
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.32	0.17	0.21	0.70
Daman and Diu	0.55	0.16	0.16	0.87
Goa	4.05	1.94	1.90	7.89
Gujarat	137.81	67.58	67.60	272.99
Madhya Pradesh	105.69	53.07	53.08	211.84
Maharashtra	242.97	118.84	119.09	480.90
Grand Total	1952.98	967.39	964.71	3885.08

#### Reduction in Prices of LPG

396. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times prices of domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) revised during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes further revision of domestic LPG prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The retail selling price of domestic LPG was revised three times during the last three years which are as under:

Year	Date	Rs./Cyl. at Delhi
2003-04	No revision	240.45
2004-05	16.06.04	261.60
	05.11.04	281.60
2005-06	01.04.05	294.75**

\*\*Due to implementation of VAT in Delhi.

(b) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

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

#### Land for Development of Non-Metro Airports

397. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of city side areas identified by the Government so far to exploit and develop non-metro airports in the country;

(b) whether plans to commercially exploit and develop the city side areas at 35 non-metro airports through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) have hit a roadblock as the Ministry has discovered that enough land is not available at around 15 of these airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof and alternative steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether as a result thereof only 20 of these airports are likely to be put up for bids for city side developments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?



THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Out of 35 Non-Metro airports selected by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development and modernisation, the city side development of Eight non-Metro airports which are either Civil Enclaves at Defence Airfields or airports development of the remaining non-Metro airports will be done under Public Private Partnership (PPP).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Doubling of Railway Line between Shoranur-Mangalore Section**

398. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:  
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doubling of the railway line between Shoranur-Mangalore section has been delayed due to contractual failures; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps being taken to solve the problem and to complete the project as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On this 307 Kms. long route, doubling has already been commissioned on 284 Kms. length. Another 21 Kms. has also been completed and is likely to be commissioned in March, 2007. Contractual problem in construction of Netravati River bridge has delayed the completion of the bridge.

(b) Contracts awarded earlier for construction of Netravati River bridge have been terminated and fresh tenders have been processed for the bridge works.

*[Translation]*

**Black Marketing of Kerosene**

399. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the kerosene oil meant for poor people through PDS is being sold in black market;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of complaint received and number of cases detected and the action taken by the Government against the person found guilty during the last two years, State-wise; and

(d) the corrective steps taken or being taken by the Government to check the diversion and black marketing of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The Government of India allocates Kerosene under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to the States/UTs on quarterly basis for further distribution to eligible consumers by the States/UTs. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/ Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the year 2005-06, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. For the year 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2005-06. The possibility of black marketing of Kerosene by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of their Kerosene (SKO) dealers and take action against the defaulters under Marketing Discipline Guidelines. It has been reported by OMCs that no complaints have been received against their SKO dealers. OMCs have reported that four cases of black marketing of PDS SKO by dealers and fourteen cases of other malpractices/irregularities have been detected during the last two years.

In order to check the black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order,

1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, according to which the dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or OMCs and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place.

Under the Control Orders issues by the Government to prevent diversion and black-marketing of kerosene under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.

Government have also approved a pilot project—'Jan Kerosene Pariyojana' (JKP) for radically revamping the PDS kerosene distribution network with the primary objective of ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and secondly, to thus cap, reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration. One of the salient features of this scheme is that supplies to the sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the public sector OMCs. The scheme has been launched on a pilot basis in 414 blocks in the country from 2nd October, 2005. The pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.06.2007.

With a view to checking diversion of subsidized kerosene and in order to monitor the movement of Tank Trucks transporting petroleum products, the Government have advised the public sector OMCs for installing Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicle tracking system on all the tank trucks by 31.03.2007. The essential features of the system is that the vehicle carrying PDS SKO is fitted with a device and can be tracked on real time basis from the time it leaves the supply location and till it reaches the destination.

To check adulteration in auto fuels, and also to check diversion of subsidized kerosene, Government have also advised OMCs to introduce marker in adulterants. Public sector OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world-class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected.

MS/HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

[English]

#### **Discovery of Oil and Gas Reserves In J&K Region**

400. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of oil and gas findings in Jammu and Kashmir region as carved out by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons;

(b) whether India and Pakistan authorities held discussions on the financial and security aspects of the proposed oil and gas bearing region of Pakistan's Punjab;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Pakistan have agreed in principle to commence the exploration; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) In the state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), no exploration block has been carved out so far. No commercial oil or gas discovery has been made so far in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. So far, no discussion has been held with Pakistan authorities of the financial and security aspects of the oil and gas-bearing region of Pakistan's Punjab.

[Translation]

#### **Multipurpose Cultural Complex at Gwalior**

401. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received two proposals from Government of Madhya Pradesh for construction of a Multipurpose Cultural Complex at Gwalior and to celebrate Bharat Bhawan Rajat Jayanti involving a sum of Rs. 2 and 2.5 crore respectively.

(b) if so, the action taken so far thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) A proposal for construction of Multipurpose Cultural Complex (MPCC) at Gwalior at a cost of Rs. 2.00 crore has been received. Another proposal amounting to Rs. 93.43 lakhs has also been received regarding celebration of Rajat Jayanti of Bharat Bhawan, Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The proposal for construction of MPCC at Gwalior has been approved and a sanction for first installment of grant also issued.

Different components of the proposal relating to celebration of Rajat Jayanti of Bharat Bhawan was considered by Sangeet Natak Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi and Sahitya Akademi under their respective schemes but could not be agreed to due to paucity of funds in case of Sangeet Natak Academy and proposal not falling within parameters of schemes in case of Lalit Kala Academy and Sahitya Academy.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Recruitment of Psychiatrists**

402. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Plans to recruit 400 Psychiatrists to cope with stress within its ranks that has led to an increase in fratricidal killings and suicides, as reported in the 'Times of India' dated December 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has since been finalized and accepted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented?

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

(a) There is no proposal to recruit psychiatrists. There is sufficient number of psychiatrists in the Army. Army has already taken several steps to cope with stress within its ranks. Some of the measures are:-

- (i) 50 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) from Army Medical Corps have been trained as counsellors in Northern and Eastern Commands, where troops are engaged in counter insurgency operations.
- (ii) Religious Teachers, JCOs of Army Education Corps and Regimental Medical Officers have been identified as 'Psychological Health Mentors' at unit level and their services are being utilized accordingly.
- (iii) Training capsules on relaxation exercise including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.
- (iv) Rotation of units and individuals is being implemented to minimize exposure to stress. This measures is an ongoing process.
- (v) Leave policy has been liberalized permitting splitting of casual and annual leave.
- (vi) All Chief Ministers have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Demand of Locomotive Coaches and Wagons**

403. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage private sector to invest in manufacturing of rolling stock locomotives with latest technology available and expanding railway network to strengthen the existing routes and reaching new destinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to meet the increasing demand of locomotives and coaches and wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) To meet anticipated increase in demand of traffic, all organizational and functional structures and avenues for rolling stock manufacture are to be explored in setting up new units.

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited has been set up to enlist investment from non-budgetary sources for strengthening of identified routes and new lines, etc.

(c) The Ministry of Railways have taken a number of measures to meet the increase in demand of Rolling Stock:

- (i) Works have been approved to increase production capacities in its Locomotives & Coach building production units at Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), Integral Coach Factory (ICF) & Rail Coach Factory (RCF).
- (ii) Approvals have been taken to set up a new coach factory for manufacture of 1000 coaches per year and a Diesel Locomotive factory to manufacture 150 Locomotives per year.
- (iii) With respect to wagons, the production capacity in the country is mainly in the private sector, where market forces seem to determine capacity.

#### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Maharashtra**

404. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to tourism which are under consideration for Maharashtra, specially in Aurangabad District; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritised in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations every year for the following schemes:

- (i) Tourist Circuits
- (ii) Product Infrastructure & Destination Development

(iii) Large Revenue Generating projects.

The proposals received from the State Governments are appraised on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 8197.75 lakh for the State of Maharashtra during the 10th Plan (till December, 2006). It includes a project proposal for development of Aurangabad Art & Craft Centre sanctioned during 2006-07, with Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 442.16 lakh.

Implementation and execution of the projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Government of Maharashtra. However, Ministry of Tourism regularly monitors the progress of projects sanctioned under Central Financial Assistance.

#### **Foreign Investments In Tourism**

405. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investments being permitted for development of Tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely effects of FDI in tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have already allowed 100% FDI in the hotel and tourism sector on the automatic route.

(c) This facility has encouraged leading hotel chains of the world to invest in India.

#### **Medical Facilities for Air Passengers**

406. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise status of the number of deaths occurred on-board and at the airports due to stress of flying/cardiac arrest during the last three years;

(b) whether adequate medical facilities are available to the passengers on-board and at the airports in case of emergencies;

(c) if not, whether the Government is planning to raise the standards of available facilities at the airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of precautionary guidelines issued to the passengers intending to go on a long flight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir. Medical inspection units are working round the clock at Chennai, Kolkata and Trivandrum airports with first aid facilities. Similar medical inspection units are also available at Delhi and Mumbai airports which provide first aid facilities in case of medical emergency. At other major airports, Medical Inspection rooms with first-aid facilities are available where medical emergencies are attended to by the State Government/Private Hospital doctors and paramedical staff.

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

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

*[Translation]*

#### **Deployment of Dhruv Helicopters**

407. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of 'Dhruv' helicopters in the fleet of the Indian Air Force at present;

(b) whether the 'Dhruv' helicopter met with an accident during the Aero India Show recently;

(c) if so, whether the Government has got investigated the causes of crash of the said helicopter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the total number of such helicopters yet to be delivered by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to the Indian Armed Forces along with the issues discussed by the Government with AHL;

(f) whether the Government is reconsidering on the project of the said helicopters and proposes to put a ban on procurement of said helicopters; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) A total number of 20 Dhruv helicopters have been inducted into the Indian Air Force so far.

(b) One Dhruv helicopter met with an accident on 2.2.2007 while practicing for the Aero India Show recently.

(c) and (d) All such accidents are investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly.

(e) The Procurement of helicopters through Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. is done in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract signed by the Armed Forces.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Automotive Mission Plan for Automobile Sector**

408. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has unveiled an ambitious 10 years Automotive Mission Plan (AMP) for automobile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AMP has failed to meet the expectations of environmentalists; and

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

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. The 'Automotive Mission Plan (AMP) 2006-2016' was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 29.01.2007. The Mission Plan has identified the interventions at the level of Government,

Industry and academia for the development of Indian automotive industry into a global hub. The vision of AMP 2006-2016 states, "To emerge as the destination of choice in the world for design and manufacture of automobiles and more than 10% of the GDP and providing additional employment to 25 million people by 2016."

(c) and (d) The AMP has laid emphasis on the environmental issues relating to the automotive industry and seeks to encourage development of alternate fuels including hydrogen, fuel cells, bio-diesel, etc. besides encouragement for hybrid vehicles. It also envisages a long term roadmap for auto fuel and emission norms.

#### **Dhubri-Fakiragram Railway Line**

409. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dhubri-Fakiragram railway line has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total length of railway line proposed to be converted to broad gauge line alongwith the estimated expenditure thereon;

(d) the amount released so far and the achievement against the fund released;

(e) when the work on Golakganj bridge was started on this railway line and the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(f) the time by which the entire work on Dhubri-Fakiragram line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The line is closed since 2000-01. The closure was done due to law and order problem. At present, gauge conversion has been taken up.

(c) and (d) Fakiragram-Dhubri (66 kms) has been planned for conversion. This is a part of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon including branch lines gauge conversion project. The total expenditure on the project upto 31.3.06 has been 770.56 crore. An outlay of Rs. 35 crore has been provided for the project during 2006-07.

(e) Golakganj Bridge is under New Maynaguri-Jogighopa rail line project. The bridge is likely to be completed by March, 2009.

(f) Dhubri-Fakiragram is targeted for completion during 2008-09.

#### **Problem of Noise Pollution by Aircraft**

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITI-Delhi has completed its study on noise pollution in residential colonies around IGI and area falling in routes of planes in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details and the findings of such study; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to deal with the problem of noise pollution due to aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has not assigned any job to IIT, Delhi for the same.

#### **Transportation of Iron by Railways in Orissa**

411. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of iron/iron ore transported by Railways from Deojar, Barbil, Jurudi and Banspani sidings in Orissa during last three years;

(b) the estimated cost of these minerals;

(c) whether Railways have taken any step for the peripheral development of these Railway sidings areas during the last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The total number of iron ore rakes loaded and transported from Deojar, Baril, Juruli and Banspani during the last three years are as follows:

	No. of rakes loaded (Jan-Dec.)		
	2004	2005	2006
Deojhar	577	745	797
Barbil	573	547	808
Juruli	341	313	578
Banspani	680	814	980
Total	2171	2419	3163

(b) The estimated cost of transportation of iron ore (per ton) is Rs. 2000 and that of iron ore fines is Rs. 750.

(c) Various steps for infrastructural developments like round the clock working in sidings, increase in length of line to deal with full rake, construction of public and private sidings, commissioning of motorized central panel, etc. have been taken. A new Line between Daitari and Banspani has been commissioned to assist movement of iron ore. The Railway is also entering into Public and Private Partnerships for developing loading sidings further.

(d) Does not arise.

**Interim Report of National Commission for  
Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and  
Semi-Nomadic Tribes**

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

(a) whether the National Commission for Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes has submitted any interim report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations given by the Commission; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

**Special Package Tour for Vaishno Devi Pilgrims**

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

(a) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has prepared a special package tour for the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The tour package ensures railway reservation and the arrangements for accommodation, meals, road transport, Darshan slips and wash and change facility at the Bhawan are made. The tour commences every Friday from New Delhi Railway station by Jammu Rajdhani Express at 21.05 hours and the return is by Uttar Sampark Kranti Express at 20.30 hrs. from Jammu on Sunday arriving New Delhi on Monday morning. The charges for adults is Rs. 3950 and for child Rs. 2200.

[English]

**Road Map for Development of Civil Aviation Sector**

414. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Naresh Chandra Committee constituted by the Government to prepare a road map for the Civil Aviation sector have been examined; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The recommendations of the Naresh Chandra Committee have been duly examined as part of the process of formulating the Civil Aviation Policy.

[Translation]

**Food Processing Industries in Chhattisgarh**

415. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for setting up of food processing industries in their State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the project-wise financial assistance provided for setting up of FPI in the State during last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have received twenty three proposals from Chhattisgarh for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing units during 2003-04 to 2006-07 so far. Seven proposals have been approved, five cases have been closed/rejected and remaining eleven cases are at various stages of processing. The details of applications received, funds provided for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing units year-wise/sector-wise, during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Year	Applications received	Sector-wise funds provided (Rs. in lakhs)				
		Rice	Million units	Oil Milling units	Consumer Units	Total
2003-04	06		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2004-05	10		32.61	Nil	Nil	32.61
2005-06	03		91.76	Nil	Nil	91.76
2006-07 (upto February 2007)	04		14.98	26.66	50.00	91.64

[English]

#### Induction of Akash Missiles

416. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Akash missiles have been inducted in the Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The user trials for the Akash missile system have not been completed.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Mini Petrol Pumps

417. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is considering on any scheme to allot mini petrol pumps on unused lawns of residents in big cities as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 15, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such cities have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any assessment has been made in regard to cost on setting up of such mini petrol pumps; and



(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such petrol pumps are likely to start functioning under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply of part (a) above.

[English]

#### Revival of CPSUs

418. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:  
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHADNRA  
DESHMUKH:  
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) approved for revival;

(b) the details of the CPSUs are still sick and proposed to be revived; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for revival of these CPSUs?

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

(a) to (c) The Government has constituted a Board for Restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for consideration and recommending revival proposals of Central Public Sector Enterprises of BRPSE, Government approves revival of sick CPSEs. BRPSE has recommended 38 CPSEs for revival involving non-cash assistance of Rs. 10947.50 crore and cash assistance of Rs. 2888.14 crore. Proposal for revival of 24 CPSEs have already been approved by Government with a Non-cash assistance of Rs. 5253.30 crore and cash infusion of Rs. 1993.30 crore. Name of CPSEs recommended for revival by BRPSE and approved by Government are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

#### Statement I

##### *Details of assistance for revival of CPSEs recommended by BRPSE as on 31.1.2007*

Sl.No.	Name of the CPSE	Registered Office		Fresh cash/ fund infusion by GOI  Rs./crores	Waiver of interest, loan, etc. by GOI  Rs./crores	Total  Rs./crores
		State	Place			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Deptt. of Heavy Industry</b>						
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	4.28	73.30	77.58
2.	Bridge & Roof Co. India Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	60.00	112.92	172.92
3.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	0.00	54.61	54.61
4.	HMT Bearing Ltd.	Karnataka	Bangalore	7.40	43.97	51.37
5.	Praga Tools Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	10.00	204.71	214.71
6.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	0.00	288.21	288.21
7.	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd.	Bihar		25.66	164.45	190.11
9.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	Karnataka	Tungabhadra	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Bharat Pumps & Compressures Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	0.00	137.00	137.00
11.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	Karnataka	Bangalore	623.00	112.00	735.00
12.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	0.00	818.79	818.79
13.	NEPA Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	Nepa Nagar	0.00	229.07	229.07
14.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi	184.29	1267.95	1452.24
15.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	102.00	1266.30	1368.30
16.	Andrew Yule Co. Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	146.82	508.87	655.49
17.	Instrumentation Ltd.	Rajasthan	Kota	85.44	603	688.44
18.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	93.74	290.73	384.47
19.	HMT Ltd.	Karnataka	Bangalore	0.00	83.28	83.28
20.	HMT Watches Ltd.	Karnataka	Bangalore	204.42	302.15	506.57
	Total of DHI			1546.85	6561.31	8108.16
	<b>Ministry of Textiles</b>					
21.	NTC & its subsidiaries*	Delhi	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	British India Corp. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	47.35	0.00	47.35
	<b>Ministry of Coal</b>					
23.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Deptt. of Fertilizers</b>					
24.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	0.00	185.31	185.31
25.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	Kerala	Udyogmandal	0.00	670.37	670.37
	<b>Deptt. of Shipping</b>					
26.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	17.00	400.00	417.00
27.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	548.50	253.70	802.20
	<b>Deptt. of Chemicals &amp; Petrochemicals</b>					
28.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	Maharashtra	Pune	80.62	123.75	204.37
29.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	Maharashtra	Rasayani	250.00	100.00	350.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi	0.00	240.01	240.01
31.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	207.19	233.41	440.6
<b>Ministry of Mines</b>						
32.	Mineral Exploration Corporation of India Ltd.	Maharashtra	Nagpur	0.00	104.64	104.64
33.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	West Bengal	Kolkata	0.00	637.26	637.26
<b>Deptt. of Scientific &amp; Industrial Research</b>						
34.	Central Electronics Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi	0.00	28.60	28.60
<b>Ministry of Water Resources</b>						
35.	National Projects Construction Corp. Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi	60.00	745.97	805.97
<b>Ministry of Steel</b>						
36.	MECON Ltd.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	93.00	7.72	100.72
37.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	Jharkhand	Bokaro Steel City	0.00	428.45	428.45
<b>Deptt. of Agriculture &amp; Cooperation</b>						
38.	State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi	37.63	227	264.63
Total of non DHI				1341.29	4386.19	5727.48
Grand Total				2888.14	10947.50	13835.64

\*Subsidiaries are in different places/states

\*Excluding waiver of guarantee fee (not exceeding Rs. 1.92 crores per annum) on VRS loans and Continuation of 50% interest subsidiary (not exceeding Rs. 6.50 crores per annum) on VRS loans.

DHI—Department of Heavy Industry.

#### **Statement II**

*Cash and Non-cash Assistance approved by the Cabinet/CCEA in respect of  
BRPSE recommended proposals as on 31.1.2007*

Sl.No.	Name of the CPSE	No. of employees as on 31.3.2005	Assistance (Rs. in Crores)		
			Cash #	Non-Cash@	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	140	4.28	73.30	77.58
2.	NTC including its subsidiaries	30638	39.23	—	39.23
3.	Bridge Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	1268	60.00	42.92	102.92

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	224	—	54.61	54.61
5.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	356	7.40	43.97	51.37
6.	Praga Tools Ltd.	554	5.00	209.71	214.71
7.	Braithwaite & Company Ltd.	550	4.00	280.21	284.21
8.	British India Corporation Ltd.	2899	47.35	—	47.35
9.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.	1136	73.60	280.00	353.60
10.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	3610	102.00	1116.30	1218.30
11.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	1586	184.29	1267.95	1452.44
12.	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.	77	—	—	—
13.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	1859	137.59	267.57	405.16
14.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	1526	250.00	NA	250.00
15.	Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	4134	—	670.37	670.37
16.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	348	—	—	—
17.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	1715	—	267.29	267.29
18.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.	2281	—	104.64	104.64
19.	Central Electronics Ltd.	691	—	6.02	6.02
20.	Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	105692	—*	—*	—*
21.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.	1244	3.37\$	153.15	156.52\$
22.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	846	207.19	233.41	440.60
23.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	4531	723.0	157.80	880.80
24.	MECON	1539	145.0	23.08	168.08
Total		169464	1993.30*	5252.30*	7245.60*

# Cash Assistance may involve budgetary support through equity/loan/grants.

@ Non-cash Assistance may involve waiver of interest, penal interest, GOI loan, Guarantee fee, conversion of loan into equity/debentures, etc.

\* The revival plan approved by the Government *inter alia* envisaged non-cash assistance of Rs. 2470.77 crores and waiver of service charges of Rs. 14 crores per annum from 2004-05 from Coal India Ltd.

\$ In addition ONGC and BHEL would extend cash support to the extent of Rs. 150 crores and Rs. 20 crores respectively.

Cash assistance of Rs. 9.8 crores in respect of Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. has not been considered while computing the above figures.

**Thar Express between India and Pakistan**

419. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Thar Express, the second train between India and Pakistan which was discontinued due to the damage of line following the Barmer flood is proposed to be resumed as the line has been repaired; and

(b) if so, the time by which the train services are likely to be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The services of "Thar Express", the second train between India and Pakistan which was suspended due to the damage of line following the Barmer flood have been resumed w.e.f. 17.2.2007.

**Runway Extension Programme of Dibrugarh Airport, Assam**

420. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for defence clearance of the runway extension programme of Dibrugarh Airport, Assam is pending for years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a local board comprising officers of IAF and Indian Army constituted for transfer of defence land to AAI conditionally recommended for transfer of said land;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the conditions laid and action taken thereupon;

(e) whether the said extended runway would also be useful for landing of bigger IAF aircraft; and

(f) if so, the time by which the clearance is likely to be given in this regard?

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

(a) to (d) On the request of Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Indian Air Force (IAF) had constituted a board in the year 2005 for exploring possibility of transfer of defence land to AAI for the proposed extension of runway

at Dibrugarh airport. After detailed deliberations between IAF and AAI, a draft Memorandum of Understanding for long term lease of land to AAI, as prepared by Air Force has been forwarded to AAI for vetting in November, 2006.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Clearances in all such cases are accorded expeditiously on completion of necessary formalities.

*[Translation]*

**Misutilisation of Funds**

421. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) whether some public sector oil companies are misutilising their funds;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the number of officials/officers against whom the action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) There is no case of misutilisation of funds reported by the Public Sector Oil Companies. However, cases of irregularities involving wrongful loss to the Company by individual employees of these companies are dealt with through normal vigilance functions and action taken as per prescribed procedure.

**Narmada Parikrama Paripath Bhag-I and Bhag-II**

422. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government to develop Anuppur, Dhindori and Mandala on Narmada Parikrama Paripath Bhag-I and Jabalpur, Hoshangabad and Devas on Narmada Parikrama Paripath Bhag-II under the circuit development scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On receipt of project proposals from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for development of Narmada Parikrama Part-I and Part-II under the scheme integrated development of Tourist Circuit, they were appraised as per scheme guidelines and sanctioned for grant of Central Financial Assistance during 2006-07 as under:

(i) ~~Narmada~~ Parikrama Circuit (Part-I) on Amarkantak-Dindori-Mandla sector for Rs. 665.00 lakh.

(ii) Narmada Parikrama Circuit (Part-II) on Jabalpur-Hoshangabad-Pachmarhi-Madhai-Babai-Nemawar sector for Rs. 774.89 lakh.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 9181.81 lakh to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh during the 10th Plan (till December, 2006).

#### **Pilferage of Booked Goods in Different Zones of Railways**

423. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of pilferage of Booked goods have increased during the last three years at the time of loading and unloading of the goods at the railway yards;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during each of the last three years, zone-wise;

(c) the number of persons/officials found guilty for such incidents; and

(d) the action taken against them?

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

(b) to (d) do not arise.

[English]

#### **Purchase of UAVs**

424. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has purchased Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) from any foreign agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of UAVs inducted in the Indian Air Force alongwith the operational missions for the UAVs;

(d) whether the survivability of UAVs has been ascertained before induction;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the country is likely to be capable enough to build its own UAVs indigenously?

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

(a) and (b) Contracts were concluded with M/s Israel Aircraft Industries, Israel for the supply of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Delivery in respect of some of these contracts has since been completed.

(c) The thirty UAVs inducted so far by the Indian Air Force are engaged in the operational missions of reconnaissance and intelligence gathering.

(d) and (e) The UAVs were inducted after taking into account all operational, maintenance and survivability aspects.

(f) The tactical UAV, Nishant was developed indigenously.

#### **Amendment in Petroleum Rule, 2002**

425. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received comments from all the concerned ministries for including ship breaking activity in Petroleum Rule, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the present status thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The comments received from all concerned Ministries have been examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice. Petroleum Rules, 2002 has been amended *vide* Notification GSR 61(E) dated 2nd February, 2007 to include ship breaking activity.

#### **Tourism Promotion Projects**

426. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tourism promotion projects received from different State Governments pending with the Government for clearance as on January 31, 2007, State-wise; and

(b) the details of tourism promotion projects sanctioned during the last three years till January 31, 2007, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the prioritised tourism projects received from the State/UT Governments, which are complete in all respects. No such projects, which are complete in all respects, are pending for clearance as on January 31, 2007.

(b) The up-to-date State-wise details of tourism projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### ***Statement***

##### ***State-wise Tourism Projects sanctioned during the last three years of Tenth Five Year Plan***

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Projects Sanctioned 2004-05	No. of Projects Sanctioned 2005-06	No. of Projects Sanctioned 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	7	2
2.	Assam	8	10	8
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	10	12
4.	Bihar	7	3	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	7	15
6.	Goa	3	1	0
7.	Gujarat	2	5	5
8.	Haryana	6	7	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	6	8
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	22	25
11.	Jharkhand	2	5	2
12.	Karnataka	12	8	2
13.	Kerala	10	13	17
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	12	8
15.	Maharashtra	10	9	11

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Manipur	0	2	9
17.	Meghalaya	2	1	7
18.	Mizoram	6	10	6
19.	Nagaland	7	9	7
20.	Orissa	8	10	11
21.	Punjab	7	5	12
22.	Rajasthan	13	7	8
23.	Sikkim	8	14	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	7	19	11
25.	Tripura	1	3	4
26.	Uttaranchal	7	13	11
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9	18	7
28.	West Bengal	10	5	6
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1	0
30.	Chandigarh	3	1	2
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	2	0
32.	Delhi	8	2	4
33.	Daman and Diu	0	4	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	1
35.	Pondicherry	2	2	0
Total		217	253	236

Note—This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

#### Breaking of Law and Order by Military Personnel

427. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases where the senior army personnel have ransacked the police station, beating up constables and taking law into their hands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have made complaints against such actions by the defence forces;

(d) if so, the steps taken to prevent such incidents; and

(e) the action taken against the culprits?

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

(a) to (e) An incident of scuffle involving Army personnel



and Police at Kolkata on the New Year Eve has been brought to the notice of the Government of India by the State Government of West Bengal. A serious view of the incident has been taken and a Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate into the matter.

#### **Setting up of a New Coach Factory**

428. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have planned a new Coach factory in joint sector;

(b) if so, 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 Railways are setting up a new Rail Coach factory for making 1000 coaches per year. All organizational and functional avenues are being explored for setting up of the new coach factory.

#### **Co-operation with Libya in Petroleum Sector**

429. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government is initiating steps to acquire business opportunities for Indian Oil Companies in Libya;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up joint ventures for refinery upgrade and training programmes for Libyan professionals;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been signed with Libya in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

to develop business opportunities for Indian Oil Companies in Libya.

(b) Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Libya recently, alongwith a delegation comprising Chairmen/Managing Director of oil public sector units (PSUs).

(c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has shown interest for modernization and upgradation of Ras Lanuf refinery by a Joint Venture Company to be co-promoted by National Oil Corporation (NOC), Libya and IOCL. It is also proposed to train 100 Libyan professionals in various training establishments in the petroleum sector in India.

(d) and (e) No agreement has been signed with Libya in this regard.

#### **Expansion of Dabolim Airport in Goa**

430. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy has handed over, additional land at Dabolim Airort in Goa for civil use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work of expansion of Dablim Airport is likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Navy has agreed, 'in-principle', to hand over 8.77 acres of land on airside for expansion of apron at Dabolim Airport in Goa.

(c) Work of expansion of apron is contingent upon the Indian Navy making the land available to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

*[Translation]*

#### **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board**

431. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board under the new policy of setting up Natural Gas Pipeline and Urban Natural Gas Distribution Network;

(b) if so, the details of new policy and composition of Regulatory Board;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to spread the network of gas pipeline to cities; 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) No, Sir. Action for setting up the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is under progress and it is expected to be constituted shortly.

The 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks' has been notified so as to promote investment from public as well as private sector. The broad objectives of the policy are:-

- (i) To facilitate open access for all players to the pipeline network on a non-discriminatory basis.
- (ii) To promote competition among entities thereby avoiding any abuse of the dominant position by any entity.
- (iii) To secure the consumer interest in terms of gas availability and reasonable tariff.

[English]

#### **Compensation to Land Owners**

432. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the compensation has not been paid to many land owners, whose land has been used for defence purposes by the forces in Jammu and Kashmir for the last two decades;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the list of those land owners to whom compensation has not been paid; and

(d) the time by which the compensation is likely to be provided to the land owners?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The details are being collected from Army Authorities and Directorate General of Defence Estates and the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Establishment of National School of Drama in Bangalore**

433. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal to establish National School of Drama in Bangalore from the Government of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Representations have been received from well known theatre personalities of Karnataka for opening of National School of Drama at Bangalore.

(b) and (c) The Broad Based Committee of the National School of Drama has recommended opening of regional school of Drama in five regions, including developing its existing Regional Resource Centre at Bangalore into a full-fledged Regional School. It is proposed to operationalise this during the XI Plan period.

#### **Profit/Loss Earned/Incurred by Indian Railways**

434. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss incurred by the Railways during the last three years;

(b) whether the Railways have fixed any target to increase its profits in the coming years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Surplus generated by Railways during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1091.41	2074.23	6193.32

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Indian Railways have fixed the revised target of surplus of Rs. 10627.48 crore for 2006-07 and Rs. 11449.45 crore surplus target for 2007-2008.

#### **Commissioning of INS Shardul In Navy**

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

(a) whether the INS Shardul has been commissioned into the active service of the Indian Navy as reported to the 'Deccan Herald' dated January 3, 2007;

(b) if so, when was it commissioned;

(c) the total load bearing capacity of the Warship INS Shardul alongwith the time taken to build it and the total expenditure incurred on it;

(d) the role expected to be played by it during peace and war time;

(e) the company which built the INS Shardul;

(f) whether the warship has been aptly named Shardul; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) INS Shardul was commissioned into the Indian Navy on January 4, 2007.

(c) to (e) M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., Kolkata built the ship in 52 months at the cost of about Rs. 363 crore. The ship, which displaces a total of 5600 tons, is meant for amphibious landing of men and material.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The amphibious ships are normally named after ferocious animals or amphibians, and "Shardul" means "tiger".

#### **Restructuring and Strengthening of DGCA**

436. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kaw Committee set up by the Government has recommended restructuring and strengthening of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the other recommendations made by the Kaw Committee and the decisions thereon?

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

(b) to (d) The recommendations of the Kaw Committee on Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) are wide ranging. These recommendations relate to Roles and functions of DGCA, Statutory framework for aviation regulation, Certification of airlines, licensing of personnel, System of examination, Training requirements for industry and DGCA, Procedure for clearance of scheduled and non-scheduled flights, Re-structuring & strengthening of DGCA, Manpower policy and requirement, etc. The Government have accepted majority of the recommendations made by the Committee. Many of these recommendations require consultation with and examination by various Ministries, amendment to Acts & Rules, etc. Action is at hand to implement these recommendations.

[Translation]

#### **Navratna Status to Public Sector Companies**

437. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded the Navratna Status to certain companies recently;

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

(c) the reasons for according Navratna status to these companies; and

(d) the details of the public sector companies whose requests for according Navratna status are pending with the Government and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

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

(a) to (c) The Navratna status is granted by the Government on the basis of recommendations of Apex Committee. Since the initial grant of Navratna status to select Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in 1997, no CPSE has been recently granted Navratna status.

(d) The proposals for grant of 'Navratna' status of 10 CPSEs were received through their concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments. These are:-

- (i) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL),
- (ii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL),
- (iii) Coal India Limited (CIL),
- (iv) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (v) National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO),
- (vi) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC),
- (vii) Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC),
- (viii) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL),
- (ix) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC),
- (x) Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI)

The proposal of Coal India received from the Department of Coal did not fulfill the basic requirements for the consideration to grant Navratna status. The Department of Shipping has since decided to keep the proposal for Navratna status of SCI pending till a further review of the performance of SCI is done by the Department of Shipping. The Apex Committee considered the proposals in respect of remaining 8 CPSEs and

recommended conferment of Navratna status to 7 CPSEs, except for BSNL.

[English]

#### **Gauge Conversion of Rail Lines in Gujarat**

438. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of metre gauge and narrow gauge rail lines in Gujarat, section-wise;

(b) the time frame fixed for conversion of these rail lines into broad gauge rail lines;

(c) the progress so far made relating to gauge conversion between Mahesana and Patan; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways to expedite the completion of gauge conversion project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The section-wise length of metre gauge and narrow gauge rail lines (route kilometres) in Gujarat as on 31.3.2006 (latest available) is given below:-

Sl.No.	Name of Section	Route Kilometres
1	2	3
<b>Metre Gauge</b>		
1.	Ahmedabad - Khedbrahma	142
2.	Ahmedabad - Khodiyar	17
3.	Chanasma - Ranju	13
4.	Dhasa - Wansjalya	195
5.	Gnadhidham - Kandla	12
6.	Junagadh - Visavadar	42
7.	Katosan - Chanasma	52
8.	Kalol - Katosan	38
9.	Kalol - Vijaur - Ambliyan	89
10.	Khijadiya - Veraval	164

1	2	3
11.	Mahesana - Patan	40
12.	Mahesana - Sabarmati	52
13.	Mahesana - Tarangahill	56
14.	New Bhuj - Naliya	101
15.	Gandhidham - Samkhiyali	53
16.	Prachi Road - Delvada	50
17.	Prachi Road - Kodinar	26
18.	Samdrai - Bhildi	54
19.	Sabarmati - Botad	165
20.	Surendra Nagar - Dhrangadhra	35
21.	Talala - Prachi Road	20
22.	Udaipur - Himmat Nagar	59

#### **Narrow Gauge**

1.	Ankleshwar - Rajpipla	63
2.	Bharuch - Kavi	76
3.	Bilimora - Waghai	63
4.	Chhuchhapura - Tankhala	38
5.	Choranda - Motikoral	18
6.	Dabhoi - Chandod	16
7.	Dabhoi - Timba Road	100
8.	Jambusar - Chhota Udepur	151
9.	Jhangadia - Netrang	31
10.	Kosmba - Umarpada	62
11.	Miyagam Karjan - Dabhol	32
12.	Miyagam Karjan - Choranda - Malsar	38
13.	Nadiad - Bhadran	60
14.	Samni - Dahej	39

(b) No time frame has been fixed for conversion of all Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge into Broad Gauge.

(c) and (d) On Mahesana-Patna section, earth work, bridges, etc. taken up. The section is targeted for completion during 2007-08. Necessary funds have been provided and progress has been expedited to complete the conversion as per the target.

#### **Promotion of Satriya Dance in India and Abroad**

439. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is trying to promote the Satriya Dance of Assam in India and abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of Sangeet Natak Akademy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is trying to promote the Satriya Dance of Assam.

(b) and (c) A Project of Support of Satriya dance and Allied Traditions of Assam was launched by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in November 2002 which provides for (i) annual festival of Satriya in Assam; (ii) training programmes of Satriya dance and music under eminent gurus; (iii) funding of select Sattras in Assam; (iv) sponsoring Satriya artistes outside Assam; and (v) support for research, documentation, publication, etc. In the recent past, Akademi has been providing funds to institutions engaged in Satriya dance and music for many years and several artistes of this tradition have also been honoured. The Akademi has also made audio/video documentation of the Satriya tradition as practised in the Sattras of Majuli Island and by artistes in Guwahati.

[Translation]

#### **Development of Advanced Combat Aircraft**

440. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India and Russia plan to develop advanced combat aircraft as reported in the 'Hindu' dated January 24, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Russia has offered to produce combat helicopters capable of high altitude flying and also the fifth generation combat aircraft MIG-35 jointly to replace the Indian ageing fighter fleet;

(d) if so, whether any understanding has been reached between the two countries in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Co-Development of a Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) has been identified as an important area of co-operation between the Indian and Russian Governments. Technical discussions to work out the details are in progress. Efforts are on for negotiations and finalization of the draft Inter Governmental Agreement in this regard.

(c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) had invited proposals from international partner including Russian Helicopter manufacturer for co-development of Multi-role Helicopter (10 Tonnes). The Russian side is also interested in bidding for the Multi Role Combat Aircraft of Indian Air Force (IAF) with MIG-35 Aircraft.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Passengers Travelling on Fake Tickets**

441. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some passengers have been arrested while travelling on fake tickets from Chhapra to Amritsar in various trains especially in Janseva Express recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Railways against such passengers;

(d) the details of the incidents of persons caught while travelling on fake tickets during the last three years;

(e) whether connivance of railways officials in such illegal activities have been established; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Some cases of travelling on fake tickets do come to notice. Persons found travelling on fake railway tickets are apprehended and handed over to Police for further action under the provisions of law. However, no train-wise or section-wise statistics is maintained on this subject. Any suspected connivance of railway officials is viewed seriously.

(e) and (f) So far 11 staff have been taken up severely under disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

[English]

#### **International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition**

442. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether international aerospace and defence exhibition was recently held at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details of international companies participated in the Aero India 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 302 international companies participated as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Aero India 2007 list of International Participants*

Sl.No.	Country	Company Name
1	2	3
1.	Australia	Aerostaff Australia Pty Ltd.
2.		Aviation Australia
3.		Avimarine (Australia) Pty Ltd.
4.		C Gear Australia Pty Ltd.

1	2	3
5.		Dean Willson Aviation Ltd.
6.		Gippsland Aeronautics Pty Ltd.
7.		Industry Capability Network (Victoria)
8.		Jet Turbine Services
9.		Rmit University
10.		Seabira Aviation Australia Pty Ltd.
11.	Austria	Diamond Aircraft Industries Gmbh
12.	Belgium	Cenaero
13.		Esco Turbine Technologies-Belgium
14.		E-Xstream Engineering S.A.
15.		Forges De Zeeburgge
16.		G.D. Tech
17.		Open Engineering
18.		Sabena Flight Academy N.V.
19.		Samtech
20.		Techspace Aero
21.		Techspace Aero
22.	Brazil	Embraer-Empresa Brasileira De Aeronautica
23.	Canada	Bombardier
24.	Chile	Fidæ 2008
25.	Czech Republic	Artisys S.R.O.
26.		At Czech S.R.O.
27.		Czech Invest (The National Investment and Business Development Agency of the Czech Republic)
28.		Department of Strategy and Quality of Services

1	2	3
29.		Eldis Pardubice S.R.O.
30.		M.P.I. Prague Cz
31.		Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
32.		Moravan-Aeroplanes A.S.
33.		Pbs Velka Bites, A.S.
34.		Zvi A.S.
35.	France	A.D.R. S.A.S.
36.		Air Liquide
37.		Alkan
38.		Antavia
39.		Arianespace
40.		Atr
41.		Bachmann Sas
42.		Cfm International
43.		Dassault Aviation
44.		Eca Faros
45.		Eca Sintors
46.		Ece-Zodiac
47.		Eurep Industries
48.		Eurotrop
49.		Forges De Bologne/Manoir Industries
50.		French Mod-Dga
51.		Gifas
52.		Hutchison
53.		Hydrautest
54.		Intertechnique
55.		Leach International Europe
56.		Mach Aero

1	2	3
57.		Mbda
58.		Messier Services
59.		Messier-Dowty
60.		Microturbo
61.		Nexter (Giat Industries)
62.		Novintec Sa
63.		Onera
64.		Paulstra
65.		Pga Avionics
66.		Powerjet
67.		Prodera
68.		Rafel International
69.		Safran
70.		Saft
71.		Sagem Defence Securite
72.		Secapem
73.		Sensorex
74.		Skf Aerospace
75.		Snecma
76.		Snecma Services
77.		Sofema
78.		Sofradir
79.		Thales
80.		Titefex Europe
81.		Turbomeca
82.		Zone Aeronautique
83.	Germany	3 D Contech Gmbh & Co. Kg
84.		Bdl lev German Aerospace Industries Association

1	2	3
85.		Carl Zeiss
86.		Degussa
87.		Diehl Bgt Defence Gmbh & Co. Kg
88.		Eduard Wille Gmbh & Co. Kg
89.		Euro Avionics Navigation Systems
90.		Eurofighter Jagdfhugzeug Gmbh
91.		Formtech Gmbh
92.		Handtmann A-Punkt Automation Gmbh
93.		Hanse-Aerospace
94.		H a n s e - A e r o s p a c e Wirtschaftsdienst Gmbh
95.		Heinkel Engineering Gmbh & Co.
96.		Ila 2008 Berlin Air Show/Messe Berlin
97.		Innovint Aircraft Interior Gmbh
98.		Interturbine Logistik Gmbh
99.		Jena-Optronik Gmbh
100.		Lufthansa Technik Ag
101.		Mst Matzen Schlauch-Techink Ltd. & Co. Kg
102.		Rohde & Schwarz Gmbh & Co. Kg
103.		Root Multiclean
104.		Rosler Oberflachentechnik
105.		Ruag Aerospace Service Gmbh
106.		Sitec Aerospace Gmbh
107.	Greece	Epicos
108.	Holland	Eads



1	2	3
109.	Ireland	Acra Control
110.	Israel	Aero Maoz Ltd.
111.		Bney Meir Ltd.
112.		Ci Systems Ltd.
113.		Controp Precision Technologies Ltd.
114.		Elbit Systems Limited
115.		Elisra Group
116.		Iai-Isreal Aerospace Industries
117.		Israel Military Industries Ltd.
118.		Orbit Technology Group
119.		Rada Electronic Industries Ltd.
120.		Rafael
121.		Rsl Electronics Ltd.
122.		Scope Metal Trading
123.		Sibat-Isreal M.O.D.
124.		Tadiran Communications Limited
125.	Italy	Aerea
126.		Agusta Westland
127.		Aiad and Mod Italy
128.		Alenia Aeronautica Spa
129.		Ase Spa
130.		Cira Scpa-Italian Aerospace Research Centre
131.		Elettronica
132.		Elettronica Aster Spa
133.		Finmeccanica
134.		Galileo Avionica
135.		Selex Communications
136.		Selex Sistemi Integrati Spa

1	2	3
137.	Malaysia	Adpr Consult Sdn Bhd.
138.		Dsa Kualalumpur
139.		World Aerospace Sdn Bhd
140.	New Zealand	Air New Zealand Airline Training
141.	Norway	Kongsberg
142.	Poland	Bumar Sp. Zoo
143.		Polish Chamber of National Defence Manufacturers
144.		Radmor S.A.
145.		Telecommunications Research Institute
146.	Romania	Aerostar Sa
147.	Russia	Krasnyoctiabr Ojsc
148.		A.S. Popov Communication Equipment Plant Jsc (Gzas)
149.		Aeromedia Publishing House Ltd.
150.		Aeroprobor-Voskhod Js
151.		Aviaavtomatika "Design Bureau "Pribor" Jsc
152.		Aviaexport P & C
153.		Aviation Gearboxes and Transmissions-Perm Motors (Ojsc Reductor-Pm)
154.		Aviazapchast Plc (Public Limited Company)
155.		Avionica Moscow Research and Production Complex Jsc
156.		Berieve
157.		Chemyshe Jsc
158.		Elcus Electronic Company

1	2	3
159.		Electrosignal Novosibirsk Plant Corporation Public Company
160.		Fgup Npp "Polyot"
161.		Fsue "Mmbpe "Salut"
162.		Inter Vestnik (Airfleet)
163.		Irkut Corporation
164.		Joint Stock Company-Plant for Electric Connectors (Iset)
165.		Joint Stock Company-Ufa Engine Industrial Association"
166.		Jsc "Tantal"
167.		Jsc Aircraft Component Sourcing Company (Mfg)
168.		Jsc Arc Konversia
169.		Jsc Opk Oboronprom
170.		Kamov Company
171.		Kazan Helicopters
172.		Klimov Company
173.		Mig Russian Aircraft Corporation
174.		Mil Moscow Helicopter Plant, Jsc
175.		Military Parade Ltd.
176.		Motorostroiitel Jsc
177.		Perm Motors Group
178.		Phozotron-Niir Corporation Jsc
179.		Ramenskoye Design Company
180.		Rosoboronexport State Corporation
181.		Rostvertol Plc
182.		Russian Aviation Company Ltd.
183.		Sokol Nizhny Novgorod Aircraft Building Plant Jsc

1	2	3
184.		State Research Institute of Aviation Systems (Gosnias)
185.		Sukhoi Aviation Holding Co.
186.		Sukhoi Civil Aircraft Company
187.		Sukhoi Design Bureau
188.		Technocomplex Research and Production Center
189.		Ts Electronics
190.		Tupolev Psc
191.		Ural Optical & Mechanical Plant (Uomz)
192.		Vampo-Avisma Corporation
193.		Yakovlev Design Bureau
194.	Singapore	Jane's Information Group
195.		Prime Aerospace Singapore & UAE
196.		Tedopres Asia Pte. Ltd.
197.	South Africa	Rdi Communications (Pty) Ltd.
198.		Tellumat (Pty) Limited
199.	Spain	Indra
200.	Sweden	Saab AB
201.		Gripen International
202.	Switzerland	Acutronic AG
203.		Revue Thommen AG
204.	Thailand	Asian Military Review
205.	Turkey	Cnr Trade Fairs
206.	Ukraine	Aerotechnica Corporation
207.		Antonov Aeronautical Scientific and Technical Complex
208.		Motor Sich
209.		Se Ivchenko-Progress

1	2	3
210.		Spetsstechnoexport
211.		Vector State Corporation
212.	United Arab Emirates	Gulf Aviation Guide/Media One Group
213.		Horizon International Flight Academy, UAE
214.		In-Services Middle East
215.	United Kingdom	Action Aviation Limited
216.		Apollo Metal
217.		Aviation Industry Group
218.		Bae Systems
219.		Chelton Ltd.
220.		Cobham Air Refuelling & Auxiliary Mission Equipment Division
221.		Cobham Defence Communications
222.		Cobham Plc
223.		Deso
224.		Doncaster Group Ltd.
225.		Eis Electronics Gmbh
226.		Electron Beam Processes
227.		Esl Defence Limited
228.		Esterline Sensors Group
229.		Etps-Quinetiq Ltd.
230.		Farnborough Aerospace Consortium
231.		Filtronic Components Ltd.
232.		Gkn Aerospace
233.		HR Smith Group of Companies
234.		Hale Hamilton (Valves) Limited

1	2	3
235.		Hampson Aerospace
236.		Hardigg Europe
237.		Imperial Defence Services
238.		Martin Baker Aircraft Company Ltd.
239.		Md Helicopters
240.		Metris
241.		Ppg Aerospace
242.		Qineti Q
243.		Rafi Gb Limited
244.		Rfd Beaufort Ltd.
245.		Rolls Royce Plc
246.		Sbac
247.		Signature Industries Ltd./Sarbe
248.		Sino Swearingen
249.		Smith Aerospace
250.		Stein Seal
251.		Strongfield Technologies Ltd.
252.		Twi Limited
253.		Ukti
254.		Ultra Electronics Electrics
255.		Valtech Ltd.
256.	United States of America	Allied International Corporation
257.		Am General Llc
258.		Ampex Data Systems Corporation
259.		Aviation Week
260.		Aviation Week & Space Technology
261.		Bell Helicopter Textron (Textron Group)

1	2	3
262.		Business & Commercial Aviation
263.		Business Intelligence Services
264.		Cessna Aircraft Company (Textron)
265.		Cincinnati Machine (Mag India)
266.		Complete Parachute Solutions, Inc
267.		Defence News Media Group
268.		Defense Technology International (DTI)
269.		Engine Alliance
270.		Enstrom Helicopter Corporation
271.		Esterline Corporation
272.		GE Aviation
273.		Hentzen Coatings Inc
274.		Honeywell Aerospace
275.		Industrial Metals International Ltd.
276.		International Aerospace Engines
277.		ITT
278.		Kerns Products
279.		Kilgore Flares Company, Llc, USA
280.		Kirkhill Ta Company
281.		Korry Electronics
282.		L3 Communications
283.		Lockheed Martin
284.		Metacomp Technologies Inc.
285.		Moog Aircraft Group
286.		Nivisys Industries Llc

1	2	3
287.		Northrop Grumman Corporation
288.		Ocean Air Inc
289.		Overhaul & Maintenance
290.		Pratt & Whitney
291.		Raytheon Company
292.		Sekai Electronics Inc.
293.		Show News
294.		Sikorsky Aircraft
295.		Supersonic Services, Inc
296.		Teac Aerospace Technologies
297.		U.S. Department of Commerce
298.		Ulbrich Stainless Steels & Speciality Metal Inc
299.		United States Department of Defence (US Dod)
300.		US Airforce
301.		World Aerospace Database
302.	Venezuela	Boeing

#### **Development of Minority Dominated Districts**

443. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government with the help of Registrar General of India has taken up the mapping of districts with more than 25% minority population to ensure flow of funds to these areas on priority as reported in the 'Times of India' dated January 15, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has asked other Ministries to formulate special plans in these districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or response of the Ministries in regard to development of minority dominated districts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) Districts, CD blocks and towns, with a population exceeding 50,000, which have substantial minority population have been identified, in consultation with the Registrar General of India. The Ministries/Departments concerned with schemes included in the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities have been advised of these details for appropriate action.

**Private Sector Participation for  
Developing Weapon System**

444. SHRI B. MAHTAB:  
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has invited private sector participation for developing the weapons system in the country;

(b) if so, the response of the private sector thereto;

(c) the terms and conditions laid down before the private sector for developing the weapons system;

(d) the reasons for allowing the private sector to participate in the development of the weapons system; and

(e) the projects proposed to be off-loaded to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been regularly involving private sector for development of sub-systems and components.

(b) The response of the private sector is quite encouraging and many private companies have successfully developed and produced the products in limited numbers to meet the requirements of conducting tests and trials.

(c) The terms and conditions are laid down on the basis of mutually agreed contract depending upon the type of the sub-systems and components to be developed.

(d) Wherever infrastructure and expertise are available in private sector, they are approached for development work. DRDO focuses on those systems which are of critical nature, strategic importance.

(e) Each project is considered by the Acquisition of Wing of the Ministry of Defence to decide whether it should be done by the DRDO or by the private sector.

**Privatisation in Railways**

445. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have allowed or propose to allow privatisation in a big way;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new areas identified by the Railways for privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is no decision to allow privatization in a big way in Railways. However, 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.

**Acquisition of Oil Fields Abroad**

446. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a multi-pronged strategy including faster exploration and acquisition of oil fields abroad, and secure energy at affordable rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to implement the said strategy?

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

PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India's strategy for securing Energy Security which has been incorporated in "Hydrocarbon Vision-2025", a document of Government of India, includes the following:

- To assure energy security by achieving self-reliance through increased indigenous production and investment in equity oil abroad.
- To develop hydrocarbon sector as a globally competitive industry which could be benchmarked against the best in the world through technology upgradation and capacity building in all facets of the industry.
- To ensure the oil security for the country keeping in view strategic and defence considerations.

(c) The significant steps, initiated by the Government and public sector undertakings for enhancing energy security *inter alia* include:

- Supply security
- Enhancing domestic oil and gas production Equity oil & gas from abroad
- Pursuing projects to meet the deficit in demand and supply of natural gas and facilitate availability of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- Long term agreements for import of LNG
- Transnational gas pipelines
- Exploring potential of alternate sources
- Conservation of petroleum products
- Setting up Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

#### **Doubling of Broad Gauge Railway Lines**

447. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of broad gauge railway lines having only single track in the country, Zone-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Railways for doubling of these lines;

(c) whether revenue generating sections would be given priority for doubling;

(d) if so, whether private sector investment for doubling of lines would be sought on the lines of Golden Quadrilateral Project of Highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Zone-wise length of broad gauge railway lines (route kilometres) having only single track in the country as on 31.03.2006 (latest available) is given below:-

Sl.No.	Name of Railway Zone	Route Kilometres
1.	Central	1437
2.	Eastern	1176
3.	East Central	1424
4.	East Coast	1405
5.	Northern	4889
6.	North Central	1485
7.	North Eastern	1481
8.	Northeast Frontier	1730
9.	North Western	2940
10.	Southern	1932
11.	South Central	3080
12.	South Eastern	1313
13.	South East Central	772
14.	South Western	2541
15.	Western	2857
16.	West Central	1235
Total		31697

(b) and (c) Projects of doubling or construction of multiple lines are taken up on operational considerations when the carrying capacity of the existing lines is saturated. Doubling projects are being implemented as per the availability of resources keeping in view the operational priority and the requirement of traffic.

(d) There is no decision so far to seek private sector investment for golden quadrilateral through private public partnership.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Agreement between India and Yemen in  
Oil and Gas Sector**

448. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with Yemen for providing new blocks for exploration of oil and gas;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the quantum of oil assessed to be obtained annually from those blocks;

(c) whether the public sector oil companies propose to invest in the field of hydrocarbon; 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) No, Sir. However, a Protocol of Bilateral Cooperation in the field of Oil and Gas Industry between the Ministry of Oil and Minerals of the Republic of Yemen and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India has been signed during the recent visit of Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas to Yemen to serve mutual interests and enhance and promote mutual cooperation.

(c) and (d) Public Sector Oil companies are interested to invest in exploration and production opportunities in Yemen. A consortium of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (15% participating interest (PI), Oil India Ltd. (15% (PI), Kuwait energy (25% (PI) and Medco Energi (45% PI & Operator) has successfully bid for onshore Block Nos. 82 and 83 in the last bidding round.

*[English]*

**Budget Hotels**

449. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have identified various locations in the country for construction of budget hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Railways are seeking Public-Private sector partnership in construction of such hotels;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(e) the main facilities which are likely to be provided to the passengers in such budget hotels; and

(f) the time by which the budget hotels are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Railways has decided to set up one hundred Budget Hotels all over the Indian Railways network through Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). These hotels will be set up by IRCTC on public-private partnership on the unused railway land in the vicinity of railway stations. Out of these 100 budget hotels, tenders for 20 locations have been finalized & tender of 10 locations have been floated.

(c) and (d) The IRCTC has been entrusted with the task of setting up of Budget Hotels through private participation, for developing, operating and maintaining the hotels, through open competitive bidding under transparent, two packet tender system i.e. technical & financial. The IRCTC in consultation with the Zonal Railways identifies the sites, floats and finalizes the tenders by inviting private sector participation. The licence period has been fixed as 30 years. Contract will be given to tender who has qualified in technical bidding and has bid the maximum return to IRCTC over the period of licence.

(e) and (f) Budget hotels are basically extension of Retiring Rooms and Rail Yatri Niwases. By using these hotels, passengers will save the cost and time in transportation upto any hotel located in the city. These hotels will also help the railways in developing tourism. Since, tendering system is in progress and after finalization of contract & signing of Agreements the construction work may take about 2 years period.

**Private Players to Operate Container Trains**

450. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed any agreement with the private players to operate container trains;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the details of the private players who have been permitted to operate container trains; and

(d) the extent to which private players would be helpful to the Railways for operating the container trains?

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

(b) The Agreement has been framed keeping in view the best international practices being followed; it is bankable, ensures a level-playing field among various container train operators and adequately addresses the national & public interest perspective as also concerns of the private players.

(c) The private players who have been permitted to operate container trains are listed below:

1. Adani Logistics Ltd/Mundra Port & Economic Zone Ltd.
2. Boxtrans Logistics India Services. Ltd.
3. Container Corporation of India Ltd.
4. Central Warehousing Corporation
5. Container Rail Road Services Pvt. Ltd.
6. Delhi Assam Road Services Pvt. Ltd.
7. Gateway Rail Freight Pvt. Ltd.
8. Hind Terminals Pvt. Ltd/MSC
9. India Infrastructure & Leasing Pvt. Ltd.
10. Innovative B2B Logistics Solution Pvt. Ltd.
11. KRIBHCO
12. Pipavav Railway Corp. Ltd.

13. Reliance Infrastructure Engg. Pvt. Ltd.

14. SICAL Logistics.

(d) Private players will invest in setting up Inland Container Depots and acquire wagons as also capture incremental traffic for movement by rail.

**Private Sector in Setting up of New Airports**

451. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:  
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to invite private sector to set up new airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending from the State Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, new airports are being promoted by the concerned State Governments on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

(c) and (d) 'In-principle' approval has been given for a new Greenfield airport at Mopa (Goa). Proposals have been received from the concerned State Governments for new Greenfield airports at Pakyong (Sikkim), Chiethu near Kohima (Nagaland), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Kannur (Kerala), and Chakken (Rajgurunagar) near Pune and Navi Mumbai near Panvel (Maharashtra).

There are well laid down procedures for development of greenfield airports. The proposals received from the State Government are at various stages of examination and processing.

**National Heritage Commission**

452. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation to set up a National Heritage Commission;

(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 TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As the present legal and institutional framework is not adequate to address the documentation, inventorisation and conservation of built heritage in its broadest outline, Government proposes to constitute a Heritage Sites Commission. The Commission would lay down broad policy guidelines and take steps to ensure that such guidelines are observed.

The proposed Heritage Sites Commission would:

- tender advice to Government to heritage matters.
- frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.
- can study or cause to study in important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.
- suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations.

(c) No time frame can be indicated to introduce the legislation in this regard.

#### **Contract with Russia for More Oil and Gas**

453. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government plans to get more oil and gas from Russia;

(b) if so, the details of Russian firms with whom contracts have been signed or proposed to be signed;

(c) whether the earlier contracts signed by Indian oil companies and Russian oil companies proved any fruitful results; 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) Issues relating to Indo-Russia cooperation in hydrocarbon sector are discussed on a regular basis which include bilateral energy dialogue, ways to enhance energy security, pursue opportunities for improving the process of diversification of energy supplies, and strengthening commercial energy partnerships in already identified and prospective oil and gas projects in India, Russia and third countries.

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC, holds stake in Sakhalin-I project in Russia. ONGC has also signed Memorandum of Understanding with Gazprom and Rosneft. Indian companies would like to work with Russian companies in Russia so that India is able to source one Million barrels of oil and oil equivalent gas per day from Russia in future.

(c) and (d) OVL holds stake in Sakhalin-I project in Russia. Sakhalin-I is a large oil and gas field in offshore far east in Russia. OVL holds 20% Participating Interest (PI) in the fields; a subsidiary of Exxon-Mobil as the operator holds 30% PI; Sodeco, a consortium of Japanese companies holds 30% PI and balance 20% is held by two subsidiaries of Rosneft, a Russian Government entity. The Sakhalin-I Project consists of three fields Chayvo, Odoptu and Arkutun-Dagi offshore on the north east coast of Sakhalin Island in the Russian Far East. Together they contain an estimated 2.3 billion barrels of oil and 17.1 trillion cubic feet of gas.

The development of the field is currently in progress and with the installation of Interim Production Facility, the crude oil and natural gas production was started on a limited scale from October, 2005 for sales to domestic buyers. The export of Sakhalin-I crude oil has also commenced from September, 2006. Planned peak production for the current phase of 2,50,000 barrels per day was recently achieved in February, 2007. The first two cargos of OVL share of SOKOL crude oil were brought to New Mangalore for processing through Mangalore Refinery Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), in December, 2006.

#### **Defence Protocols signed between India and Russia**

454. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia had recently signed defence protocols during the visit of the Russian President;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the progress has been made in regard to said protocols; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to expedite the pending issues?

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

(a) to (d) No defence protocol was signed during the visit of the Russian President. However, the following protocols were signed during the visit of the Defence Minister of the Russian Federation, for the meeting of the India-Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation on 24.1.2007:—

(i) Protocol of Intent for co-development and co-production of Multi Role Transport Aircraft.

(ii) Protocol of the Sixth meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation.

During the meeting both sides expressed satisfaction at the on-going level of defence exchanges and cooperation between the two countries including mechanisms to resolve pending issues.

[*Translation*]

#### **FDI in expansion of Airlines**

455. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to raise the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in Civil Aviation so as to expand airlines network in different sectors of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the limit of domestic airlines is being fixed for share in foreign fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether 100 per cent participation is being given to the private sector for the development of airports in the country; and

(f) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has increased the Foreign Direct Investment limits in "Air Transport Services (Domestic Airlines)" and the revised limits are as under:-

- 49% through automatic route
- 100% by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) through automatic route.
- (No direct or indirect equity participation by foreign airlines is allowed).

(e) and (f) As per the present policy on FDI in the airport sector 100% FDI is permissible in the Greenfield airport through automatic route whereas 74% FDI is permitted in existing airports with automatic approval and 100% through FIPB route. The FDI in restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports has been capped at 49%.

[*English*]

#### **E&P Business to Private Companies by ONGC**

456. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:  
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has decided to give rights for its Exploration and Production (E&P) business to private companies;

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

(c) whether the tender has been called for the purpose; 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) Exploration & production activities are carried out solely by ONGC within its nominated blocks. There is no decision to give rights for its exploration & production (E&P) business to private companies. In New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Blocks, interest can be assigned by contractors as per provisions of Production Sharing Contracts. ONGC has made alliances with different companies for enhancement of productivity, improvement of recovery and creation of a technology hub for leveraging advanced E&P technologies.

To infuse the induction of advanced technologies for development of fields and augmentation of oil and gas production, ONGC has also been inviting PSUs/Private companies for development of new/small/marginal fields on service contract basis.

(c) and (d) Tenders have been called for "Enhancement of Productivity and Improvement of Recovery" for Gandhar field and technical study of Lakwa/Lakhmani/Geleki fields.

*[Translation]*

### **Third Track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai**

457. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey regarding a third track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai in view of the increasing volume of traffic thereon;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Updating Survey for construction of third line between Virar and Ahmedabad was completed during 2004-05. As per the survey report, cost of construction of third line (504 Kms) on this section had been assessed as Rs. 1851 crore.

(c) The capacity on this route is being augmented by adopting Automatic Signalling. The construction of Dedicated freight Corridor on the Western route will also provide additional capacity on this route.

*[English]*

### **Rehabilitation of Leprosy Affected Persons**

458. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme for comprehensive rehabilitation and welfare of the leprosy affected disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and released during the current year for this purpose and details of utilization during this period;

(d) whether the Madras High Court has sought a report from the Union Government about the enhancement of financial assistance to totally affected leprosy disabled persons and partially leprosy affected persons; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, services are made available through all Primary Health Centers (PHC) & Government dispensaries free of cost. Following activities are undertaken for the benefit of leprosy affected persons:

- (i) Organising Prevention of Disability (POD) camps at block level, where leprosy disabled patients receive one day training on self-care practices.
- (ii) Conducting Re-constructive Surgery (RCS) operations at various recognized institutions managed by NGO's, Central Government Leprosy teaching & research centers, identified Medical Colleges.
- (iii) Supplying footwear to needy patients through District Leprosy Societies, NGO's & ILEP institutions.

(c) During the current year 2006-07, the funds released to the States for the above-mentioned activities are shown below:

Sl.No.	Activities	Funds released during 2006-07 (Rs. in lakh)
1.	POD Camp	214.68
2.	Footwear	71.04
3.	Splint & Crutches	23.68

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Upgradation of Buildings belonging to Folk and Tribal Art Groups in MP**

459. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to improve and upgrade the Buildings and Undertakings belonging to the famous folk and tribal arts groups of Madhya Pradesh;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, at present.

*[English]*

**Growth in Passengers Travelling by Air**

460. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth in passengers travelling by air each year during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to connect small and medium cities by air links to promote air travel and meet demand of people;

(c) whether the Government proposes new policy initiatives to encourage private sector and invite foreign

direct investment in constructions new airports and other infrastructure required for new airlines connecting small cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The growth of domestic passenger traffic was 25.0%, 22.8% and 46.5% in the year 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

(b) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. Subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government, it is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

(c) and (d) As per existing policy 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in greenfield airports through automatic route. At existing airports 74% FDI is permitted through automatic route and up to 100% through Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) route.

**Supply of LPG by Private Companies**

461. SHRI G.M SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to hand over the supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to private companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of companies which are likely to be given permission for supply LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, a large proportion of available LPG is supplied as subsidized domestic LPG in the country. In 2005-06, about 96% of total available LPG was marketed as subsidized LPG. Subsidized LPG is marketed by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) viz., Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPC) and IBP Co. (IBP). In addition to the Government subsidy, the oil companies share the burden of subsidizing this product.

Considering the present mechanism of meeting the subsidy on domestic LPG, which constitutes a major proportion of the total LPG marketed in the country, there is no proposal to hand over the supply of LPG to private companies.

#### **Shortage of LPG Cylinders**

462. SHRI P. MOHAN:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of the States where scarcity of LPG cylinders prevails;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that due to shortage of LPG cylinders LPG suppliers in certain places particularly in South Tamil Nadu do not register New Gas Connections;
- (e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the time by which the situations is likely to be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any acute shortage of LPG cylinders in the country. However, OMCs have reported some shortage in the supply of new LPG cylinders in the State of Kerala due to inadequate supply of cylinders by cylinder manufacturers. The situation is likely to improve from April, 2007 onwards.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. Requests for new LPG connections are being registered by the OMCs and are being released to the genuine customers throughout the country, including South Tamil Nadu.

#### **Railway Overbridge at Bongaigaon**

463. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) when the project for construction of Railway overbridge at Bongaigaon was sanctioned;
- (b) the cost of the project and present status thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to complete the work within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The work of Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. SK/49 at Bongaigaon was sanctioned during the Works Programme of 1995-96.

(b) Work was sanctioned on cost sharing basis at the cost of Rs. 418.21 lakh as Railway's share and Rs. 471.30 lakh as State Government share *i.e.* total cost of Rs. 889.51 lakh. Railway portion of the work was completed more than 2 years ago. The work of Reinforced Earth work is in progress at the approaches which is being done by the State Public Works Department (PWD).

(c) State PWD Assam has been repeatedly asked to complete the work expeditiously. Delay is on their part.

#### **Refinery and LNG Terminal in Nigeria by IOC**

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

- (a) whether Indian Oil Corporation proposes to set up a refinery and Liquefied Natural Gas import terminal in Nigeria;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the terms and conditions for setting up of such units in Nigeria; and
- (d) the extent to which the production of IOC is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In response to a request received from the Government of Edo State Nigeria in January, 2004,

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) had indicated its willingness to set up grassroot refinery in Edo State, in collaboration with the State Government. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Edo State Government and IOCL on 10th September, 2004 for collaboration for development of a petroleum refinery in Edo State. IOCL had sought from Government of Edo State allotment of oil blocks in Nigeria, against its involvement in the proposed refinery.

At present, IOCL has no proposal to set up a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal in Nigeria.

(c) The capacity and configuration of the refinery would be firmed up after the detailed feasibility study, which is yet to be taken up.

(d) The production from the proposed refinery is meant to cater to the domestic requirement of Nigeria.

#### **Shortage of Racks/Wagon in Orissa**

465. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa is not getting adequate number of racks/wagon for transporting freight particularly minerals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to supply sufficient number of racks/wagon to meet the requirement of freight traffic in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The freight loading of East Coast Railway upto January in the current year was 4.40 million tonnes more than the loading achieved during corresponding period of last year. Minerals loading in Orissa upto January in current year was 3.68 million tonnes as against 3.56 million tonnes achieved during the year 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Nanded-Yavatmal-Wardha Railway Line in Maharashtra**

466. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any representations from various organisations for construction of Nanded-Yavatmal-Wardha Railway line in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received from the people of the area for construction of Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded rail line. The survey has been completed as per which, cost of construction of this 270 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 581.01 crore with negative Rate of Return of (-) 2.68%. State Government of Maharashtra has been requested to convey their willingness to share at least 50% cost of the project.

#### **Food Processing Training Centres**

467. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of food processing training centres set up in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any special provisions have been made in these centres for SC/ST/OBC and women entrepreneurs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of entrepreneurs trained/given 'had on experience' in the State during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the scheme for setting up Food Processing & Training Centre, have provided financial assistance to the following Food Processing Training Centres in Andhra Pradesh on the basis of their applications. The Ministry, in its objective, provides priority to SC/ST/OBC and women entrepreneurs, and the proposals are approved considering this as one of the factor for approval.

Sl.No.	Name of the unit	Amount sanctioned and date
1.	Vijaya Voluntary Organization, Dr. Rama Reddy Complex, Distt. Mahaboobnagar, A.P.	2.00 lakhs, dt. 3.12.98
2.	-do-	1.00 lakh, dt. 13.2.2000
3.	Tirumala Sai Society, Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad	2.00 lakhs, dt. 14.9.1999
4.	-do-	0.30 lakh, dt. 30.3.2001
5.	Santosh Education Society, Vidyanagar, Karimnagar, A.P.	7.50 lakhs, dt. 31.1.2000
6.	At your Service, Distt. Mahaboobnagar, A.P.	2.00 lakhs, dt. 7.3.2000
7.	Rural Integrated and Social Education Society, Dearka Nagar, Anantapur, A.P.	1.785 lakh, dt. 31.3.2006

(d) More than 450 entrepreneurs have been trained/ given 'hands on experience' through these FPTC centres.

*[Translation]*

#### **Unutilised Railway Land for SC/ST**

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

(a) whether the Railways have taken or propose to take some effective steps to give vacant and unutilized Railways land falling under different Railway Zones of the country to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the poor on lease basis; 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]*

#### **Kerosene Distribution Network**

469. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp kerosene distribution network in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it will help to control diversion of kerosene supplied through Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(d) the other corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken to check the diversion of PDS kerosene alongwith success achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The possibility of diversion of PDS Kerosene by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between PDS Kerosene and petrol/diesel and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. Checking diversion of PDS Kerosene is a continuous process and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time to time. With a view to distribute the subsidized PDS kerosene to the targeted beneficiaries, the Government has taken the following steps:

- (i) In order to check the black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or OMCs and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place.

- (ii) Government has also approved a pilot project for radically revamping the PDS kerosene distribution network with the primary objective of ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized price to the intended beneficiaries; and secondly, to thus cap, reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration. One of the salient features of this scheme is that supplies to the sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the public sector OMCs. The scheme has been launched on a pilot basis on 414 blocks in the country from 2nd October, 2005. The pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.6.2007.
- (iii) With a view to checking diversion of subsidized kerosene and in order to monitor the movement of Tank Trucks transporting petroleum products, the Government have advised the public sector OMCs for installing Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicle tracking system on all the tank trucks by 31.03.2007. The essential features of the system is that the vehicle carrying PDS SKO is fitted with a device and can be tracked on real time basis from the time it leaves the supply location and till it reaches the destination.
- (iv) To check adulteration in auto fuels, and also to check diversion of subsidized kerosene, Government have also advised OMCs to introduce marker in adulterants. Public Sector OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on All India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world-class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 has been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

[*Translation*]

### **Indian Peace Keeping Force**

470. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has increased the number of Indian Peace Keeping Force sent abroad on peace missions during the last two years;

(b) if so, the number of countries to which the said Indian soldiers have been sent till date;

(c) the duration of their deployment fixed on each of the said missions;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment of the number of soldiers killed during the peace missions; and

(e) if so, the number of soldiers suffered casualties in the mission during the last three years?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Armed Forces have participated in 43 United Nations (UN) peace keeping operations in more than 30 countries till date.

(c) The duration of deployment of personnel in UN Missions ranges from six months to one year.

(d) 113 Indian Defence Forces personnel have been killed in various UN Peace Keeping Operations, till date.

(e) Since January, 2004, the Indian Army has suffered 10 fatal and 31 non-fatal casualties in these operations.

[*English*]

### **Agreement with Turkmenistan for Oil Exploration**

471. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Mittal Energy Limited has signed any agreement for an exploration blocks in Turkmenistan;



(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued by this agreement;

(d) whether the Government proposes to acquire oil blocks in other countries also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) and (e) To enhance the energy security of the country, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) as well as other national oil companies such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have been pursuing proposals singly or in joint ventures, for acquisition of equity oil abroad as well as oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties in identified countries in Central Asia, CIS, Africa, Latin America and Australia.

The Indian Oil companies have acquired Participating Interests in oil and gas projects located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Colombia, Syria, Australia, Ivory Coast, Sao Tome Principle, Qatar, Brazil, Egypt and Cuba. The outcome of the efforts for acquiring more oil and gas assets by these companies would depend upon techno commercial viability, geopolitical environment, etc.

#### **Enhancement of Mumbai Sub-Urban Rail**

472. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended for capacity enhancement of Mumbai sub-urban rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Planning Commission has recommended the Phase-II of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP). It is expected that the completion of the Phase-I and Phase-II of MUTP would completely separate the suburban trains from the long distance trains and increase the suburban rail capacity by 56%. The major components of MUTP Phase-II are 5th and 6th line Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai, (CSTM)-Kurla, 5th and 6th line Thana-Diva, 6th line Borivali-Mumbai Central, Extension of Harbour line from Andheri to Goregaon, DC to AC Conversion (CSTM-Thane Section), Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) Procurement and Manufacture, Maintenance facilities for EMUs and Stabling lines for EMUs.

(c) The proposal for MUTP Phase-II is under consideration. In the Budget speech 2007-08, it has been announced that the work on Phase-II costing Rs. 5000 crores is proposed to be started in the XIth Five Year Plan and financing will be done with the Participation of Railways, State Government and multilateral funding institutions.

#### **Use of Kulhar and Khadi in Railways**

473. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of Kulhar and Khadi has been made compulsory in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said order is in force alongwith the railway zones where this order has been enforced;

(c) whether any relaxation has been given in the order;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the present position regarding the use of Kulhar and Khadi in Railways;

(f) the quantum of Kulhars and Khadi procured and expenditure incurred thereon during 2005-06 and 2006-07, Zone-wise; and

(g) the measures taken by the Railways for the availability of Kulhars and Khadi as per the requirement and encourage their use in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In 2004, instructions have been issued to all zonal Railways and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to encourage and increase the use of Kulhars and Khadi over Indian Railways.

(c) and (d) Instructions have also been issued indicating that use of plastic items such as pouches, cups, etc. should be restricted to the bare minimum and ice cream manufacturing companies should be contacted to explore the possibility of supply of ice cream and its products in bio degradable paper cups or other best possible alternative, which is eco-friendly. Relaxation has been given to the curtain cloth being used in AC coaches as these are Fire Retardant type.

(e) Kulhar and Khadi are in use in Railways.

(f) Information is being collected from zonal railways.

(g) All zonal Railways are following the instructions for procurement of Khadi and Kulhars.

[*Translation*]

#### Import of LNG

474. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether in view of the various hurdles in pipeline projects, the Government is considering direct import of liquefied natural gas from the foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether any agreements in this regard have been signed or proposed to be signed with foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total quantity, likely to be imported therefrom, country-wise?

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

PATEL): (a) to (d) In order to meet existing shortfall and growing demand of natural gas in the country, Government is also pursuing the import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) has signed contract with RasGas Qatar for import of 7.5 MMTPA LNG for a period of 25 years. RasGas Qatar is already supplying 5 MMTPA LNG and the supply of balance 2.5 MMTPA LNG would commence from mid-2009.

GAIL, IOC and BPCL have signed contracts with National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) on June 13, 2005 for import of 4 MMTPA LNG, which is scheduled to commence from 2009. Simultaneously, the parties also signed a side letter to the LNG SPA, as per which NIGEC had to obtain the approval of their parent company, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for the SPA to become effective. NIGEC has not obtained the approval of NIOC's Board till now.

PLL is setting up 2.5 MMTPA LNG Terminal, with a provision for expansion to 5 MMTPA, at Kochi. PLL is at advanced stage of negotiations with Exxon Mobil for import of 2.5 MMTPA LNG from LNG project at Gorgon, Australia for Kochi LNG Terminal.

GAIL and PLL are holding discussions with various potential suppliers of LNG for import of LNG on long-term basis from the year 2009 onwards for Dabhol LNG Terminal.

PLL and M/s Shell Hazira LNG Pvt. Ltd. also import some cargoes from the spot market.

[*English*]

#### Upgradation of Airports

475. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is spending several crores on the improvement and upgradation of various airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the amount of expenditure incurred during the current year so far in this regard on each airport?

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

(b) The amount of expenditure incurred (Rupees in crores) during the current year so far for the airports are as under:

Jaipur-9.3, Jodhpur-10.63, Khajuraho-0.70, Kullu-2.46, Lucknow-2.16, Pathankot-0.29, Srinagar-20.05, Amritsar-7.21 and Udaipur-18.14, Gaya-3.08, Agartala-0.46, Dibrugarh-17.19, Guwahati-0.35 and Silchar-5.36, Ahmedabad-12.15, Aurangabad-0.62, Belgaum-3.92, Gondia-12.40, Nagpur-6.85, Porbandar-2.39, pune-8.52, Raipur-6.18, Surat-12.30 and Vadodara-0.62 in Western Region; Agatti-1.00, Bangalore-5.43, Calicut-28.82, Coimbatore-3.77, Hubli-1.90, Hyderabad-2.96, Madurai-498, Mangalore-6.41, Mysore-0.07, Trichy-9.15, Vishakhapatnam-41.43, Chennai-51.23, Kolkata-21.94 and Trivandrum-2.32 respectively.

#### **Exploration of Coal Bed Methane**

476. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has taken any steps to start the drilling activities in the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block awarded in 2004 to Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has suggested the Central Government to induct a third partner for this Block in order to get the exploration and production started at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block namely BS(3)-CBM-2003/II in the State of Gujarat has been awarded to consortium of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (ONGC & GSPC). ONGC has hired a high capacity rig and started drilling of CBM wells since August 2006. So far, ONGC has drilled three core holes and one exploratory well.

(c) and (d) As per terms and conditions of the Production Sharing Contract, there is no provision to force operator to induct a third party.

*[Translation]*

#### **Production of Bio-Diesel**

477. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of bio-diesel during the last three years in the country;

(b) whether bio-diesel is cost effective and pollution free;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of bio-diesel;

(d) whether there is also an opposition against the production of bio-diesel;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The bio-diesel industry is at a nascent stage of growth. M/o Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for National Mission on bio-diesel for production of bio-diesel.

(b) The production cost of biodiesel is about 50% higher than diesel production cost. However, the CO, particulate matter and hydrocarbon emissions generated by biodiesel are substantially lower vis-a-vis diesel.

(c) To encourage production of bio-diesel in the country, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy, in October 2005, effective 1.1.2006. The policy has identified 20 purchase centres of the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) all over the country. The OMCs would purchase bio-diesel meeting the standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), from those bio-diesel manufacturers who register with them after satisfying the technical specifications, at a specified delivered price. Depending upon felt need and preparedness, the OMCs could also open more purchase centres.

A Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the National Mission on Bio-diesel has been submitted by the Ministry of Rural Development to the Planning Commission, which, *inter-alia*, envisages a Demonstration Project involving plantation of *Jatropha* in 4 lakh hectares of degraded forest and non-forest lands for manufacturing bio-diesel.

The Planning Commission has given 'in principle' approval to the DPR on demonstration phase estimated to cost Rs. 1286 crores over a period of 5 years.

(d) This has not come to the knowledge of the Government.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Setting up of Agro Food Processing Industries**

478. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to set up agro based food processing industries in States in joint collaboration of Union Government, NDDB (National Dairy Development Board's Safal Unit) and State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Government provides financial assistance and other incentives for setting up of food processing units. It, however, does not set up food processing units on its own for production, etc. of processed food items. However, the Government has implemented a plan scheme for Establishment/Technology Upgradation/Modernization of Food Processing Industries in the country. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is extended for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid to all implementing agencies @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission-IV of Technology Mission for Development of Horticulture, in difficult and high horticultural potential areas, assistance at still higher rates @ 50% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crore is available for processing of horticultural produce.

#### **GAIL-ONGC Joint Venture for Gas Pipeline Network**

479. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the GAIL (India) Ltd. and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have formed a joint venture to lay pipeline networks for transporting and marketing gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the investment propose to be made in the said joint venture; and

(d) the steps taken by the Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to develop gas infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, GAIL and ONGC have finalized a draft Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) for setting up of a Joint Venture for laying and operating gas pipeline network in respect of exploitation of possible gas discovery in KG and Mahanadi basins.

(d) GAIL is operating more than 5600 km of pipelines with a capacity of around 130 MMSCMD for transportation of natural gas to various customers in the country. GAIL is also implementing Dahej—Uran pipeline, Dabhol-Panvel pipeline and Jagoti-Pithampur pipeline project.

[*Translation*]

#### **Construction of Airport at Nasik**

480. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for construction of an airport in Nasik city is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which approval for construction work of such airport is likely to be given?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Consumption of Kerosene**

481. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the consumption of kerosene oil in the country is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the details of the consumption of kerosene oil during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding reasons behind increase in consumption of kerosene oil every year;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of consumption of kerosene for the last three years are as under:

	(In Thousand Metric Tonnes) (TMTs)			
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Apr-Dec (Provisional))
Consumption	10230	9395	9541	7040

(c) to (e) The Government of India allocates Kerosene under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to the States/UTs on quarterly basis for further distribution to eligible consumers by the States/UTs. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the year 2005-06, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. For the year 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2005-06.

At present, India's domestic consumption of kerosene is more than the domestic production of kerosene. The shortfall in domestic production of kerosene is met through imports by Oil Marketing Companies.

*[English]*

**Cruise Tourism**

482. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to develop cruise tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether areas have been identified for this purpose;

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

(e) whether the Government has got the policy cleared from all angles; and

(f) if so, the time by which it will take off?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) Ministry of Tourism in partnership with Ministry of Shipping has been promoting cruise tourism in the country both for domestic and overseas tourists. A high Power Steering group under the chairmanship of Minister of Shipping with Minister of Tourism & Culture as co-chairperson has been set up to formulate cruise shipping policy. The Steering Group has recommended policy measures for issues related to smooth immigration and custom clearance, upgradation of ports infrastructural facilities, connectivity to ports, rationalisation of taxation and cabotage relaxation to promote and develop cruise tourism products. Ministry of Tourism has already given clearance for operation of the following cruise services.

(a) M/s Star Cruises for operating its cruise from Mumbai & Goa to Lakshadweep.

(b) M/s Indian Ocean Cruise Ltd. for operating its cruises from Goa to Lakshadweep via Mangalore, Cochin and Trivandrum.

*[Translation]***Funds for Minorities' Upliftment**

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

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a fund for upliftment of minorities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been prepared for spending the money from the fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Brahmouss Supersonic Cruise Missile**

484. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Brahmos Supersonic Cruise missile has been successfully test-fired on February 4, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the success achieved in the missile test;

(c) whether the Brahmos surface-to-surface missiles have been inducted for operational use; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile has gone through a series of successive successful flight trials from ship and from road mobile launchers with integrated user configuration for Navy and Army. The system has been inducted in the Indian Navy and being installed in many naval ships. Indian Army has placed orders for production of surface-to-surface version and the first lot of the system will be inducted for operational use in the later part of 2007. Further tests are being carried out to evaluate the advanced operational capabilities of the missile system. The recent flight test on February 4, 2007 is part of such

effort and also to prove the Army user configuration of weapon complex. Due to the high performance of the missile system, export potential is high.

**Fake Killings by Armed Forces**

485. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:  
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of involvement of Armed Forces in the fake killings in Jammu and Kashmir is on the rise;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a High Level Committee on the request of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir about the fake killings in the State;

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

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check such fake killings?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There is nothing to suggest the involvement of Armed Forces in fake killings in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently, six cases of alleged fake encounters were reported. Out of these, five cases pertain to the year 2006 and one to the year 2007.

(c) and (d) A Special Investigation team has been constituted by the Government of J&K to look into the allegations. A Judicial probe has also been announced.

(e) Security forces dealing with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir have been given explicit directions to honour human rights during discharge of duties. Every reported case of alleged human rights violation is investigated promptly and stringent punishment awarded to those found guilty.

**Modernisation and Strengthening of RPF**

486. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to modernize and strengthen the Railway Protection Force (RPF);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

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

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

(b) Railway Protection Force has been equipped with the Modern Security Equipments like Walkie-Talkies, Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Bullet Proof Jackets, Bullet Proof Helmets, Dragon Search Lights, Close Circuit Televisions and Cameras, etc.

More Sniffer Dogs are being inducted. Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads are being set up. Recruitment process have started on priority to fill up the vacancies. Manpower creation is also under consideration.

(c) Funds are made available for the procurement of Security equipments and modernizations/strengthening of the Railway Protection Force from appropriate heads of account like Works Programme, Machinery & Plants (M&P) Head, Passenger Amenity Head, etc.

(d) It is a continuous process. However special emphasis is being given to speed up the process.

#### **Amenities/Facilities in Trains**

487. SHRI JUAL ORAM:  
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the poor passenger amenities/facilities being provided to the passengers in the trains particularly in long distance trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes formulated by Railway to provide better amenities/facilities to passengers and for adequate cleanliness at railway stations?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Based on design standards and laid down norms, passenger amenity items are provided in the coaches and efforts are made to ensure proper upkeep and functioning. Improvement and upgradation of facilities provided to passengers in the coaches has been a focus area and is a continuous exercise.

With a view to improve the standard of cleanliness at stations, a number of initiatives have been taken which include emphasis on mechanised cleaning processes, provision of washable aprons, additional dustbins, regular removal of garbage, spraying of insecticides, repairs to drains, introduction of 'Pay & Use' scheme of toilets, etc.

#### **Involvement of Senior Officers in Corruption**

488. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many senior officers in Defence Forces are facing serious charges of corruption;

(b) if so, the number of such officers facing corrupting charges during the last three years;

(c) the number of senior officers found guilty of such charges during the said period and the punishment given to each of them; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to check corruption in the defence force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) to (c) The list of senior officers in Defence forces facing charges of corruption and details of such cases, is given in enclosed statement.

(d) Indian Armed Forces are governed by their respective Acts namely Army Act, Navy Act and Air Force Act. Appropriate provisions exist in these Acts for taking action against force personnel indulging in corrupt practices. Further, there is a well-defined Procurement Procedure with built-in checks and balances. For ensuring high levels of transparency in defence deals/purchases, Government have issued orders, in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), for mandatory and time-bound scrutiny of all major procurement/purchase decisions, (worth Rs. 75 crore and above), by the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) and, where necessary, by CVC. Wherever Government has apprehensions about a particular case, it is promptly referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

**Statement**

Sl.No.	Name	Irregularities	Punishment
1	2	3	4
1.	Lt. Gen. (Retd.) S.K. Sahni	Irregularities in procurement of dry rations.	Disciplinary proceedings against the officer were commenced. The General officer had filed a Writ Petition (WP) in Delhi High Court against the C of I and the disciplinary action. The WP has been disposed with the direction to take disciplinary action as per due process of law.
2.	Maj. Gen. BPS Mander		Case linked with Serial 1 above.
3.	Brig. S.K. Handa		Case linked with Serial 1 above
4.	Brig. PS Gill		Case linked with Serial 1 above
5.	Maj. Gen. (Retd.) KTG Nambiar	Financial and other irregularities	Awarded loss of three years of past service for pension and to be severely reprimanded.
6.	Maj. Gen. Rana Goswami	Financial and other irregularities	Awarded Severe Displeasure (Recordable) by the General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C), Central Command.
7.	Shri GI Singh Multani (formerly Maj. Gen.)	Financial and other irregularities	Cashiered and to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year.
8.	Brig. DS Grewal		Case linked with Ser 7 above.
9.	Brig. G Illangovan		Case linked with Ser 7 above.
10.	Brig. Rajiv Divekar		Case linked with Ser 7 above.
11.	Brig. RS Rana		Case linked with Ser 7 above.
12.	Shri PSK Choudhary (formerly Maj. Gen.)	Illegal gratification (Tehelka Episode)	Cashiered and to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year.
13.	Shri Iqbal Singh (formerly Brig.)	Illegal gratification (Tehelka Episode)	Cashiered and to suffer rigorous imprisonment for two years.
14.	Maj. Gen. (Retd.) LK Chopra	Irregularities in purchase of IT equipment	Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has granted stay on proceedings on a Writ Petition filed by the retired General officer



1	2	3	4
15.	Brig. (Retd.) V.K. Anand	Misuse of Army personnel for private use and obtaining favours from subordinate officers.	Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has granted stay on the proceedings on a Writ Petition filed by the retired officer.
16.	Lt. Gen. S.K. Dahiya	Irregularities in operation of Meat Frozen Contract	The General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command has awarded recordable Censure to the Gen. Officer.
17.	Shri R.P. Singh (formerly Brig.)	Financial irregularities in the canteen fund account and illegal sale of liquor in civil	The officer has been sentenced to nine months rigorous imprisonment and to be cashiered.
18.	Cdr. (SD ME) CS Singh	Has been charged for abusing his position as a Public Servant, for commanding the making of false challans and for conduct unbecoming the character of an officer	The officer has been sentenced to (a) undergo rigorous imprisonment of 06 calendar months, to be dismissed from naval <del>service</del> , (b) forfeit 24 calendar <del>months</del> seniority in the rank of commander, (c) pay fine of Rs. 62,500, and (d) suffer consequential penalties.
19.	Cmde NMM Pandit	The officer has been charged for falsifying official documents, false declarations, knowingly making fraudulent statements, abusing his position as a Public Servant, possessing pecuniary resources disproportionate to his known sources of income and for conduct unbecoming the character of an officer	The officer has been sentenced to (a) undergo rigorous imprisonment of 18 calendar months, (b) dismissal from naval service, (c) forfeit 36 calendar months seniority in substantive rank of Capt., (d) pay fine of Rs. 3 lakhs, and (e) suffer consequential penalties involved.
20.	Lt. Cdr. (SDAE) MP Verma	The officer has been charged for conduct unbecoming the character of an officer, abusing his position as a Public Servant and for possessing pecuniary resources disproportionate to his known sources of income	The officer has been sentenced to (a) undergo simple imprisonment of 12 calendar months, (b) dismissal from naval service, (c) pay fine of Rs. 6,91,700 and (d) suffer consequential penalties. (Execution of sentence stayed by High Court of Delhi)

1	2	3	4
21.	Cdr. AG Gandhi (50702-F)	The officer has been charged for conduct unbecoming the character of an officer and for knowingly making a fraudulent statement.	The officer has been sentenced to (a) be dismissed from naval service, (b) forfeit 12 calendar months seniority in substantive rank of Commander, (c) pay fine of Rs. 7870 only and (d) suffer consequential penalties involved.
22.	Capt. IS Sandhu	The officer has been charged for conduct unbecoming the character of an officer, the demand favour in monetary terms from vendors with whom he had official dealing in his office.	The officer has been sentenced to (a) Forfeiture of six calendar months seniority in substantive rank of Captain, (b) to be severely reprimanded and other consequential penalties.
23.	Cdr Ajay Gupta (40457-Y)	Four charges U/S 54(2) of the Navy Act, 1957 for conduct unbecoming the character of an officer	To be dismissed from naval service and to suffer consequential penalties.
24.	Capt. (TS) Devta Kumar Mishra	Charges for falsifying official documents and false declaration	To forfeit four calendar months seniority in rank
25.	Gp Capt. Shamesher Singh	Exacting a sum of Rs. 1,45,000 from a civilian Govt. servant for procuring the selection of his son as a civilian cook at AFS, Singharsi	The General Court Martial (GCM) proceedings were concluded on 6 November 2006 and he was found guilty and awarded the following punishments: (a) Forfeiture of seven years of service for promotion. (b) Forfeiture of five years of service for increased pay. (c) Severe Reprimand.

[Translation]

**Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project**

489. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):

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

(a) whether the Government has succeeded in reviving the agreement regarding the gas pipeline project with Iran and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the three countries followed the suggestion of a British agency in reaching the said agreement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agreement has been reached on the price of natural gas that Iran plans to sell to India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the present status of Indo-Iran gas pipeline project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (f) The 4th tripartite Joint Working Group meeting of Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project between the three countries was held in Tehran, Iran on January 24-25, 2007. During the meeting, discussions were held on the report submitted by International consultant M/s Gaffney Cline & Associates on the gas price at Iran-Pakistan border. A gas pricing formula regarding pricing of gas at Iran-Pakistan border was agreed between Iran and Pakistan side, subject to approval from the respective Governments. The Indian side agreed to respond to the pricing formula within a period of four weeks.

Subsequently, an Indian delegation participated in the 4th bilateral Working Group meeting with Pakistan on February 22-23, 2007 to discuss various issues relating to transit of IPI Pipeline through Pakistan. Iran attended the meeting as an Observer. The issues pertaining to transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of gas through Pakistan were, inter alia, discussed.

*[English]*

#### **Use of IA Terminal by Private Airlines**

490. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow more private airlines to use IA terminal of IGI Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for extending such use to private airlines; and

(d) the extent to which it will help the passengers?

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

(b) to (d) Traffic in Terminal-IB has exceeded its capacity resulting in heavy congestion while Terminal-1A

is underutilized. It is proposed to shift one or more airlines from 1B to 1A so as to optimally utilize the capacity of both the Terminals. This will greatly benefit the passengers.

#### **Fake Military Warrants**

491. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Armed Forces have now been hit by a racket in the use of fake military warrants to obtain railway tickets as reported in the 'Times of India' dated December 9, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) There is one such case reported by Railway Authorities in which the Ticket Checking Squad detected five persons (one serviceman and four civilians) in 2779 Up Goa Express between Gwalior and Nizamuddin on 4th August 2006. The warrants on which these persons were travelling were purportedly issued by Military Hospital, Meerut. An FIR bearing no. 87 dated 4.8.2006 was lodged by Railway Authorities.

#### **Aircraft/Helicopters Accidents**

492. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft and helicopters met with accidents during the last six months;

(b) the loss of lives and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the reasons for the frequent air crashes of aircraft/helicopters; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent such mishaps?

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

(a) A total number of seven aircraft and four helicopters of Defence Forces met with accidents during the last six months (from 1st August, 2006 to 23rd February, 2007).

(b) Six pilots/service personnel were killed in these accidents. There was no loss of civil life. The loss to civil property in one of these accidents in Rs. 86,309. In another accident which took place on 24.1.2007, the aircraft crashed in cultivated area damaging crops.

(c) The major reasons for aircraft accidents in the Defence Forces are Human Error and Technical Defect. However, in each case of accident, an investigation is carried out and appropriate remedial actions are taken.

(d) 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 being pursued. Constraint 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.

#### **Leasing out of Land by Railways to Retailers**

493. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to join the retail bandwagon through a public private partnership venture by leasing out land to retailers to enhance its revenue;

(b) if so, whether any discussion has been held with the private players in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the sites/railway stations identified to build national retail hubs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The railway stations and the vacant land around them have the potential to be leveraged for agri-retail chains and thereby help the farmers to sell directly to the retail chains.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The discussion held so far are of exploratory nature.

(d) the names of sites/railway stations have not yet been finalized.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

11.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha their adjourned till  
fourteen of the clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, CBI inquiry against Shri Mulayam Singhji ...(*Interruptions*) CBI is playing to the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received any notice in your name.

[*English*]

Let us do some work.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you, Please go back to your seat.

[*English*]

How can I just stand up and say something?

We shall now take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat, it is not proper.

I will give you an opportunity.

*[English]*

I will listen to you.

*...(Interruptions)*

14.01 hrs.

*(At this stage Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)*

14.02 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.R. Antulay—Not present.

Shrimati Ambika Soni—Not present.

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): On behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 14A of the Aircraft Act 1934:

- (i) The Aircraft (Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 181 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th March 2006, together with an Explanatory Note.

- (ii) The Aircraft (Demolition of Obstructions caused by Buildings and Trees etc.) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 314 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May 2006, together with an Explanatory Note.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5806/07]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, and its Subsidiaries, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, and its Subsidiaries, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5807/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Production Sharing Contract (Hindi and English versions) between:

- (1) The Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with respect to contract area identified as Block KG-DWN-98-3.

- (2) The Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with respect to contract area identified as Block NEC-OSN-97-2.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5808/07]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. I cannot hear you.

*...(Interruptions)*

14.02 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### Twenty-fifth report

*[English]*

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Twenty-fifth report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

14.03 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### One Hundred Eighty-seventh to One Hundred Ninetieth Reports

*[English]*

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:

- (1) One Hundred Eighty-seventh Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Hundred Seventy-third report on Demands for Grants 2006-07 (Demand No. 55) of the Department of School Education and Literacy;
- (2) One Hundred Eighty-eighth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Hundred Seventy-fourth report on Demands for Grants 2006-2007 (Demand No. 56) of the Department of Higher Education;
- (3) One Hundred Eighty-ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Hundred Seventy-fifth report on Demands for Grants 2006-07 (Demand No. 57) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and
- (4) One Hundred Ninetieth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Hundred Seventy-sixth report on Demands for Grants 2006-2007 (Demand No. 104) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

14.03½ hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Thirty-third Report

*[English]*

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

beg to present the Thirty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

14.03½ hrs.

## ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

### (I) Committee on Estimates

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule(1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008".

*The motion was adopted.*

14.04 hrs.

### (II) Committee on Public Accounts

*[English]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008".

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You will be given time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot hear from here. Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.04½ hrs.

### (III) Committee on Public Undertakings

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Senior leaders are sitting here. They may please ask these Members, who have come to the well, to go back to their seats.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. I cannot hear you from there.

*...(Interruptions)*

**(iv) Committee on Scheduled Castes  
and Scheduled Tribes**

*[English]*

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2007 and ending on the 30th April, 2008 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.05 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Sir, I am very sorry that I was absent when my name was called out. I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5803/07]

- (3)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.



- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 5804/07]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 5805/07]

14.06 hrs.

### GOVERNMENT BILLS—*Introduced*

#### (I) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007\*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.06 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE\*\*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 2 of 2007).

14.07 hrs.

#### (I) Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Bill, 2007\*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide access to the largest number of listeners and viewers, on a free to air basis, of sporting events of national importance through mandatory sharing of sports broadcasting signals with Prasar Bharati and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide access to the largest number of listeners and viewers, on a free to air basis, of sporting events of national importance through mandatory sharing of sports broadcasting signals with Prasar Bharati and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 1.3.2007.

\*\*Laid on the Table and placed in Library *See* No. LT 5809/07

14.07½ hrs.

**Statement Re: Sports Broadcasting  
Signals (Mandatory Sharing with  
Prasar Bharati) Ordinance\*\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 4 of 2007).

14.08 hrs.

**(III) National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2007\***

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the National Tax Tribunal Act, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the National Tax Tribunal Act, 2005."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.09 hrs.

**Statement Re: National Tax Tribunal  
(Amendment) Ordinance\*\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 3 of 2007).

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 1.3.2007.

\*\*Laid on the Table and placed in Library See No. LT 5811/07

14.10 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\***

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, listed in today's List of Business, may be treated as laid.

**(I) Need to provide air connectivity linking  
Madurai with Kuala Lumpur and Singapore**

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): The Temple city of Madurai which had got ancient cultural heritage has now developed world class hospitals at par with any international standard.

Government of Tamil Nadu is developing an IT Park in Madurai and a special Economic Zone near Tirunelveli.

Sethusamundram Project work is expected to be completed shortly. Once the project is completed, ships from all over the world are expected to arrive in Tuticorin and the Port will become busy with passenger and cargo traffic.

It has been observed that total efforts is underway to develop Madurai-Tuticorin belt as an industrial hub and growing industries in this belt is expected to give impetus to the air traffic.

Tuticorin Port Trust is developing cruise Tourism at Tuticorin.

Madurai and Chettinad are having ethnic affinity with Malaysia. People from these areas are either settled and doing business or working in Malaysia. There are lot of family and labour traffic travelling between Madurai and Kuala Lumpur via Chennai. There is possibility of shifting of traffic to other carriers due to non-availability of seats for Kuala Lumpur and Singapore and other Gulf countries from Chennai.

At present average of 30 to 35 international passengers are travelling from Madurai and the growth rate in the international traffic is 11% to 15%.

As per the analysis Madurai Airport has carried a total international traffic of 77138 pax during 2005 which is higher than international traffic in Coimbatore (13143 pax), Jaipur (85252 pax) and Varanasi (35589 pax) during the same period.

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\*Treated on laid on the Table.

I am very confident that there is a potential for thrice a week flights to South East Asia, Middle East and Gulf countries. Delay in operation will give opportunity for other airlines. It will be difficult for Indian Airlines to penetrate in the market at a latest stage because of the mindset of the Agents and passengers.

Hence connectivity between Madurai-Bangalore-Kuala Lumpur, Madurai-Bangalore-Singapore and Chennai-Tuticorin-Madurai-Chennai will facilitate tourism, trade relations, employment opportunities.

I urge upon the Government to take early steps to cater the above needs by providing international air connectivity at Madurai airport.

**(II) Need to increase the coverage area of programmes relayed from Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair**

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): At Port Blair, there is only one Doordarshan Kendra, and the entire programmes are available for a limited area of about 25 kms. radius in and around Port Blair. As such the reach of the local programmes being telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair is not available to the majority of the population living in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Presently, Doordarshan Kendra is having 3 LPTs for the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands (2 LPTs are located in Port Blair and 1 in car Nicobar). There has been ever growing demand from the local people, tribal council of different Islands located at far flung areas, asking for local programmes in their respective areas. As such there is an urgent need to increase the coverage area of programmes relayed from Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair. In order to increase the coverage area of local programmes the Automatic Switch Over System needs to be introduced in all the LPT and VLPTs as has been done in other States like Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttaranchal etc. For this purpose the Earth Station Facilities located at Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair can also be utilized. In view of the foregoing, I urge upon the Union Government to consider the long standing aspirations of the local people living in far flung Islands.

**(III) Need to give due weightage to the suggestions of Members of Parliament by the Finance Commission**

*[Translation]*

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, the Government of India constitutes Finance Commission from time to

time to run the economy and financial condition of the country effectively. However, only bureaucrats, industrialists and businessmen play an important role in the constitution and functioning of the Commission. Therefore, suggestions of Members of Parliament should be sought in this regard. The concerned Member of Parliament should be apprised of the work undertaken in his respective area and his suggestion should also be sought.

Through this House, I request the Government to take the suggestions from Members of Parliament in the constitution and functioning of the Finance Commission while considering the standard of living of common man. Besides, the information regarding the work undertaken by the 12th Finance Commission in my Parliamentary constituency Amerali should be made available.

**(iv) Need to construct an over bridge at the crossing of National Highway passing through Palanpur City, Gujarat**

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the crossing at National Highway passing through Palanpur City, headquarters of my Parliamentary constituency Banaskantha always remains over crowded and accidents take place there very often. Large number of people have lost their lives in these accidents. Accidents occur at these crossings as these are densely populated. Therefore, there is an urgent need to construct over-bridges at the crossing of Palanpur city i.e. on Disha-Palanpur highway, Ahmedabad-Palanpur highway, Palanpur to Balaram, Palanpur to Ambaji and Palanpur to Agola highway so that accidents are avoided and traffic movement made.

Through this House, I request the Government to construct the above overbridges in the public interest as early as possible.

**(v) Need to set up a new airport between Guntur and Chilakalurpet, Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, if people from Guntur, Krishna, Prakasam and West Godavari want to go to Hyderabad by flight, it takes 2 hours for them to reach Gannavaram Airport in Vijayawada. It takes another 1 hour to reach Hyderabad. Overall, it takes 3 hours for a passenger to travel from Guntur to Hyderabad. On the other hand, if a person wanted to go to Hyderabad by road from Guntur, it takes

[Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao]

hardly 4 hours. This loss of time has put the air passengers to a lot of inconvenience.

Moreover, 60 to 70 per cent of the passengers who use air travel from Vijayawada come from Guntur, which is the prominent business, commercial and export centre for tobacco, cotton and chillies. Buyers not only come from all parts of the country but also from Europe, United States of America and other countries. The turnover of this business and export centre runs into thousands of crores of rupees. Guntur is not just considered as a domestic market but also an international business centre.

Under the circumstances, I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to set up a new airport between Guntur and Chilakalurpet for the convenience of the passengers from Guntur and Prakasam districts taking into consideration the business potential of the area. In fact, the land for airport is readily available which the Government can take over to start construction of the new airport on a war footing.

**(vi) Need to provide budgetary allocation for the pending railway projects in Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Sir, there is a long standing demand for the gauge conversion of Rewari-Bikaner, Sadulpur-Hissar, Ratnagarh-Degana, Ganganagar-Jaipur railway lines. The gauge conversion of Rewari-adalpur and Sadalpur-Hisar railway lines was approved 8 years back, however, in the absence of sufficient budgetary allocation, this work is still pending. This area has been neglected in respect of gauge conversion. Members of Parliament from Rajasthan and social and political organisation have given several memoranda in this regard. They have even met the hon. Railway Minister personally but of no results.

Kindly provide the required amount of funds for the gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadalpur and Sadalpur-Hissar railway line in the current financial year and provide relief to the people by clearing the rest of the conversion of Sadalpur-Bikaner and Ratnagarh to Degana railway lines.

**(vii) Need to bring a comprehensive policy in the interest of the people engaged in opium cultivation**

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Sir, the economic and social condition of opium growers in

Madhya Pradesh and other States in the country including Rajasthan is getting worse day-by-day for the last two years. The constant declarations of giving full participation in speeding up the pace of economic development of the farmers and workers undertaken at various levels are not in conformity with the declaration and intention of the Government. In such circumstances, the farmers are driven towards committing suicide as they are under the burden of debts and not getting remunerative prices for various commodities, agricultural produce. It needs to be checked. At present, thousands of farmers of Jalawad, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara, Baran districts of Rajasthan have maintained their economic condition and social status by growing opium, but the present Government is reducing the potential production of opium by reducing the area of opium cultivation and by decreasing number of growers continuously for the last two years, as a result, the farmers are bound to shift from opium cultivation to some other crops.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government, through you, that an opium policy may be laid down unanimously with the consent of Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies by analyzing all the political circumstances including interests of opium growers and the existing storage capacity of opium in other States of the country including Rajasthan.

**(viii) Need to complete the pending railway projects in Solapur Railway Division, Maharashtra and provide additional staff at un-manned railway crossings in the region.**

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH (Sholapur): Sir, due to non-construction of a fly-over near Jeor Railway station and at the home signal of Pune side of Sholapur station under my parliamentary constituency Sholapur, the oldest railway division in the country is facing great difficulty. There are 400 un-manned railway crossings under this division because of which a number of rail accidents take place. Railway personnel need to be deputed on these railway crossings, at least, during the night.

A demand for introducing both-ways Sholapur-Pune-Sholapur Intercity trains simultaneously and introducing express train between Sholapur-Nagpur via Hyderabad and laying a double rail line from Bhigwan to Sholapur under Sholapur Division and electrification of Sholapur and Pune line is being made for quite some time but no steps have been taken in this regard.

Gangmen have not been deputed in various zones, particularly in Sholapur zone according to the number of rail lines in the country and these gangmen are not provided with adequate security and communication particularly in rural areas at night during their duty hours.

I request the Government to take necessary steps to expedite these work on priority basis.

**(ix) Need to establish a bench of Supreme Court at Nagpur**

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, the Supreme Court has been set up under the Constitution of India. People from all the States come here for the redressal of their disputes by the Supreme Court situated at Delhi.

Delhi is the capital city situated in the Northern India. The people coming from Central and South India for justice at the Supreme Court find it very difficult because of so much distance and lack of connectivity. People from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat in Central India and Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar in South India have to face great difficulties in coming to the Supreme Court. This proves very expensive and time consuming for them. Keeping this in view, the jurists in Central India and South India have demanded establishment of bench of the Supreme Court.

Establishing a bench of the Supreme Court at Nagpur in Central India may be convenient in view of the difficulty faced by the people of Central and South India in commuting to Delhi and in view of the demand of jurists, Nagpur is a city which is situated at zero mile from these States and is linked by road, rail and air with all the States. Being convenient for the people of Central and south India, they can take the benefit from it. In view of this, there is an urgent need to establish a bench of the Supreme Court at Nagpur.

**(x) Need to complete the construction work of NH-43 between Raipur, Chhattisgarh and Vijayanagaram, Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI (Nowrangpur): I would like to bring to the notice of the Govt. about the condition of

NH 43 which connects Raipur (Chhattisgarh) Vijayanagaram (Andhra Pradesh) particularly the portion of the Highway which comes within Orissa state is in very miserable condition. It needs improvement as per national Highway standard. Some improvement work of highway in between Boriguma and Katpad is going on since last 5 years. But due to slow progress in the construction work there is public resentment in both Orissa and Chhattisgarh as they are facing much trouble.

So, I would like to request the Government to inquire into the matter with regard to the quality and unnecessary delay in the construction work. Necessary steps may also be taken to fix accountability of the persons involved in the execution of work as early as possible to avoid public resentment.

**(xi) Need to take steps for de-silting of Damodar river near Durgapur barrage in West Bengal**

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): The Standing Committee of Water Resources Department already visited Durgapur barrage over Damodar River in West Bengal and also other bridge like Farakka. This is my 3rd time to raise this vital issue since, 1996. We witnessed unprecedented flood situation in the year 1978 and 1995 near Durgapur barrage over Damodar River. The tilled land on both the sides of the villages like Jallanpur, Telendra-Purnia-Mana of Mejhia Panchayats Samiti—Kuldiha-Pingrui, Madhavpur, Napara, Pakhama, Tajpur Bara-Mana, Majher Mana, Sitarampur Mana under Baroja Panchayat Samiti and Behari-Mana, Rupai Sah of Sonamukhi Panchayat Samiti area of Bankura district in West Bengal were submerged as a result of silt and sand deposited over the land and also in the river. The river lost its capacity to retain sufficient water in rainy season and in lean season to supply water in Kharif Season.

In order to save the tilled land of nearby villages from the flood, there is need for the de-silting of Damodar river and adjoining areas. Further, the level of the road from Mejhia-Jallanpur to Napara by the side of the river needs to be raised keeping in mind the drainage system from the village to river. Also, the bolder setting on the edge of the river needs to be done because the river is on a higher level than road. So, I urge upon the Govt. to take steps for de-silting Damodar River besides setting up an enquiry committee for the withdrawal of Rs. 23 crore from Farakka Barrage repairing fund which has been utilized in another head diverted from Central Fund.

- (xii) **Need to provide special financial package for the farmers whose crops were damaged due to recent rain and hailstorm in Uttar Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): The crops of the farmers in Uttar Pradesh have been badly damaged due to rain and hailstorm this month. On the one hand, crops have been damaged while on the other animals in large numbers have died due to hailstorm. It was the biggest source of income for the farmers. Though almost all Rabi crops have been affected in the Agra district due to heavy hailstorms, but mustard, wheat, gram and potato crops of the farmers have been completely destroyed in Jagner and Saiyan blocks in Kheragarh Tehsil, Barauli Ahir and Akola Block of Agra Sadar Tehsil and Wah. This has broken the backbone of the farmers as damage to crops has taken place in thousands of hectares. The hailstorm was such that a sheet of snow had covered the crops.

The farmer solely depends on rabi crops for its year long expenses. The damage has made all their dues difficult to pay and made it even more difficult to look after their family. Though a report for damage assessment has been sent to the State Government, yet the grant to be provided by the State Government would not be probably sufficient to compensate their losses. The farmers facing the harsh blows of natural disasters need additional assistance. They demand from the Government of India that additional financial assistances may be provided to the hailstorm affected areas of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xiii) **Need to rehabilitate the people displaced due to erosion caused by rivers Ganga and Bagmati in Samastipur district, Bihar**

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, a large number of people have been displaced by erosion caused by the rivers Ganga and Bagmati in Mohaddinagar and Mohanpur under Mohanpur Block and in Kalyanpur Block of Samastipur district. It has caused loss of life and property and they have been compelled to dwell in other's houses and earning their bread by working as labourers. They are facing starvation.

I demand that the Central Government should carry out a survey for their rehabilitation.

- (xiv) **Need for inter-linking of peninsular rivers**

[*English*]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): Interlinking of peninsular rivers to ensure continuous water flow in the major river systems of southern region has been evaluated to be a viable one. The Common Minimum Programme for national Governance includes this feasible project. Vexing inter-State Water disputes and unpredictable weather conditions and monsoon patterns are posing problems to carry on agriculture the lifeline of the country. A lasting solution to make available water both for irrigation and drinking water purposes needs to be evolved. So there is an urgent need to take up either the garland canal scheme or any other suitably modified project to link the rivers in the Southern parts of the country. In the recently concluded National development Council meeting also, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu emphasized the need to include and fund this project in the 11th Five Year Plan. Hence, I urge upon the Prime Minister and the Union Water Resources Minister and the Planning Commission to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the States concerned for interlinking of the peninsular rivers. I also urge upon the Union water Resources Minister and the Planning Commission to release about 7,000 crores of rupees as funds for completion of Anti-sea erosion works for coastal protection of Tamil Nadu which has become necessary after Tsunami as requested by Government of Tamil Nadu.

- (xv) **Need to expedite the construction of railway over bridge at Randia Railway level crossing in Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway, Orissa**

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): A railway over bridge is being constructed at Randia Railway level crossing in Khurda Road division of East Coast Railway in the State of Orissa. A sum of rupees one crore has been sanctioned for the financial year 2006-07, for its constructions. But the pace of work of the bridge is very slow. As a result, the target for completion of the above said bridge may not be completed on time as envisaged originally in the year 2007-08.

I, therefore, urge upon the Railway Minister to divert the Rail administration to get speeded-up of the work of the bridge as to complete the construction work on time by 2007-08.

**(xvi) Need to bring a National Policy for Agricultural Workers, with a view to protect their interests**

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): The majority of the rural population in India is depending on Agriculture. So Agricultural workers in the country outnumber the Industrial workers. The social status and living condition of the agricultural workers in India is pathetic. Now a days they confront the threat of insecurity of job, lack of adequate wages etc. At present there is no uniform law in India to protect the interest of this labour folk.

It is therefore suggested that a National Policy for the Agricultural workers in the country may be formulated in the interest of this labour force, as early as possible.

**(xvii) Need to open a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Satara district of Maharashtra**

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): There is almost need to start a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Satara district of Maharashtra to facilitate children's of defence personnel and Central Government employees.

Satara district is having maximum enrolment in defence service hence the need for starting a new Kendriya Vidyalaya.

**(xviii) Need to maintain status quo ante with regard to seats reserved for SCs/STs in Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha from Jharkhand**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Sir, as per the demarcation done for the reserved seats of Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha in Jharkhand, the State is losing 6 and 1 seats respectively. It will prevent people's representatives from contesting elections who are raising their voices in support of lacs of tribal people. In this connection, the representatives of All Party Delegation of Jharkhand have requested Hon'ble Prime Minister, Law Minister and Minister of Home Affairs not to reduce the number of seats in the present demarcation process. Jharkhand Adivasi Parishad and Jharkhand Government have also decided that the seats reserved for the tribals will not be reduced and the Government of India have been intimated about this matter through personal interaction. The purpose of Bihar Organisation Bill, 2000

and various other laws governing the Blocks and Districts of Jharkhand state under notified area was that the seats are not reduced.

I demand that rules should be framed so that there is no reduction in the reserved seats of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly in Jharkhand.

**(xix) Need to take steps to save the Sunderbans in West Bengal from climate change due to Green house emissions, as reported in new United Nation's Report**

*[English]*

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a new United Nation's Report on climate change predicting tougher times ahead for India with the earth is expected to become much more warmer because of rise in the green house emissions.

In the Fourth Assessment Report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the predictions have been made about higher sea level rise on the eastern coast, more rainfall in the post monsoon period, effecting crop patterns and the drought zone widening, etc. Further, the global report prepared by 500 lead authors and scientists also mentioned that India will emerge as one of the major carbon dioxide contributions to global green house emissions if the remedial steps are not taken fast. In this regard, Indian scientists have also reported and recorded submersion of the world's first habituated island in Sunderbans and many more islands heading for a similar fate if the sea level rises at the present rate. Even Indian scientists predicted for more impact of submersion of low lying areas.

Sunderbans is the largest delta of the planet consisting large mangrove forests, world famous Royal Bengal Tigers, national Park housing a wide range of wild animals, attracting thousands of tourists from all over the world. Sunderbans inhabiting a population of around 45 lakhs which will be manifold in the coming decades. However, such predictions about submersion of Sunderbans would be seriously viewed and considered by the Government so as to take faster remedial steps. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to necessary steps to save Sunderbans.

**(xx) Need to review the working of Community Information Centres (CICs) and ensure their continuation with central support in the Eleventh Plan**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur). The special scheme for setting up of Community Information Centres (CIC) in every block launched in 2002 by the Ministry of Communication & IT under PM's special initiative for the NER was a laudable approach. Under the scheme 487 blocks of NER were covered, which are rendering efficient service in the rural areas in the field of computer literacy, awareness and for providing basic service to the communities mostly belonging to BPL families. It was stipulated that these CICs would become commercially viable and would function as independent entity without Govt. support beyond March 2007. However, the ground reality reveals that none of these CICs become self-sustainable due to irregular power supply, inadequacy of technical support, V-Sat maintenance, computer peripherals and due to inadequate exposure and poor condition of the beneficiaries in rural areas.

On the other hand, the State Governments are unable to support these CICs due to their resource constraints. It is learnt that without getting any communication from the Central Govt. some of the District authorities have already closed down the CICs and ordered for handing over of assets. As a consequence more than 1000 youngsters who got engaged in these CICs and exposed to the IT sector will now become unemployed with the vulnerability of being exploited by the militant outfits.

I, therefore, urge upon the Govt. specially PMO, Planning Commission and IT Ministry to review the entire matter on proper perspective and to ensure continuation of CICs with Central support in the Eleventh Plan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I cannot hear anything. Please go back to your seats. I will give you time to speak. If you all come to the well then I cannot hear what you are saying. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

14.11 hrs.

## REFERENCES BY SPEAKER

**Congratulating Shri Naveen Jindal on winning Gold Medal in Skeet Shooting and best wishes to Indian Cricket Team for World Cup 2007**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are aware, one of our young colleagues, Shri Naveen Jindal has won Gold Medal in the Skeet shooting at the Fifth Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial masters shooting Competition held in February, 2007 at the Oases Ranges in Jaipur. Earlier, he won a Silver Medal in the same discipline at the 33rd National Games held at Guwahati in January 2007.

I am sure the House would join me in congratulating Shri Jindal on his commendable achievements.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are aware that yesterday our cricket team has left for West Indies to take part in the World Cup. Let us convey our best wishes to our team so that they can succeed.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I request all of you with folded hands to take your seats. I shall listen to your view point only when you speak from your allotted seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall give you the opportunity to speak on the issue raised by you.

...(Interruptions)



*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I request you.

*...(Interruptions)*

14.11½ hrs.

*(At this stage Dr. Shafiqur Rahman and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, we want the World Cup.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: For that some discipline is required.

*[English]*

Let the players not follow us.

*...(Interruptions)*

14.12 hrs.

## SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

### Detention of Ottavio Quattrocchi in Argentina

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present session of Parliament started on 23rd of the last month and we listened to the hon'ble President's speech. But, on that very day, I was informed by the journalists in the evening that the person who was being wanted by the CBI and against whom a Red Corner Notice was issued by the Interpol, was arrested in Argentina on the basis of that Red Corner Notice. This news made me very happy because I was in charge of that department in the past. I had visited France while I was in office and at that time I had insisted on visiting the office of Interpol in Leon—because I wanted to see their functioning. It is natural for a person to be glad when a person, against whom Red Corner Notice had been issued, is arrested through help from Interpol. After a while, I was informed by the journalists that he was arrested on the 6th. I guessed that he was arrested on the 23rd. But, I was unable to comprehend the reason behind not disclosing that news which was a good news

for the country. Moreover, I started musing upon the reason for its non-inclusion in the hon'ble President's speech delivered in the forenoon. So, on the 24th I wanted to know from the Government the reason for not mentioning it for such a long time. It is a more strange in a country where we proudly declare that one can get any concealed information by using the Right to Information Act. I shall not go into the details of the happenings of 24th, but I want to say just that when that matter was brought to the court of that country and it became clear that the name of the criminal was Ottavio Quattrocchi, even then the counsel of the Government failed to bring the vital information to the notice of the Supreme Court of that country that the said person had already been arrested and the required action would be taken against him. All this information have created such an atmosphere in the House that I became duty-bound to give the notice for Suspension of Question Hours in the House for the first time in my life. I do not want to repeat those incidents especially because the Government have informed the House that detailed discussion on the issue of Quattrocchi will take place in the future. In between, a demand was repeatedly made by us that the House wants clarifications from the hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the real position and the future course of action. At last, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs made a statement that the Prime Minister had given his statement in a Press Conference impromptu. We, the Member of NDA have constantly been meeting them and emphasized that our main objection to that matter had not been addressed till date. All the questions including the details of bank accounts and the present progress made in the case will be asked during the detailed discussion. But, the development in the matter which took place in between these things is not proper. Today, a lot of discussion was held with the hon'ble Speaker and other Members and the consensus emerged that to end the stalemate it was necessary to start the discussion from the very beginning of that matter so that the stalemate is removed. I want to say through you that it is not proper for a Prime Minister to clarify the matter outside the House, he should try to express his point of view in the House itself, when it was repeatedly demanded that the House wanted a reply from the Prime minister.

At present, I do not want to say anything more. I want to say just that the Government should be answerable to the twin issues of corruption and criminalization. Now, this issue is an addition to those issues mentioned earlier, as it has been agreed that the

[Shri L.K. Advani]

issue of Quattrocchi will be discussed later. I want to say that 14 General Elections have been held in the country till date and I have been a witness to all those elections. I have seen that the voters are influenced by a number of issues, but at times a single issue becomes so big that all other issues get overshadowed by it. Emergency was such an issue in the year 1977, the murder of Mrs. Indira Gandhi by the terrorists in 1984 and Bofors case in 1989 were such big issues. In the year 1989, the Members of Parliament including you tendered their resignation from Membership of the House and that issue influenced general election.

I shall participate in the discussion on that issue when it comes up for discussion.

But I would like to say that opposition has raised this issue forcefully and has moved ahead with it, it definitely has justification. Sometimes people used to tell me the now Bofors Case has become old. But I would say that if I would quote your own speeches then you perhaps yourself will be surprised to listen what you had said at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Why will I be surprised.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The people sitting here in the opposition today use very restraint language and put their opinion in a very balanced manner. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, now you may please speak about Prime Minister's Statement.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Even today a proposal for this has been given to remove the bottleneck, which we have accepted immediately. I am glad that the Leader of Opposition, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Shri Suresh Pachauri, all three have tried to sort out this stalemate.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to all sides for this.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate. It was only one issue.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I would like to know whether you would allow a discussion on this issue or not.

MR. SPEAKER: A discussion will be allowed. May I recall one or two events?

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let me explain.

*[Translation]*

Sometimes listen to Mr. Speaker also. I also have right to speak sometimes.

*[English]*

On the first day itself, I had said that the matter also have right to speak somethings. On the first day itself, I had said that the matter could be raised, and I would call the hon. Leaders of different parties. Even I had gone to the extent of finding out from the Government and they agreed to respond through the Leader of the House. But that was not acceptable.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But they did not agree.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know who are 'they'. You are not saying who are they. Therefore, I have never said that the debate will not be allowed. The question is, as you all know, that this is a Budget Session where the President's Address and the Motion of thanks to our hon. Rashtrapatiji always get a priority. Therefore, after that it will be considered. The Government has never said no and I have never said no. But there has been a suggestion that some observations by the hon. Prime Minister are alleged to have been made outside the House. They wanted an explanation from the hon. Prime Minister, if I am not wrong. That is what was said to me that the Prime Minister might explain why he had made such a statement. I am not saying anything on the merit. Since the hon. Prime Minister is here, it is for him to respond.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He should restrict to that point only.

MR. SPEAKER: He will tick to only that. I am not withholding any opportunity for debate on the main issue and as Shri L.K. Advani himself has said, there will be a proper debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): The hon. Prime Minister should be present at the time of discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): I have move Adjournment Motion on this issue only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no provision for Adjournment Motion on this issue. You are a very senior Member.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, I have listened with great respect to the statement made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Let me say that it has been the consistent stand of our Government that we do not shy away from any discussion in this House. This was made quite clear to you Sir, at the very beginning of the Session.

As far as a factual statement is concerned, my colleague, Shri Suresh Pachauri, made that statement in both the Houses. Even though he was not allowed to make that statement, a statement was placed on the Table of the House. I repeat that we are ready for any discussion as may be decided by the floor managers with the approval of the hon. Speaker and we will welcome any such discussion.

As far as what I said outside is concerned, it was not a Press Conference. I commented on the election results and somebody asked me what about the Quattrocchi affair. I said that as far as we are concerned, we have done no wrong; that we have allowed and will allow the CBI to pursue the case with full freedom. I repeat that it was not my intention in any way to hurt the sentiments of any Member or the sentiments of the Opposition. That was never my intention nor did I say anything that we would give that sort of impression.

MR. SPEAKER: Now let us take item number 22. Let us very solemnly discuss this matter. But before that I have said that I will allow Shri Ramji Lal Suman. But

I would like to know whether it relates to the Central Government or not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I wish at least some notice was given to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say very politely that a matter was sub judice in Supreme Court in connection with assets of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji. I don't want to say something which is derogatory to Supreme Court. ... (Interruptions) Now this issue has been handed over to CBI. But whatever is being done before election, is definitely a conspiracy and it is nothing but simple endeavour to harass Mulayam Singhji and caste have an effect on elections in an organized manner. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is the order of the Court.

[English]

You have said it. It is a Court order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, but it seems there is some conspiracy. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It was nothing to do with this discussion. Please allow me. Somehow, to conduct the business. Your point has been recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. CBI has been made instrumental to deal with political opponents. ... (Interruptions)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have listened to you.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record. Nothing more will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: I earnestly appeal to you to sit down. This is a Motion of Thanks for the hon. Rashtrapathi ji. We should discuss it solemnly.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, CBI should not be politicized.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Although it does not relate to the Government, yet I have allowed it to be raised. It is on record. Please cooperate with me. I earnestly appeal to you to cooperate with me. It is a very solemn Motion of thanks to the hon. Rashtrapathi ji. At least, let us not disturb it. I thank you very much for this gesture. I deeply appreciate the cooperation from all sections of the House.

14.27 hrs.

## MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry to move the Motion now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, honourable Rashtrapati ji has addressed the Members of our both Houses and I rise to move the Motion of thanks on the President's Address and I move the Motion.

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\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 23, 2007."

*[Translation]*

I express some what regret also because honourable Rashtrapati ji, during his Address on that day had given indication as to which direction our Government would take the country to. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Now it is known. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I will come to that point. Now you do not worry and you will also come to know.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us discuss it in a proper manner.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am sorry that many Members tried to disturb honourable Rashtrapati ji during his Address. But I would like to appreciate honourable Rashtrapati ji because he completed his speech successfully despite the disturbances created by three or four Members of Shiv Sena. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

It is a shame on your part. Please sit down.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (South-Central Mumbai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, why Afjal is not being hanged. Entire nation wants to hang him. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You seem to be indisposed today.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I am alright.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Its O.K. Now you sit down please.  
your statement has been recorded.

[English]

He is my very close, young and a very affectionate  
brother. I do not want him to suffer.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, I am not  
your enemy!

MR. SPEAKER: You are not my greater friend. He  
is the greater friend.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr.  
Speaker, Sir, I am also. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down please. It is totally  
unauthorized. You make a noise here.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Shri Athawale is not a  
Minister. He is only sitting in the Treasury benches. He  
will never become a Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion has just started.  
Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is really very sad  
that the people sitting in front seats interrupt during the  
address of our honourable President. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It had already been discussed. Come  
to another point.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am saying so  
because it seems as if they have achieved something  
great. The honourable Rashtrapatiiji has said in first para  
of this Address that

[English]

"This is a very special year for our country. These  
are occasions for us to renew our commitment to  
building a strong, modern, inclusive, secular and  
dynamic India."

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will get full opportunity to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have to develop an attitude of  
listening to each other. How can you reply properly unless  
you listen to him? You are such a good speaker, you  
should hear him and then reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I  
am quoting him. ...(Interruptions) You may speak when  
your turn comes. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it, what is the matter?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our  
forefathers have made provision in the constitution for  
the foundation of a strong democracy to build India  
dynamic and secular. The fundamental rights, have been  
provided to citizens of our country in this constitution. A  
number of such rights have been included therein and  
this right is one of them.

[English]

"All the citizens have the right to freedom of speech  
and expression and assemble peacefully and without  
arms and to form associations or unions."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to put-forth my point here. I  
regret to say that a number of States are violating the  
fundamental Rights. Especially, the Rights of the Minorities  
are suppressed therein. For instance, I'd like to quote  
the names of 2-3 States. First of all, I'd begin with my  
own state Gujarat where the said Rights are violated.  
our Rights have been assassinated there. There is a real  
life story of a Parsi boy who has been missing since  
Gujarat riots of 2002. This family had to bear all this. A  
film called Perzaunia has been made on this real life

incident but the film was not allowed to be released anywhere across Gujarat, the Multiplex Association was threatened by the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Your Party's Government in Gujarat is violating the freedom of expression.

[*Translation*]

I'd like to draw your attention to what. What these people are telling. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, you address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I would like to tell that the producer of that film has communicated to the Secretary of Multiplex Association about that and the latter told that they want to release the film but the Government has not provided any security in this regard. Thus, it amounts to violation. The activists of the Bajrang Dal have extra Constitutional power vested with them that has caused disallowance of such things in Gujarat. Similar is the case with the film 'Fanaa'. That's why I would like to contend that extra constitutional, power is being continuously. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You come to the debate. You come to the President's Address.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am coming to the debate. The President wants us to build a strong, modern, inclusive, secular and dynamic India. How can we build an inclusive and secular India if our country is divided on communal lines. This is what I am saying. We can build a strong and dynamic nation only by taking all the communities together.

Sir, what had happened in Madhya Pradesh?

[*Translation*]

People celebrating Valentine Day in Madhya Pradesh were beaten before the very eyes of the police and the police kept watching it silently but the culprits were not arrested.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has not taken any action in this regard. Similar was the case in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, you do not refer to State matters per se. Do not refer to the State Police, but make your statement.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, they are part of it. This country and this Parliament has to see that the democratic rights and freedom of expression of citizens of this country are being adhered to ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Similar was the case in Rajasthan. A Kissan rally was organized in Rajasthan. They were not allowed to come to Jaipur. Same was the situation in Kota where Christians were attacked. They were attacked at their meeting place. No action was taken against the Ministers and others belonging to that area. I would like to tell you that

[*English*]

very foundation of democracy is threatened by the Government of this Party, which is in a number of states.

[*Translation*]

That should be stopped. Besides, I would like to draw your attention to the point that you cannot build a modern and secular India here. On account of this, it seems that

[*English*]

As if there is a sinister design. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record any interruptions without my permission.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: As if there is a sinister design to come to power at any cost and that too by dividing the people on the communal lines vertically so that the minorities in this country do not exist as if they are not citizens of this country.

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\*Not recorded.

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

[Translation]

They want to come to Power by creating such an environment. I would like to tell that you can neither build a secular India nor a Modern India by this and I express my concern over this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not reply to that. You address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: You don't worry, I am going to talk of Punjab also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get derailed.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am addressing the Chair. They are simply commenting. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take notice of that.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: We will also do that. If they want, we will reply the same way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please proceed. You have been given the honour of moving the Motion of Thanks. Do it.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: The President has said in his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I do not yield. ...*(Interruptions)*

The President has said:

"I would like to begin by expressing my sincere condolences for the innocent victims of the dastardly and cynical terrorist attack on Samjhauta Express. Our hearts go out to the families of these innocent people. We should not allow this tragic event to affect our common quest for normalization of relations between India and Pakistan."

[Translation]

Alongwith the President, I myself too express my sympathy over this.

[English]

I express my condolences to the families of those who were killed in the Samjhauta Express.

[Translation]

I condemn that incident. People across the world have condemned this incident. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening? When you speak and if they are to disturb you, what will you do? Please have the habit of listening to each other. You are a good speaker, you reply properly when you get a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: The people from Pakistan were also among the victims. Our Minister of External Affairs and the UPA also condemned it. It was amended by the European Union, British Foreign Office Minister, Kim Houses, Bangladesh, Japan and by the External Affairs Minister of Pakistan. Other leaders of the country have also condemned it. I am surprised to read the statement delivered by their President in which it has been said in a stereotyped manner that 'Internal Security of State' and that such incidents should not be repeated. They said

[English]

'We hear from the Prime Minister that even today the culprit would be punished, but nothing happened.

[Translation]

They are also trying to protect even the accused of Parliament attack and they have also said that a new law should be framed to check these things. I want to draw your attention towards the incidents which took place while they were in power.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot say what he will speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Perhaps, you are understanding the gist of his speech, but I am unable to do so. I want to know whether you are able to comprehend his speech?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I shall understand his speech when he speaks.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not pay attention to what other say.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is his nature to provoke and he is in habit of doing so. It is not proper.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get provoked. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I shall also disrupt when he speaks. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are disturbing him. He is also a human being.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will you not listen to me?

[*Translation*]

You are unable to hear me, as you have no tolerance. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mistry ji, continue your speech. You have raised many valid points; address the Chair while speaking.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: On 10th February, 2000 there was a blast on board the train at Satwal and five persons were killed. The case was closed untraced. When they were in power. The second incident took place at Jammu Railway Station on 7th August, 2001 where three militants opened fire killing 12 people and leaving

29 people hurt. One militant was killed and was identified. The case remained untraced.

[*Translation*]

I would like to remind the persons sitting in front of me that the massacre in Chhattisgarh and Jammu and Kashmir took place in March, 2000 while they were in power. Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was attacked on 10th October, Parliament was attacked on 13th December, 2007; American cultural centre in Kolkata was attacked on 22nd January, 2002. Akshardham Temple was attacked on 24th September, 2002. Hurriyat meeting was attacked on 21st May, 2002. They were in power during all those attacks

[*English*]

On 14th May, 2000 there was a massacre of family members of Army personnel at Kaluchak.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Lalan ji, it is not proper.

[*English*]

Just see how your leader is behaving; he is keeping quiet.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: What is their moral right?

MR. SPEAKER: Please ignore them; you should address the Chair while speaking.

[*English*]

You must have a very handsome speaker.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: They have no locus stand to criticize. The internal security of the Government has remained the same. The Government has done nothing. Many cases were lodged in their regime till date. I ask them to explain the action taken by them when they were in power. ...(*Interruptions*) Why did not they arrest those persons? ...(*Interruptions*)



[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are interrupting will not be allowed to speak in the debate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, it is repeatedly being said that POTA should be enacted as if it is a magic wand to bring everything in order. The 98% persons out of those arrested in Gujarat during the riots of the year 2002 belonged to from a particular community i.e. the Muslim community. I would like to tell them that the misuse of POTA cannot be prevented. The persons who supported them for enacting POTA were themselves arrested under that Act in Tamil Nadu and remained imprisonment for years. They always demand to enact POTA and think that POTA will put a curb on all the terrorist operations and activities. They always make the discussion centric to be issue whether minorities, particularly Muslims are involved or not and if they are involved, this issue should be raised so that entire country can be divided into two parts and they can come to power. The issue of internal security has been raised. As per the data in my possession, the incidents are decreasing from all quarters of the country. The casualty figures relating to both civilians and terrorists are decreasing. The present situation is better than the situation prevailing during their regime. I want to draw your attention towards the issue of common man raised by them yesterday. I would like to ask them as to what does this budget lack so far as common man is concerned? An increase in the budgetary allocation for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has also been made in the present budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while they had allocated 1012 crore rupees and 1129 crore rupees under Demand No. 78 for the Department of Rural Development during their rule, the present Government has increased the same upto 1332 crore rupees. It is an increase of 31.50 per cent. In the same way, an increase of 62 per cent has been made in the allocation made for Rural Road Development. Similarly, increase has also been made for Special Programme for Rural Development. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do it. It is not proper.

[English]

any issue can be discussed lawfully in this debate. Please do not do it.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot help them if they are unable to understand my point of view. This is something beyond their grasp. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make these comments.

[Translation]

It is unbecoming of you. What will you gain by speaking in that manner?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I would like to draw attention of the House that I am not providing any figure but I am talking about allocation as well.

[English]

What I am saying is that every time the Budget was never centred around the poor people of this country. It is this Government which kept the poor people at the centre and, in fact, designed the entire Budget and made a number of allocation in this Budget.

[Translation]

103 per cent increase has been made under Special Programme for Rural Development and 85 per cent increase under Water Supply and the Sanitation during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, he was asking as to what honourable President has written in his Address for Common man. I would like to tell the things provided therein for Common man. Our Government not only increased the allocation but statement has also been presented in this House in this regard as to where and how fund was spent and to what extent improvement was brought about there from.

Sir, Now I would like to say about general education. Rich people send their children to expensive private

schools by paying hefty amount of fees but as for as poor people i.e. common man are concerned they send their children to government schools. I dare challenge anybody who sends his children to Government school. All of us send our children to private schools. The UPA Government has allocated 236 crores of rupees for Elementary education during the year of 2003-04 which is 54 percent higher than the allocation made by their Government. Several programmes have been introduced in recent past for development of Common man. Honourable present has also mentioned these programmes in his Addresses and the Government have allocated fund and the works is in progress. Main programmes out of them are:

*[English]*

Bharat Nirman, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the National Rural Health Mission, the strengthened and expanded Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the universalisation of the Mid-day Meal and ICDS Programmes and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

*[Translation]*

All these programmes have been formulated keeping Common man in view. We have seen that programmes of Bharat Nirman i.e.,

*[English]*

rural road, rural electrification, rural telephony, rural housing and rural drinking water supply programmes have been launched and

*[Translation]*

Honourable President has given thrust on all those programmes which I have mentioned just now and he has given a direction. I express my gratitude to him for this.

Sir, I would like to tell that hon'ble President has mentioned it in his Address and the Government have allocated funds but the schemes are not being implemented or are being implemented half heartedly in those states where their party is in power. Funds are provided by the Central Government under the Rural Employment Guarantee Act but even the minimum wages have not been increased in the states governed by their party. I would like to cite an instance of my own state

where minimum wages have not been increased for the last five years due to which a person working under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is getting even less than fifty rupees as the State Government is not interested in increasing it. It is neither interested in increasing wages nor does it want to give any allowance to the workers working under the scheme. The Central Government are ready to provide funds as they care for the interests of the common man but wherever their party is in power, they do not want to release funds for the common man. I would like to draw attention of this House in this regard. I would like to draw attention of this House to this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

You are directly responsible for not allowing the people of this country to get all the benefits of the Central Government under various schemes simply because you feel

*[Translation]*

that the credit of implementation will go to the Central Government if your Government implements it. That is why the states, where their party has formed Governments implement the central sponsored schemes half-heartedly or do not want to implement it at all. It is my delegation as it is fairly in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Therefore, they are against the Common man. They do not want to give anything to the Common man. The Common man was given a short shrift when their party was in power at the Centre.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all had unanimously passed the Forest Rights Bill. As per the provisions of the Bill, all the tribals and traditional forest dwellers in the country who live in forests will be allotted lands if they cultivate it as on 23.12.2005. They will be allowed to collect 'mahua' and honey from forests under the forest Right Bill. But even today, states ruled by their party and the departments of forests are fencing or occupying the land being cultivated by local tribal for the years together and they are being arrested or fined under Forest Act. Human rights are being violated there. Programmes of the Central Government are not being implemented there. Even if these are being implemented it is being done in a halfhearted manner.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable President has clearly stated about this in his Address, still they are adopting

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

such an attitude that Central Government is doing injustice to the tribals and not solving their problems. There are various examples in this regard. They also try to hide from those people that the Government are providing all kinds of assistance in the form of funds under various development schemes and programmes on the recommendation of the Planning Commission and also the return to feed them and try to project that the Union Government is doing injustice to them just to get political mileage out of that. They are doing all this to malign the image of the Central Government. I condemn it. I again charge them of diverting the funds provided by the Central Government for the common man of this country which is not allowed to reach up to them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of things have been said here about the price rise and the inflation. Budget was presented yesterday and it was stated therein that prices have started coming down from the previous week and we hope that it will further come down. But it is being made on the election issue because they can win on this plank. Besides, violation or communal divide is made an election issue to win elections. They have displayed such type of attitude only. There have been repeated reference to inflation. Neither inflation is increasing nor common man is affected by this. Several Members expressed their concern regarding palling stock market. I would like to ask them that as to why until now they were saying that increasing sensex was not a sign and indicator of healthy economy. Now it has come down after the budget then why they were troubled. It is not creating any problem for the common man. But since they have won elections at one and or two places, they are saying that we are analyzing. Our performance is different from what you were talking about.

[English]

We have done better in Punjab.

[Translation]

We have also done better in Uttrakhand. We will perform better in the coming elections. I do not want to criticize Election Commission but we also have to spare a thought about electoral malpractices and the ways to overcome it. It is not a big task to cast two to five thousand bogus votes, to push the buttons of the machine, a candidate could be helped to win the election, it is true. They say that only one issue i.e. price rise is responsible for all this but I would like to tell you that it does not bear

close relationship as far local elections are concerned but they want to make it an electoral issue. As if prices have increased due to all this which was resulted.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): He is misleading the House. ...(Interruptions) they have admitted themselves. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on?

[English]

No, I would not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody has a right to interrupt without my permission.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I would like to say that this will bring down the prices, prices had increased during their time also. Inflation was rampant during their time also, hence I condemn their view stance on this issue. I would like to tell them that their happiness is shortlived.

Sir, honourable President has also touched upon other subjects like women and child development and national agriculture in his Address. This Government has made maximum provisions for agriculture, it has enhanced it by giving it maximum importance and not only this it is taking special care of it. Particularly it has promised to take care of the proper development of oil seeds and other crops. I would also like to say that their policy is to divide the minority community by arousing their sentiments and through this they want to divide this country. I would like to say that by doing this; they will be able to build neither a modern India nor a secular one. I know that none of them neither their party nor any leader of their party have participated in the freedom struggle and that is why they have no attachment with the democratic fabric of this country, I can understand that. But I want to tell them at the same time that the citizens of this country would not tolerate it.

With these words I move the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

14.58 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address moved by Shri Madhusudan Mistry before both the Houses. There was a wide variety of information in the political speeches made earlier by my friend Mistry ji. I would like to specially thank the Hon. President for comprehensively and beautifully highlighting the work done by this Government in the last three years for the poor and common people and the manner in which it has implemented its policies and programmes, and I would like to draw the attention of this House towards it.

His Excellency has stated that the country is progressing at the rate of 9 percent and it is necessary to talk about the vision he has articulated. He stated in his own words that growth is not complete in itself until it is inclusive and percolates down to each place and every person.

15.00 hrs.

Honourable President has also stated that how his Government has tried to bring about this inclusive growth through its various policies during the last three four years. He mentioned about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and about the features of the Act. He told us that during one and one and a half year only fifty lakh families have been benefited from it. He talked about Bharat Nirman. He talked about the health programmes being implemented in villages by State Governments and Government of India through Panchayati Raj Institutions, modified education campaign, mid day meal and higher education. All these programmes are being implemented together. Today you visit any State of this country whether they are ruled by the support of UPA Government or the Government of Coalition parties of the U.P.A. or N.D.A. When they talk about their priority areas, they talk about N.R.I.G.A. or Bharat Nirman. I thank honourable President that he has drawn the attention of the country towards these two schemes and I thank the U.P.A. Government as well for bringing such schemes that today every state treat these two schemes as their very important schemes. It is a great achievement of this Government.

Today not a single State Government talks about its schemes. Whenever the issue of taking action against poverty is raised, whether it is Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

Jharkhand, Kerala, Punjab or Uttarakhand the new Governments formed in those states will talk about nation building, mid-day meal scheme and NREGA etc. whenever the issue of burden on common man is raised, there will be discussion on the policies of the UPA Government that is being run since the last three years. The most important fact is how we have created a road map to eradicate poverty from this country. ...(*Interruptions*) His excellency, the hon. President has mentioned it very articulately that we have brought not only the scheme to eradicate poverty but have also mentioned the tireless work done by the Government to give a blow to poverty. He mentioned about the Tribal Bill. This Government have taken very important step to give the tribals their due rights which they were deprived of for centuries. He also mentioned about giving rights to the women through Domestic Violence Bill. Government is aware that the provisions of these bills such as, Domestic Violence Bill, Tribal Bill or any other such bill may have such provisions that may affect the present power structure in some way. But it is the achievement of this Government, achievement of Hon'ble Manmohan Singh ji and the guidance given by Smt. Soniaji from time and again. In spite of all this, these Governments have formed the legislative frame work on which this Government is marching ahead.

Besides this, Hon'ble President have highlighted on many other achievements also. On one hand, a mention was made about strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Scholarships to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribe for better and higher education was also mentioned. Today we can see power crisis every where in the President is Address, there is a mention of ultra modern power projects. Regarding Golden quadrilateral project, his excellency, the Hon'ble President has expressed his satisfaction over the timely construction of the project and the traffic will be commenced on north, south, east, west corridors. There is tremendous progress in Railways and Minister for Railways Shri Laluji has shown that perhaps such a progressive, sensitive and efficient Minister for Railways had never been there during the last sixty years The Hon'ble President has also made a mention about this. For many years, air-traffic and airports were facing difficulties. A mention was made about the renovation of airports by the UPA Government. A mention was made about public-private partnership. NDA Government had also talked about private-public partnership for several years. They had told that they would invite private sector but there was not a single example which came before us. According to them private-public partnership was tantamount to handing over their

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

entire possession to the private sector. We did not do that. We took them along with us and this is the big difference between their and our private-public partnership.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of my colleagues from the opposition talked about socialism. Whenever capitalists swear in the name of socialism, it seems like a joke. In his Address, His Excellency, the Hon'ble President has mentioned about technology. Hon'ble President himself is a senior scientist of the country. In India, we feel that today, the youth are not much attracted towards science and technology and the Hon'ble President has drawn the attention of the House towards the present policy of the Government to attract the youth towards this field. I would like to say special thanks to the Hon'ble President in this regard.

Further, His Excellency, the Hon'ble President in his Address has also mentioned about modernization of police. We recognize that police is mainly a state subject. Today, we have to focus on our police force because of the increased terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, North eastern States and Naxalite prone districts. We have to strengthen the armed forces whether it is the Army, Navy or Airforce. In his Address His Excellency, the Hon'ble President has very clearly stated on these aspects and expressed his concern over them.

His Excellency, the Hon'ble President has also mentioned about Judicial reforms. It is nearly 60 years since we achieved Independence. We have done reform in every sector. Judiciary is one such field where it seems that our judiciary system is not working as per the increasing need of country, I am saying it very humbly, since I have much respect for the courts. In his Address, His Excellency, the Hon'ble President has also mentioned about the Judicial Reform Bill. He also mentioned about National Judicial Council in his Address. He has also clearly mentioned about the village courts. His Excellency, the Hon'ble President has also mentioned about our foreign policy. In today's atmosphere when incidence of terrorism is increasing day by day at places and perhaps our neighbouring countries are also involved in this, Government is making their best efforts to tackle the problem. We have signed a new policy with Bhutan, and at the same time, our relations with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are also getting somewhat better each year.

His Excellency, the Hon'ble President has also welcomed the idea of Afghanistan joining the SAARC. In my opinion, we all should welcome the inclusion of

Afghanistan in SAARC. 'Look East' policy which was framed by the UPA Government has helped us in developing a better understanding with several countries of South East Asia. In this policy, a special mention of Nalanda project has been made because there are several countries which follow Buddhism. India has maximum number of Buddhist centres. His Excellency the Hon'ble President has also mentioned about the Nalanda Project in his Address. The Presidential Address is the policy document of the Government. In his Address the Hon'ble President has mentioned about the policies and programmes made by the UPA Government in view of the challenges it faced three years ago, the circumstances in which the UPA Government was formed and that all the allied parties were consolidated under them. The strategy of the Government has been clearly mentioned in it.

Today I have no doubt that in the next two years when the Government have gained much more experience and there will be actual implementation of the programmes, the country will get proper development which it has been deprived of for the last eight-ten years.

In the end, I would like to submit one small thing that the elections of Punjab and Uttrakhand are being mentioned here for the last two three days. It does not matter which political party has got benefited in the elections because it is an internal matter of every political party. However, it is interesting that whereas the people of Punjab and Uttrakhand changed their state Governments in the respective states, on the other hand, a different mandate was given in the by-elections of Lok Sabha in these two states. Shri Sidhu ji has been re-elected for the House from Amritsar Constituency. When he will come in the House he feel that we will welcome him. In earlier, election held two three years back, he had won the election by a margin of nearly one lakh ten thousand votes. Today when our Government is at the Centre, possibility it can be presumed that anti incumbency factor would work against the Government of India as well. However his lead got reduced from one lakh ten thousand to merely 70 thousands. Not only this, the by-election was held in Tehri Garhwal after the demise of the sitting Member of Parliament hon'ble Manabendra Shah ji. He was a very respected person of this area and probably belongs to the royal family of that region and commands special respect among the people of that area. He had been elected several times from that area. It was being presumed that anti-incumbency factor against

the Government of India will work there as well. However, the mandate of the people in case of the State Government was for one party and when the by-election for the Member of Parliament was held, the people gave mandate to a different party and the Congress candidate was elected from there. If they want to know about the overall performances of the State Governments and assess the trend of the mandate of people as to what message or signal has been given by the people then they will have to see as to what signal is being given by the people in the recently held Parliamentary by-elections in these two states. The trend is that wherever we were defeated, our vote difference has lessened. Where as at several places we are gradually taking lead. If they further look into the trends in these two elections I feel that the NDA will also have to carefully read these election results. I do not feel that these things have anything to do with the Presidents' Address. I would like to submit that the hon'ble President has stated the policy of the Government very aptly and has clearly stipulated the problems being tackled by the Government. The UPA Government is making efforts to go among the people and leave the positive impact on the various aspect of people's life. I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble President for all these things and conclude my speech by supporting the motion moved by hon'ble Madhusudan Mistry.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their amendments, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

This is for the information of the Members whose amendments have already been circulated and who wanted to move their amendments.

Motion moved:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 23, 2007."

Now, Shri L.K. Advani.

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to submit that the President's Address is the statement of policy of the Government and it does not contain the personal views of the President. So, I welcome the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. However, I express my disappointment towards the policy statement made in the Address. It is not that this disappointment is being shared by only the opposition or my party. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the statement made by Shri Dikshit wherein he has stated that one should not draw the conclusion from the election results of these two states that the people did not agree with the policies of the Government, rather it was a regional matter. Yesterday only I saw the statement of the coalition partners of the present Government. Though I have vast areas of disagreements with those coalition partners, however, in their statement I found that they had warned the Government for the electoral setback suffered in two states and take lesson from this defeat.

'The Economic Times' reported'

*[English]*

you have lost two States; do not lose the lessons of the setback.

*[Translation]*

I would like to quote their Statement in which it has been said.

*[English]*

"These electoral setbacks have relevance for the UPA Government at the Centre. The Congress leadership and the UPA Government should draw proper lessons from this defeat. The policies pursued have failed to curb price rise, tackle agrarian crisis or provide relief to the people."

[Shri L.A. Advani]

[Translation]

The present Government has been in power for nearly three years. After quoting the above lines I would also like to submit that the election results of both the said states have come after the onset of the Budget Session of Parliament. In this election the discontent of the people towards the State Government has also surfaced which sometimes is referred to as anti-incumbency factor. However, the defeat of UPA in Bihar and Congress Party in Kerala, though by their own coalition partners, prove that present Government have completely failed in meeting the expectation of the people for which they were given the mandate wherein they had promised to solve the problems of the common people and further their interests once they come to power.

15.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There is not only unprecedented discontentment among the common people towards the functioning of the present Government rather, the people are also feeling that the present Government have committed the breach of trust with them. Before the Lok Sabha elections the Congress Party had given slogan to the people of this country that "Congress Ka Hath Aam Adami Ke Sath". This slogan was meant for getting their mandate. Now this slogan has become like "Congress Party Ka Hath Aam Adami Ke Sath Vishwasghat" ....(Interruptions) The Government should take the latest election results as the expression of the discontent of the common man and the underlying message is not to linker in which the budget of his daily life.

I would like to share one of my experiences with you. When I had gone to a small village called Gangoli Ghat in Uttarkhand State for election campaign where I had to address a rally, I found some banners there; which were placed on behalf of our party on which the prices of commodities of daily use like pulses, flour, vegetables etc. were displayed. Recently, pulses have been the subject of maximum discussion as it is the only source of protein for the poor people. In fact, there should be nutritional security in the country and for this pulse should be made available at low price. The price of pulse mentioned on those banners was Rs. 44 per kg. I was a little bit surprised to see the cost that there was some mistake in it as at all other places I had seen that the prices of some of the pulses were Rs. 60 per kg. I

inquired about it from my party workers whether the price of pulse at Rs. 44 per kg. was correct. They said that election campaign started one month back and the hoardings were placed at that time. It is correct that now the price of pulses has increased upto nearly Rs. 60 per kg.

It may be possible that hon'ble Dikshit ji or others or myself do not feel the pinch due to such high prices and not face any difficulty on account of all these things. However, think about the common man. Who is a common man? He is either a farmer living in a village's or poor or middle class people living in urban areas. That constitutes major chunk of the population. He is concerned about the prices of commodities of their daily use that it should be balanced and reasonable. The pathetic condition of farmers is the next matter of concern. Thousand of farmers are committing suicide. This is the situation about which I have observed every thing. First is price and the second is about the sufferings of the farmers—you please go through the entire paragraph. There is mention about the price, however, the operative part *i.e.* what will be done regarding the price, is missing. It has been mentioned in Paragraph 4. that:

[English]

"My Government recognizes that keeping a check on inflation is an essential element of any strategy for inclusive growth."

This is the beginning,

[Translation]

Meanwhile he has cited the reasons for price rise. I will mention about that later on. It has been stated further that:

[English]

"My Government will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure that the poor are not adversely affected by inflation. This is our solemn commitment."

[Translation]

We cannot call it a policy statement. There is no content in it. It only explains that why prices increase, not the steps which should be taken in this regard.

[English]

"The fall out of the steep increase in global oil price and resurgence in global commodity price...."

[Translation]

It is not true. The global price of the oil was very. High last year. It was \$ 72 per barrel but now it has fallen to \$ 50-55 per barrel.

[English]

There is a fall, and, therefore, even in the statement made by the President,

[Translation]

There should be some explanation in this regard. Further an explanation has been given that:

[English]

"As growth and investment accelerate rapidly and incomes rise, there is bound to be a rising demand for the products, particularly products of day-to-day consumption."

[Translation]

Surveys conducted in this regard have revealed that there has been a decrease in the consumption of food items among poor people during the past two decades. Is it appropriate for the Government to get such an Address delivered by the hon'ble President? Despite all that they should have expressed their view points and accepted their failure saying that they were going to take a particular step in this regard. I commented on the budget instantly in the same context. Yesterday, the hon'ble Finance Minister stated:

[English]

Here is a good news for the lovers of cats and dogs.

[Translation]

I was surprised. Sometimes we crack joke. Is Shrimati Manekaji not present in the House? Cracking this type of joke in the present situation shows lack of sensitivity. Different types of people have different wishes. Hon'ble

President has not cited the rise in oil prices and the increase in demand of foodgrains among people as the reasons for price rise. I agree that the present Government is not squarely responsible for the incidents of suicides among farmers. It all started because required attention was not given to the agriculture sector. Yesterday, our Finance Minister quoted hon'ble Nehruji in this regard. Neglecting agriculture means neglecting economy. He did not mention the date on which Nehruji had quoted it. It means that

[English]

this is a shortcoming that we have had to suffer for several decades now.

[Translation]

He might have said this 40-50 years back. Therefore, please do not blame others. I can claim that during the tenure of our Government we managed to control inflation in respect of essential commodities.

[English]

It is a question of management.

[Translation]

It is not any miracle. It is a question of management. I will discuss the other factor later on. However, it is important to check the corruption because it badly affects the administration.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): We would be grateful if the hon. Leader of the Opposition can enlighten us on the process of rise in prices in the country. If demand cannot influence the prices and if supply cannot increase the price, let us be enlightened by his lecture on inflation here...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Swain ji, Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down:

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawaleji, if you want to say anything, first of all, you should go to your seat. Nothing is going on record.

(*Interruptions*)...\*

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\*Not recorded.



[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, my submission is that the policy statement of the Government presented by the hon'ble President should have a perspective direction and suggestions. For the last many years, I am witnessing the incidents of suicides by farmers. Hon'ble Prime Minister himself had visited Vidarbha. Suicides were committed on that day itself and are still continuing. Last year, I also visited Vidarbha, Telengana and many other States where farmers had committed suicides. Now after a long time the Government is saying:

[English]

"That an expert group is looking into the problem of agricultural indebtedness and will suggest measures to provide relief to farmers in distress."

[Translations]

We should understand that a farmer commits suicide when he fails to cope-up with the situation of indebtedness. However, thousands of other farmers are reeling under the same situation but are bearing with it in the hope that something would be done to salvage them from this situation. If 200 farmers in an area commit suicide, it means that

[English]

distress is very widespread.

[Translation]

Ordinarily a person do not take such an extreme step.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): In Andhra Pradesh, there are 3540 cases.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: I know that. When your Government was there, the opposition—the Congress Party—made that a real issue ....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry ji, you have expressed your views. Now please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, Mistry ji is the only member who sometimes criticizes Gujarat. I feel proud that I represent Gujarat. Wherever I visit, people praise the Chief Minister and the Government of Gujarat. Rajiv Gandhi Foundation is the first organization which has confirmed it. Mistry ji, I pity you.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I live in his Parliamentary constituency, that is why I know what is happening there.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The present Government has constituted Sachar Committee to know about the socio-economic condition of the Muslim community. He also has stated that the condition of Muslims in Gujarat is better than those in West Bengal where people are backward ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Advani, will go on record.

(Interruptions)....\*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If Prime Minister or any other Minister or even Minister of Agriculture talks of constituting an expert group, then by when it will submit its report. We have given them guidelines and targets. In reality, if the country is facing this kind of a situation then we should have a target of reducing the suicides by farmers to zero level. When the Chandra Babu Naidu's Government was in power in Andhra Pradesh the Opposition had capitalized on this issue during elections and the Chandra Babu Naidu's Government fell. At that time we examined this issue and realised that the number increased to such an extent during 6-8 months period. He would be knowing better what the actual number is, however it is a big challenge thrown in our face and is a serious issue. And our efforts should be to reduce the suicides by farmers to zero level instead of making it a political issue. If we are running programmes for eradication of polio or any other programme then we also have an approach for it.

[English]

There should be a constructive approach which totally brings down the rate of suicide. There should be no suicide by farmers.

[Translation]

That will take time because the agriculture sector is witnessing low capital investment for a long time including irrigation. All these factors are there. We should make efforts to reduce farmers' suicide to zero level by framing a holistic policy.

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\*Not recorded.

Second issue is of our security. I believe that the daily use item should be available at reasonable price to the common man. By common man I mean farmers residing in rural areas. Their daily plights should be done away with so that they do not have to contemplate suicide. There should be law and order so that the common man feels secure. All the issues concerning their security should be addressed to by the Government so that they are convinced that their problems would be redressed.

There is a paragraph. All the problems concerning security should have been separately addressed to. If we talk of dealing with cross border terrorism then the role of ISI and how to tackle should have been referred to. I remember when NDA Government was in power we took the initiative and invited the President of Pakistan to Agra despite the Kargil war. When we referred to Pakistan sponsored terrorism in India, he stated very formally that

[English]

There is no terrorism in India, at least sponsored by us.

[Translation]

Whatever is taking place here is a war of independence in which even the innocents get killed, I will not comment on it.

[English]

When he declined to say anything about terrorism,

[Translation]

we refused to sign any agreement and no agreement was reached. The agreement was signed in January 2004. the agreement was signed when our Government was in power and our Prime Minister visited Islamabad for SAARC summit when they admitted it in a joint statement "My Government or I will not allow terrorism to spread in any form from any region in Pakistan which is controlled by us or is our part." The agreement was signed only when he made a public statement and the talks began and are continuing. We hope that there would be some result of the talks, however, I know that the ISI has still not given up its activities, it operates from Bangladesh. Nepal and from several places and we should remain vigilant and it is necessary. But in para 42 of the President's Address all issues have been clubbed together and this matter has been touched very briefly.

[English]

"My Government is paying special attention to the modernisation of police forces, security forces and intelligence agencies..."

[Translation]

The matter is complete.

[English]

"A focused and holistic attempt to deal with the challenges of internal security in the North-Eastern Region..."

[Translation]

That sentence is also complete.

[English]

"...in Jammu and Kashmir and in regions affected by naxalite activity..."

[Translation]

It also became its part.

[English]

"...is yielding dividends. My Government recognizes the challenge posed by terrorism and extremism and has been resolute in dealing with it. While our security and intelligence agencies have successfully foiled many attempts by terrorists groups to strike terror, there have been tragic, dastardly and cowardly acts of terrorism, as in Mumbai and Assam and, most recently, in the attack on Samjhauta Express. My Government is dealing firmly with the challenge posed."

Does it give us any idea? So much so,

[Translation]

Assam has been referred to whereas ULFA has been consciously omitted.

[English]

Everyone knows that ULFA is at the back of all the incidents that have taken place in Assam recently.

[Translation]

And the most unfortunate of all is their treatment to the non-Assamese, Hindi speaking people of Bihar who have been living there for several years and are now

[Shri L.K. Advani]

being addressed as foreigners who should leave that place. 70 people were massacred, Pranabji would be aware of it. He is the leader of the House, Prime Minister would be knowing it, he is elected from Assam, this incident is recent wherein allegations were levelled publicly that national games were organized there so price had to be paid to ULFA. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

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): This is absolutely baseless and a blatant lie. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): It is absolutely false. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except what Shri Advani says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: You try to understand this that when ULFA threatens the channel which broadcast it then instead of giving protection to the concerned channel the Government with draws the accreditation of the channel and the hon. Supreme Court had to intervene and get the accreditation restored. How do I understand this? At least the Government should exercise this much discretion. He said that publicly, I would be happy had this thing been baseless. I have got documents, he also has written me a letter but I do not want to go into its details. And I am quoting from the prominent newspapers like Hindu, Indian Express. It is correct that that agency has levelled allegations and when I see ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: This is alleged reporting ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Understand one thing. If you have not done anything in respect of accreditation of that journal, nothing would have happened. He went to the court and the Supreme Court intervened. Why do you invite the intervention of the Supreme Court on matters of this kind?

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\*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): What about High Court judgement? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am coming to another Supreme Court judgement which deals with the political leadership directly. But this particular matter is related to the Press. I have known the Emergency from in and out. Even at that time I used to say that if during the Emergency, only politicians had been arrested, if during the Emergency only the authority of the judiciary had been undermined, it would not have been so disastrous for democracy as the attacks that were made on the 'media at that time. The curbs that were imposed on the media were the most shameful. I find that, after so many years, instead of learning lessons from the Emergency, here is a Government which takes away the accreditation card of a TV channel for covering National Games there. Similarly, I find that a very highly respected journalist of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Ramoji Rao, is under attack because he is exposing the corruption of that Government.

These two incidents have made even the International Federation of Journalists to protest against it. The International Federation of Journalists, the IFJ, had condemned the threats from an outlawed group in India. This channel has been told to quit Assam. They threatened that if they do not go away from Assam, they will be destroyed. This was the threat given to it. One would expect that the Government of the State would protect that channel rather than dis-accrediting it or taking away its accreditation.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev ji, I tell you, I know in this country, when you have that mentality, you can even find a person like Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, even a person like Shri Chandra Shekhar, even a person like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee become threats to national security, so put them behind the bars for nineteen months. This has happened in this country. I cannot forget it.

Now, when the same mentality comes out, whether it is in Andhra Pradesh or in Assam, I feel it is my duty to stand up against it and condemn the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...\**

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\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry Ji, you have made your speech, please sit down.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Santosh Mohanji, that is why in the very beginning I said that I consider it intriguing that there is not even a mention of the ULFA in the President's Address. I consider it as an indication that the ruling party has some understanding with the ULFA and it was on account of this that at one point of time they had supported the party. Undoubtedly, there is no doubt that an effort had been made to form a Government with the support of Naxalites in Andhra Pradesh as well. I am pleased that the hon'ble Prime Minister himself has come here. He represents Assam so I would expect him to give clarification regarding the entire episode in which even the Supreme Court had to intervene and the people all over the world had made comments. Regarding Assam, I asked Shri Santosh Mohanji as to what did he do regarding the very important judgement of the Supreme Court in respect of the IMDT Act. I feel that if the illegal immigration continues, the demography of that area will change. The security of not only that region but of the entire country can be jeopardized as the IMDT Act has a big role in this regard. That is why when the Supreme Court struck it down and declared it unconstitutional, I felt that there was a need to take a lesson from it to take the future course of action accordingly. However, instead of taking any lesson, the Government immediately issued a new order called The Foreigners Tribunals for Assam Order, 2006 incorporating all those features of the previous Act on the basis of which the Act was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Those who had filed petition against the Act once again approached the court and again the Supreme Court struck down the order of 2006 and observed that:

[*English*]

"It appears that the 2006 order issued after the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act was declared unconstitutional has been issued just as a cover-up for non-implementation of the directions of this court."

A Bench consisting of Justices S.B. Sinha and P.K. Balasubramanyan said:

"The earlier decision on IMDT referred to the relevant material showing that such uncontrolled immigration

into North Eastern States posed a threat to the integrity of the nation. What is therefore called for is a strict implementation of the directions of this court issued (in the earlier judgment), so as to ensure that illegal immigrants are sent out of this country."

It applies not only to Assam, but it applies to the whole country. I hope that when the hon. Prime Minister replies to this debate, he would apprise the country and this House as to what steps are being taken to see that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, who have come over here and crossed first into Assam or States of the North East but then spread over the entire country, are sent back to Bangladesh where they belong. We have to once again lament that there is a lack of will in the matter of ensuring that illegal immigrants are sent out. Now this is directly against the Government of India.

I further quote:

"Instead of obeying the mandamus issued essentially in the interests of national security and to preserve the demographic balance of a part of India, that is Bharat, and implementing the 1964 order in Assam in letter and in spirit, the authorities that be have chosen to make the order itself inapplicable to Assam."

Then the final indictment is very serious from the Supreme Court. I read it out very carefully.

"Though we would normally desist from commenting, when the security of the nation is the issue, we have to say that the *bona fides* of the action leave something to be desired."

Now this is questioning the *bona fides* of the Government. I am not merely referring to the dispute about that dis-accreditation. The Supreme Court in a way has rectified that. I am referring to this particular matter, that is, the IMDT and the order issued thereafter and the directions given to the Government that illegally migrating Bangladeshis must be sent back to Bangladesh.

Sir just before the President's Address was delivered in the House, I have received a copy of the report of the Second Reforms Commission headed by Shri Veerappa Moily. I have cursorily gone through it. I hope that this House would have an occasion of discussing it fully and then I would give my comments. Even though many of those recommendations made by them have been picked

[Shri L.K. Advani]

from earlier Committees' recommendations, etc., but on the whole, the stress and emphasis on ethical governance, and the stress and emphasis on having corruption-free governance is welcome.

Therefore, I was surprised to find that the President's Address does not even mention it. Once again, it is an omission which surprised me. Just as a reference to the ULFA is not being there, this one also surprised me.

Why has the Moily Commission not referred to it? At least, we could have some idea as to what the Government thinks about it. I, for one, thought that for the first time, there is something.

In the last paragraph of the President's Address, there is a reference to corruption. At least, the word "corruption" is there. So, let me read that out. This is paragraph 58.

"The reform of Government, making it more transparent and responsive, and the elimination of the cancer of corruption are necessary elements of any strategy of inclusive growth. The Right to Information Act is one means of empowering our citizens. The more powerful instrument in their hands is their right to have their voice heard..."

How can they have their voice heard when vital information is suppressed from their knowledge for 17 days? I referred to it this morning. Till now, despite the Statement that has been laid on the Table of the House by Shri Pachouri in which the news came saying that this happened and that happened, why was there total deafening silence from the Government side till the 23rd? There is no explanation.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): He was released on bail.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There is no explanation till he was released on bail. That is true. It is because the lower court said: "No bail. We will not give it." Then, he went to a superior court. Until he was released on bail, there was no explanation. Then the news came up. Now, Mr. Prime Minister, you say that this right to information is there, the people should know of it, Parliament should know of it. After all, the most important thing is the voice of the Parliament, their right to have their voice heard. It has been said:

"The more powerful instrument in their hands is their right to have their voice heard and their grievances

redressed in these august premises of our Parliament. Eternal vigilance, as it has been said, is the price of democracy."

It is this that makes me wonder and it seems somewhat spurious. It does not seem very convincing. Why would anyone think that if the news came out, it would influence Punjab election, Uttarakhand election? I do not know about it. But, maybe, there are some people in the Government who think that even smaller matters of this kind, the very mention of Bofors, the very mention of Quattrocchi evoke a public response which would contribute even more to the set back that this party has suffered in those two States. Maybe, there may be that kind of a judgment. But, I think, that this is also something which the hon. Prime Minister must explain as to why up to the 23rd — a fact that was known to the Government from 6th and formally on the 8th — it was suppressed.

So far as the Moily Commission is concerned, I would only quote this. The Moily Commission has said this thing towards the end.

"This report must end on a note of optimism. Indians have always valued a world beyond the material and have embraced spiritualism as a way of life."

I have quoted this because unfortunately in India, very often, secularism is equated to something that has nothing to do with religion or spiritualism.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Correct?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: What is correct? So, an official report of this kind mentions that they are optimistic because Indians have always valued a world beyond the material and have embraced spiritualism as a way of life.

"Instances abound in our epics of good behaviour, of the triumph of good over evil, of wisdom of sages. Stories of honesty, generosity and piety of legendary kings such as Vikramaditya, are told to our children even today."

Not only that, but what pleases me more was the next sentence which said:

"There is no reason why Ram Rajya cannot be attempted."

further says:

"The Commission believes that this report on Ethics in Governance is among the most important that this Commission has been called upon to write, because increased honesty in governance would have a major impact on the everyday lives of the people of India. When the recommendations of this report are implemented, greater efficiency in Government work and accountability would be achieved, because more public servants would work not with private agenda but for larger public good. Equally importantly, a more corruption-free regime would lead to a higher rate of growth for our GDP, bring an overall improvement in the economy and lead to greater transparency in Government actions serving its people. All this, in turn, will lead to greater empowerment of people — the core need of a vibrant democracy."

Sir, I totally endorse what has been said here and on the basis of experience, I would like to tell the House and Shri Madhusudan Mistry in particular that if today Gujarat is being praised throughout the country and even abroad for the development and the welfare of the people of that State, one major factor contributing to it is the kind of transparency and incorruptibility that the Government of Gujarat has brought in there. So, corruption-free governance certainly bring about all these good attributes and that is all.

With these words, I would, once again, say that while I support the Motion of Thanks, I am disappointed with the contents that have been included there through the President in the form of a policy statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government in maintaining the internal security in the country."(43)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps to check reservation in various

educational institutions in the country on the basis of religion."(44)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any proposal to enact the Lokpal Act and to check corruption by appointing Lokpals."(45)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the farmers falling into huge debt traps and the preventive measures to check constant rise in the cases of suicide by the farmers."(46)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any project for inter linking of all the rivers in the country." (47)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the rate of interest on Small Saving Schemes including the Provident Fund."(48)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about eradicating the practice of bonded labour in the country, particularly the child labour."(49)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for issuing National Identity Cards to all the citizens in the country."(50)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about lowering the rate of interest on loans given to farmers." (51)

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementing the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission." (52)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about reviving the loss making Public Sector Undertakings." (53)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to increase the agricultural production and to provide more irrigation facilities to the farmers." (54)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about strengthening the process of identification of Bangladeshi infiltrators for the purpose of their repatriation." (55)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any proposal of the Government to check the rampant increase in the prices of foodgrains in the country." (56)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the incidents of religious conversion of people based on allurements by some organizations in various states of the country." (57)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the fall in ground-water level." (58)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time-bound scheme to solve the problem of unemployment in the country." (59)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing a rehabilitation package to the terrorism affected families, especially the widows and orphans." (60)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to review the Special Economic Zone Policy under which fertile land is being acquired by various state governments for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) without providing adequate compensation to the farmers." (61)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementation of a population policy keeping in view the population imbalance in some states." (62)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government in achieving the annual target of extra power generation in the country." (63)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time-bound programme to improve the pitiable condition of farmers in the country." (64)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete programme to check the use of drugs by the youth." (65)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete action plan to check the activities of ISI in the country." (66)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the increasing separatist and terrorist activities in the North-Eastern States." (67)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any programme to rehabilitate the migrants from Jammu and Kashmir." (68)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the increase in crimes against children in the country." (69)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about imposing complete ban on cow slaughter in the country." (70)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to take any concrete steps to check Nithari type of incidents and for preventing sexual abuse of children in various states of the country." (71)

[*English*]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about inclusion of all the districts of Orissa in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme." (74)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about establishing an IIT in Orissa." (75)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the Coal Royalty which is due since 2002." (76)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to impose a levy on generation of electricity and pass on the benefit to the electricity producing States." (77)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a Special Industrial Incentive Package for KBK region which is amongst the most backward regions in the country with a very high concentration of SC and ST population and people below poverty line." (78)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about inclusion of Cuttack City in the Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission." (79)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about raising the royalties on coal and other major minerals on Ad Valorem basis." (80)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about opening of at least one Ekalavya Model Residential School in each Block in the Scheduled areas of the country." (81)



[Shri B. Mahtab]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram sadak Yojana in tribal villages having population of 250 and above in schedule areas of the country." (82)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about establishing a Regional headquarter of Inland Waterways Authority of India at Cuttack." (83)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about imposing any quantitative restriction on export of iron ore." (84)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about around and balanced development of tribal dominated Orissa to bring it at par with other industrially developed States." (85)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring Orissa as a Special Category State." (86)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing the tourist destinations of Orissa upto international standard." (90)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing special Central assistance to Orissa for development of flood affected areas." (981)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about waiving the loan outstanding against the State Government of Orissa." (982)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about establishing a Central University in Orissa." (983)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about establishing an IIM in Orissa." (984)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring Orissa College of Engineering at Burla as IIT." (985)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about opening Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIT) in Orissa." (986)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take urgent steps to curb price-rise." (987)

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the 2550th anniversary of Mahaparinirvana which is being celebrated this year throughout the world to commemorate the Buddha Jayanti, Parinirvana and Attainment of Enlightenment of Lord Buddha." (92)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing Special Economic Package to and for improving road infrastructure in the remote and border areas of Arunachal Pradesh particularly along the McMahon Line." (93)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the border trade with China, Bhutan and Myanmar through various traditional trade routes in Arunachal Pradesh." (94)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the inclusion of all the districts of Arunachal Pradesh under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the current year." (95)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about starting of "Garib Viman", a lower cost airlines service to and from the North-Eastern states on the line of Garib Rath trains." (96)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about measure to curb the extremist and fundamentalist violence on soft targets in the country like train bomb blasts and internal insurgency." (233)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about early implementation of the interlinking of rivers to combat drought and flood situation in the country." (234)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any financial assistance to financially backward States like Orissa to implement the inter-linking of rivers in the State." (235)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing Orissa as a tourist destination by providing basic infrastructure for international tourists, like declaring Bhubaneswar airport as an international airport, and by developing the existing airports at Jeypore, Rourkela and Sambalpur." (236)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing small aircraft services in the State of Orissa." (237)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities in the country." (238)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making the Rural Health Mission effective by providing doctors and by aiding the backward States." (239)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving basic medical training to women social health activists in the backward States of the country." (240)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementation of PURA Programme in the rural areas in the country and Orissa in particular." (241)

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of an IIT in Orissa and establishment of a Central university in the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput Region of Orissa." (242)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about enacting a proper legislation for rehabilitation of the evacuees due to building of Mega Irrigation and Industrial projects." (243)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulation of a policy to rehabilitate small traders and hawkers affected by the governments decision to allow retail marketing by big Industrial Houses." (244)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing alternative drinking water to areas affected by chemical contamination and non-availability of ground water in the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput region of Orissa." (245)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about out payment of Minimum support price to the rice producers in Orissa, particularly the Kalahandi and Bolangir districts of Orissa." (246)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the procurement price of Levy Rice for the millers of Orissa in order to prevent closure of rice mills in the State of Orissa." (247)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing adequate storage facilities at the FCI godowns in the KBK region of Orissa." (248)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the production of wheat in the country." (249)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about spotting young talent for promotion of sports in the country." (250)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): I beg to move:

That at the *end* the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps proposed to be taken to bridge the widening gap between the poor and the rich." (991)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps proposed to be taken to check the migration of talented persons and man power from rural areas to urban areas." (992)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the purchasing power of consumers in the country." (993)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to increase agricultural production and to bring more land under irrigation." (994)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete plan to provide clean drinking water within a stipulated time frame to all in the country." (995)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about putting a check on unabated commercialization in the field of medicine." (996)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete action plan to check the growth of population." (997)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about eradication of corruption by passing the Lok Pal Bill and appointing Lok Pal thereunder." (998)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission." (999)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making Hindi mandatory as the medium of correspondence by the multinational companies with the Government." (1000)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of one rank, one pension scheme in the Army." (1001)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to put a check on ever increasing incidents of suicides by farmers in the country." (1002)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to inter-link rivers in the country." (1003)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about provision of 9.5 per cent rate of interest on small savings, and the provident fund schemes." (1004)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about revival of loss making public sector undertakings." (1005)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound programme for eradication of bonded labour system, particularly child labour system." (1006)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the protection of farmers who are committing suicides every day under the burden of debt." (1007)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about huge loss to farmers due to floods and natural calamities and any plan to deal with it and provision of relief to them." (1008)

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing loans to farmers at reduced interest rate of 6 per cent instead of 9 per cent." (1009)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about expediting the work on Golden Quadrilateral project in the country." (1010)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about stopping the counting of Muslims in the armed forces." (1011)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about denial of reservation in various educational institutions on the basis of religion." (1012)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about registering protest against hoisting National Flag of India in an improper manner during the sports events and other occasions in neighbouring countries." (1013)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about deferring the decision of permitting 51 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in retail sector in order to protect the interests of small traders." (1014)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the strict and effective implementation of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the Country." (1015)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the construction of Shri Ram Janm Bhoomi Temple at Ayodhya to maintain communal harmony in the country." (1016)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about enacting strict laws for putting a total ban on the killing of cow and its progeny." (1017)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making constitutional amendment for introducing uniform civil code." (1018)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about putting a complete check on religious conversions by offering allurements." (1019)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about stopping of acquisition of land by various State Governments for the purpose of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and to provide appropriate compensation of the acquired land to the farmers." (1020)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about putting an effective check on terrorism throughout the country." (1021)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about putting a check on ever increasing Maoist and naxalite activities in the country" (1022)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about improving traditional cultural relations with neighbouring countries." (1023)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about putting a check on the price rise of the essential commodities." (1024)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the fake currency coming from neighbouring countries." (1025)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the entry of terrorists into the share market of the country through fake companies." (1026)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about punishing those erring officials who helped mafias in capturing the petrol, diesel outlets allotted to the families of soldiers killed during the various operations and also punishing these mafias." (1027)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about fleeing of small vendors from various railway stations in the country due to unexpected increase in the licence fee without making sales assessment by the railways." (1028)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to check the illegal trade of human organs in the country." (1029)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to check the kidnapping, exploitation and killing of children in various States particularly National Capital Region Delhi and adjoining areas." (1030)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plans to check the repetition of incidents like Nithari." (1031)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of the recommendations made by the National Commission for farmers set up for the improvement of agricultural sector." (1032)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the support price of the agricultural produce." (1033)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about adequate supply of electricity to the farmers and villages of Madhya Pradesh." (1034)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about early approval of the pending projects of Madhya Pradesh." (1035)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, 2½ years ago, the UPA Government came to power on two planks. One is to have a secular Government. In the last Lok Sabha Elections, the mandate of the people was not in favour of any political formation,

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

but the mandate of the people was clear. It was against communal forces, the communal incidents and the communal violence that had taken place during the NDA regime. The people of our country voted against the communal regime that was there in our country. But I am surprised that nowhere in the President's Address has it been mentioned about the, communal incidents that are taking place today in our country. Here, I would like to quote the Hindi translation of the President's Address. It says:

[Translation]

"It is the opportunity to reiterate our commitment to make a strong, modern, all inclusive, secular and dynamic India".

[English]

The Hindi translation of the word 'secularism' is dharma nirpeksh, it is not panht nirpeksh. Somebody from RSS might have translated it from English...(Interruptions) I am not yielding...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): It is in the Hindi version of the Constitution on which he has taken an oath. The same word has been used in it. The same word has been used in the Constitution and he has taken oath on it as a Member. Despite that he is saying that the translation is wrong. It is not good.

16.00 hrs.

Today, he is saying that the translation is wrong. I am quoting it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, in his Address...(Interruptions) Sir, I am not yielding. Why are you allowing him?... (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir. how can he criticize the Constitution?... (Interruptions) This is written in the Constitution...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am not yielding...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The same thing is written in the Constitution....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You speak when you get the opportunity.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is written there in the Constitution. It is published by the Government. He took oath according to the Constitution. Can he criticize the Constitution?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Please sit down.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Then he should withdraw his statement...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will expunge whatever will be objectionable.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There was communal violence in a number of places ranging from Bangalore in the South. Gorakhpur and Jabalpur in the North. In Gorakhpur, under the leadership of a Member of this House. Swami Adityanath, who is not present here, his followers have gone on rampage in entire Gorakhpur...(Interruptions)

Two people were killed...(Interruptions) The first major violence was in Shri Anant Kumar's area, Mangalore...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir. you should allow me. He has taken my name ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak when your turn comes.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he has taken my name and the name of my constituency...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta—North East): He has said two people were killed. He did not say that he killed them... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, law and order was maintained very well when the BJP Government was there. It was immediately controlled... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in Madhya Pradesh, the minorities belonging to the Christian community are not safe today. They are being attacked. They are being assaulted. I was at Raipur only one month back. I found that their religious places were also not spared in the States where BJP is ruling. Such is the situation in our country where people of our country in the last elections gave a mandate against the communal forces.

What is happening in Gujarat? Rashtrapatiiji has not mentioned anything about the situation in Gujarat. We had been to Gujarat. About eight to nine Members of this House and the other House went to (Gujarat in the month of December. Md. Salim was there, Shri Mistry, who is not here right now, was there. Shri Ramjilal Suman was also there and he will also speak about it. We have seen ghettoism is prevailing in the State of Gujarat.

I was surprised when Advaniji, the Leader of Opposition, was, referring to Gujarat and said that Muslims are in a better position in comparison to other States... (*Interruptions*)

Around 2,000 people were burnt alive. I hey should be ashamed of it... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): How many people were killed in Godhra?

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Around two lakh people were uprooted... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : What happened in Godhara? What happened after the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi in New Delhi?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, what is the response of the State Government? How much has the State Government spent on the rehabilitation and resettlement of people? We have visited a number of colonies.

The Government of Gujarat did not spend even a single paisa. Moreover, they returned the fund which was sent by the Central Government. The Government of Gujarat did not utilize that fund. Such is the situation. You will be surprised to know that there is no water supply, no sanitation, no educational facility, and no health care centre. They are talking of comparing Gujarat with other States. But, Rashtrapatiiji has not mentioned anything about the communal situation in our country. Rashtrapatiiji has referred to our growth. Yesterday, while presenting the Budget for the year 2007-08, the Finance Minister also referred to the growth that during the next Five year Plan our growth rate will reach to the extent of 10 per cent. Today, our growth rate is 8.5 per cent; now it has touched 9 per cent. On the one hand there is GDP growth but, on the other hand, there is increase in inflation to the extent of 6.58 per cent. He has referred to the inflationary situation in the economy, to the condition of the people, the common man, the middle class. On the one hand there is growth of 9 per cent, but on the other hand there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor. On the one hand, there is GDP growth but on the other hand there is growth on unemployment situation. Today, we are not talking about growth in employment but we are talking about growth in unemployment. Unemployment is growing both in urban as well as in rural areas. It is growing particularly in the rural areas as there is crisis in the agrarian sector. As a result of this, more and more agricultural labourers are losing their jobs today. This growth is resulting in the rich becoming super-rich. It has no impact on employment generation and poverty alleviation. Today, 300 million people are poverty stricken. Their earning is less than one dollar a day.

The Consumer Price Index is rising both in the case of industrial workers as well as agricultural workers. As far as the budget of working class family is concerned, it is estimated that it will require at least Rs. 800 to Rs. 1000 more to maintain the same standard of consumption as they did a year ago.

There is increase in inflation. It is not a recent feature. What we have been seeing for the last 10 to 11 months? We have discussed it in this House a number of times. On 23rd May, while replying to the debate on price rise, while concluding his reply, the Finance Minister said that UPA Government would not only try to make the essential commodities available to the people but also at an affordable price.



[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, what is happening today? What has been stated by the Rashtrapati is this. It is simplification of the problem. It is not the fact that the purchasing power of people has increased and as a result of that there is an increase in the demand. There is a shortage in supply, and because of that, the prices of almost all the essential commodities have been increased.

Sir, there has been a deceleration in the production of agricultural commodities. In the year 2004-05 and then again in 2005-06, our projection was four per cent but the actual growth in the agricultural production was only two per cent. As a result of this, there has been a shortage in supply of agricultural commodities and the Government decided to import to the extent of 50 lakh tonnes by giving higher price to the farmers of the foreign countries, the farmers of Australia. The price that our farmers got was only Rs.650 per quintal plus Rs. 50 as bonus but the farmers of the foreign countries got Rs. 1,000 per quintal.

Sir, forward trading or future trading was introduced in April 2003 when the NDA Government was in power, and because of that there was speculation in the agricultural market and there was hoarding and black marketing. There was a demand to withdraw it, to recede it. The Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs, and Public Distribution recommended for complete withdrawal of forward trading and futures trading. Yesterday, the Finance Minister told the House that in the case of wheat and paddy, forward trading or futures trading has been rescinded.

Why can he not do for the entire commodities in which speculation has been taking place and manipulation has also been taking place? He has appointed an expert Committee. There is no need for the appointment of a Committee. Due to the system which was introduced by the NDA Government in 2003, there has been speculation in the market, and the Government should have much earlier taken steps to withdraw futures trading and forward trading.

16.14 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

In the case of petrol and diesel, when the UPA Government, in the month of June, increased the prices when the international price of petrol was increased to the extent of 74 dollar per barrel, we were opposed to

that. The Petroleum Minister had called a meeting. We attended that meeting and gave a number of suggestions, and one suggestion was that *ad valeorem* rate of tax, excise duty should be withdrawn. Sir, because of *ad valeorem* duty, whenever there is increase in the international price of crude, automatically the price of our petroleum products also have to be increased.

Sir, that system was introduced during the regime of the NDA Government. Although the Finance Minister yesterday while presenting the General Budget has said that he has reduced the duty from eight per cent to six per cent, it would not serve the purpose. The Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas had also recommended unanimously that the duty structure in case of petroleum products should be reorganized but that has not been accepted.

Sir, during the last two years of the UPA Government, on seven occasions, there has been an increase in the price of petrol and diesel. Whenever there has been an increase in the price of petrol and diesel, it has given a cascading effect; it has resulted in the increase in inflation.

Therefore, today there is a need to rethink on cess and duty on petroleum products. In his Address, Rashtrapati-ji has mentioned about the problem. But how this can be resolved. The prices of almost all the essential commodities have risen. Prices of wheat, edible oil, daal, pulses and almost all the vegetables have increased. You will be surprised to know that the consumption of pulses has come down to the level of 1942. Pulses are called the poor man's protein. People particularly the poor, middle-class and lower middle-class people are in great distress. Their conditions are deteriorating. But there is no attempt to resolve this crisis.

Sir, in his Address, Rashtrapati-ji has referred to the strengthening of the Public Distribution System; and the Finance Minister also, while presenting the Budget, has mentioned about computerizing the Public Distribution System. But I fail to understand how by computerizing, the Public Distribution System can be strengthened.

In the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA, it has been stated that the UPA Government has committed that the Public Distribution System should not only be strengthened but also, to be universalized. But in the Budget proposals for the year 2007-08, what is the increase in the food subsidy? It is only 6.05 per cent. When the inflation is more than six per cent, the increase

in the subsidy by just 6.05 per cent is nothing. It is not an increase.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are also the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution; and your Committee had recommended for strengthening and universalization of the Public Distribution System. During the period when you were the Union Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, the Targeted Public Distribution System was introduced.

By introducing the Targeted Public Distribution System, a substantial percentage of the population was brought under below the poverty line population who were otherwise outside this Public Distribution System. There is a need for universalisation, and also there is a need to add more items under the Public Distribution System. By strengthening, by universalizing our Public Distribution System, as it has been committed by the UPA Government, we will be able to address the rising prices of essential commodities. Today, there is an urgent need to help the people who are not only living below the poverty line but the people belonging to the middle-class and to the lower middle-class. So, there is a need for strengthening the Public Distribution System.

What is the problem with the Public Distribution System? In 2002-03, our production was 696.8 lakh tonnes. The procurement was 206 lakh tonnes. In 2005-06, there was same level of production. The procurement has been slashed to 91 lakh tonnes. Then, the wheat allocation for PDS had been slashed from around 25.4 lakh tonnes in November to 8.4 lakh tonnes. In case of Sampooma Rozgar Yojana, the percentage of wheat supply has also been reduced.

Another problem is about the procurement price, the remunerative price which the farmers are not getting. As a result of that, procurement is not taking place. Last year, the procurement was only 30 per cent. Unless there is more procurement, unless PDS is strengthened, we will not be able to tackle or redress the problem of food security.

There has been some mention about the crisis that is prevailing in the agrarian sector. Rashtrapati ji has expressed his concern about the condition of the farmers. But this crisis is not the crisis of today. Advani ji was referring to the suicide being committed by the farmers but the farmers are not committing suicide today. For the last seven to eight years, the farmers have been

committing suicide in four or five States of our country. I had been to Maharashtra in the last Assembly elections, and I passed through a number of villages and towns. I did not find any village or any town where no farmer had committed suicide.

Why are the farmers committing suicide? During the NDA regime, the capital formation in agriculture was reduced. There had not been any expansion of irrigated areas.

We have 400 irrigation projects pending. Increase in the price of fertiliser by Rs. 100, increase in the rate of electricity, increase in expenditure on seeds, increase in prices of other essential agricultural inputs, all these factors forced the farmer into an unending debt trap. Sixty-nine per cent of the farmers in the State of Maharashtra are indebted. I can give an example of cotton because cotton-growers are committing suicides. The reduction in the customs duty on agricultural products like cotton has also affected the viability of farmers growing the crop domestically. MSP for cotton in 2005-06 was Rs. 1,760 whereas the production cost was Rs. 2,585 a quintal.

When this Government was formed, it was formed on the basis of National Common Minimum Programme.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Acharia ji, please keep in mind the time factor as two more Members of your party are yet to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Allright, I am keeping in mind the time constraints. You please give me some more time to speak.

*[English]*

I will finish within ten to twelve minutes.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken for half an hour. Two more Members of your party are yet to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This discussion will go on for two more days.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

[English]

In respect of cotton, I have already mentioned that cost of production is more than the MSP. So, there is a need to help the farmers. That is why, in the National Common Minimum Programme, it has been committed that lending to the farmers should be made double. In this Budget, it has been increased to Rs. 2,25,000 crore. That will be the loan given to the farmers.

A Commission was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Swaminathan. It had made several recommendations, but the main recommendations of the Commission were to constitute a fund to assist farmers affected by crop losses and reduction of interest rates for farm loans to four per cent. Last year, it was reduced from nine per cent to seven per cent, but the recommendation of the Commission is to reduce it to four per cent. The Commission also recommended undertaking an all India debt survey and taking appropriate measures to provide debt relief, including waiver for those farmers who are in distress. It had also recommended creation of a Price Stabilisation Fund, which is very important, for agricultural commodities. One of its recommendations was revamping of agriculture extension services through establishment of farm schools and village knowledge centres across the country and extension of crop insurance to the entire country, and to cover all crops, with greater flexibility to respond to the local needs of the farmers.

Sir, this is very important.

The allocation for agriculture has been increased, but it is not to the extent that is required to address the real problems faced by the farmers.

The Finance Minister has admitted that our extension services have collapsed. He has stated this, but the measures needed and required to revive and revamp it has not been done even in the Budget.

The coverage for the National Rural Employment Programme is being increased to 330 districts. Last year, the allocation for it was Rs. 11,300 crore. Although the number of villages covered has been increased from 200 to 330, the allocation for the same is increased to only Rs. 12,000 crore from Rs. 11,300 crore. A review has been done of the places where this programme is being implemented. What is the ground reality? On an average, 36 days of employment is being provided to the unemployed people in the rural areas.

Secondly, it is mandated that if the Government fails to provide employment to the people in rural areas, then unemployment compensation has to be given. The unemployment compensation is to be given as per the Act, which is also not being provided.

The hon. President has drawn our attention towards a very vital and important problem that we are facing today, namely, about the rehabilitation and resettlement of land oustees. The Prime Minister has also announced that the UPA Government will soon announce a new rehabilitation and resettlement policy. Today, we have an age-old Act of 1894 when land is being acquired. The hon. President has referred to that Act, and he has stated that the Government would amend this Act. This Act does not mention about the rehabilitation of the people or the farmers whose land is being acquired. The people are affected because of the acquisition of land, and there is no national rehabilitation policy. Although there is a policy — which was formulated after 12 years—but that policy also is not sufficient with regard to rehabilitation of the affected people. We have seen that the tribals are affected. Thousands and thousands of tribals have been uprooted, and their rehabilitation has not yet been done.

Rashtrapathiji has correctly stated that on the one hand there are genuine concerns of the farmers regarding acquisition of agricultural land, and on the other hand there is a need to use that land to generate employment through industry-related activities. Therefore, issues of human rehabilitation and the need for fair pricing of agricultural land have to be addressed both in policy and in law. My Government is committed to bringing in a new rehabilitation policy which can be backed by amendments in the Land Acquisition Act wherever necessary.

When SEZ Act was brought before this House, our concern was concentrated on the labour because there was a provision in that Act that the labour laws of our country would not be applicable in the industries within SEZ. When we objected to that, the Government agreed and deleted that provision. Then, we supported the SEZ Bill; it was passed and it became an Act. What is happening today? I will thank the hon. Prime Minister because he has kept on hold the entire process. There is an empowered Group of Ministers who is looking into this.

What is happening in the name of SEZ? Thousands of hectares of land are being acquired or purchased.

Industries are not being set up, but real estate is being done there. The Left Front Government of West Bengal made one proposal that 50 per cent of the land in SEZ should be utilized for industrialization, for employment generation; 25 per cent of the land should be utilized for the infrastructure related with the industry that would be set up, and 25 per cent can be utilized as per their choice. There should not be any concession. If any concession in regard to taxes, cess and duty are allowed, then there will be an uneven competition. There is a need to amend the SEZ Act now so that such uneven things that are happening do not happen. There is a need to amend the SEZ Act without further delay.

Rashtrapathi ji also referred to the Centre-State relations. Almost all the States are now asking for more percentage of share in case of taxes. Most of the States are facing financial crunch or crisis. There is a need to address the problems being faced by various States.

Rashtrapati ji has mentioned about social security for unorganized workers. There are 37.5 crore unorganized workers in the country. Out of those 37.5 crore unorganized workers, 22 crore are agricultural labourers. There is no law to provide social security to workers who are in the unorganized sector. It has been committed in the National Common Minimum Programme that the Government will bring a legislation to provide social security to the workers in unorganized sector.

The Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta was referred to. However, that Committee had submitted its report in March, 2006. Almost one year has passed after submission of the report and the Government is yet to take any action on that report. This should not be delayed. The Government should immediately bring in legislation. It was said that the Government is actively considering it. How long will the Government consider bringing in legislation to provide social security to the workers in the unorganized sector? Two and a half years have already passed since this Government took over. This Government is half way through its term. The Government should not miss its opportunity of implementing the pro-people programmes of the National Common Minimum Programme for empowerment of people, empowerment of the poor and empowerment of women.

Last year, Rashtrapati ji in his address mentioned about women's reservation. I am surprised that this has not been mentioned in this year's Rashtrapati ji's address.

Government has made a commitment on this. The Bill was introduced in 1996. In the last session again the Bill was to be introduced, but it was neither introduced nor passed, in order to empower women. We have seen how effectively Panchayati Raj institutions are functioning after empowering women. We have lakhs of self-help groups. Women want to be self-sufficient and stand on their feet. There is a need to help and assist them in marketing their products.

Rashtrapati ji referred to setting up of a Marine University. I am not against Chennai being given, Chennai may have a Marine University. However, why should Kolkata be deprived of it? The Marine Engineering College of Kolkata is the oldest Marine Engineering College in the country. It has a huge campus and infrastructure. I am not against Chennai, but Kolkata should not be deprived of a University. If one Marine University is to be set up, that should be set up in Kolkata.

When the Government has decided to set up at Chennai a university, Kolkata should not be deprived of giving only the Campus. Campus or a Regional Centre will not be sufficient. Hence, there should be a separate marine university for Kolkata or a Marine Engineering College.

We are supporting this Government from outside. Our support is for the National Common Minimum Programme. What we find today is the mandate of the people of our country for a change; change not for the political formation but change in the policy, outlook and the attitude of the Government. People of our country wanted an alternate path, an alternate policy which would solve the burning problems they are facing today. Even after 60 years of Independence, there are thousands and thousands of people who go to bed with empty stomach.

Unemployment is growing. There is a gap between the rich and the poor. India will not shine if one industrialist purchases a steel plant in some other country; India will shine if the conditions of crores and crores of poor people and middleclass people are improved and their sufferings come to an end. Only then, India can shine. The UPA Government is committed for the first time to certain programmes. This is the Government that is formed on the basis of the Common Minimum Programme; the programme for the amelioration of poverty, the programme to improve the conditions of the people, the programme to empower the poor people, the agricultural labourers, labourers in the unorganized

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

sections and middleclass people. So, there is a need to rethink.

The Prime Minister is here. After two and a half years, I hope there will be some introspection. If there is introspection, then, definitely the Government would think to change its policy. Its basic policy will have to see the impact of economic reforms which we have been repeating for the past 15 years. After 15 years, what has happened to the poor people, the peasants and the farmers? Only then, the Government would be able to have an alternate policy. Unless an alternate policy is adopted, the same fate will be there. The NDA Government had followed anti-people. The people of this country had thrown that Government away. Even at this stage, there is time. The Government will realize and try to adopt an alternate policy to address and resolve the problems of the people of our country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, it is a convention that the President addresses both the Houses of Parliament in a joint sitting. It is a kind of formality that the President discharges. The President's address spells out the policy of the Government, which it intends to pursue and its priorities and commitments during the ensuing year. The address is a sort of policy statement of the Government which outlines as to what the Government propose to do and what welfare measures are sought to be undertaken in the next year. The Government will complete its three years in the office in the month of May. How long the Government will stay in power is not important. The period of staying in power is not important the more important is what the Government did during its stay in power for the welfare of the masses and the poor people? I can say that the policies of Shri Manmohan Singh's Government are directionless. I do not feel the Government is doing anything for the welfare of the Common man. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No cross-talks please, I am not allowing you. Please sit down. Nothing will go on record. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The President started his speech with price-rise and other economic issues. The terrorist attack on Samjhauta Express is a sad incident. Simultaneously, it was said that peace process will not be hampered by it. The Government admits cross-border terrorism is taking place. However, we are not in favour of discontinuing talks. It will be far better if we are in a position to find out a solution to it through talks but the peace process and terrorism cannot go together. Therefore, the Government will have to make serious efforts in this direction, Union Home Minister of India says that the terrorists have made hide-outs in all big cities in the country. What strategy the Government have evolved to combat it? What effective steps the Government are taking to root out terrorism? I feel the Government should have immediately announced a policy in this regard. The Government is boasting itself that the economic growth rate has reached 9% and a target of 9% has been set for Eleventh Plan. I would like to know how the common man is being benefited by this increasing economic growth rate? Rather, it is burdening him further, his purchasing power is decreasing. Our Labour Minister says that the unemployment is increasing continuously. On the one hand unemployment is increasing at an alarming rate, whereas, on the other hand, the rising economic growth rate seem to be benefiting certain people only. The common man should get its benefit but he is being deprived of. The poor man is bearing its brunt continuously, he is worst affected because of price rise. The wealth of the nation is increasing but it should be distributed equally. If a poor man is not benefited, the growth would become meaningless. If a handful of people become rich and we presume that the country has become rich, that is a misconception. There is a difference between the riches of a handful and that of the country. So, until and unless common man is able to get benefit of economic growth, I do not think it is a good sign for the justice to be meted out to the poor men.

During 2006-07, inflation reached to its maximum and it was hovering around 5 per cent in July. The Government gave two reasons for this level of inflation, shortage of foodgrains in the country and hike in the price of crude oil in the international market. In January, 2007 inflation reached to 6.73 per cent, the highest during last two years. Crude prices fell to 49 per cent in international market. The Government agencies imported 55 lakh tonnes wheat and bought another 7 lakh tonnes

from private parties; still inflation could not be checked. As and when crude oil prices increase in International market, the Government increases oil prices in the country. I would like to ask—how long we would depend upon crude oil import? Do the Government of India and the Ministry of Petroleum ever endeavour to become self-reliant in the field of oil. The Government have never bothered to prepare a long term strategy for it. We increase prices at domestic level if the crude oil prices increase in the international market but if the prices fall in international market, our Government never decreases the prices at domestic level. However, the most important question is how long shall we depend on import of oil, we should evolve a long term policy to overcome it. We have not framed any policy for fixation of prices of petro-products. We have laid no criterion. The Government have framed no policy for fixing the price of petro-products.

In his address, the hon. President has stated that a special package of Rs. 16000 crore would be implemented in 31 worst affected districts by the incidents of farmers' suicides. Everyday the farmers commit suicide. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, who is not present here now, was telling that the incidence of suicide by farmers started some 5-7 years back. But, I feel even if a single farmer commits suicide, there can be nothing more shameful than this. And it is not important as to when this started? The announcement of special package by the hon. Prime Minister made no impact. I would say that it is not a matter of just 31 districts. It is a problem of farmers all over the country and it can't be confined to certain districts only. There is a need to strengthen the agriculture sector. Today, farming has become unremunerative and we will have to see as to how to make it remunerative. The production cost is increasing, we will have to make efforts to bring it down. Subsidy is being given in the name of farmers which is a great deception. The inefficiency of fertilizer producers remains confined to corruption rampant amongst senior level officers and it serves no purpose in making the farmers financially better. The contribution of agriculture in a large country like India with a population of 110 crore has declined.

17.00 hrs.

Agriculture is reeling under pathetic condition. I would like to say that unless the Budget of our country is based on agriculture and labour intensive industries are not set up, the condition of our country cannot improve.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that there is only one option left in present circumstances of the

country that loans of farmers of the entire country should be waived off, otherwise the suicides being committed by the farmers will never end. The budget of this country should be based on agriculture or should be prepared on the lines of rail budget. Last time also when discussion in this regard was held in the House, then hon. Members had demanded that separate agriculture budget should be formulated on the lines of railway budget. Formulating agricultural budget on this pattern will certainly do welfare of this country.

I read hon. President's Address. There is no mention of protection of cottage industries in the President's Address. Our country has a vast population. If machines, new technology are used in all those countries of the world, where work force is lacking, it is understandable but it is beyond the apprehension if same features are applied in this country of Gandhi where the population is more than 110 crores. In 18th century, every household was having spinning wheel and we were not only able to fulfill our needs with regard to textiles but used to export woollen clothes to Europe also. Today, in one country cottage industries have been ruined. But no mention with regard to protection of cottage industries has been made. It is definitely a matter of serious concern.

Here, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is discussed. The Government piloted this programme, it made an effort. But it is true that under this programme employment for 100 days is provided to a man but he will remain jobless for 265 days. What will be the fate of the rural people during this period. I would like to say that the unemployment problem is creating a tension in the country. It is inciting naxalism. If attention is not paid towards the problem of unemployment, I am sorry to say that it will create situation next to civil war in the country. 13 States are affected by naxalism and it is increasing day-by-day. The youth are having degrees, but not employment. After running from pillar to post for employment, the unemployed and disappointed youth is compelled to loose his faith in this system, law and order and constitution. Therefore, it is necessary to address the problem of unemployment. I understand that if our traditional cottage industries are not provided protection, the tension in this country of vast population will never subside.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a strange thing every time new schemes are announced. A lot of water is required for agriculture and if we do a comparative study of the production of irrigated and unirrigated land, we will

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

find that there is a three times difference in their production. Every time irrigation projects are mentioned about. But I would like to ask the Government whether the earlier irrigation projects have been completed? We do not have any target for their completion. Every time, new irrigation projects are announced but we do not have any target for their completion. Resultantly, their costs increase and the desired gain is not achieved. Therefore, I understand that targets for their completion should be announced.

Irrigation Projects announced under the earlier Five Year Plans have not been completed so far. The agriculture of our country is totally on the mercy of Lord Indra, God of Rain. There is no arrangement for irrigation. I would like to state that the Government should make arrangements for irrigation at war-footing and till proper arrangement for irrigation is made, there is no possibility of good results.

On this occasion, I would like to state that our country is hit by natural calamities. Some places are hit by excessive rain, some by drought, some by hailstorm. But we have old parameters to render help to farmers. I do not have much information about the western areas, but in north India potato and mustard seed farmers are ruined by untimely hailstorm and heavy rain. The farmer prepares his budget for one year and plans to repay loan of the money-lenders, to meet other expenses and to get his daughter married, but due to these calamities his plans get dashed. Through you, I would like to tell the Government to review these old parameters for rendering help to the farmers in case of natural calamities. According to these parameters if loss of one lac rupees is suffered by the farmers he gets a cheque for Rs. 500 to Rs.1000 only. I do not understand that a joke more cruel than this could be played with them.

In the changing scenario it is essential that the criterion of providing help to the farmers should be changed and more funds should be allocated for this purpose.

I would not like to make more submission. But I would definitely like to make one submission that the Congress Party has given much publicity to the Sachar Committee and has said that a special programme for minorities would be made. It should be formulated, we are also in its favour, but whether it would be done in this way? The President also has made a mention about it. The Ministry of Minority Affairs has also been set up.

I do not know whether it is having any staffer budget? Mistry Saheb, even after receiving report from the Sachar Committee, people are having complaints in regard to the minorities, at least do something so at the Ministry may run smoothly. Please make some arrangements in this regard. This Ministry holds no meaning. ...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what can one do, if one is not aware.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mistryji, please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, I would like to submit only that I, on behalf of Samajwadi Party, oppose the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

17.06 hrs.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Sir, as the House is aware of this fact that I have been indisposed these days and I was hospitalized. I have been discharged from the hospital yesterday only. I want to put some matters slowly and it may perhaps consume a little more time.

The President's Address is the mirror of the government's policies and contains the policies and programmes that government wants to implement within the next year. I myself and my party have been extending support to the UPA Government since its formation. If situation demands, I will vote in support of the government but I want to tell the House as well as the whole country that the President's Address and the this year's budget both have disappointed me. The Address contains nothing and especially as I said that the government is neither concerned about the price-rise nor it wants to take the people into confidence or it has even such intentions. In the same way, I could not understand as to what the government is doing for the internal security. It was not that there was blast in the Samjhauta Express or in the local trains of Mumbai only 8 to 10 large stocks of explosives and arms and ammunitions were seized in Maharashtra. Luckily there were no Muslims involved in it, otherwise had a Muslim been involved in it, he would have been branded a relative of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. But it is a shame that after every seizure of such a stock the first reaction of the Government of Maharashtra, which boasts itself as a secular government, is that this has no connection with

terrorism and that is because no muslim has been arrested in this regard. Where does this government want to lead this country after all? There is no mention in the Address as to where the Congress party in particular wants to take this country.

This government is not concerned with corruption. A person like me has been speaking about it from the rooftop for three years that the corrupt officers, staff leaders of the State put together and Ramji Lal Sumanji, I beg your pardon, I am not mentioning only about U.P.; are plundering the whole budget of about 50-60 thousand crores, but the government is not concerned.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: He has excluded U.P.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: I did not spare U.P. rather it is more rampant in U.P....(*Interruptions*) U.P. is the most corrupt State but I said that it is not only in U.P. I am the victim in my own constituency. There are two districts in my constituency. There is one dacoit in one district and another in the other district and you are the witness to the fact that with my endeavour, the Food For Work Scheme was implemented in the Lakhimpur Khiri district.

The S.D.O. did not approve of any of my proposals but he approved the proposals of some 3-4 thieves. This is not happening only in U.P. But there is no mention about it in the Address. MPLADS is a Central Government's scheme. I can vouch that only 65 to 70 percent of this is spent for the purpose and the rest 30-35 percent money is plundered. There is no scheme of the government in which more than 15-20 percent of funds are spent, 85-90 percent funds are plundered. When MPs seek funds under this scheme, the government says they have no funds. There is 30-35 percent corruption in this as well. Even, among the least expenditure is on the Bharat Nirman scheme. Thus, there is corruption in every scheme, but there is no fund for the MPLADS, under which there is least corruption.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a mention of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the Para 10 of the President's Address. The Government proudly says that an additional Rs.12 thousand crores are being provided for this scheme but had the Rural Development Minister been here, he would have thundered and his voice would have gone outside the House. The government have spent thousands of crores of rupees on the Food for Work Scheme, but I challenge the government to explain whether even Rs. 100 crores have

been spent throughout the country. All the funds under the employment Guarantee scheme are being plundered. I suggest that this scheme may be scrapped. It is not proper that you provide additional funds, and the Rural Development Minister keep on shouting at the top of his voice while all the money is continued to be plundered. Nothing more is to be done. Have the government decided to let some officers plunder the bulk and surrender whatever is the leftover. It means there is something fishy. Every time the same thing is repeated but nothing is done.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Para 14 of the President's Address mentions about higher education. It has been promised that new IITs will be set up in the country. It is a good thing and I support it fully. Through it we can provide our youths the opportunity for their livelihood. If the intention of the government to constitute the Sachchar Commission was clear and correct and when the Commission has proved it true that the Muslims are the most backward in the field of education which is known to the members on both sides muslims should be given 50 per cent reservation in the proposed new IITs that the government is planning to set up so that they can progress in the field of education.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been mentioned in the Para No. 15 of the President's Address that the government is providing food security to the people living below the poverty line. I want to remind you that when you were the Food Minister, this scheme was formulated by you and at that time you had delivered a powerful speech in this House, but what happened afterwards and what is the position today. The government, today is giving 26-27 thousand crores as subsidy in order to provide food grains to the BPL people at cheaper rates. I can vouch and guarantee that if the government can engage all its intelligence agencies like the CBI, RAW, etc., they will reveal that not more than Rs. 2-3 thousand crores are reaching to the poor. If it is not true, I am ready to face the consequence. There is widespread looting all around.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had spoken to the Finance Minister a few days ago and even he admitted that everything is being plundered. I asked him why he lets it happen, his reply was that what he could do when this system was such. But my suggestion is that you may have such an arrangement that all the BPL beneficiaries and Antyodaya Card holders are provided adequate money from here so that they can directly purchase food grains from the market at higher rates. At least, there will be no middle man in between. It is a social problem. Lacs of millionaires have emerged in the country as a



[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

result of this corruption. We have, at least, one or two millionaires in every village. Even the poor boys are copying them and searching for revolvers, arms and ammunitions so that they can also acquire their status. The Food For Work scheme will create five to seven thousand millionaires in the country by way of the plunder of the country. Nothing can be expected except this. I tell you to Scrap all the schemes and the government of India should provide cash assistance directly to the BPL and Antyodaya families. Do not bring the state Governments in between. This is the age of computer. The whole country should be computerized. Stop for some time and after proper arrangements are made, then, provide money to all of them directly. No one will take bribe. Neither leaders nor employees or officers can take bribe.

In Para 26 of the Address there is a mention of the Sachchar Committee and of the backward and dalit Muslims. I would say it is a shame on us that we swear to maintain secularism. We have come here in the name of secularism. But, is our Constitution really secular? When the condition was laid down that the Scheduled Caste includes Dhobis but unless that Dhobi is a Hindu, he will not be able to avail the facilities of a Scheduled Caste. It is a shame on our Constitution. It is a matter of great shame for the House, for us, for you, for the government and for everybody.

This is more shameful for the allies of the BJP who make hue and cry that religion should not be the basis for this, but the Scheduled Castes are getting reservation on the basis of religion since 1951. They do not support abolition of such provisions. The world is changing now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: It is a point of order. He is showing disrespect towards the Constitution. He has stated that it is very shameful.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: I have not shown any disrespect towards the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whenever there will be a point of order, it will be under some rule. Azmi ji, you better take care of your health. You are not keeping well.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: As you are saying that religion should not be the basis of reservation. I also support this point but the reality is that due to this religion based reservation, our Constitution is no longer a secular

Constitution in the true spirit and when we take oath of being secular, it just does not seem to be genuine. This system should be abolished. Under article 143 religion has been made a basis of reservation for the Scheduled Castes which should be done away with. A Washerman should be treated as scheduled caste irrespective of the fact whether he is a Hindu, a Muslim, a Sikh or a Christian. Whether persons with 'Paswan' Surname are Scheduled Caste or not? If Paswan ji converts to any other religion he will still remain a Paswan, he will neither become a Sheikh, Sayyed or a Pandit ji. Therefore, religion should not be the basis of reservation. The 15-Point Programme often finds a mention. I would like to know how long will the Muslims be continued to be fooled. I have been listening about the 15-point programme since the last 15 years but nobody knows what exactly the said 15-Point programme is. Last year there was a mention of the 15-Point programme in the President's Address and the budget speech of Shri Chidambaram as well. This year also this programme has been mentioned and I have been listening about it since the time of Smt. Indira Gandhi. You cannot find even a single person in the country who has benefited from the said 15-Point Programme. These people have fooled our Hindu brothers in the name of Lord Rama. But, now they are abstaining from such things. Now they have checked themselves. They have been befoling the Muslims since the last 50 years and they intend to continue to do so. The BJP fooled the Hindus but they have checked themselves. The BJP took the Hindus for a ride only once and then changed themselves and as a result they are ruling in Punjab and Uttarakhand. But it appears that the people in power are convinced that Muslims are foolish by birth and they can continue to take them for a ride. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. The House is concerned about your health.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: They ought to be. I know, the day I will leave for the heavenly abode, the Hindus, Muslims, including the BJP and the Congress all will feel that a person who used to speak the truth has left the world. Though, everyone has to die one day.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Azmi ji, our well wishes are with you.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, on 47th point the hon. President mentioned the foreign policy. It made me to smile as I wonder whether we have any foreign policy,

whether slavery can be called a foreign policy? It is a matter of regret that the policy of being a slave to America was introduced by the NDA Government and the UPA Government has crossed all limits in pursuing it. Whether we can call it a policy what we are following presently. We agree to whatever America says. America attacked Afghanistan and the then NDA Government offered them our Airports, our land and our forces. In the case of Iraq war we were willing to send our forces while America turned down our request stating that they do not need help. Today this government have gone two steps further in bowing down before America in the name of what they call a foreign policy. I feel a pain to see how shameless we have become that we still talk about non-alignment in the President's Address and at other important platforms as well. What type of non-alignment policy is this in which on the one hand we have surrendered before a group and on the other hand we talk about non-alignment. This attitude instills a sense of shame in a person like me.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have spoken only as much as I was allowed by the doctors. Now, I feel that I should conclude. I have a lot more to speak, but at last, through you, I would like to state that this House should impress upon the Government to collect the funds of those schemes, around 50 percent of the allotted funds of which are being misappropriated and make provisions of direct payment through cheque, draft or money order to the families living below the poverty line and to those who have been identified for 'Antodaya' scheme so that it should not reach the hands of the middleman or any other person or big money lenders of the villages and the children of the poor could be saved from getting drawn to crimes.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the motion of thanks on the President's Address. In the President's Address, Government policies and programmes have been mentioned. There has been a mention of some good policies for the ensuing one year and for the upcoming 11th Five Year Plan and there are also several important policies mentioned.

Sir, everyone is looking at it with his own point of view. There is no doubt that what the Government is doing is a very important task and it is committed to accelerate the pace of development but a large portion to what the Government somehow does are not reach

the targetted people. We appreciate the Government for implementing some important schemes. An hon'ble member said a short while ago that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is an important scheme. It has been implemented in two hundred districts in the entire country, but in several states it could not be implemented at all. It is being implemented in phases but due to the way of functioning and due to the rules and regulations connected with it, it is not being implemented in a proper manner. I am in the concerned Standing Committee and I have observed that efforts are being made to implement it in an effective manner in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, but in the State of Bihar, which I belong to, its implementation has not begun so far.

Sir, continuous efforts are being made but the results are not visible at all. The Government implemented this policy with a very good intention. It is also acceptable that if not for all the 365 days, then work should be provided for atleast 100 days. This is a good approach and more efforts should be made to achieve this target, but there is a need for planning to implement it properly and effectively.

Sir, the Government have formulated several other programmes for the welfare of the people. One of them is the National Rural Health Mission. It is a very good programme. The Government have started the programme of rural electrification which is also a very good programme, but regarding the rural electrification programme, I would like to state that its effects are not visible anywhere in the State of Bihar. Tendering process has been completed in this regard. Contractors have been engaged. The Government have decided to get this work done through the NHPC, a public sector undertaking and the contract has been awarded to this company only. I personally met the hon'ble Minister and apprised him that the NHPC is not able to handle this work. While speaking on the motion of thanks on the President's Address, I would like to urge the Government to find out whether concrete results are going to be achieved under the programme or not. They have formulated a policy and a programme but it is not being implemented properly and the people are not being benefited by it. Three years have already elapsed, and only two years are left. The Government have fixed a time-frame to electrify every village by the year 2009. That is why the Government need to focus on it and the same should be completed in time.

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

Sir, the Government have started a very good programme of supplying drinking water in rural areas. Nirmal Gramin Yojana has been started as a rural development programme, but this programme too, is turning out to be a failure. The Government have certainly increased the earlier prescribed amount, it is a good thing, because the previous allocation was very less. Even the increased amount is not adequate. So, I request the Government to increase it further. The Government should work for the completion of the Nirmal Gramin Yojana and complete it.

Sir, a very good programme named Sarvashiksha Abhiyaan is going on. I am not aware whether the officers and authorities in Delhi know it or not that the fund allocated by the Government for constructing buildings, is being used for constructing rooms only. There are no arrangements of toilets, hand pump and boundary wall along with the building. Consequently, when we visit villages, the people urge us to get the toilets and boundary wall and hand-pump-installed for the building under our Member of Parliament Local area Development Scheme. So, I suggest the Government that while it is making arrangements of funds for constructing buildings under the Sarvashiksha Abhiyan, it should arrange to construct toilets, and boundary wall and install hand-pumps along with the buildings so that the children of the rural people and farmers get the benefit of education properly.

Sir, the Government has provided for Mid-Day Meals. Several honorable Members have referred to this scheme here. I would like to say that this programme is turning out to be a failure. This programme is not being implemented properly anywhere and the school children are not getting mid-day meals. The system they have adopted for it is not being monitored. They have constituted a central level committee but it does not function. Seeing all these things practically we recommend to the Government that this Scheme should be monitored strictly so that the people for whom they want to the mission to extend them the facilities could be served in a better way.

Sir, the Government are implementing other schemes too. Honourable Members were mentioning correctly that the food-grains allotted under the BPL Scheme are not being supplied to the villages. The food-grains allotted for the Antyodaya Yojana, Annpoorna Yojana and mid-day meal scheme are not being supplied to the villages. Irregularities are being committed. This is true that the Government may allocate as much fund as you wish but

the implementing agency is not taking proper responsibility. The Government of India says that these are the responsibilities of the State Governments. Is it not necessary that the Government should monitor the funds allocated to the State Governments? Are they funding them so that the funds are misappropriated and never reach the targeted people. Azmi Sahab was rightly saying that like old age pension and social security pension these funds in the form of food-grains, should also be distributed directly to the poor through Post Offices. This system will prove better because the existing one has become a system of continuous loot. This is hundred percent true. We also support this idea. It is facing practical difficulties.

Sir, they are implementing Sarvashiksha Abhiyan. I want to submit to you that only Middle Schools and Primary schools have been included in this programme and the Secondary schools have been excluded. No one takes the responsibility of secondary schools. These schools have no building. Fund is not there to construct school building. The State Governments are not in a position to support even partially. So I would like to request the Government that the Secondary schools may also be included in the Sarvasiksha Abhiyan for construction of buildings and toilets. They have put them in Sam Vikas Yojana, but the guidelines prepared for selecting projects under this schemes are defective because the district magistrates select the schemes arbitrarily in the states. They do not select the projects according to the guidelines and necessity and work arbitrarily. This programme is full of defects. Funds are not being utilized properly. The Government should again think over it that the funds allocated to the States for the development of villages should be utilized properly.

Sir, this has been clearly mentioned in the President's Address and has been given priority. The most important thing is that in the budget agriculture has been given top priority on the agenda. The Finance Minister has started his budget speech with agriculture. This is an agriculture based country, all know this fact. The Members of the Lok Sabha do come here from different parts but they win the elections with farmers' votes and raise the questions related to farmers and the Government frames policies for them. In the President's Address the dynamism of agriculture has been given priority. This has been mentioned that the credit which is being extended to the farmers by the Government would be doubled. They have definitely increased the amount but as I assume, the amount is still less because the majority of the population

are farmers. On the one hand they are making provisions in the budget to give them money, on the other they are giving loans to the industrialists through banks. If we compare these two things it will reveal that they are providing crores of rupees to only a few people and on the other hand there are such a large number of population on whom the whole country rests, but they are getting nothing. Even this amount is doubled still it would be very less. It is true that the rate of interest has been decreased in the last financial year, but the loan amount meant for them is less. I want to say that due to faulty procedures and defective banking rules, the rural poor farmers have to face problems so as to obtain loans. I want to say that the Government should provide more facilities to the farmers and loan procedures should be simplified. One thing should be clear that if the Government provide loans they should also think of providing remunerative prices. Simply providing loans and recovering them by issuing warrants will not work, the Government should also give remunerative prices.

The prices of the products, produced by industries are decided by the industries, by their owners but it is very unfortunate that the farmers have no right to decide the Prices of their produce, it is determined by supply and demand, the farmer cannot decide their prices. When the farmer has to buy something, he has to pay more money. Though it is a positive thing that they have assured to eliminate middle-men and stop forward trading, but they have included only rice and wheat what would happen to the other things. They have not bothered to say anything in this regard. They should have to do so because we should bear one thing in mind that if the cost of farmers' produce increases, the situation worsens because those things are used in our daily life, we need them everyday, but the prices of cement, iron rod, big or small products like paste and other such articles manufactured by companies are decided by the owners of the companies themselves and are being sold in the open market. The Government seem to be unconcerned about all this and even the people do not care for it, they are not aware of these things. I clearly state that as regards farmers' issues, whatever facilities the Government should provide them, are not being provided, they are not getting irrigation facility, remunerative price for their produce. Have we ever thought that by providing subsidy on mere fertilizers we are spending less on them. If we increase subsidy, the cost will go down consequently, and prices of agriculture produce will also go down. The Government never think about it. I do not understand

that we are going to complete sixty years of our independence, policies are formulated every year, His excellency President addresses the Parliament every year, but when the country has been following the democratic system for so long then why the Government do not prepare long-term projects and master plan to address the problems of the farmers and the poor ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please now conclude.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Sir, I will conclude within 2-3 minutes. I rarely get chance to speak.

I, therefore, urge the Government and appeal to it that priority should have to be given to the farmers. It is the farmer only who provides food to the whole country. If the Government is importing commodities, it is but natural that they will get it on higher prices. But by importing things they are increasing the burden on the country. It is right for once, but why do not they prepare some programme to extend the funds required to be spent on importing to the farmers of the country so that they could grow better seeds and grow sufficient goodgrains and other commodities, why do not they have such plan, why do not they think in such a way? Here are sitting some prominent economists, farmers and well-wishers of the farmers, but words only cannot benefit the farmers. I say it clearly that the Government should think over the issue of the farmers again. Remunerative prices should be given to the farmers and forward marketing and other such trades about which the entire country knows now and which resulted in rising prices should be stopped. People who indulge in hoarding should be raided. Hon. Prime Minister has said that the Government has written a letter to the State Governments. Writing letter is not enough? Has the State Government taken action? Can the Government of India not ask about the action taken by them? They should seek this information from the State Government and further step should be taken. I had heard once and in the time of late Mrs. Indira Gandhi also that if a Government did not comply with any orders issued by the Central Government a show cause notice was enough to shake it to the core. Today, this has to be done by the UPA Government. The State Governments should make efforts, and raid the premises of those who indulge in hoarding and those persons should be arrested, only then the prices will come down. I would like to say about the rising prices that it is upto Government to stabilize the prices, as far as people are concerned, they just do not want the prices to rise any higher.

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

Sir, I would like to tell the leaders and people in the Government that it is their job to think as to how to bring down the prices, but the people want low prices and the Government should do it so that people could know that UPA Government has lowered the prices. I would like to say that the Government has to be very firm and take a strong stand on this issue. Nothing can be done only by promises and providing funds on the papers unless there is resolute will to get some results.

The issue of suicides by farmers is being discussed daily. Only a farmer commits suicide, a capitalist never goes for it. He earns billions of rupees and then puts a signboard of bankrupt outside the factory gate, but he does not commit suicide. A farmer commits suicide just because of a loan of one or two lakhs. What does it signify? It happened during the regime of those who are sitting in opposition now and it is happening in our times also. Because it happened then so it would happen now, this argument will not do. We have to make a difference. Today, I would like to say that we have to think about the farmers as they constitute the largest portion of the population. The hon. Minister has said a very good thing in the budget but he has to implement it in reality.

Sir, as far as irrigation is concerned, it is alright that he has chalked out a scheme. What is he doing now as the scheme has not been completed within the stipulated time-frame? Its cost and expenditure is increasing every year. What is he doing in this regard. The Government has to see that after formulation, the scheme may be completed within the stipulated time-limit. Time-limit has to be fixed.

Sir, as far as the issue of unemployment is concerned, it is constantly being raised. The Government has done a good job. It has provided at least 100 days of work to the unskilled workers in the villages by implementing Rozgar Guarantee Yojna. Not only in the history of this country but even in the countries all over the world, who follow democratic set up, this programme has no precedent. The Government have done a commendable job. The question of unemployment does not relate to only unskilled labourer of the country, this issue concerns the youth of the country, they may be qualified or illiterate or belong to rank and file that is why the issue has been raised here. They said that they will provide jobs to 2 lacs people, this way in a population of 110 crore people, second, third and even fourth generation would come by and even then people would be out of jobs. Unemployment allowance would not help

the youth of the country. I would like to say it clearly and His Excellency President has also mentioned in his Address, so the Government has to take a firm stance in this regard. The Government would have to go for long term planning on the issue of unemployment so that the students might get jobs along with their certificates on completing their education. They have included the point of unorganised labour in the Common Minimum Programme, two and a half years have passed and third year is in progress. On the matter of unorganised labourers. Hon. President has said that the proposal of safety cover is under consideration for the labourers of unorganised sector. Injustice is being done to them. The issue of unorganised labourers has been included in the Common Minimum Programme and the proposal of safety cover is under consideration and it was mentioned in the hon. President's Address also last time. Nothing has been done in that direction. This is injustice. A decision may immediately be taken in this regard and they should be provided security by making a law.

You are asking me to conclude, before I conclude I would like to say in the end that they want to do something for the unemployed, unorganised labourers and the poor farmers of the villages, then they should do it with determination. With these suggestions, I support the Motion of thanks, with regard to the hon. President's Address.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise certain points.

The hon. President has drawn our attention towards the speciality of this year when we are celebrating the 60th anniversary, of our Independence. We are to observe the 150th anniversary of the first war of Indian Independence and the centenary of Satyagraha. This is also the year of the beginning of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

17.47 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

A Motion has been moved by a hon. Member from the Treasury Benches. Ultimately, this House would pass the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address but before doing so, our attempt would be to deliberate on the issues that were raised in the Address.

The fourth Budget of the UPA Government has been placed before us and one could witness the tremendous pressure under which the Finance Minister is. The current rainbow coalition in which crimson red looms large over all the other colours does not augur well for the nation.

The quarter century since 1980 has been a period of unprecedented opening and growth for India. The process has transformed the lives of millions of people in our country. The next 25 years will be the most exciting but also the most challenging. One gets a feeling that the "India Shining" slogan of 2004 is back in currency today in new words like "Resurgent India", "India Rising", "India Poised", etc. These expressive phrases are intended to make the people bask in the belief that India is well on the way to becoming a global super power.

The latest Report of Goldman Sachs on the growth potential of the Indian economy has provided another opportunity for a new spate of self-approbation. Goldman Sachs 2006 Report has given India a more optimistic progression chart, in comparison to its 2003 Report, predicting that its economy will grow fast enough to become the second largest in the world by 2050, next only to China's.

But sharing the top two slots in the world economy along with China is not a new experience for India because in the 18th Century, India and China together had accounted for half of the world GDP. But that was lost for variety of reasons and slipped down to a share of 10 per cent of the world GDP by the middle of the 20th Century.

After two centuries of being down, we will naturally feel exultant at the prospects of growing to be the Number Two in the world economy in a short span of four and a half decades.

But are we aware about the warnings — the political risk, rise in protectionism, lack of labour reforms, business climate and environmental degradation, which could frustrate the prospects of growth?

The most disturbing quote, I read in *The Economist* recently, which states:

"Somebody can own a mobile phone, yet has to waste hours queuing for drinking water."

How incongruous it is! Is there any attempt to change the situation? The benefits of growth have, so far, been confined to the top and upper middle class sections, leaving the lower middle classes and the poor practically untouched.

The GDP growth by itself may not mean development for all sections of the population. There is a wide gap; it is getting wider; and millions of poor people continue to languish without having the basic necessities of life like food, drinking water, clothing and shelter.

Apart from the growing disparities between the affluent and the poor, certain other serious problems vital for transition to the level of a developed nation are persisting in India. Unless effective solutions are found for them, hopes may end up as hype.

One is the danger of political instability, and the other is lack of will for comprehensive reforms in the country's educational system.

The last time we saw a single party Government was in the year 1989. Coalition Governments are not necessarily weak or unstable, but the texture of Coalition Government has its impact. When the Governments are formed through post-election alliances without having presented to the electorate a common manifesto for its endorsement, such coalition Governments will naturally lack the credibility of a mandate to bring about reforms. And, that is the problem, which this country is facing today. The problems get aggravated when a coalition of even a large number of parties needs the support of another half a dozen parties from outside in order to survive in power. This does not augur well for political stability. What to speak of rapid growth?

We have the potentials to outstrip the most advanced economies of the world but we have to educate our children and our young people. We need radical changes in the educational system. But sadly, I would say, the Government is only tinkering with the system in the name of reforms.

In this season for heady predictions about India's economic prospects in various timeframes, the mention of unfinished tasks would make many people think of the remaining agenda of reforms.

In simple terms, Sir, while both China and India are poor developing countries by accepted criteria, China has

[Shri B. Mahtab]

made far greater strides in elimination of poverty compared to India. Poverty is no longer a visible feature in China the way it continues to be in our country. And, in the imagination of the wide world, China has virtually ceased to be a poor country. The pathos of the Indian story is that 220 to 230 million of our people, that is 22 per cent of the total population, are poor according to the latest findings of the National Sample Survey.

That makes India home to the world's largest proportion of the poor, even if the percentage of people living below the poverty line reduced from 36 per cent in 1993-94 to 22 per cent in 2004-05.

There are other dismal statistics about poverty in this fourth largest economy of the world. One is, India ranks 126th out of 177 in the World Human Development Index. The rate of child malnutrition is double that of Sub-Saharan Africa.

With such factual and visible evidence reinforcing existing bias, the defining element of our economy would remain identified with our poor millions, much as you would like to be otherwise. The painful paradox of such poverty in the midst of consistently high rates of economic growth over the last few years and the sustained development effort pursued through economic planning since 1950 is the measure of the pathos in the Indian story.

What is more disquieting is that there is no dearth of recognition in political rhetoric or official thinking of the need for elimination of poverty as the primary objective but what has been done and accomplished has fallen so tragically short of proclaimed intentions.

Garibi Hatao of 1971 apart, the Planning Commission itself had said about elimination of abject poverty in its Approach Paper to the Fifth Plan. Thirty-four years since that urgent call was made, it is interesting to see the way in which this Government is dealing with poverty.

Dr. Amartya Sen is being very often quoted. I would like to quote him. I would like to give certain instances which he said. He is the friend, philosopher and guide of the informal Kolkata Group. Dr. Sen is one of the rare economists who does not ask how the economy is doing. He would rather ask how the poor are faring and the children and women are taken care of. Small wonders that he is not overtly impressed by the nine-plus growth rate of the economy. He does not care whether India will

catch up with China or whether India will become a developed nation in a couple of decades. This is not just because he knows, as an economist, how shady such predictions are.

Let us not minimize the progress the country has achieved in various fields. But let us not be over-influenced by events such as Tatas acquiring Corus and Laxmi Mittal buying Arcelor to emerge as the world's largest steel producer.

My worry is whether the nation has been meeting the nutritional and educational needs of our children. Our foreign exchange reserves are overflowing. The income of the Government has increased. We do not hear any more about resource crunch. But what is lacking is "the visionary use of public money".

Investment in infrastructure is necessary but investing in human resource is a must for growth. I do not believe that economic development itself will take care of all the needs of the country like education and public health. India produces 30,000 doctors a year but has not been able to achieve higher rates of child survival than any of our neighbours with the exception of Pakistan. Infant and child mortality rates are significantly lower in Bangladesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you concluding today? Or, will you continue tomorrow?

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Yes, I will continue tomorrow.

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18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up 'Zero Hour' mentions.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I am drawing the attention of the Government to a very important matter. Today, thousands of youths and women of Hind Mazdoor Sabha, a central trade union having membership of 58 lakhs, are holding *adharma* at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi and demonstrating, demanding the inclusion of right to work as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution of India and immediate enactment of the Bill providing for 33 per cent reservation to women.

They have submitted a memorandum consisting of 16 points—a charter of demands—including these two, which is addressed to the hon. Prime Minister of India

for his immediate consideration. I hope, the Government will immediately consider the gravity of the demands and will take immediate necessary action in respect of these issues.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): On the 20th of February 2007, 15 students and three teachers who were on an excursion to Thattekkat Bird Sanctuary in Ernakulam district were drowned and killed when the boat they were travelling capsized mid-stream.

The students and teachers belonged to Elayoor, St. Antony's upper primary school near Ankamaly which comes under our Mukundapuram Lok Sabha Constituency. While 15 children lost their lives, one family lost their twin daughters. The entire Kerala state is still mourning this tragedy.

In a boat which can only carry 8 passengers more than 40 were accommodated. This boat had no license, and was unsuitable for ferrying passengers. Consequently it capsized and led to the death of 15 innocent children and 3 lady teachers.

This points to the urgent necessity of formulating and implementing a comprehensive law which can ensure that the safety measures of all means of water transport is maintained.

To prevent accidents that occur in tourist centers, all unrecognized boat services should be banned. The boats that are not suitable for ferrying passengers and those that do not adhere to safety norms should not be given licenses.

I would suggest, that all the State Governments should be given immediate directions by the Centre to enforce safety pre-conditions for all excursions organized by schools.

Educational Rules in all States should contain provisions in which the steps to be followed by schools undertaking excursions are spelt out in detail.

Government of Kerala is now thinking of strengthening the existing provisions of the education laws in the State, and thereby ensure that school excursions can be safe.

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

The Center also needs to take steps whereby inland water navigation especially in tourist centers are free from risk. There should be provisions in our law to strictly punish those who violate such safety norms.

In the event of accidents the school concerned and the Government should own up the responsibility and pay adequate compensation. Over crowding of school buses should be immediately stopped. The practice of crowding school children into auto-rickshaws, cars and jeeps should be banned.

Another practice, that of converting old buses into school buses, which is a violation of the Motor Vehicle's Act, should be banned. I request once again that the Center and State take immediate steps to protect the lives of children and allay the fears in the minds of parents across the country.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): I would like to associate myself with this issue.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue in brief with your permission. Three kinds of refugees migrated to the State of Jammu and Kashmir during partition. A large part of our area is in the possession of Pakistan which is known as Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. A large number of people had migrated from there. The settlement of their land, property has not been done till today. They are in deep distress and the people who had come from West Pakistan do not have right to vote in the assembly elections, they can not get houses under IAY and do not even have the facility to send their children to schools. They do not have jobs, houses, property or facility to send their children to schools. Is this justice? In 1971 War, 37,000 Canal land of Chhamb and Rajouri became a part of Pakistan, some issues were settled in Shimla agreement as to how these people would be settled, how much of land would be provided to each of them, jobs, business and free education to their children would be provided, Nothing has been done so far.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your demand, and conclude. This is only a 'Zero Hour' mention, and not the time to make a speech.



CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Sir, this is not a speech. I am trying to mention the problem. I am not here to make a speech.

*[Translation]*

I am not interested in making a speech.

*[English]*

I am presenting the problem of that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise the points and conclude.

*...(Interruptions)*

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): Do not give a long speech. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, I will conclude soon if you please listen to me.

*[English]*

This is not a long speech.

*[Translation]*

I request the Government to do justice with these people facing these three problems. They comprises a large part of the population. This matter pertains to Government of India and J&K. The Government of our party is in power both at Center and J & K. Kindly solve this problem.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (KANAKAPURA): Sir, I would like to associate with the matter raised by Chaudhary Lal Singh.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, the spine-chilling revelation of the Nithari killings in Noida (Uttar Pradesh) has set alarm bells ringing in every State where thousands of children are reported missing every year.

The National Human Rights Commission, in 2004, had said that Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh account for the maximum number of missing children and child trafficking, which may be the reason for this. Rarely any investigation of the incidents take place as information about the missing children is simply noted at the police stations and no case is registered. No investigation and follow-up action to rescue the children will take place unless the complaint is registered. There is a need to have this law in place.

Will the Government take urgent steps in this regard? Why is it that the Central Monitoring Commission—which is supposed to monitor crime against children under the Juvenile Justice Act—has not met even once since the Act was amended in 2000?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I am putting my question. Does every police station have a juvenile police unit? Can you expect any action, if you do not review implementation?

*[Translation]*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards a very important issue. Last month hailstorm struck the entire country leading to heavy loss of crops especially in Haryana. Wheat, mustard and vegetable crops have been badly damaged and farmers have suffered a great loss. However, neither the Central Government and the State Governments have taken notice of this destruction nor any compensation has been announced. We discuss the plight of farmers in every budget but remain silent when they actually face the crisis.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the Central Government and State Governments that hailstorm has ruined the farmers completely. Therefore, Government should provide a compensation of at least Rs. 20 thousand per acre to farmers otherwise the number of incidents of suicides committed by farmers will continue to rise. If we cannot address their problems in time, there is no use of holding lengthy discussions later.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. Incidents of terrorism are on the rise in the country. An incident has

been reported from Lucknow where two terrorists who are Pakistani nationals were arrested under POTA. One of them was awarded capital punishment and they were being escorted to Lucknow Court. On the pretext of going to toilet they brought a gun. They escaped from police custody brandishing the gun. One of them was Sayeed *alias* Nisar Ahemad and other was Maksood *alias* Ashjak. Both of them were Pakistani nationals. One of them was awarded capital punishment by the Court in August, 2004. Even then they were being escorted in an ordinary and casual manner and merely accompanied by a Sub-Inspector and two constables. People who witnessed the incident in the court are of the opinion that generally these two terrorists were not provided with the kind of police custody unusually given to hard core criminals. Hence they managed to escape despite police custody. I would like the Government to investigate the matter seriously as to how they escaped from Police custody and what action has been taken in this regard.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent Sinhdwar Alwar of Rajasthan which fulfils all the requirements for the establishment of IIT by the Central Government. However, due to political discrimination neither are medical nor an engineering college has been opened in Alwar even after 60 years of independence despite it being the largest district of Eastern Rajasthan. Despite being the leading district in agriculture, animal husbandry and dairy sector in Rajasthan, no agriculture, veterinary and dairy college has been established there. Alwar is not fortunate even to have university. The State Government of BJP wants to establish the proposed ITI in the constituency being represented by an MP from BJP. Plenty of land is available in Alwar for setting up of the proposed IIT. A large number of industrial units are there in Bhiwari, Neemrana, Behroad and MIA Alwar. Air stretch is also available and it takes hardly an hour to reach Palam and Indira Gandhi airport from Alwar.

Sir, through you, on behalf of myself and people of Alwar, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to establish the IIT in the district which falls under national capital territory.

*[English]*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, there is a lot of deficit in oil and natural gas sectors in the offshore regions, like South West Coast, especially near Cochin which is known as Cochin High. In Cochin High, exploration is continuing. We have information that a full-

fledged well is going to be dug by ONGC by the end of next year, but the operations are going on at a very slow pace. In the Budget, there is a statement about energy sector and exploration of our offshore for petroleum as well as natural gas. I would urge that the Government should take it up very seriously with the Cochin High and this operation should be expedited. I would honestly submit that the results will depend upon the speed & which the Government takes up this matter

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, people of the country are distressed due to price rise. Besides hailstorm has also compounded the problem. Prices of flour, pulses and rice are sky rocketing. People are not getting supply of kerosene and gas. They are getting supply after one or two months booking. It is not being made on time.

The rise in prices of petrol and diesel has lead to increase in prices of vegetables. Even wood used for cremation has become dearer. Now-a-days people have to pay taxes on individual income, saving and even death is not spared. Earn, save and then die. People of the country are distressed due to price rise and hailstorm. The hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present in the House. I request him to hold a special discussion on price rise and hailstorm. The things which are not easily available should be made available. The Central Government should keep a check on the soaring prices of commodities. People have shown their resentment at two places. Now the same is going to happen in UP and other States also. The Government should be alert in this regard. Nature has played havoc in the form of hailstorm. Kindly control the price rise. I hope the Government would seriously think over it and a discussion will be held on price rise and hailstorm.

*[English]*

Dr. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister of Human Resource Development the issue of non-observance of rules of reservation in National Institutes of Technology (NITs). As you are aware, the NITs were converted from Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. All major States were having these RECs under the Central and State Government schemes. After they were converted into NITs, these institutions are not observing the rules of reservation in recruitments and promotions. These rules were observed when they were RECs and the people

[Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam]

from SCs, STs. and OBCs were recruited as Professors, lecturers and Assistant Professors.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That issue is still pending before the Supreme Court and the Government is pursuing it very vigorously.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: I would request the Government to include reservation policy while preparing the guidelines for the promotion and direct recruitment of lecturers in NITs. They are not scientific institutes like BARC or NEERI. They are engaged in secondary and higher education and are under MHRD. Hence, I would request the Government to consider this and allow the policy of reservation in promotion and recruitment of SCs, STs and OBCs in NITs.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to remove LPG shortage in Rajasthan. Consumers are facing scarcity of LPG supply for domestic use as large number of social functions especially marriages are being performed in Rajasthan for the past several months. People in various cities have to wait in long queues but fail to get LPG cylinder even after long wait. Instead of 7 days, consumer have to wait for 10-15 days and the consumers having only one cylinder wait for 3-4 days to get the fresh cylinder. Due to large number of festivals and auspicious days of marriages during the last two-three months, people are facing many problems. They are facing difficulties in registration for new cylinders and are not getting the cylinders for months even after registration. Gas agencies have expressed their helplessness as the supply is short of the demand. Therefore, I request the Government to issue an order to remove the shortage of LPG in the rural and urban areas of Rajasthan so that consumers could easily get the gas. The number of dealers should also be increased as per the need and autogas pumps should be established to check the commercial misuse of the gas.

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, I wish to draw the urgent attention of the Government to the

vicissitudes being faced by the fishermen of Kanyakumari district. In 58 villages and hamlets, along the 64 km. stretch of shores of the tri-seas in Kanyakumari, from Kanyakumari to Thoothoor, their livelihood depended on fishing and sea produces. Fishing and the related trade contribute considerably for the economic development of Southern States. Appreciable foreign exchange is also earned through fishing operations.

But it is pitiable to mention that the fishermen venturing into the sea are exposed to risks, very recurring incidents are steeply increasing. Fishermen trapped in such calamities are swept away to unidentifiable locations in the deep sea. They often face death by drowning, as woefully reported. It is to be mentioned that during the last one month, such incidents have taken place in villages in Ramanthurai, Periyavilai, Maramadi and Kodimunai of my constituency. Hearing the news, usually local people set out in country boats for search operations. But the risk lies more in availing of the assistance of the official rescue machinery from Tuticorin, Vizhigam and Cochin which are far away from the Kanyakumari shores. It often happens that some such fishermen die by drowning before the rescuers start their operations.

On 22nd of last month, two fishermen, Shri Amalraj and Shri Justin Raj from Kodimunai went for fishing and were missing since then. After much persuasion, the district administration could avail the service of the rescue team only after two days. Unfortunately, only one is rescued and the other drowned and died.

Under such circumstances, I would like to request the Government to set up a Coast Guard Centre at Kanyakumari. When a helipad facility is already available, that Centre should be equipped with Helicopter, search vessels and divers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.23 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 02, 2007/Phalguna 11, 1928 (Saka).*

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha  
(Eleventh Edition) and printed by Ms. Dhanraj Associates Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

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