

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 28, 2006/Agrahayana 7, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 81, Shri Subodh Mohite.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I had moved an adjournment motion. In Uttar Pradesh beyond the facts ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the Question Hour. I will not allow anything else other than the Questions.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record any word.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here? What can I do if the ruling Party itself does not want the House to run? I do not understand this. It is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. Please sit down

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. All of you please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot hear anything. What is happening here?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you go to your seat?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please go back and take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is unthinkable that you are disturbing this House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down Please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. If you want to raise any issue then do it after 12 pm.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing them, and nothing is being recorded. I have not allowed them. You please sit down, sit down.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, will this House go on or not? Please tell me about this. Please sit down. What is happening here?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I appeal to you to sit down. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ramgopal Ji, You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will you sit down or not?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is his name?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Something has to be done about it because enough is enough. Give me his name. Will you please sit down or not? This is not the UP Assembly. I am amazed by the manner in which you are behaving. All the senior Members are also behaving in this manner. If there were problems elsewhere, you go and sort them out. The Parliament of India is behaving in this manner! The whole country is watching us, and you are making comments about others. First of all look into yourselves. I will give each one of you one CD of today's performance.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You also sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will do this. Somebody has to go out of the House one day or other. Enough is enough. But I am not going to preside over the liquidation of this House. Everybody should look into himself also. You must also see.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. You are talking too much today.

(Interruptions)..."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. I will not allow anything to be recorded except my statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): With regard to the Mumbai matter, the House will tomorrow

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, you are crossing the limits.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.06 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, Q.No. 81

Amendment of Laws for Textile Sector

+
*81. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

*Not recorded.

(a) whether the textile sector in the country has not been able to compete internationally in the absence of flexible laws as reported in the *Hindustan* dated October 3, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the existing laws particularly labour laws concerning textile sector with a view to making them flexible;

(c) if so, the details thereof including other steps being taken to make textile sector internationally competitive;

(d) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) set up to study various aspects relating to export of textiles has given their recommendations in this regard; and

(e) if so, the status of their implementation?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. India's textile exports have increased from US\$ 14.03 billion in 2004-05 to US\$ 17.08 billion in 2005-06, recording a growth of 21.8%. As per latest available DGCI&S data India's textile exports have amounted to US\$ 6.1 billion during the period April-July, 2006 recording a growth of 16.08% in comparison to the corresponding period of previous year. According to Industry Vision (a Study by CRISIL in 2004, on behalf of Indian Cotton Mills Federation), the Indian textile industry has a potential to double the country's share of the global textiles and clothing market by 2010.

(b) to (e) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to look into the factors for the growth of textile exports. The GOM is considering various proposals for strengthening the competitiveness of Indian textile industry by critically examining factors of production like raw-material, transaction, labour, power, and machinery and other input costs. The GOM has not finalized its recommendations in the matter.

However, the Government has been taking continuous measures to enhance the competitiveness of the Indian textile industry. Some of the important initiative; taken in this regard are as follows:

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). Incentives are provided for better farm practices, quality seeds, improvement in market infrastructure and modernization of ginning and pressing sector.
- (v) A new Scheme namely "Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks" has been formulated by merging "Scheme for Apparel Parks for Exports" and "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" in order to expand the production base of textile and garment sector. The Scheme envisages to create 25 Textile Parks of international standard at potential growth centres of India by 2007-08.
- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has, been given an option of excise exemption.
- (vii) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (ix) For the speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, w.e.f 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

- (x) The National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (xi) Facilities like eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get garments/textiles pre-tested so that they conform to the requirements of the importing countries.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the reply given by hon'ble Minister and the data furnished by him, 14.03 million tonnes of textile had been exported during the year 2004-05,

[English]

the exports were of the order of US \$ 17.08 billion, and in 2005-06, it was of the order of US\$ 17.08 billion, and there is a growth of 21.8 per cent. I have downloaded this page from the website of the Ministry of Commerce. There is no problem about the growth.

[Translation]

There is growth in all the sectors.

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask your question.

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am just coming to the question.

[Translation]

My question is that when there is growth in all the sectors,

[English]

there is no question about growth.

[Translation]

When there is growth in all sectors, then normally there should be growth in this stream also? My question is that when there is an overall growth of 28 per cent, then the growth you have mentioned about in textile,

[English]

It is 21.8 percent. Why is the growth rate lagging when compared with other sectors?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is your questions, whereas you are asking the question regarding law.

[English]

Look at your question, which is about flexible laws.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Sir, this is not true. Our export rate is very good. If you take figures of America and European countries during the period from January till now, we see that Indian Export is eleven per cent. Mexico, which was leading at one time, is at 10 percent now, China at 6 percent, total import of America has been 2.5 percent and our growth has been 11 percent. It is a good thing. Our growth in respect of European countries is 24 per cent which means that there is a boom in the textile industry export and there has been good export in the entire industry and according to the homework done by us after WTO, the exports reached our desired level.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, my question is as to why this sector is lagging behind in comparison to other sectors? My question is very simple that when there is an overall growth of 28 percent, then why is it that in textile sector it is only 21 percent

[English]

What are the reasons for it?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Every industry has got its own figures and

[English]

I am only concerned about my Ministry.

[Translation]

I have no problem with this.

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask the supplementary question.

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am speaking analytically by way of these figures.

MR. SPEAKER: He is also giving analytical answers. Please put a pointed question instead of speaking analytically.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, my second question is regarding cotton export. He has not said anything in this regard in his reply. As per the figures of the year 2002-2003 the export share of cotton is 10.7 per cent of average growth whereas our total average growth is 25 percent. My question is that when we talk of farmers, cotton and cotton growth ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to say that the question is totally different.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Your saying no would not make any difference. You please put your question.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I would like to know as to why cotton export has gone down?

[English]

What are the reasons? What measures have been taken by Government? It is a very specific question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The main question relates to amending of laws for textile sector.

[Translation]

But you have digressed from the point.

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member is from Maharashtra. Exports has

registered a considerable increase. For the first time we have exported more than 25 lakh bales to China. Our import is decreasing. Our production is 250 lakh bales. Today, CCI are also doing commercial operations. MSP is being given. India has set the record for cotton export. The quantity of export is unprecedented which has not taken place even in the last eight years.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sugrib Singh— Not present.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the details given by hon'ble Minister with regard to textile export, it is clear that measures have been taken to increase the budget and an overall programme has been made. But this has adversely affected the small-scale industries.

These industries are totally on the verge of closure. I want to know whether both the Minister will joint hands to simplify the rules to the small sick industries which are on the verge of closure and include them among the industries doing export business? The prices of cotton have risen very high. Will they do something for the poor people also so that the small industries of the country can also partake in the modern race?

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Sir, hon. member is making mention about withdrawing SENVAT from small industries. I would like to submit that withdrawal of SENVAT was being demanded and UPA Government in its first Budget, after forming the Government withdrew SENVAT which resulted in immediate growth in all the industries involved in export production.

If he has handloom in his mind, then it is a good scheme for the poor also. We have increased budgetary provision for them every year. I don't have any information regarding receiving any complaints from small industries in respect of their demand of rebates. If my attention is drawn to any other pending problem then I will find a solution to that also.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker Sir it is my maiden question. I had been giving replies as a minister but as a Member it is my first question and is related to textiles. Why did we not make the best use of quota free regime since 1st January, 2005 under WTO multifibre agreement. Even today China's exports are of 80 billion dollar while the quota regime prevails there and it will end in 2008. In India quota regime ended on 1st January, 2005 but even today many industries are

unable to have the desired growth. The hon. Minister said that the growth is 25%, but during the past 6 months only 10% growth took place. We had decided that we would recast our labour laws and other things to compete with China, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Now many people are preferring to Bangladesh than India and setting up industries there. I want to ask the hon. Minister about the steps that Government are taking to compete with China.

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no question of any comparison regarding the production and system in China. China is dumping its mass production over the world. This question might be a maiden one but he himself had been in the Government previously. After the WTO, Ministry and industry did the required homework. We are moving ahead as per our target. I won't talk in terms of volume but percentage wise India has overtaken China. Growth rate in China is less than that of ours. We have six months figures. The point of 11% as stated by him is only half of that. It is 26 percent. We will be crossing figure of more than 26% soon.

Second is the issue of labour. For that we had arranged a meeting with the Minister of Labour, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Power and put up the demand of industries before them. The demands included labour clearance, industry and state Government. But till date no conclusion has been reached upon.

[English]

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the written reply of the hon. Minister that Government of India has been taking continuous measures to promote competitiveness of Indian textile industry. In this regard I would like to know the hon. Minister the details of exports and imports of textile for the last three years as per Indian records.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Sir I have given export figures previously. We used to import around 12 Lakh bales in accordance with long staple fibre. But it may be that the export of cotton has also reduced. Second is import parity but we are moving ahead according to our export targets. We will reach our target of 2010 before time.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any specific Special Economic Zone has been established to promote export-oriented manufacture of garments; if so, where; and if not, whether there is a scheme to promote such Special Economic Zones especially to manufacture export-oriented textile garments.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a different issue.

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Sir, this question related to Ministry of Commerce. We have made an integrated textile park out of both the schemes, TCIDS and Apparel Park wherein we used to give a subsidy of Rs. 17 crores and Rs. 20 crores. Now we give a subsidy of Rs. 40 crore or 40% which ever is less. We have sanctioned the fund to a chief our target of establishing 25 parks. We have allocated budget also for 12 parks. In future we will have other pressures also. If need be we will go even to Planning Commission or cabinet for development of these 25 parks. But integrated textiles park scheme is performing well wherein we give Rs. 40 crore or 40% whichever is less. We have gained good profits in Maharashtra particularly in the power loom sector.

Export Development Centres

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

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified Export Development Centres to further encourage exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide them financial assistance;

(d) if so, whether some advisory system has been conceptualised to promote mutual relationship between banks and small entrepreneurs to facilitate exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) The Ministry has not identified any Export Development Centers. However, under the Foreign Trade Policy, Government recognizes certain towns in specific geographical locations, which are producing goods of value Rs. 1000 Cr or more in general, and Rs. 250 Cr. or more for Handloom, Handicraft, Agriculture and Fisheries sectors as Towns of Export Excellence. The benefits for Towns of excellence are: (i) Common Service Providers in these towns are entitled for EPCG scheme, (ii) Recognized association of units in these towns can access the funds under the Market Access Initiative Scheme for creating focused technological services and (iii) Towns of export excellence receive priority for assistance under ASIDE Scheme for rectifying identified critical infrastructure gaps.

MR. SPEAKER: In future, you may lay down your reply.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Minister has replied to my question. I have seen that there is great potentiality for export in next ten years. But records (1995-96) show that peasant participation in agricultural sector has reduced much. Thorough you, I would like to ask the Mr. Minister that export of farmers produce is very meagre. It is unfortunate that NDA Government has, after 1996, taken destructive steps for farmers which resulted in reduction in export of farmers produces UPA Government, after coming to power, has worked for export sector. I want to ask the hon. Minister about the reaction of Government to various schemes relating to labourers engaged in production of export goods in the country? Secondly we can export diamonds and jewellery from the country ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question and what supplementary you are asking?

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: I said that diamonds can be exported and what our Government proposes to do to promote it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will the whole policy of export be stated in the Question Hour?

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, hon. Member has rightly said that there is great potentiality for export of agricultural produce. Keeping that in view, last year special agro produce scheme was launched. It intended to support those agricultural produce which are not quite popular in foreign trade. Besides, last year, Focus products and Market scheme were formulated for the countries with which we are not trading and for those thing which are not being exported on a large scale.

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Sir, through you, I would like to know that at present production of cotton has increased. So what the Government propose to do to export this agro product? If the import of cotton is banned and efforts are made to export it then the farmers will be benefited. The hon. Minister in his reply has said that the Minister has not as yet recognized any agricultural export development centre while it has been said at page 33 of commerce reports 2005-2006 that it is the Government's job to develop basic amenities like construction of roads to link production centres to ports, establishment of international containers depots and container stations. But for that I want to know about the Government's policy regarding agricultural exports?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, so far as cotton is concerned we have been discussing the matter with the Ministry of Agriculture and the production of cotton has substantially increased this year. If there is a need to increase or reduce import duty or give some facility for exports, then for that, Ministry of Agriculture will suggest and accordingly we will decide it together.

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether any towns have been identified as Towns of Export Excellence in the State of Orissa. If so, the details thereof. If no, whether the Government has received any proposals in this regard from the Government of Orissa?

MR. SPEAKER: Thanks for a pertinent question.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There are 12 Towns of Export Excellence which have been announced. There is none which has been announced in Orissa. However, if hon. Member or the State Government would like to pursue within the criteria and within the contours of the scheme, the Central Government would be happy to look at it.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Through you, Sir, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that Export Development Centre should traditionally focus on those areas and on those products where we have not been able to achieve much success. I belong to an area that is famous for its handicrafts and its handlooms and yet on a small scale and through private initiatives we are able to export. A sort of Government assistance and Government support are what we would be looking for and which have not been forthcoming. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he would consider the Export Development Centre for Srinagar, particularly focused on handicrafts and the handloom sector.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The Market Access Initiatives and ASIDE Scheme are meant for assistance to States. It is a fact that the region which the hon. Member comes from has the vast potential. If such a proposal or scheme comes under the Market Access Initiatives and the ASIDE Scheme, we would be very happy to consider the same. I would request, through you, the hon. Member to send me a proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: I join the hon. Member in this regard.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Thank you, Sir. The State of Kerala is very important for the export of some of the agricultural produce—tea, coffee, spices, marine products and some other important produce also. Hence, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, have the Government selected any of the towns, namely, Cochin, in Kerala? Cochin is an important destination for export in our country itself. Have the Government identified the town of Cochin as a Town of Export Excellence? Have any assistance been extended to the Town of Cochin for the development of export?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, in all, Kerala has got the maximum. I would like to inform the hon. Member that out of the 12 towns of export excellence, four are in Kerala. So, that should satisfy the hon. Member. They are (1) Kanoor, (2) AEKK, that is, Aroor, Ezhupunna, Kodanthuruthu and Kuthiathodu, (3) Alleppey and (4) Kollam, that is, Quilon. One is for the handloom products, another is for the sea foods, another is for coir products and the fourth is for the cashew products. So, this is really covering a very large range. All these towns of Export Excellence are being given priority in the ASIDE Scheme and in the Market Access Initiative Scheme, including EPIC Scheme. But if there is any specific instance in any of these areas, where they would like

the Government to focus on, we will do; I will be happy, if the hon. Member send me the details.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how many Export Development Centres are there in West Bengal. I would like the Government to include the town of Chengrabandha in the district of Cooch Behar. There is a very old customs station and the transit route is between Bhutan and Bangladesh. Geographical location of the town is suitable for export facilities of agriculture commodities. I urge upon the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to include the town of Chengrabandha for sanctioning one Export Development Centre.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The Towns of Export Excellence have certain parameters. Having export potential does not necessarily mean that it should be a Town of Export Excellence. However, in West Bengal no town has been announced as a Town of Export Excellence. This is based on certain criteria; no town yet meets them. But if, in any particular area, assistance is needed either under the Market Access Initiative Scheme or under the ASIDE Scheme, when such proposals come, they will be looked at.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to put a supplementary. I wrote a letter to the hon'ble Minister pointing out that out of all the Agricultural Export Zones accorded recognition through SPEDA, not even a single zone has come into being. In reply to that Hon'ble Minister has stated that he is looking into the matter and will definitely take some effective action in this regard. I felt that no bid is coming for BOT as it is not profitable and it entails losses. Today in agriculture sector import is on the rise and export is on the decline. A slew of multinational companies are engaged in making their foray into our country many of which are going to engage themselves in the retail sector. This will result in import and more import of flowers, fruits and vegetables causing more loss to the farmers. Therefore, I would like to know the steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government for the promotion of Agriculture Export Zones. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister may advance the theory that agriculture falls under the state-list but it has much to do with the Central Government as well. In view of this, will the Government of India shall evince interest in it? Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the

amount provided in the Tenth Five Year Plan together with the expenditure incurred and the steps being undertaken by the Government to implement Agriculture Export Zones under 11th Five Year Plan so as benefit both agriculture sector and the farmers?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to submit that the apprehension expressed by the hon'ble Member to the effect that the farmers will suffer huge loss in case of increase in import of fruit and vegetables is unfounded. As of now, we do not propose to effect reduction in import duty. Sincere efforts are being made by the Government to ensure the preservation of as much as 40 per cent of the perishable goods like fruit and vegetables by facilitating the farmers with logistic cold chain and warehousing so that this 40% of fruit and vegetables are preserved. It is a huge quantum. It is nowhere else in the world but in India only where as much as 40 per cent of fruit and vegetables gets rotten. In so far as Agriculture Export Zones are concerned it is true and it is being re-assessed by us as the profit estimated has not been along the expected lines. It is not that the requisite facilities cannot be provided under BOT. The hon'ble Member himself said that it is not profitable. It incurs losses. So we are making a re-look into the whole state-of-affairs so as to make it successful.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several Members made a mention of towns of excellence in response to which it has been stated that an ordinary service provider will be provided facilities under EPCG Scheme. I would like to know a very simple thing from the hon'ble Minister regarding the salient features of EPCG and SSIEB Schemes.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the issue of ASIDE scheme is concerned, it is implemented by the States and involves other similar schemes like opening of show-rooms and undertaking market activities. As far as ASIDE scheme is concerned this facility is given to the States and every possible assistance is provided for putting in place varied sorts of infra-structure for the projects, for the capital outlay of various schemes, for agro-business zones apart from extending other facilities. I will send the hon'ble member all the requisite rules. Like wise, there is a Market Act Initiative (MAI) Scheme under which the other kind of assistance is given for showroom and for conducting market surveys. I will supply the hon'ble Member the Rules of both these schemes.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, out of 12 Towns of Excellence declared, two are in my constituency, that is Aror and Alleppey. Apart from their being declared Towns of Excellence, nothing has happened there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether those declared Towns of Excellence are entitled to the benefits of the institutions of Special Economic Zones.

MR. SPEAKER: You would like to know as to whether they would be treated same as SEZ. I believe, the answer is "No".

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Under ASIDE scheme, if there is any specific infrastructure facility which adds or incremental to the SEZ, we would encourage it; if it is the necessity in trying to provide externally, outside SEZ and nothing to do with SEZ, the ASIDE scheme will not be used in SEZ. If there is anything to provide connectivity or something of the kind which is not there inside the SEZ, ASIDE scheme can look into this but this depends on the specific proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 83.

Shri Ranen Barman—Not present.

[Translation]

Impact of WTO Agreement

*84. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that proper awareness about World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime and the agreements made thereunder amongst the traders would facilitate the country's trade;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up information centres/consultation centres to increase the awareness about WTO regime keeping in view the interests of Indian traders;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the impact of WTO agreements on Indian industry especially pharmaceutical industry; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to safeguard interest of Indian industry?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Statement

(b) and (c) With a view to improving the awareness about the rights and obligations arising from the WTO agreements and to evolve the position of India in the negotiations under the Doha Work Programme, the Government has been holding periodic consultations with the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Central Government, Governments of States and Union Territories, industry associations, export promotion councils, farmers groups, civil societies, consumer organizations, research institutions, and other stakeholders. The Government has instituted Expert Groups consisting of persons of eminence in the respective area for providing advice and guidance, and research studies have been commissioned to examine the implications for stakeholders. Periodically, seminars, workshops and symposia are held with interested parties with the cooperation of the WTO Secretariat, the UNCTAD, ESCAP and other multilateral bodies, universities, and industry associations. The Department of Commerce website has a separate webpage on "India and WTO", which explains the provisions of the agreements and updates the stakeholders on the status of the negotiations. Enquiry points required by specific agreements, such as on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, have been established. In the light of the above, the Government does not feel the need to set up separate information/consultation centres with regard to dissemination of information on WTO issues.

(d) Since the establishment of the WTO, India's trade, including the pharmaceutical products, has been growing continuously, both in the merchandise goods category as well as commercial services. The total merchandise goods exports of India have increased from US\$ 26.33 billion in 1994-95 to US\$ 102.7 billion in 2005-06 (provisional), whereas total merchandise imports (excluding petroleum products) grew from US\$ 22.72 billion to US\$ 105.1 billion (provisional) during the same period. The export of pharmaceutical products has increased from over US\$ 854.51 million in 1999-2000 to US\$ 2444.06 million in 2005-06. Similarly, India's total commercial services trade increased from US\$ 14.06 billion in 1994 to US\$ 80.58 billion in 2004.

(e) India has been engaged in the WTO negotiations to ensure that its core concerns and interests continue to be adequately addressed at each stage of the negotiations. As required by the exigencies of the ongoing negotiations, India has been submitting proposals in the various negotiating bodies of the WTO with a view to pursuing its national interests and to protect the interests of the farmers, industry, service providers and trading entities. Our negotiating objectives have been developed based on analytical work and an intensive process of dialogue with the stakeholders. India has been pursuing its national interests by forging coalitions of developing countries on various negotiating issues such as G-20 on Agriculture, G-33 on Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism under Agriculture negotiations, NAMA-11 in respect of Non-Agricultural Market Access negotiations, 'Friends of Mode 4' in services and 'Friends of Geographical indications' in trade-related intellectual property rights. India has also been playing an active role in strengthening various developing country coalitions by bringing together G-20, G-33 and G-90 groups of countries in a broad alliance to reinforce each others' positions on issues of mutual interest. On the domestic front, the Government is continuously monitoring the surge in import of sensitive items and it is committed to intervene in a WTO compatible manner to protect the interests of all domestic stakeholders.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is common knowledge that we can not afford to keep ourselves aloof from the impact of liberalization and globalisation in this era. In today's world spatial distance has quite been removed and the trade too has assumed global dimensions. We have been subjected to the observance of Rules after appending signature on the WTO charter. We are left with no viable option but to comply with the Rules as per the decision being taken over there. As has been stated by the Government it is making serious endeavours to protect the interest of the country. There is a deep-rooted feeling among the countrymen that the East India Company constituted its base in the country on the pretext of trade and commerce and with the passage of time subjected the entire country to the shackles of slavery. They ruled for over 200 years. After the lapse of 59 years of independence we have signed the WTO charter. India is a developing country. It's undeveloped one and we do not have adequate resources to compete with the developed countries. The developed countries have their own interests to nurture.

Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to ask the Minister, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of India particularly in the agriculture-sector. I do not wish to repeat the discussions held right now on the issue of textile.

MR. SPEAKER: Your turban has instilled confidence in you.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the way by which the Union Government intend to safeguard the indigenous entity. Do the Government of India propose to fight for the cause on its own or intend to form a pressure group in tandem with the undeveloped countries of Asia and Africa to assert one's position forcefully.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already asked two supplementary questions.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the voice of India is quite forceful. We have formed G-20, G-33 coalition and groups and we are putting forward our views having arrived at a consensus with them. As has been informed in the House, the Doha round discussions on WTO set to be held post July has been postponed as they are not acceptable to India. There are so many other things. It is true that we aim not only at the exemptions in trade in the post globalisation era but also at the delivery of justice. This is our aim. With this motive only we put forward the concerns of India in all fora.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister has just stated in his reply that workshops and seminars have been organized, large groups have been formed or has held frequent discussion on the impact arising out of WTO regime in the other fora. Nearly 75 per cent population of the country lives in villages.

As of now ordinary farmers or labourers are not aware of the impact arising out of it. We have been severely confined to the urban areas on these counts. Have we taken pains to undertake a review of the actual state-of affairs even after the lapse of 10-12 years since we appended. Signature on the WTO documents, as a result of which so many tiny and small scale industries have been dismantled. On the whole one has to face numerous impediments on production front. Would the Government like to make a review of the likely repercussions arising out of the policies espoused on the pretext of physical estate or patent and apprise the common people of the same.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to seek support from the hon'ble Members in this regard to keep that common people informed of the same. Over the period of 10 years in the past the spurt in exports has led to the progress of the country and the growth rate of 8.5 percent is being recorded. It will not be proper to generalize the entire spectrum and remark that there has been huge loss. It is true there has been certain difficulties. However, apart from this, we have also derived benefits of globalization and industrialization. A concrete conclusion can be arrived at only after making a through comparative account of the whole gamut of affairs. An extensive study has been conducted. Overall, this has proved to be advantageous. Not only in the Urban areas but also in the rural areas, we have witnessed increase in the purchasing power. We are treading on the right path. As far as the issue of security is concerned, a host of initiatives are being undertaken in the United Nations Organisation on this front.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In view of the continuing stalemate in the negotiations of the Doha Round and the uncompromising attitude of both the EU and the USA in respect of subsidiary regime being continued in their countries, may I know from the hon. Minister whether some purposeful alternative is being sought to be worked out by the groupings of major partners in the trade including APEC discussions and some regional discussions that have recently taken place?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: As far as APEC meeting which was recently held is concerned, India is not a member of the APEC. But in their declaration, they have asked for resumption of talks. Of course, we have very categorically stated that in this round structural flaws in global trade must not be perpetuated but the flaws must be corrected. This includes tariff peaks, tariff escalation, issues in services and the issues in the rules.

There is still an impasse in this. We do hope that the developed countries will recognize that while completion of the Round is important, the content of the Round, this being a development Round, is equally important.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: There are reports that the Government is contemplating to provide data exclusivity to those patent applicants, the Multinational Companies, so that the data they submit about clinical trials should

be their own property and it should be exclusively used by them. I would like to know whether the Government intends to bring an amendment to the relevant Act or not.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, after fulfilling our obligations in the TRIPS, there was a residual aspect of data exclusivity. This is being looked at. There is no such Bill which has as yet been drafted. Nothing has been done. Discussions have been held. The question today is that this is not merely a demand of the Multinational Pharmaceutical Sector. Our own pharmaceutical sector that is doing research, themselves want some kind of protection. If you are to look at the future, then we are not going to remain merely an intellectual property right user, we will become an intellectual property right creator. So, we are looking at all these aspects. We are in discussions with various bodies, various institutions to see what is the appropriate thing. But there is no such Bill as yet which has been drafted. We are examining what should be done in this regard.

[Translation]

Children out of School

*85. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the children of the age group 6-13 years, who either do not go to school or got dropped out from school during the last three years;

(b) whether the findings in the survey conducted by IMRB-SRI of school going children on these issues as reported in *The Times of India* dated September 08, 2006 have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, whether the findings of IMRB-SRI are in consonance with the details available with the Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government policy has not been able to enhance the enrolment of children in school in the age group of 6 to 14 years and to reduce the drop out rate; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective action proposed in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) An independent survey commissioned by the Government of India and conducted by SRI-IMRB reported an estimated 1.34 crore children in the age group 6-14 years to be out of school in July-August 2005.

States and UTs conduct their own assessment of number of out-of-school children through household surveys and updation of local records every year, on the basis of which, on 31st March, 2006 the number of out-of-school children was reported to be 70.56 lakhs.

A statement showing State-wise breakup of never enrolled and dropout children who are out-of-school as per the SRI-IMRB National Survey, 2005 and updated figures provided by States/UTs as on 31 March 2006, are given at Annexure.

The annual Government of India budget allocation for SSA has been enhanced to Rs. 11000 crores in 2006-07 and within that a closer targeting of districts with the most out of school children has been ensured.

Statement showing State-wise breakup of Never Enrolled and Dropout Children as per survey, 2005 and as reported by the States/UTs on 31 March 2006

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Number of dropout Children (6-14 years) as per the national survey 2005	Number of never enrolled children (6-14 years) as per the national survey 2005	Number of out of school children (6-14 years) as per the survey (col. 3+4)	Number of out of school children (6-14 years) as per State/UT reports as on 31.3.2006
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	41	124	165	302
2.	Andhra Pradesh	338535	204130	542,665	359829

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	590	22447	23,036	38079
4.	Assam	278834	257385	536,220	375820
5.	Bihar	553354	2623270	3,176,624	2315362
6.	Chandigarh	648	2438	3,086	0
7.	Chattisgarh	129300	125437	254,736	168435
8.	Daman and Diu	6086	48	6,134	147
9.	Delhi	52411	32013	84,424	85402
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
11.	Goa	0	1155	1,155	0
12.	Gujarat	194796	185648	380,444	288850
13.	Haryana	78661	95379	174,040	185823
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	4942	4,942	4967
15.	Jharkhand	192760	428184	620,945	366498
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	4777	0	4,777	112396
17.	Karnataka	59215	60302	119,517	160513
18.	Kerala	23242	0	23,242	18398
19.	Lakshadweep	829	275	1,104	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	178858	908238	1,085,096	472242
21.	Maharashtra	214109	315187	529,295	151083
22.	Manipur	25768	41750	67,515	69005
23.	Meghalaya	3070	19081	22,132	109636
24.	Mizoram	139	1419	1,558	4305
25.	Nagaland	19218	13188	32,406	43854
26.	Orissa	168061	164553	332,615	603261
27.	Pondicherry	0	583	583	1724
28.	Punjab	9601	99153	108,754	79994
29.	Rajasthan	220274	574815	795,089	134173
30.	Sikkim	846	2957	3,803	6300
31.	Tamil Nadu	57369	136049	193,418	108227

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Tripura	1739	3383	5,121	17305
33.	Uttar Pradesh	785088	2210120	2,995,208	104087
34.	Uttaranchal	74491	42189	116,680	5612
35.	West Bengal	600037	613167	1,213,205	664448
	All India	4272744	9186989	13,459,734	7056077

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, some of the families are not even able to manage two square meal a day. Whereas 6 to 14 yrs. of children are supposed to studying in the school, there are families in which children the group of 10 to 12 get engaged in taking care of their families. I would like to know the statistics thereof. What steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the educational level of such children? Has the Union Government any school in place to encourage these children to receive education?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Children in the age group of 6-14 yrs number around 19.4 crore. As per IMRB-SRI survey the children beyond the precincts of school number around 1-34 crore which accounts for nearly 6.94 percent of the entire population of children in this age group. Quite recently, the results of the survey conducted in the states and the Union Territories in the month of March have come up which show that around 70 lakh children stay away from schools. You are aware that a number of measures are being undertaken to the children continue in schools. There is provision of Mid-day meal in schools. Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas have been opened for imparting education especially to girls that don't attend schools. Even provision of food and lodging has been made in the educationally backward and poverty stricken areas where poor children don't attend schools. Apart from this, several other a host initiatives are being undertaken and arrangements made to encourage the school children attend schools by conducting bridge courses. In this way, a slew of measures are being taken so that attendance of children in schools could be ensured.

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Sir, are the data of elementary and Junior high schools of the entire country available with the Government. In particular, I would like to know the number of children from Primary to Junior High School in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Moreover, I would like to know the teacher student ratio and the steps proposed to be taken by the Govt. to fill the vacant posts of teacher.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker Sir, nearly 69 percent of the total drop out children hails from the five states—out which Bihar accounts for the maximum number. Figure-wise, Bihar accounts to 31.74 lakh, Uttar Pradesh 29.95 lakh, West Bengal covers 12.13 lakh, Madhya Pradesh 10.85 lakh and Rajasthan it is 7.95 lakh, We are taking special initiatives for it. Among these five States the number of drop out children is the maximum. Here we have also allocated more S.S.A. Funds and are taking particular care of it.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, Universal education for children upto the age of 14 years is a constitutional obligation commitment and direction which we have failed to achieve so far. We have extended the time six times in every ten years to fulfil this commitment. We have to achieve this target as this finds a place in the Directive Principles of State Policy. In the answer, the hon. Minister has stated that 1.34 crore children are still out of school and as many as 12 States and UTs have children out of school and their figure is above the national average of 3.59 per cent and, out of this, more than 50 per cent children are girls due to lack of toilet facilities in schools.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the Government's policy and as to when does the

Government intend to achieve this constitutional obligation and direction. What specific attention is the Government giving for those 12 States which are lagging behind the national average? What steps are taken for education of girl children as their number is more and they are out of school? What exact steps has the Government taken so far to achieve this constitutional obligation and when will this commitment be fulfilled?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: As I have stated earlier out of five such States, as many as 69.1 per cent students are out of school. We have made allocations of maximum outlays for it this year. Bihar accounts for Rs. 2414 crore outlay this year. Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal account for Rs. 1869 crore, Rs. 1253 crore, Rs. 3679 crore, and Rs. 1469 crore respectively. It accounts for nearly 51 per cent of the total national budget.

In so far as girls are concerned, books are provided to the students of class one to eight free of cost. Provision of Mid-day meal has been made for all the students of class one to five. This apart, we have already taken the initiatives to make toilets in all the schools. There is a big achievement in it but more achievement is needed. Moreover, we intend to make girls-friendly schools. We have already issued directions to ensure the appointment of at least fifty per cent female teachers. It is a big achievement. However, it is required to achieve more and more. All these are initiatives that we have undertaken to make the schools girl friendly in order that girls may attend schools in big numbers. Apart from this, we want to propagate it among the people living in villages as well. The members of our schools should also take pains to ensure the attendance of girls in our schools. There are a lot of social-barriers that hinder girls from attending schools. All of us need to work in a co-operative spirit.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Orissa and North-Eastern States are among those 12 States. What specific steps have you taken as regards these States? You have not answered this point.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir given the progress in Orissa, the number of Children out of school is minimal. We are taking initiatives on that count also But at the same time

the State should also take initiative at its level A lot of things are lying pending with the States. They ought to expedite it.

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL: Mr Speaker Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important issue. For instance, if we look at the case of drop-outs at primary school level, children in the age group of 6 to 13 years has increased number of drop-outs. I don't wish to level allegation on any Government. However on humanitarian ground I wish to raise this is

Secondly, I want to drive home the point if Children are not imparted education from class one to five, how come. We will have doctors, engineers and good citizens. Hon'ble Minister, I am not aware of the data available with the Minister. However, since I hail from a village, I can putforth my views relating to Punjab and there is every probability of almost the same state-of-affairs in the rest of the states as well that the drop-out rates have gone up as much as 80-90 per cent. Thus ever increasing drop-out rates shall cause colossal damage to the nation. As it appears to me, children in the age-bracket of 6 to 13 years of age enrolled in the Government schools are awfully devoid of the basic tenets of education. If I am asked to comment in case of Punjab, I can say that education system has throughly collapsed in the state. To revive it. I would like to assert that teachers student ratio is 1.50 to date. I fail to understand how a single teacher shall be able to cover 40-50 children or 100 children whether it is syllabus of class five students. In such states where there is lack of sufficient financial resources teachers are not recruited and the number of drop-outs is sky-high. In such situation. I would like to know the steps proposed to be taken for them?

Alongside, the second issue is the syllabus of children for age-grup of 6-13 years read in Government schools. The syllabus of the Board concerned is different from those studying the CBSE syllabus. Is the Government prepared for the equalise their syllabus with those being followed by the CBSE schools. I have just these two issues to raise.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the issue of school drop-out children is concerned, their number is declining in the country. I have figures of class I to class V, it had been 39.03% in the year 2001-02 which has decreased to 31.36% in the year 2003-04. The reduction is about 7.67%. The percentage of drop

outs is declining which was higher earlier. We have identified 48 districts where the number of drop outs is more than any other place in the country and we have focussed on the point that the children should be brought to the schools by providing them more facilities. Seventy four per cent children study in the government schools and as far as CBSE and State Boards are concerned, it depends on the State Boards how they would like to function.

[English]

They are all independent. They can take their own decisions.

[Translation]

As far as pupil-teacher ratio is concerned and as you have also said that there is one teacher for 40 students, I feel that there is one teacher for 40 students, it is a bright. And the other suggestion is that this number should be reduced. We would consider it as the times come.

As hon. Member has raised the question about the requirements of the teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, I would like to tell that we fulfil the requirements of the teacher of all the States immediately as soon as we receive. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded. Hon. Minister, please do not reply to that question.

*(Interruptions)... **

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh, you wait for your turn. I will give you a chance. If you want to put a question, then please let me know.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has set up EGS Centres in which children completed class III. The Government of India plan to extend it upto class IV into primary schools. The children have completed class III, but the schools have no further class room. As the Minister is saying that the number of drop outs is declining, but this way, the number

*Not recorded.

of drop-outs will soar. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what is being done by the Government to start class IV for the children in waiting under Education Guarantee Scheme? The Minister has said in the reply to the questions that the number of drop outs is declining but this number is going to soar up, so what do the Government propose to do in this regard?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the children studying under Education Guarantee Scheme would be shifted to nearby schools. If the State Governments wish, these can be converted into government schools. This has to be done by the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. I would not permit all these things.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is not possible. I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1950, when constitution was framed, the Government should have thought about the education of 6-14 years old children. Now, the Minister is saying that the figures of drop outs are declining, but it is still not satisfactory. Do we send our children to school in the age of 6 year. No, Today, after 56 years, the whole concept of education has changed that the child would be admitted in the age of 4+ and school education would be completed by 16. Then, middle level was prevalent i.e., there used to be class VIII, but today, all the States, have accepted it at secondary level. So, the Government have to change their mindset and change it into 4+ to 16 years for school children. Then only problem of drop out can be solved. If children leave the school halfway, it will neither shape their lives, nor would it provide them livelihood. That is why, many people lose their way. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to when the Government plan to make school education from 4+ to 16 years?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India conduct a programme for pre-schoolers under ICDS. Children in the age group of 6 to

*Not recorded.

14 years and class I to class VIII have been identified for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. A programme for pre-schools under ICDS is being implemented for small children.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Government of India that His Excellency President have conferred honour on the State of Uttar Pradesh deeming it number one state of the country under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The State of Uttar Pradesh requires 1,50,000 teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, but the teachers are recruited with the permission of Government of India as a formality. A representation was sent to the Government of India by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for recruitment of 50,000 teachers three months back, but the Government are avoiding its permission by one way or the other. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much time the Government would take to decide on the representation submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh?

AN HON. MEMBER: After the month of May.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not connect education with election.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not say anything about any State, but would certainly say that more than 19 lacs children in Uttar Pradesh are out of school. The State Government should do something so that children attend school.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have provided for setting up of 27,381 new schools. Besides 93,781 additional class rooms, and about 2 lacs 9,626 posts have been created. You appoint these teachers at once before the elections.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: That has been done
...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Loan for Agro and Rural Industries

*83. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial support being provided for setting up agro and rural industries at present;

(b) whether Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the people in rural areas in obtaining loans for setting up agro and rural industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme with a view to getting disbursement of loans to the loanees from the nearest nationalised banks without much procedural hassle; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries provides funds for its two credit-linked subsidy schemes of employment generation, namely, (i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (EGP) by assisting entrepreneurs in setting up village industries, in rural areas and small towns, with population upto 20,000 and (ii) Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for creating employment opportunities for the educated unemployed youth in the rural as well as urban areas (approximately fifty per cent of the PMRY units established are estimated to be in rural areas). Subsidy admissible to the beneficiaries of both these schemes is released through banks in combination with the loans provided by these banks. The PMRY is implemented by the States while the REGP is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Khadi and Village Industries Boards of States/Union Territories.

The number of projects approved, employment generated, bank loans provided and Margin Money Released under REGP during the X Plan beginning 2002-03 are given below:

Year	Number of projects under REGP		Employment under REGP	
	Target	Achievement	Target (lakh persons)	Achievement (Persons in lakh Numbers)
2002-03	⊙	21024	4.00	3.61
2003-04	⊙	24747	5.00	4.71
2004-05	26248	23453	5.25	5.30
2005-06	28923	26650	5.50	5.68

⊙ Targets were not fixed.

Year	Bank loan provided under REGP (Rs. crore)	Margin Money Released (Rs. crore)
2002-03	484.28	193.72
2003-04	664.36	265.75
2004-05	731.00	292.40
2005-06	730.18	320.96

Details of budget allocation and funds released under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the Tenth Five Year Plan are given below:

Year	Budget Allocation (including Provision for NER)	Amount (Rs. Crore)		
		Funds Released (including funds released to NE States)		
		Subsidy	Entrepreneurial Development Programme	Total
2002-03	169.00	152.55	15.55	168.10
2003-04	169.00	147.63	20.20	167.83
2004-05	218.90	190.48	27.69	218.17
2005-06	273.46	251.36	21.11	272.47

(b) and (c) As per Reserve Bank of India's instructions to banks, collateral security is not required to be furnished by eligible entrepreneurs for securing loan of upto Rs. 5 lakh, including village industries (VI) under

the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP). Further, the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries (CGTSI), set up by Government and Small Industries Development Bank of India, has advised its

member lending institutions to cover loans of upto Rs. 25 lakh extended to VI units under REGP under the credit guarantee scheme so that small entrepreneurs, including village artisans, do not face problems relating to collateral security. However, it has come to the notice of the Government that entrepreneurs have been facing difficulty in obtaining loans from banks for setting up REGP/PMRY units for project cost of even upto Rs. 5 lakh. The matter has been brought to the notice of RBI/KVIC/Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) of the State/Union Territories and taken up in the meetings of the District Level Coordination Committees, District Task Force, State Level Coordination Committees, etc., to sort them out.

(d) As per the existing REGP/PMRY scheme, there is no bar on the beneficiaries in approaching the nearest branch of any bank involved in the implementation of these schemes. However, the processing of the application/disbursement of loan is done by the nodal/financing branch designated by the banks in the area. There is no proposal to introduce any new scheme in replacement of the existing schemes.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Industrially Backward States

*86. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate any scheme to develop those States which have been shown as industrially backward States in the Fifth Economic Census Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the recommendations made in the report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The All India Report on the provisional results of the 5th Economic Census released on June 12, 2006 has neither categorised any State/Union Territory as industrially backward nor made any recommendation for the development of industrially backward States. The Report only provides state-wise data on the number and growth of enterprises and persons employed, selected characteristics of the enterprises, the percentage of agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises in the total enterprises, percentage of hired workers and adult female workers in the total workforce and the average annual growth in enterprises & employment in 2005, as compared to 1998.

[English]

Education under SSA

*87. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has met with considerable success quantitatively but not qualitatively according to the study conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the success rate on this count in the upper primary level is not satisfactory in several districts of the country;

(d) if so the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide quality education under SSA?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) 'Shiksha Sangam', published by Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in August 2006, is an academic document aimed at promoting inter state sharing of good practices and does not contain an evaluative assessment of the success rate of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, qualitatively or quantitatively. Good practices from 13 States under the headings of quality improvement initiatives, educating girls, alternative schooling, educating children with disability, distance education, and school management have been presented in the document. The entire document is available at www.sristi.org/rjmc/shiksha/index.htm.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 6.66 lakh teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training to teachers annually for a period of 20 days, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to about 5.78 crore Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe children and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6746 Block Resource Centers and 70388 Cluster Resource Centers and regular evaluation of students.

Setting up of Special Economic Zones

*88. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details on the existing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and SEZs likely to be set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether proposals for establishing of SEZs have been approved and notified;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that fertile lands are being acquired to set up SEZs in different parts of the country;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the existing guidelines for SEZs so that no fertile land is used by SEZs;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which displacement of farmers is likely to take place due to setting up of SEZs including the compensation likely to be offered to the displaced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Prior to enactment of the SEZ Act and SEZ Rules in February 2006, 17 SEZs were existing in the country. Under the SEZ Act, 237 SEZs have been approved out of which 44 have been notified. A statement giving details of the above is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) to (g) The total land area in 237 formal approvals granted till date is 34,510 hectares for which the land already available with the State Governments or SIDCs or with private companies has been utilized. Land being a State subject, acquisition policy including compensation and rehabilitation of the displaced persons comes under their purview. However, the States have been advised that while acquiring land for SEZs, if perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ.

Statement

Setting up of Special Economic Zones

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of SEZs existing as on 10.02.2006	No. of SEZs approved	No. of SEZs Notified under SEZ Act, 2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01	45	08
2.	Delhi		01	—
3.	Maharashtra	01	48	02
4.	Goa		04	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh		—	—

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Jharkhand		01	01
7.	Orissa		05	—
8.	Punjab		04	01
9.	Madhya Pradesh	01	04	02
10.	Rajasthan	02	03	—
11.	Tamilnadu	05	25	08
12.	West Bengal	03	07	01
13.	Assam		—	—
14.	Chattisgarh		—	—
15.	Karnataka		29	10
16.	Kerala	01	10	03
17.	Gujarat	02	18	04
18.	Haryana		19	01
19.	Uttar Pradesh	01	08	02
20.	Chandigarh		02	01
21.	Pondicherry		01	—
22.	Uttaranchal		03	—
Total		17	237	44

[Translation]

Reforms in Police Force

*89. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the commissions/committees set up by the Government to study the requisite reforms in the existing police set up of the country and to frame national policy to strengthen policing system in the country including the recommendations made;

(b) whether the Soli Sorabjee Committee on police reforms has given its recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to usher in major reforms in the police set up as reported in *The Times of India* dated September 21 and 24, 2006;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether a meeting of Chief Secretaries and DGPs of States was held recently;

(g) if so, the details of discussions held;

(h) whether the Government has conducted any study for setting up of Special Security Zones (SSZs); and

(i) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (g) In order to facilitate reforms in police administration, the Central Government has set up a number of Commissions/Committees such as the National Police Commission, the Padmanabahaiah Committee and the Ribeiro Committee to make recommendations on police reforms.

Also in Civil writ petition No. 310 of 1996 in the matter of Prakash Singh & others Vs. Union of India & others, the Supreme Court of India has issued directions on 22nd September 2006 to the Union Government and the States/Union Territories inter-alia with regard to the setting up of Security Commissions, selection methodology and minimum tenure of DGP and other key police functionaries, separation of investigation wing from law and order wing initially in towns/urban areas having population of ten lakhs or more, and setting up of Police Complaints Authorities at the State and District levels.

The Committee of Experts led by Shri Soli Sorabjee has submitted to Government a draft Model Police Act.

The Union Government is considering introduction of a Bill to cover Police administration in the Union Territories to replace the earlier enactment. Since Police is a State subject, individual State Governments are at the liberty to adopt the central legislation, as it is, or to modify and adopt it, or to pass any other kind law, as per the provisions of the constitution and also keeping in view, the judgment of the Supreme Court given in these respect.

An interaction was held by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries/Director Generals of Police of States/Union Territories on 14.11.2006 primarily to review the progress made in the States/Union Territories on police reforms. Further, the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations were advised to note the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court for appropriate consideration and necessary action.

(h) No sir.

(i) Does not arise.

Tax Exemptions to SEZs

*90. SHRI KIREN RIJUJ:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Tax Exemptions granted to the Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) whether the Government is likely to suffer a sizeable revenue loss in next five years as a result of exemptions granted to the existing SEZs as reported by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP);

(c) if so, the details thereof including other suggestions made in the report by NIPFP; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Statement of tax exemptions available to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Developer and SEZ Unit are laid on the Table of the House.

(b) NIPFP has not published any study on the impact of Special Economic Zones.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

Tax Exemptions Available to SEZ Developers and Units as per Special Economic Zone Act, 2005

SEZ Developers

- Exemption from customs/excise duties for development of SEZs for authorized operations approved by the BOA.
- Income Tax exemption on export income for a block of 10 years in 15 years under Section 80-1 AB of the Income Tax Act.
- Exemption from minimum alternate tax under Section 115 JB of the Income Tax Act.
- Exemption from dividend distribution tax under Section 115 O of the Income Tax Act.
- Exemption from Central Sales Tax (CST).
- Exemption from Service Tax (Section 7, 26 and Second Schedule of the SEZ Act).

SEZ Units

- Duty free import/domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance of SEZ units

- 100% Income Tax exemption on export income for SEZ units under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for first 5 years, 50% for next 5 years thereafter and 50% of the ploughed back export profit for next 5 years.
- Exemption from minimum alternate tax under section 115 JB of the Income Tax Act.
- External commercial borrowing by SEZ units upto US \$ 500 million in a year without any maturity restriction through recognized banking channels.
- Exemption from Central Sales Tax.
- Exemption from Service Tax.

[English]

Foreign Universities

*91. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers (GoM) has concluded its study on the opening of foreign universities in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has laid down any guidelines to see that the interest of Indian students does not suffer at these foreign varsities;

(d) whether the reservation policy would be applicable to these institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Community Polytechnics

*92. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOUECE DEVELOPMENT pleased to state:

(a) the details with regard to the performance of Community Polytechnic scheme functioning in the country including the achievements made by these polytechnics during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the school drop-outs have been gainfully employed under this scheme in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to promote such Institutions for the school drop-outs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The details with regard to the performance of Scheme of Community Polytechnics functioning in the country including the achievements made by these polytechnics during each of the last three years, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement. The number of trainees under the *Scheme of Community Polytechnics* who have secured self/wage employment is shown in the table given in the Statement. The non formal short duration skill development programmes offered by Community Polytechnics under this Scheme are availed of by all sections of society including school drop outs. Separate data on the number of school drop-outs availing training and securing employment is not maintained. The Scheme of Community Polytechnics is not implemented in any of the polytechnics exclusively for serving school drop-outs. However, the skill development programmes under the Community Polytechnics scheme are offered free of cost and are targeted at all disadvantaged sections of the society including school drop-outs.

Statement

Achievements under the Scheme of Community Polytechnics

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Community Polytechnics functioning	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
			Persons Trained under non- formal skill development programmes	No. of Trainees who have got self/wage employment	Persons Trained under non- formal skill development programmes	No. of Trainees who have got self/wage employment	Persons Trained under non- formal skill development programmes	No. of Trainees who have got self/wage employment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Chandigarh	02-	1067	120	1339	100	1332	730
2.	NCT of Delhi	14	6528	1587	5543	1549	5993	1483

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Haryana	18	6572	1609	7858	2198	8247	2315
4.	Himachal Pradesh	06	2188	661	1944	812	2425	831
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	6871	2027	8934	4232	6000	992
6.	Punjab	27	14591	4655	14810	4514	14841	4408
7.	Rajasthan	21	7939	1587	10620	1216	10286	1241
8.	Uttar Pradesh	72	34299	7703	41477	8371	41512	7518
9.	Uttaranchal	16	5921	877	8042	1223	8117	1206
10.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01	285	103	119	180	206	110
11.	Bihar	13	6167	3334	4893	2169	5763	2744
12.	Jharkhand	12	5775	2814	6420	2905	5535	2672
13.	Orissa	14	3742	1867	4006	3299	3852	5719
14.	West Bengal	38	14741	6632	15281	14095	15918	7733
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	111	63	127	133	153	75
16.	Assam	9	3199	1479	3342	1852	3834	1909
17.	Manipur	03	895	429	332	328	358	175
18.	Meghalaya	01	669	300	327	287	368	173
19.	Mizoram	02	476	630	796	426	655	305
20.	Nagaland	02	194	114	452	160	223	121
21.	Sikkim	00	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Tripura	01	197	134	356	305	338	179
23.	Goa	05	2276	543	2893	535	2980	760
24.	Gujarat	24	8565	2403	10173	29	13293	3197
25.	Madhya Pradesh	43	13240	2720	14088	3193	18044	3615
26.	Maharashtra	63	29334	8793	28213	8935	35173	11669
27.	Chhattisgarh	10	4741	1042	5278	1277	5142	1171
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	00	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Daman and Diu	00	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Andhra Pradesh	65	32894	14929	37840	20436	38299	18622
31.	Karnataka	75	47745	20238	43107	20568	31171	14262
32.	Kerala	39	20253	12981	23682	14142	21688	14288
33.	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	61	49138	24246	45960	25007	45663	25344
34.	Lakshwadeep	00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		669	330593	126620	348252	144476	347409	135567

Source: National Institutes of Technical Teacher's Training & Research at Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai & Kolkata.

Promotion of Coir/Traditional Industries

*93. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government for the development of the coir industry;
- (b) the details of research undertaken for the production methods to improve quality of products;
- (c) the steps taken to explore national/international market for coir products; and
- (d) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to encourage regeneration of traditional industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Coir Board, a statutory organisation set up under the Coir Industry Act, 1953, has been implementing various developmental projects aimed at modernisation, research and development, technology up-gradation, market promotion, skill development, infrastructure up-gradation, etc., for development of the coir industry.

(b) Research work undertaken for improving quality of products and production methods, inter alia, include development of Coirret, Pithplus, Anugraha Loom, Anupam Loom, Coir Polymer Composite Boards, Cocolawn and pollution free pre-spinning process of coir fibres.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to popularise the use of coir and coir products in the country and abroad, inter alia, include:

- (i) publicity through the print and electronic media in the country and abroad;
- (ii) placing of hoardings and banners featuring coir products at vantage points in different cities of the country; and
- (iii) participation by the Coir Board as well as producers/exporters in trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, seminars and conferences, etc., in the country and abroad.

(d) The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries launched the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) in October 2005 with a view to making the traditional industries more productive, competitive and facilitating their sustainable development. As per guidelines of the Scheme, Technical Agencies (TAs) having expertise in cluster development methodology have been identified for providing technical support to the Nodal Agencies and the implementing agencies (IAs) undertaking cluster development activities. 25 coir clusters covering 12 States/UT have been approved for development under SFURTI.

Activities of Terrorists

*94. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the activities of terrorists have increased in the recent past in various States;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents which took place during 2006, till date, State-wise;
- (c) the number of persons injured/killed in such incidents, State-wise;
- (d) the number of terrorists killed/arrested during the said period;
- (e) the details of compensation paid to victims of such incidents, State-wise;
- (f) the name of organisations and countries found involved in such incidents;
- (g) whether the Government has handed over evidence of their involvement to the country of their origin;
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of such countries thereto; and
- (i) the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) In comparison to that in the corresponding period in 2005, till October 31, 2006, there has been a significant decline

both in terms of incidents and casualties of civilians & security forces in Jammu & Kashmir. The overall security situation in the North-Eastern States has also shown signs of improvement. In the naxal affected States, while the number of incidents has shown a marginal decline, the civilian casualties have slightly increased.

(b) to (d) The details of the number of incidents, security forces, civilians and terrorists killed and terrorists arrested in Jammu & Kashmir, North-Eastern States and naxal affected States during the current year upto 31.10.2006 are as under:

Violence in Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States (upto 31.10.2006)

Head	J&K	Assam	Manipur	Nagaland	Tripura	Meghalaya	Arunachal Pradesh	Mizoram
Incidents	1442	334	418	254	71	36	12	05
Security Forces killed	131	25	27	02	14	00	00	00
Civilians killed	340	120	73	26	13	06	00	00
Terrorists/Extremists killed	516	36	166	101	18	20	04	00
Terrorists/Extremists arrested	348	253	730	48	41	48	16	01

Violence in Naxal affected States (upto 31.10.2006)

Head	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	A.P.	Bihar	Orissa	Maharashtra	IM.P.	U.P.	West Bengal
No. of incidents	627	239	163	89	36	79	6	09	17
Police Personnel killed	73	28	10	05	04	02	02	00	07
Civilians killed	292	71	33	34	04	33	02	04	06
Naxalites killed	52	18	108	04	12	12	0	04	0
Naxalites arrested	243	224	246	182	24	46	04	22	32

Besides, there have been a few major incidents of terrorist violence at Varanasi, Nagpur, Mumbai and Malegaon till 31.10.2006 during the current year and there were some major terrorist incidents at Ayodhya, Shramjeevi Express, Hyderabad, Delhi and Bangalore in 2005.

(e) The State Governments generally announce and pay compensation/ex-gratia amounts to the victims of terrorist violence. The Central Government also reimburses to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern States and naxal affected States towards the expenditure incurred by them for this purpose. Details of compensation/ex-gratia paid by various State Governments are not centrally maintained.

(f) Pak based ISI sponsored terrorist outfits like Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen,

Harkat Ul Mujahideen and Al Badr, and ULFA, NDFB and CPI (Maoist) are the main terrorist organizations behind the incidents. Cadres of Harkat-ul-Jehadi-e-Islami, Bangladesh have also come to notice for being involved in some of the recent terrorist incidents.

(g) and (h) The country's security concerns are conveyed to Pakistan and Bangladesh through the bilateral mechanisms established for this purpose. During the recently concluded India-Pakistan Foreign Secretary level talks on 14-15 November, 2006, the information and material on some terrorist acts was shared with Pakistan. The Pakistani side expressed its willingness to cooperate based on specific inputs provided by India on terrorist incidents. The Bangladesh Government continues to reaffirm its commitment not to allow activities in Bangladesh that are prejudicial to the interests of India.

(i) The Government pursues a multi dimensional approach to deal with terrorist activities and extends support to the States in neutralizing such terrorist activities. The Government has taken measures which include strengthening of border management to check infiltration, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, ensuring improved technology, weaponry and equipment of security forces both at the Centre and in the States, undertaking well coordinated intelligence based counter-terrorism operations. Besides, steps have also been taken to achieve bilateral and multilateral cooperation to address the global imperatives of terrorism.

[Translation]

Development of Children

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

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Government under the schemes meant for the development of children being implemented with the help of Anganwadi workers during the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the performance of the scheme meant for child development has been satisfactory as per the assessment of the Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for high percentage of children suffering from malnutrition and high infant mortality rate; and

(d) the effective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The details of funds released to the States/Union Territories in the current financial year [as on 24.11.2006] under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) ICDS Scheme was launched in 1975 in 33 Community Development Blocks. The Scheme was gradually expanded and today it covers 6118 blocks in the country including 4790 in rural areas, 805 in tribal areas and 523 in urban slums. The impact of the Scheme has been significant in improving the health and nutritional

status of the beneficiaries as brought out by various studies viz. National Evaluation on ICDS Scheme [National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)- 1992]; ICDS Survey, Evaluation and Research 1975-95 [Central Technical Committee on Integrated Mother and Child Development- 1996]; National Evaluation of ICDS Scheme [National Council of Applied Economic Research- 2000-01]; Quick evaluation of the ICDS Scheme (150 Projects) by NIPCCD in 2005-06.

As per the findings of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the prevalence of underweight among children declined from 53.4% in 1992-93 to 47% in 1998-99 in the Country. Similarly, as per Sample Registration System (SRS) data Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 110 in 1981 to 58 per thousand live birth in 2004.

(c) and (d) Malnutrition is an underlying cause of almost fifty percent death amongst children below 5 years. The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature which needs to be tackled through holistic coordinated interventions in areas of food security, health, sanitation and safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation. Government of India is implementing following major programmes through various Ministries/Departments which, directly or indirectly, impact nutritional status of children:

- (i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, (Ministry of Women and Child Development);
- (ii) Reproductive & Child Health Programme & National Rural Health Mission, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (iii) National Nutritional Anemia Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (iv) National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (v) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (vi) Targeted Public Distribution System, (Department of Food & Consumer Affairs);
- (vii) Poverty Alleviation Programme, (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (viii) A Pilot project in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls, (Ministry of Women and Child Development).

Statement

State-wise position of funds released under ICDS Scheme (General), W.B. assisted ICDS Projects, Udiasha and SNP during the year 2006-07 (upto 24.11.2006)

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	ICDS (G)	WB assisted Projects	Training Programme	Supplementary Nutrition	Kishori Shakti Yojana	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12274.67		439.23	5075.66	199.10	17988.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2094.62		37.83	379.84	31.90	2544.19
3.	Assam	4219.56		260.00	3711.54	107.80	8298.90
4.	Bihar	9373.04		375.00	11496.96	216.15	21461.15
5.	Goa	195.47		3.98	71.20	6.05	276.70
6.	Gujarat	5807.09		105.00	3013.92	124.30	9050.31
7.	Haryana	4936.37		51.76	2829.56	63.80	7881.49
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1385.83		23.00	629.63	39.60	2078.06
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3074.80		123.10	343.56	77.00	3618.48
10.	Karnataka	5854.83		108.00	4179.82	101.75	10244.40
11.	Kerala	3997.93		93.00	1475.03	89.65	5655.61
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8002.16		181.49	5770.97	184.80	14139.42
13.	Maharashtra	9470.16	26.24	295.00	7874.00	204.60	17870
14.	Manipur	1039.50		27.75	914.32	18.70	2000.27
15.	Meghalaya	508.07		18.50	343.59	18.70	888.86
16.	Mizoram	315.84		5.50	488.97	11.55	821.86
17.	Nagaland	697.97		12.66	531.27	29.70	1271.6
18.	Orissa	6220.23		130.00	6646.40	179.30	13175.93
19.	Punjab	5696.40		60.00	2104.57	78.10	7939.07
20.	Rajasthan	5968.24	18.00	86.84	5534.18	150.70	11757.96
21.	Sikkim	154.10		10.00	53.37	2.75	220.22
22.	Tamil Nadu	6650.24		263.00	3451.94	238.70	10603.88
23.	Tripura	753.79		33.11	707.69	23.10	1517.69
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18138.29	39.60	585.12	28869.29	455.95	48088.25
25.	West Bengal	8622.68		120.16	5916.07	196.9	14855.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Chhattisgarh	3,379.28		96.09	2953.64	83.60	6512.61
27.	Jharkhand	4016.64		85.00	2385.93	112.20	6599.77
28.	Uttaranchal	1479.00		41.00	397.32	54.45	1971.77
29.	Delhi	1322.53		24.00	694.29	15.40	2056.22
30.	Pondicherry	185.22			55.03	2.75	243.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	158.96		4.98	93.67	2.75	260.36
32.	Chandigarh	130.44		1.00	60.68	1.65	193.77
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	45.03		1.30	22.59	0.55	69.47
34.	Daman and Diu	56.78			13.74	1.10	71.62
35.	Lakshadweep	33.92			7.52	0.55	41.99
Total		136259.68	83.84	3702.40	109097.76	3125.65	252269.33

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

*96. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the recent incidents of children falling sick and dying by consuming food provided under the mid-day meal scheme;

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

(c) the details of the action taken for the irregularities in the mid-day meal scheme during the last three years and the current year till date;

(d) the effective measures taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents;

(e) whether the Government has issued new guidelines in respect of mid-day meal scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) Fifteen State Governments, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh,

Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and Tamil Nadu have informed that no incidents of death have occurred due to consumption of mid-day meal. However the following States have reported that children have taken ill due to consumption of mid-day meal:

Karnataka: 1242 children were taken ill in 34 schools. The cooks who were found to be negligent were removed and new cooks appointed.

Maharashtra: 208 children fell ill in four districts (temporary uneasiness and vomiting sensation). After enquiry, in Jalgaon district, an FIR was filed.

Rajasthan: 10 children were reported ill in Rajasmand; appropriate steps were taken to terminate the services of the cook and transfer the Head Master and Teachers concerned.

In Karauli district 61 children were affected. Disciplinary action has been initiated against the Block Development Officer, Additional Chief Executive Officer of Zila Parishad and School Head Master and Teacher.

Tamil Nadu: 77 children were taken ill in Muttavakkam Panchayat Union Primary School of Kancheepuram district. Forensic test revealed that the toor dal used for cooking contained fungus, the presence

of which rendered the food unfit for human consumption. The Nutrition Meal Organizer, Cook and Assistant were placed under suspension for negligence.

Information from remaining 13 States is being collected.

States have been advised to take following important measures to check recurrence of such incidents:

- (i) Construction of pucca Kitchen-cum-store so that mid-day meal is prepared in hygienic environment;
- (ii) Kitchen-cum-store to be kept clean and dry. There should be adequate light, proper ventilation and arrangement for drainage and waste disposal;
- (iii) Safe storage of fuel (kerosene/fuel wood/charcoal/LPG, etc.). Cooking staff/agency trained appropriately in safe handling of stove, gas cylinders, etc.
- (iv) Appropriate training to cooks, helpers and other functionaries about hygienic habits,
- (v) Foodgrains should be lifted from Food Corporation of India (FCI) depot after joint inspection by a team consisting of FCI and nominee of the State Government. Only Fair Average Quality of foodgrains should be accepted by the State agencies,
- (vi) Ingredients used for cooking, food grains, pulses, vegetables, cooking oil and condiments, should be free from adulteration and pest infestation, and should be used only after proper cleaning and washing;
- (vii) Ingredients should be stored in proper containers, which should protect them from moisture, pests, etc.
- (viii) Cooking and serving utensils should be properly cleaned and dried every day after use.
- (ix) Support of community members be solicited to ensure that children wash their hands with soap before eating, use clean plates and rinse their hands and mouth after eating.

(e) and (f) Revised Guidelines were issued to States in September, 2006. The main features of the Guidelines are as follows:

- (i) Provision of mid-day meal with nutritional norm of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein,
- (ii) In addition to free foodgrains and transport subsidy, assistance for cooking cost as per following:
 - (a) States in North-Eastern Region: @Rs. 1.80 per child per school day, provided the State Govt. contributes a minimum of 20 paise
 - (b) For Other States & UTs: @Rs. 1.50 per child per school day provided the State Govt./UT Admn. Contributes a minimum of 50 paise
- (iii) Assistance for construction of kitchen-cum-store up to a maximum of Rs. 60,000 per unit.
- (iv) Assistance for kitchen devices @Rs. 5,000 per school.

Contribution to NGOs

*97. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been found using foreign aid received by them in anti-national and terrorist activities; and

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, various Associations in India are permitted to receive foreign contribution from foreign sources for bona fide activities in cultural, economic, educational, social or religious fields. Registration or Prior Permission is granted to associations to receive foreign funds under the Act after due verification of the antecedents and activities of office bearers of Associations. Foreign Contribution is received through legal banking channels and is open to scrutiny and inspection.

If any complaint relating to violation of the provisions of the FC(R) Act, 1976 comes to the notice of the Government, appropriate action is taken under the provisions of the Act. Such action includes placing the Association in prior permission category or prohibiting it from receiving foreign contribution, or prosecuting it in a court of law, or freezing its bank accounts. For this purpose, there is a Monitoring Unit set up in the Foreigners' Division of M/o Home Affairs. So far, 37 Associations have been prohibited from receiving foreign contribution, 22 Associations have been placed in Prior Permission category, and accounts of 11 Associations have been frozen, and cases of 9 associations have been referred to CBI for investigation for contravention of various provisions of the Act. Besides, 8673 associations have been placed in prior permission category for non-submission of annual accounts continuously for 3 years.

**Reserved Items for Small Scale
Industries Sector**

*98. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government to reserve items for exclusive manufacture in SSI sector and the objectives of the Government for reserving these items;

(b) whether the non-SSI units are authorised to manufacture the items reserved to be manufactured by SSI sector;

(c) if so, whether there has been instances wherein non-SSI units have been found not fulfilling their obligations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Products are reserved for exclusive manufacture by small scale industries with the objective of their development and promotion by following the criteria laid down in sub-section (2C) of section 29B of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951, as given below:

- (i) the nature of any article or class of articles which may be produced economically by the ancillary, or small scale, industrial undertakings;
- (ii) the level of employment likely to be generated by the production of such article or class of articles by the ancillary, or small scale industrial undertakings;
- (iii) the possibility of encouraging and diffusing entrepreneurship in industry;
- (iv) the prevention of concentration of economic power to the common detriment; etc.

(b) A non SSI unit can undertake the manufacture of items reserved for exclusive manufacture by SSI sector in the following circumstances:

- (i) when a non-SSI undertaking existed prior to the date of reservation of the item being manufactured by it, after obtaining a Carry-on-Business (COB) licence;
- (ii) when a small scale industry graduates to a non-SSI undertaking, after obtaining a COB license to continue the production of a reserved item;
- (iii) where any non-SSI undertaking intends to manufacture an item reserved for SSI sector, after obtaining a Letter of Intent (LOI)/Industrial Licence (IL) with an obligation to export a minimum of 50% of the annual production;
- (iv) when a non-SSI unit is established in a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), etc.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General Foreign Trade (DGFT), which monitors the fulfilment of export obligation by these non-SSI LOI/IL holders has reported that no instance of non-fulfilment of such obligation has come to their notice. However, action has been initiated by the Development Commissioner (SSI) against three non-SSI units found to be violating the policy of reservation under the provisions of Section 24 of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

[English]

NMDC Mines

*99. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines leased to National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC);

(b) whether some of these mines are due for renewal and the proposal for the lease of fresh mines applied by NMDC is pending with the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to clear such mining lease/renewal of applications?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) As per information made available by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) as on 31.3.2005, M/s National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) holds 14 mining leases for different minerals in different States.

(b) to (d) As per the provisions of Section 8 of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, the powers for renewal of mining leases are vested in the State Government in respect of all minerals except the "Hydro Carbon Energy Minerals" and "Atomic Minerals" listed in the First Schedule to the said Act, No proposal for renewal of mining lease in favour of M/s NMDC is pending with the Central Government. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has sent a proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease for iron ore over an area of 413.745 hect. in Bailadila Reserve Forest, Tahsil Dantewara, District South Bastar Dantewara in favour of M/s NMDC. The said proposal has been received by Ministry of Mines on 21.11.2006 and a decision on the proposal will be taken in the light of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules framed thereunder.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in higher Education

*100. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to permit 100 percent FDI in education sector as reported in *The Times of India* dated September 08, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the current status of the proposal;

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

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up joint venture in higher education sector;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to keep a check on the fees charged by such foreign institutions and the quality of education; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no separate sectoral policy notified for the education sector. By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, FDI is already allowed on automatic route in the Education Sector.

(d) to (f) A proposal for the regulation of entry and operation, maintenance of quality and prevention of commercialization of education by Foreign Educational Institutions in Higher Education is currently under consideration of the Government. Subject to finalisation of policy in this regard, an appropriate legislation would be introduced in Parliament at the earliest.

[English]

Modifications in PMRY

*101. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received suggestions from various State Governments particularly West Bengal facing difficulties in the implementation of the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY);

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

(c) the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government of India, in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries requested States/UTs to offer their suggestions for modification in the parameters of PMRY for better implementation of the scheme. The suggestions received from the State are placed in the enclosed statement. The Government of West Bengal is operating another employment generation scheme known as the Bangla Swanirbhar Karma Sansthan Prakaipa (BSKP) under which the income eligibility criterion is Rs. 1,80,000/- per annum and the subsidy component is twenty per

cent of the project cost. Motivators are engaged for sponsoring of cases, at the rate of Rs. 100/- per case sponsored, Rs. 400/- per case sanctioned and one percent of the total loan recovery in a year is also paid to the motivators. Hence, the BSKP scheme attracts more beneficiaries than the PMRY in its present form.

(c) Government of India is finalizing a Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises which will also help in strengthening the PMRY.

Statement

Suggestions from States/UTs on Implementation of PMRY Scheme

1. Changes in definition:

Govt. of Tamil Nadu has suggested that underemployed youth in lesser prospective jobs may also be covered by modifying the eligibility criteria so that underemployed youth whose family income is less than Rs. 300/- per day (Rs. 9,000/-) per month are also covered under PMRY.

2. Modifications suggested by States in the parameters:

Sl No.		Enhancement in family income ceiling	Eligible Age limit	Project cost	Educational Qualification	Subsidy ceiling	Collateral security	Enhancement in contingency funds	Residential Criteria
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 1.00 lakh	From 35 years to 40 years	Rs. 10 lakh for projects under Industry sector Rs. 5 lakh for projects under business & Service sectors.	—	—	Banks should not ask for collateral security	—	—
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 1.50 lakh	—	Rs. 5.00 lakh for Projects under Industry sector. Rs. 3.00 lakh for projects under service sector. Rs. 2.00 lakh under projects under business sector.	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 80,000/-	—	Rs. 20.00 lakh & above.	Assistance may be provided to those Self-Help Groups (SHGs), where even if one member of SHG satisfies the minimum educational qualification	Subsidy @ 15% of the project cost without any ceiling.	Banks should not demand collateral security for PMRY loans. Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Small Industries (CGTFSI) of SIDBI may be utilised for providing collateral security for PMRY loans.	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 60,000/-	35 years to 40 years for general categories.	—	—	—	—	The contingency funds may be enhanced from from Rs. 250/- per sanctioned case to Rs. 500/- per sanctioned case.	—
5.	Tripura	Rs. 1.00 lakh	From 40 years to 45 Region.	Rs. 2 lakh for projects under business sector and Rs. 5 lakh for projects under service and industry sector	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Rajasthan	Rs. 60,000/-	—	Rs. 2 lakh for projects under business sector and Rs. 5 lakh for projects under Service & Industry sector.	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Maharashtra	Rs. 80,000/-	—	Project cost may be increased from Rs. 2.0 lakh to Rs. 5.0 lakh	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Pondichery	—	—	—	SSLC/ Matriculation failed	—	Banks should not ask for collateral security	—	—
9.	Kerala	Rs. 1,00,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	West Bengal	Rs. 60,000	—	The level of investment has to be improved.	—	i) Subsidy at 15% but the ceiling of Rs. 7500/- per case may be abolished. ii) Against the subsidy, the entrepreneurs/ groups can avail of further loan for expansion of the projects.	—	—	—
11.	Meghalaya	Rs. 60,000	—	Rs. 2 lakh for projects under business sector and Rs. 5 lakh for other activities.	Matric pass	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Karnataka	Rs. 1,00,000	From 35 years to 45 years	—	5th standard pass for those who have undergone skill development programme for a minimum of one year.	—	—	—	Relaxation of residential status of minimum 3 years in case of women beneficiaries beneficiaries
13.	Orissa	Rs. 60,000	—	Rs.2 lakh for projects under business sector and Rs. 5 lakh for projects under industry sector.	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Punjab	—	—	Rs. 5 lakh for projects under industry sector.	—	It should be raised from present level.	—	—	—
15.	Bihar	Rs. 1,00,000/-	—	Rs. 5 lakh for projects under industry sector and Rs. 2.0 lakh for projects under service & business sectors.	—	It should be increased from Rs. 7500/- to Rs. 15,000/-	—	—	—
16.	Jharkhand	Rs. 60,000/-	—	Rs. 5 lakh for projects under industry sector.	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Andaman and Nicobar	Rs. 1,00,000/-	35 to 40 years for general candidates and 10 years relaxation for SC/STs, Ex-Servicemen, physically Handicapped and Women.	Rs. 5 lakh for projects under industry sector. If two or more eligible persons join together in a partnership, projects upto Rs. 25 lakh should be allowed to be set up under PMRY.	—	Subsidy should be raised to 30% of the total project cost	—	—	Permanent resident of the area for atleast 5 years.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Chandigarh	Rs. 1,00,000/-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Gujarat	Rs. 75,000/-	35 to 40 years.	—	—	i) 20% of the project cost. ii) Maximum Rs. 20,000.	No collateral security should be asked under PMRY.	—	—
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	Matric	—	—	—	—
21.	Assam	Rs. 1,00,000/-	40 to 45 years for North East Region	Rs. 4 lakh for projects under industry sector and Rs. 2 lakh for projects under service & business sectors.	—	30% subject to maximum of Rs. 30,000/-	—	—	—
22.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Haryana	Rs. 1,00,000/-	—	Rs. 2 lakh for projects under business sector and Rs. 5 lakh for other activities.	—	● 15% of the total investment without any maximum limit.	—	—	—
24.	Goa	Rs. 1,00,000/- in a Panchayat area and 1,50,000/- in Municipal area.	—	Rs. 2 lakh for projects under business sector, Rs. 2 lakh for service activities and Rs. 3 lakh for industry sector.	5th pass	—	—	—	—
25.	Uttaranchal	Rs. 80,000/-	45 years for General and 50 years for Reserved category	—	—	—	—	—	—

Setting up of NCGG

837. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-State Council in June, 2005 recommended for setting up of National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG);

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the proposed NCGG alongwith the reasons for delay in setting up of such NCGG;

(c) whether the Council has also endorsed 139 point action plan for good governance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Andhra Pradesh has offered 200 acres of land for setting up of NCGG.

(f) if so, whether the Union Government is considering this request; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Inter-State Council endorsed a 139 point Action Plan including setting up of the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). It was envisaged that NCGG would be the national repository of good governance practices. The 139 point Action plan broadly comprise three categories, viz; (i) Government to Government covering judicial civil services, administrative and legislative reforms (ii) Government to Business covering economic, fiscal and labour reforms; and (iii) Government to Citizen covering citizen centric, rural decentralization and urban sector reforms, e-governance in addition special issues-border management, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, the matter is not being pursued in view of the fact that all important aspects of governance fall under the purview of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Loan Waiver of Handloom Weavers**

838. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to extend a package of rupees one thousand crore to waive of the loan of handloom weavers of the country;

(b) whether the Government also proposes to decrease the interest rate on loans provided to these weavers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) A High Level Committee headed by the Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai was constituted by the Ministry of Textiles to evolve a financial package for the handloom weavers. The Committee submitted it's recommendations on various aspects, including waiver of overdue loans/interest and providing the loan @ 7% p. a. A proposal, in this regard has been submitted to Ministry of Finance for their approval.

Target under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana

839. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana for Jammu and Kashmir are not being achieved due to lack of cooperation from the banks;

(b) the State-wise targets fixed particularly for Jammu and Kashmir under the above said scheme and the achievement made during the last three years; and

(c) the number of such eligible applicants who have applied for loan but have not been given loans so far under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Banks alone are not responsible for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana for fully achieving the targets. Various other reasons for non-achievement of targets include applicants not fulfilling the pre-disbursement requirements specified by banks, change of proposed activity after recommendation by the Task Force, difficulty in the applicant obtaining necessary approval/clearances from the

State/UT Government agencies concerned, delay in allotment of shed, power connection, power supply by State/UT agencies and family members of the applicants being found defaulters of bank loans, etc.

(b) and (c) The State-wise targets, achievement, applications received by banks for loan, number of eligible cases sanctioned and disbursed including for the State of Jammu and Kashmir is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No	States/UTs	2003-04				2004-05				2005-06*			
		Target Plan (No.)	No. of applications Received By banks	No. of cases Sanctioned by banks	No. of cases Disbursed by banks	Target Plan (No.)	No. of applications Received by banks	No. of cases Sanctioned by banks	No. of cases Disbursed by banks	Target Plan (No.)	No. of applications Received by banks	No. of cases Sanctioned by banks	No. of cases Disbursed by banks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
NORTHERN REGION													
1.	Haryana	4050	14912	8387	7277	5100	14786	9176	7755	5303	16654	10541	9508
2.	Himachal Pradesh	3200	4177	3028	2882	3000	3975	2977	2853	3557	4082	3038	2926
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	1150	1890	792	658	2000	1732	747	639	1588	1190	590	311
4.	Punjab	4100	13307	8405	7558	4800	13619	9178	8372	4083	13251	8941	7969
5.	Rajasthan	8100	28480	15654	12769	9100	29533	16429	12919	9328	28745	16895	13760
6.	Chandigarh	300	150	99	68	300	474	288	206	351	389	250	72
7.	Delhi	4400	3542	1108	904	4500	2785	937	819	5179	2331	785	681
NORTH EASTERN REGION													
8.	Assam	6600	13293	7501	5844	7500	15137	10262	8256	7387	13581	7212	5625
9.	Manipur	1200	812	595	520	1500	907	440	387	1418	606	394	357
10.	Meghalaya	350	529	453	403	400	762	598	568	361	918	607	562
11.	Nagaland	300	581	68	53	400	1054	897	109	363	2291	2262	2225
12.	Tripura	800	5100	2494	2043	1000	3149	2126	1747	1193	3680	2339	2032
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	200	740	685	668	200	527	443	440	173	989	441	423
14.	Mizoram	200	801	788	775	200	269	144	142	188	818	485	472
15.	Sikkim	100	89	31	30	100	75	37	32	66	70	31	31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
EASTERN REGION													
16.	Bihar	14400	17247	11370	9880	16000	16034,	11634	10396	16003	20256	14049	12075
17.	Jharkhand	5350	8936	5496	4774	6500	8955	5492	4804	6978	9065	5451	4570
18.	Orissa	6600	19576	11652	8779	7100	26000	16132	11339	6923	26409	16179	12645
19.	West Bengal	20000	8757	3562	2822	24000,	9073	4807	3796	24574	9282	5112	4614
20.	Andaman and Nicobar	100	297	189	182	150	305	150	142	123	317	188	150
CENTRAL REGION													
21.	Madhya Pradesh	11750	46774	26031	19748	14000	50655	27538	20642	13507	50795	29757	20775
22.	Chhattisgarh	4600	7926	3919	3275	6000	8196	4322	3276	5429	7312	4383	3419
23.	Uttar Pradesh	22950	74471	44842	40481	26000	72335	45867	42534	26248	66289	43399	37238
24.	Uttaranchal	1800	8969	5636	5361	2500	10463	7200	6637	2119	11406	7748	7402
WESTERN REGION													
25.	Gujarat	8650	12146	7249	6755	10000	11037	8981	6406	9579	11801	6624	6315
26.	Maharashtra	22900	41278	21116	17230	26000	47166	26796	21819	24614	44227	27967	23485
27.	Daman and Diu	50	5	3	3	50	7	4	4	19	25	14	14
28.	Goa	400	220	125	116	500	77	53	45	486	78	52	43
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50	0	0	0	50	27	23	22	27	53	30	24
SOUTHERN REGION													
30.	Andhra Pradesh	18400	24703	23291	17729	21500	41717	25002	22542	20767	40967	27005	20606
31.	Karnataka	10800	24778	15317	11929	12000	30136	16806	13931	11046	33999	19902	15256
32.	Kerala	16250	25100	17991	14024	17000	30794	22517	16553	18685	33726	25732	21540
33.	Tamilnadu	19350	23223	14538	12736	20000	33536	20579	16902	21565	34366	22117	19417
34.	Lakshadweep	50	31	17	17	50	17	12	4	48	6	5	5
35.	Pondicherry	600	553	362	294	700	631	363	329	722	743	385	335
NOT SPECIFIED			3266	1216	897		3377	1246	897		3412	1799	1397
ALL INDIA		220000	436679	264012	219444	250000	491324	296003	248264	250000	494333	311909	258261

Source: RBI data

*Provisional

[English]

**Proposal for providing Laptops to
School Children**

840. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make available a low cost laptop to school children as reported in the *Times of India* dated September 23, 2006;

(b) if so, whether any consultation has been held in this regard;

(c) if so, whether any group of experts and officials has been set up to implement this project;

(d) if so, the details of plan chalked out by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the first low cost laptop is likely to reach in the schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of Modern Industries by KVIC

841. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has decided to shift from conventional industries and encourage setting up of new industries to keep pace with the modernisation in the era of globalisation;

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

(c) the changes proposed by the Commission in the existing structure of village industries in the light of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) In addition to continuing assistance to the conventional industries in the

khadi and village industries sector, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has also included some modern industries, namely; chemical based industries, non-conventional energy activities, assembling/servicing of electronic items, bio-technology, etc., among the rural industries assisted under the Government's Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) to keep pace with the modernisation in the era of globalisation. A list giving details of the group-wise and product-wise industries assisted under the REGP is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) KVIC has not proposed any changes in the existing structure of village industries.

Statement

Details of Category-wise/Product-wise Agro and Rural Industries assisted under the REGP

1. Chemical Based Industry

- Cottage matches
- Candle
- PVC insulated wires and cables
- PVC pipes
- Cottage soap
- Packing items (plastic)

2. Food & Agro Based Industry

- Ghani oil
- Indian sweets making
- Milk products
- Soft drinks
- Power atta chakki
- Masala Udyog
- Cashew processing unit
- Fruit & vegetable processing
- Mini rice mill

- Cattle feed
- Cane Gur & khandasari
- Bakery products

3. Forest Based Industry

- Ayurvedic medicines
- Bee-keeping
- Honey or wax making
- Photo frame making

4. Handmade Paper & Fibre Industry

- Handmade paper & tharmacol
- Exercise book binding
- Kama
- Paper cups

5. Mineral Based Industry

- Brick kiln
- Cement blocks/hollow blocks
- Lime stone/lime shell and other lime products
- Stone cutting
- Paints
- Polishing granite stone slabs/granite crushing

6. Rural Engineering & Bio-Technology Industry

- Blacksmithy
- Engineering workshop
- Fabrication work
- Iron grill making
- Manure and methane
- Wirenets
- Carpentry
- Carved wood & artistic furniture
- Wood work

- Motor winding
- Steel grills
- Goldsmithy/Jewellery
- Engineering instruments & fabrication works

7. Service Industry

- Auto service centre
- Dhabas (Not serving liquor)
- Repairs to diesel engines, pumpsets, etc.
- Servicing of electric wiring and electronic equipment
- Sofa repairs
- Sweet stall
- Tailoring and readymade garments
- Video & photo studio
- Hosiery
- Tyre vulcanizing
- Cycle repairing
- T.V. Repairing
- Hiring sound system
- Screen printing in cotton textile fabrics
- Herbal beauty parlour
- Tea stall
- Offset printing & binding
- Cable/TV/network on computer centre

Anganwadi workers training centres in Karnataka

842. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Anganwadi workers training centres in Karnataka opened during last three years;

(b) the number of training centres out of the above ordered for closure in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the decision taken for the future of the employees of the closed centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the information made available by the State Government of Karnataka, no new Anganwadi Training Centres (AWTCs) were opened in the State during the last 3 years.

(b) The following AWTCs were functioning/closed during the last 3 years:

Year	Functioning	Closed
2003-04	24	Nil
2004-05	23	1
2005-06	18	5

(c) One AWTC viz. Aroalkere was closed in 2004-05 for various reasons such as non-observance of norms/guidelines for AWTCs/non-payment of honoarium to trainees/poor infrastructure etc.

Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare (KSCCW), was running 10 AWTCs in the State out of which five were closed down during 2005-06 as per the resolution passed by the Standing Committee and duly ratified by the Executive Committee of KSCCW itself on 30.3.2005. Accordingly, five AWTCs functioning at Anekal, Kanakapura, Mysore, Shimoga and Gulbarga were closed. However, AWTC functioning at Shimoga which was closed from 1.4.2005 has been re-opened from 1.10.2006.

(d) As per the guidelines issued in this regard, all the AWTCs are temporary in nature and are continued on a year-to-year basis depending upon the requirement of training of the Anganwadi Workers/Helpers in a State. The staff of AWTCs is recruited by voluntary organizations running the AWTCs and Government of India only provides grant-in-aid for the purpose as per pattern approved from time to time. Beyond that, the Government of India has no liability in respect of such staff.

[Translation]

Vocational Education

843. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutes providing vocational education in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such institutes proposed to be set up during the current financial year, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) A list showing the number of Vocational Schools sanctioned under the Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at + 2 level since the inception of the scheme during 1987-88 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The selection of new schools for the introduction of vocational courses under the scheme depends upon the proposals received from the concerned State/UT Governments.

Statement

State-wise No. of Schools sanctioned under the Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at +2 level since 1987-88

As on 01.04.2006

S.No.	Name of the State/UTs	No. of Vocational Schools sanctioned since 1987-88
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1486
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3.	Assam	510
4.	Bihar	752
5.	Chhatisgarh	20
6.	Goa	106
7.	Gujarat	77
8.	Haryana	116
9.	Himachal Pradesh	82
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37
11.	Jharkhand	—

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka	563
13.	Kerala	475
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1307
15.	Maharashtra	958
16.	Manipur	10
17.	Meghalaya	2
18.	Mizoram	106
19.	Nagaland	8
20.	Orissa	231
21.	Punjab	345
22.	Rajasthan	155
23.	Sikkim	40
24.	Tamil Nadu	800
25.	Tripura	17
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1010
27.	Uttaranchal	111
28.	West Bengal	39
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3
30.	Chandigarh	20
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
32.	Daman and Diu	0
33.	Delhi	207
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	20
Total		9619

[English]

Fundamental Right in Primary Education

844. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from certain quarters to bring legislation providing for punitive action against parents failing to send their children to school thereby denying them the fundamental right to primary education as reported in the *Hindu*, dated September 17, 2006;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a mechanism to see that every parent send his child to school; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) As per news-item that appeared in *The Hindu* dated September 17, 2006, Supreme Court Judge Justice K. G. Balakrishnan is reported to have mooted a legislation providing for punitive action against parents failing to send their children to school, thereby denying them the fundamental right to primary education. However, the Government has not received any communication to this effect. Nevertheless, in pursuance of Article 21A of the Constitution, which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6-14 years, a draft Model Right to Education Bill has been formulated and circulated as framework to the States/UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon. Section 30 of the draft Model Bill contains provisions relating to the responsibility of every parent/guardian to enroll his child or ward, who has attained the age of 6 years and above in a school, and to facilitate her completion of elementary education.

[Translation]

Export of Silk

845. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Silk exported from India during each of the last three years and current year; and

(b) The foreign exchange earned thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The details of silk goods exported from India and Export

Earnings during the last three years (2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06) and current year are as follows:

(Value: in crore Rs. & Mn.US \$)

Item of Exports	2003-2004		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07A	
	Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$	April to July (Provisional)	
							Rs.	US\$
Natural Silk Yarn, Fabrics & Made-ups	1954.11	425.2	2008.33	447.0	2228.88	503.5	643.39	140.7
Readymade Garments	699.52	152.2	746.29	166.1	842.06	190.2	373.59	81.7
Silk Carpets	120.22	26.2	123.65	27.5	103.36	23.4	23.02	5.0
Silk Waste	5.34	1.2	1.29	0.3	19.90	4.5	6.56	1.4
Total	2779.19	604.7	2879.56	640.9	3194.20	721.5	1046.56	228.9

[English]

Incentive under scheme for Integrated Textile Park

846. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the infrastructure facilities and fiscal incentives provided to integrated textile parks at different locations and costs thereof;

(b) the extent of increase in production, employment generation and textile exports of these parks;

(c) the volume of domestic and foreign investment in the parks;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide budgetary support to investors by tax benefits and other exemptions for locating their units in these parks and the costs involved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Government assistance is provided to infrastructure facilities, *inter alia* including, compound wall, roads, drainage, water supply, electricity supply including captive power plant, effluent

treatment, testing laboratory, design center, training center, trade center/display center, warehousing facility/raw material depot, creche, canteen, workers hostel, labour rest and recreation facilities, factory buildings for production purposes etc. So far 26 projects have been sanctioned under the SITP with an estimated project cost of Rs. 2411.20 crore, out of which Government of India support would be Rs. 862.55 crore. State-wise sanction of project is—Andhra Pradesh (4), Gujarat (6), Karnataka (1), Maharashtra (6), Rajasthan (2), Tamil Nadu (5), Uttar Pradesh (1) and West Bengal (1).

(b) The estimated annual production in the 26 sanctioned parks is Rs 19,200 crore (approx.) and estimated employment generation is 5.29 lakh (1.93 lakh direct & 3.36 indirect). The textile units in these parks will cater to both domestic as well as international markets.

(c) The estimated investment in the 26 sanctioned parks is Rs. 13,445 crore (approx.), out of which Rs. 4800 crore (approx.) would be foreign investment.

(d) and (e) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

Increasing Shelters for Children

847. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the State Governments to create additional capacity to provide shelters to those children who would be thrown out of work, after the new rule of not to employ children under the age of 14 as domestic help; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) Government has asked the State Governments/UT Administrations to make efforts to accommodate and rehabilitate children displaced or affected by the notification regarding prohibition on employing children under the age of 14 years as domestic help.

(b) The above measures would be part of the overall strategy for rehabilitating these children.

[Translation]

Rebate on Wooden/Iron-made Handicrafts

848. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to promote wooden and iron made handicrafts;

(b) whether Rajasthan has demanded a special package for this purpose;

(c) if so, the action taken by the government thereon;

(d) the rebate provided on wooden and iron made handicrafts;

(e) whether State of Rajasthan is adversely affected due to less rebate being given in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The measure taken to promote handicrafts in the country including wooden and iron made handicrafts include implementation of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of selected crafts clusters; design & technology upgradation; marketing & support services; export promotion, training and

extension; workshop; research and development; Special Handicrafts Training Project (SHTP) etc.

(b) No specific demand for a special package to promote wooden and iron made handicrafts in Rajasthan has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) For export of furniture made of wood, Bamboo and Cane handicrafts, duty drawback is @ of 1.7% of FOB value. For Iron handicrafts it is @ 13% subject to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 per kg.

Income tax exemption is allowed to wooden handicrafts exporters under section '10BA' of Income Tax Act vide Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 2 of 2003) w.e.f. April, 2004 till 2010.

(e) Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has reported that no such instance has been brought into their knowledge.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

MSMED Act, 2006

849. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 which became operational from October 2, 2006;

(b) the difference between manufacturing and service enterprises;

(c) the details of items reserved for micro, small and medium enterprises;

(d) whether it is mandatory for the Government to purchase these reserved items from these small and micro enterprises;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any purchase/price preference is also given to these small and micro enterprises;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether any financial assistance is provided to unemployed graduate girls to set up micro/small enterprises; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 seeks to facilitate promotion and development and enhancing competitiveness of these enterprises. It provides the first-ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of "enterprise" (comprising both manufacturing and services) and integrating the three tiers of these enterprises, namely, micro, small and medium. Apart from clear and more progressive classification of each category of enterprises, particularly small, the Act provides for a statutory consultative mechanism at the national level with wide representation of all sections of stakeholders, particularly the three classes of enterprises; and with a wide range of advisory functions. Establishment of specific Funds for the promotion, development and enhancing competitiveness of these enterprises, notification of schemes /programmes for this purpose, progressive credit policies and practices, preference in Government procurements to products and services of the micro and small enterprises, more effective mechanisms, for mitigating the problems of delayed payments to micro and small enterprises and simplification of the process of closure of business by all three categories of enterprises are some of the other features of this legislation.

(b) The difference between manufacturing and service enterprises lies in their objective of operation, in that the manufacturing enterprises are engaged in the production of goods pertaining to any industry specified in the first schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 whereas the service enterprises are engaged in providing or rendering the services.

(c) to (g) Under the provisions of Section 29 (B) of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, certain products are reserved for exclusive manufacture by micro and small enterprises [equated by explanation 2 of Section 7 of the MSMED Act, 2006 with small scale industries (SSI)] . It is not mandatory for the Government to purchase these items from the micro and small enterprises. However, for providing purchase and price preference to the products of small scale industries, the Government is following a policy (non-statutory) which

prescribes certain items as reserved for exclusive purchase from micro and small enterprises by the Ministries/Departments and CPSUs of the Government of India. Many State Governments, on their part, have also been enforcing certain purchase and price preference policies for assisting micro and small enterprises located in their states. Because of the non-statutory nature of these purchase/price preference policies followed by the Government of India and the State Governments and keeping in mind the reports about violations owing to their non-statutory nature, the MSMED Act, 2006 enables the Government of India and the State Governments to notify, from time to time, preference policies in respect of procurement of goods and services, produced are provided by micro and small enterprises by their Ministries or Departments, as the case may be, or aided institutions or public sector enterprises.

(h) and (i) The Ministry of Small Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries do not operate any scheme for specifically targeting unemployed graduate girls to enable them to set up micro/small enterprises, though they do encourage entrepreneurship among women in general.

Advanced Passenger Information system

850. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign airlines have raised objections on implementation of Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS);

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the action/steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. With regard to the implementation of Advance Passenger Information System (APIS), some airline operators have demanded that:

(i) Pilot of the aircraft should not be made liable for non-compliance to APIS;

(ii) Punishment of imprisonment should not be imposed for non-compliance to APIS; and

(iii) Certain data elements should not be sought.

(c) These demands have been noted by the Government for appropriate resolution.

Reduction of MCA and Engineering seats

851. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether AICTE has reduced some MCA seats and Engineering seats in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the academic year from which the reduction would be operational; and

(d) the extent by which it will affect the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per policy of AICTE, infrastructure and faculty are two important factors for quality education. Due to shortfall in faculty and built up area, 98 seats in 6 MCA Institutions and 8825 seats in 24 Engineering Institutions were reduced in Karnataka. However, 83 seats in 5 MCA Institutions and 8585 seats in 22 Engineering Institutions which fulfilled the deficiencies were restored. Therefore, the effective decrease was only 15 seats in MCA and 240 seats in Engineering in Karnataka, which would be operational from 2006-07. However, there has been net increase in total intake due to establishment of new Institutions/increase in existing in-take/approval of additional courses as detailed below.

Programmes	Approved intake in 2005-06	Approved intake in 2006-07 (as on 20.10.2006)	Net increase
MCA	3215	3677	462
Engineering	48575	56542	7967

Market under NDMC

852. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDMC proposes to make a facelift to all the important markets under its jurisdiction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the renovation plan would be taken up and the expected time of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) New Delhi Municipal Council has informed that there is a proposal to facelift three markets, namely, Gole Market, Main Janpath Market and Connaught Place.

(c) The probable time of commencement and completion of renovation of the markets is as follows:

S.No.	Name of the market	Probable time of commencement	Probable time of completion
1.	Gole Market	January, 2007	54 weeks from the date of commencement
2.	Main Janpath Market	15.12.2006	30.06.2007
3.	Connaught Place	March, 2007	October, 2009

Militant outfits operating in NE

853. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any militant outfits from Myanmar and Bangladesh have been operating in the North Eastern States;

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

(c) the details of area of their operations; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent their operations and demolish their camps, indicating the location of such camps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No militant outfits from Myanmar and Bangladesh are operating the Indian territory.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Opening of NVs

854. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas opened in the country during the last three years, district-wise, location-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to open more Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country;

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

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government to provide the same facilities in Government schools, as being given in Central schools of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The list of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) opened during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (c) Yes, Sir. The present scheme envisages opening of one Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district in the country. The actual location in each district and the timing depend on the respective States making available required land.

(d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is committed to provide adequate facilities in schools under it. For schools under States, it is for the States to provide the facilities.

Statement

District-wise, location-wise JNVs opened during last three years.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) Opened

2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
Sl No.	District	Location	Sl.No.	District	Location	Sl.No.	District	Location
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Begeshwar	Bahuli	1.	Bastar	Parchanpal	1.	Anjaw	Hawai,
2.	LakhiSarai	Berhaiya	2.	East Khasi Hills	Mawphlang	2.	Baksa	Adalban
3.	Dindon	Dhamangaon	3.	East Midnapur	Kapaseria	3.	Bangaigaon	Kashidoba
4.	Burdwan	Durgapur Township	4.	Guna	Bejrang Garh	4.	Bankura	Kalapathar
5.	Upper Siang	Geku	5.	Hoghly	Dihl Bhagnan	5.	Bargarh	Georgegarh
6.	Pithoragarh	GIC Campus	6.	Shahdol	Mau	6.	Bhadrak	Sanakrushnapur
7.	Malkangiri	Guruguda	7.	Wayned	Kalpette	7.	Birhum	Gopalpur
8.	Nadia	Kalyani				8.	Burhanpur	Basali
9.	Ambala	Kautam				9.	Chamhai	Thiakhan-Ram

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	Dhamtari	Kurudh				10.	Coochbehar	Kaliberi
11.	Budwani	Ojhar				11.	Deogarh	Sunamunda
12.	East Siang	Pasighat				12.	Dimapur	Nihokhu
13.	Panchmahal	Vejalpur				13.	East Sikkim	Raigeon Upper Nankhabong
						14.	Fatehabad	Bangaon
						15.	Ghaziabad	Amirpur Badayal
						16.	Hemirpur	Ittayal
						17.	Hojai, North Cachar Hills	Sontilla
						18.	Howrah	Chandipur
						19.	Jagatsinghpur	Saiko
						20.	Jaipur	Patharpada
						21.	Jaipalguri	Purba Chakchaka
						22.	Jashpur	Dhoddand
						23.	Kanker	Karp.
						24.	Kawardha	Oriyakala
						25.	Kiphire	Tutheze
						26.	Koria	Kenepara
						27.	Kunug Khungbia	Village Opp.
						28.	Nagnon	Ath Gaon
						29.	Paschim Midnapur	Moradanga
						30.	Pauri Garhwal	Khainesand
						31.	Saiha	Chhatta
						32.	Simdega	Mouza Kolebira
						33.	Upper Dineipur Valley	Anini,
						34.	Uttar Dineipur	Simanandpur
						35.	West Kameng	Khelog
						36.	Zunheboto	Zaphumi

Centres for Excellence

855. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up centres of excellence in textile sector in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these centres are likely to be set up; and

(d) the amount that would be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (d) The Sub Group on Technical Textiles for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) under the Working Group on Textile and Jute Industry constituted by the Government of India has recommended setting up of six Centres of Excellence in different parts, of the country at a proposed Plan Outlay of Rs. 90.00 crores during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Agro & Rural Industries in A.P.

856. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agro and rural industrial units set up in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of items being produced by these industrial units; and

(c) the amount allocated during last three years to set up such industrial units and the names of the schemes under which such allocations were made?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The year-wise details of village industry (VI) units set up in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) being implemented by the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), are given below:

Year	Number of units set up
2003-04	1079
2004-05	1988
2005-06	2278

(b) Pickles, confectionery items, honey, processed food items, articles of cane and bamboo, products of handmade paper, bricks, tiles, leather articles, audio and video systems, bio-manure, steel furniture are some of the major items produced in Andhra Pradesh by the industries assisted under the REGP, the group-wise categorization of which, is given below:

Sl. No.	Group-wise categorisation of industry
1.	Polymer and chemical based industry.
2.	Food and agro based industry.
3.	Forest based industry.
4.	Handmade paper and fibre industry.
5.	Mineral based industry.
6.	Rural engineering and bi-technology industry.
7.	Service Industry.

(c) The details of assistance provided by KVIC under the village industry grant, from which the funds for implementing REGP are utilised, in respect of Andhra Pradesh during the last three year are given below:

Year	(Rs. lakh)
2003-04	1675.40
2004-05	3394.19
2005-06	3627.58

[English]

Disaster Management

857. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has convened a meeting of Relief Commissioners and Secretaries of Disaster Management Departments of various States and Union Territories in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed during the said meeting; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to render emergency support in the event of natural calamities, if any, in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs convened a Conference of Relief Commissioners/Secretaries of Department of Disaster Management of States and Union Territories on 5th June, 2006.

In the Conference, the status of preparedness of the States/UTs and the Central Ministries/Departments rendering Emergency Support Functions for the South-West Monsoon, 2006 was discussed among other related issues. The discussions were focused on the preparedness and procedures for rendering assistance by the Armed Forces and Central Police Forces to the affected States to ensure effective and coordinated response in emergency situations. Similarly the role and scope of Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, Communications, Road Transport & Highways, Railways and National Highway Authority of India and Border Roads Organization in prevention of outbreak of epidemics, restoration of Rail, Road and Communication networks in the event of a disaster on priority were also discussed.

In addition to providing logistic support, the Union Government provided the requisite financial assistance to the affected States to enable them to undertake rescue and relief operations in the wake of natural disasters. An amount of Rs. 2498.95 crore as Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and a further amount of Rs. 1962.06 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund

(NCCF) were released to the affected States during the year 2006-07.

Export Promotion

858. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently urged State Governments to be spectra net on export promotion;

(b) if so, whether the share of State Governments has been declining on export front;

(c) if so, the details of steps Government have taken/propose to take to boost the exports; and

(d) the details of the fund sanctioned to the State Governments for the development of infrastructure under ASIDE scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) It is the endeavour of the Central Government to sensitize State Governments to promote exports. Consequently the exports from most of the States have registered positive growth.

(c) Some of the several steps taken to boost exports include setting up of Special Economic Zones/Export Oriented Units/ Agri Export Zones, financial assistance to States for development of export oriented infrastructure, financial assistance for organization of/participation in trade fairs, buyer-seller meets, and market surveys.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	State	Amount Allocated 2002-03	Amount Released 2002-03	Amount Allocated 2003-04	Amount Released 2003-04	Amount Allocated 2004-05	Amount Released 2004-05	Amount Allocated 2005-06	Amount Released 2005-06	Amount Allocated 2006-07	Amount Released 2006-07	Cumulative Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,385.00	1385.00	1,545.00	1,545.00	1700.00	850.00	6,280.00
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	200.00	200.00	200.00	100.00	200.00	0	200.00	0.00	220.00		300.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3.	Bihar	300.00	300.00	650.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	220.00		300.00
4.	Chandigarh	100.00	100.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	320.00	320.00	350.00		420.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	550.00	275.00	2,075.00
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	150.00	150.00	300.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	220.00		150.00
7.	Daman ad Diu	150.00	150.00	300.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	220.00		150.00
8.	Delhi	100.00	100.00	200.00	0.00	265.00	0.00	265.00	265.00	290.00	145.00	510.00
9.	Goa	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	373.00	373.00	609.00	609.00	670.00		2,182.00
10.	Gujarat	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,578.00	3,578.00	4,338.00	4,338.00	4770.00	2,385.00	13,201.00
11.	Haryana	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	849.00	849.00	1,405.00	1,405.00	1545.00		3,454.00
12.	Himachal Pradesh	700.00	700.00	750.00	750.00	500.00	500.00	553.00	553.00	600.00	300.00	2,803.00
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	600.00	600.00	800.00	600.00	500.00	500.00	525.00	525.00	580.00		2,225.00
14.	Jharkhand	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	550.00	275.00	1,075.00
15.	Karnataka	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,900.00	1,900.00	2,414.00	2414.00	3,399.00	3,399.00	3740.00	1,870.00	11,383.00
16.	Kerala	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	930.00	930.00	1,069.00	1,069.00	1175.00	587.50	4,886.50
17.	Lakshadweep	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0	200	0.00	220.00		400.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,435.00	1,435.00	1,435.00	1,435.00	1580.00	790.00	6,760.00
19.	Maharashtra	1,600.00	1,600.00	3,400.00	3,400.00	5,709.00	5709.00	6,552.00	6,552.00	7210.00		17,261.00
20.	Orissa	450.00	450.00	1000.00	1,000.00	605.00	605.00	693	693.00	785.00	382.50	3,130.50
21.	Pondicherry	300.00	300.00	300.00	150.00	200.00	0.00	200	0	220.00		450.00
22.	Punjab	900.00	900.00	1000.00	1,000.00	968.00	968.00	1,217.00	1,217.00	1340.00		4,085.00
23.	Rajasthan	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1453.00		5,140.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	2,800.00	2,800.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,919.00	3,919.00	3,919.00	3,919.00	4312.00	2,156.00	15,794.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	1,259.00	1259.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2310.00		7,459.00
26.	Uttaranchal	400.00	400.00	400.00	200.00	500.00	500.00	527.00	527.00	580.00		1,627.00
27.	West Bengal	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,491.00	1491.00	2,009.00	2,009.00	2210.00	1,105.00	6,705.00
	Total	22,650.00	22,650.00	26,000.00	23,900.00	30,400.00	28,235.00	36,000.00	34,300.00	39600.00	11121.00	120,206.00

North Eastern Region

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	100.00	100.00	125.00	125.00	251.00	0.00	251.00	251.00	276.00		476.00
2.	Assam	400.00	400.00	500.00	500.00	1149.00	1149.00	1,257.00	1,257.00	1383.00		3,306.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3.	Manipur	200.00	200.00	250.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	206.00	206.00	227.00	113.50	719.50
4.	Mizoram	100.00	100.00	250.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	324.00	324.00	356.00	178.00	802.00
5.	Meghalaya	200.00	200.00	250.00	250.00	572.00	572.00	834.00	834.00	917.00	458.50	2,314.50
6.	Nagaland	100.00	100.00	125.00	50.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	220.00		550.00
7.	Sikkim	50.00	50.00	125.00	0	200	0.00	200.00	200.00	220.00		250.00
8.	Tripura	300.00	300.00	375.00	375.00	828.00	828.00	728.00	728.00	801.00		2,231.00
	Total	1450.00	1450.00	2000.00	1300.00	3600.00	3149.00	4000	4,000.00	4400.00	750.00	10,649.00
	Grand Total	24,100.00	24,100.00	28,000.00	25,200.00	34,000.00	31,384.00	40,000.00	38,300.00	44000.00	11871.00	130,855.00

Freedom fighters of J&K

859. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any list of Freedom Fighters from Jammu & Kashmir who had participated in Goa Liberation Movement phase-II (1954-55) from the J&K Government for granting of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension; and

(b) if so, the status of such list and time by which the Government extend this benefit to these persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) Papers for considering claims of 10 persons from Jammu & Kashmir for grant of Central Samman pension for participation in Goa Liberation Movement phase-II (1954-55), were handed over during the meeting with Floor and Deputy Floor Leaders held on 24.8.2006.

(b) Out of the 10 persons, claims of 08 persons were received directly from the claimants in 2003. These claims were duly examined in terms of the eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 and the Government policy apropos the Goa Liberation Movement phase-II (1954-55) cases. All the 08 claims were rejected, as they did not fulfill the eligibility criteria and the evidentiary requirements of the Scheme.

Industrial Policy

860. DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have extended similar incentives granted under the North East Industrial Policy to Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any specific proposal from the Federation of Industries and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER), North Eastern State Governments including the North East Industry Ministers Forum in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have finalised the proposal for modification of the North East Industrial Policy as assured; and

(f) if so, by which it is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The incentives include income tax exemption, excise duty exemption, capital investment subsidy, interest subsidy on working capital loan and insurance premium on capital investment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals pertain to review of the North East Industrial Policy, 1997.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Standard Qualification for Teachers

861. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have determined the standard qualifications for the teachers taking B.Ed. classes and published them in the extraordinary Gazette;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments particularly Uttar Pradesh have not accepted those qualifications;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(d) the response of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Norms and standards for the teachers taking B.Ed. classes have been notified by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) on 21st July, 2006.

(b) The norms and standards prescribed by NCTE are applicable all over India (except J & K) like the NCTE Act, 1993. There is no information regarding non-acceptance of the norms by any State Government including U.P.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

Advice of US Representatives on Bomb Blasts

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sought advice of the American representatives with regard to the findings of inquiry related to the local train bomb blasts in Mumbai on 11 July, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of facts discussed at the time of seeking advice;

(c) whether Pakistan has been apprised of the details of the discussion;

(d) if so, the date when this information has been given to Pakistan; and

(e) the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The issues of cross-border terrorism and the recent Mumbai blasts have been discussed between the officials of the two countries within the framework of the Indian legal system.

(c) No such information was shared with Pakistan.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Border Check Posts

863. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government proposes to modernise various border check posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds proposed to be spent thereon, border-wise; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up 13 State-of-the-Art Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at India-Nepal, India-Pakistan, India-Bangladesh and India-Myanmar borders at an estimated cost of Rs. 734.00 crore. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Necessary follow up action has been initiated for completion of these Integrated Check Posts with a time frame of one and a half to three years.

Statement*Location and estimated cost of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)*

Sl.No.	Location	State	Border	Estimated Cost (in Rs crore)
Priority-I				
1.	Petrapole	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh	87
2.	Moreh	Manipur	India-Myanmar	70
3.	Raxaul	Bihar	India-Nepal	100
4.	Wagah	Punjab	India-Pakistan	85
Total Priority-I				342
Priority-II				
5.	Hill	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh	78
6.	Chandrabangha	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh	64
7.	Sutarkhandi	Assam	India-Bangladesh	16
8.	Dawki	Meghalaya	India-Bangladesh	50
9.	Akhaura	Tripura	India-Bangladesh	60
10.	Kawarpuchiah	Mizoram	India-Bangladesh	27
11.	Jogbani	Bihar	India-Nepal	34
12.	Sunauli	Uttar Pradesh	India-Nepal	34
13.	Rupaidiha/Nepalganj road	Uttar Pradesh	India-Nepal	29
Total Priority-II				392
Total Priority-I and Priority-II				734

*[English]***Facilities of disabled by CBSE**

864. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had decided to give more time to physically challenged students taking the Board Exams i.e. Xth and XIth examinations from this Session;

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

(c) the other steps taken by the CBSE to help the blind and physically challenged persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Board has been allowing an additional one hour time for each paper to the physically challenged students in both class X and XII examinations.

(c) The CBSE has provided the following additional facilities for the visually impaired and physically handicapped students:

- (i) Facility of a writer in the examination, if requested for.
- (ii) For the secondary examination, spastic candidates and candidates with visual and hearing impairment have the option of studying one compulsory language as against two. Options are also provided in lieu of Mathematics. Besides one language, any four of the following subjects may be offered to such candidates:
 "Mathematics, Science & Technology, Social Science, another language, Music, Painting, Home Science and Introductory Information Technology".
- (iii) Alternative questions in lieu of questions having visual input are being provided in Mathematics, Science & Technology, Social Science and English Communicative for class X.
- (iv) Alternative questions in lieu of questions having visual input are being provided in History, Geography and Economics for class XII.
- (v) Separate question papers in enlarged print for the visually impaired candidates are provided in Mathematics and Science & Technology at class X level.
- (vi) Centre Superintendents are required to make seating arrangements for the conduct of examination on the ground floor, as far as possible.
- (vii) Answer books of such candidates are evaluated separately.
- (viii) Special examination centres are created to facilitate the disabled children.

Undertrials in Jails

865. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
 SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Government to intimate the number of prisoners languishing in various jails without any trial;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to enforce laws on such agencies which are deliberately ignoring judicial system;

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

(d) the effective steps taken by the Government to grant bail and dispose the cases against such prisoners who have no means to engage any lawyers in the court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) No such direction has been received in the Ministry of Home Affairs from the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) In 2005, the Code of Criminal Procedure Act 1973 (Cr. P.C.) was amended to include the following provisions:

(i) A new section viz 436 A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been inserted in the Code to provide that where an undertrial prisoner other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment, provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties. It also provides that in no case will an undertrial prisoner be detained beyond the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be convicted for the alleged offence.

(ii) Section 436(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has also been amended to make a mandatory provision that if the arrested person is accused of a bailable offence and he is an indigent and cannot furnish surety, the Court shall release him on his execution of a bond without sureties.

[Translation]

Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana

866. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allotted under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana specially for tribal dominated areas are being used for other purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases detected; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Proper utilization of the funds released under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is ensured by laying down clear guidelines and norms for the use of these funds, linking of fund released to the "Utilization Certificate" for the funds already released, back-ended disbursement of subsidy by banks, disbursement of loan by way of third party cheque to the supplier of goods rather than to the borrower directly, strict dealing of cases of misappropriation of funds, etc.

[English]

Indo-ASEAN FTA

867. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries with whom Indian Government has Free Trade Agreement (FTA);

(b) whether the Government has ever assessed its benefit or loss;

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

(d) whether the Government has examined the effect of large number of FTA which are entering or planning to enter into;

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

(f) whether the Government officials attended a meeting with the ASEAN Trade Officials at Jakarta

recently to resume negotiations for a proposed Indo-ASEAN FTA;

(g) if so, the views expressed by both sides; and

(h) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) to (h) The fourteenth round of the ASEAN-India Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) was held in Jakarta between 16-18 November, 2006. During this meeting, both sides discussed various aspects of the proposed ASEAN-India FTA including the proposal for modalities in reduction of tariffs on agreed items.

Science for School Children

868. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently announced a set of initiatives to enthuse school children for science; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) have taken up many initiatives to enthuse school children for study of science.

The textbooks of Science for classes VI to XII are being developed by NCERT based on the National Curriculum Framework 2005, so as to envisage learning Science concepts through investigative activities. NCERT has also undertaken various programmes for popularization of science in schools viz. (i) Organization of Science Exhibition, (ii) Reading to learn programme, (iii) Science Olympiads and (iv) Environmental Science Programme.

The CBSE has given greater thrust and emphasis on acquisition of practical skills to promote the interest of students in Science.

In addition, various programmes are undertaken by the above mentioned and other organizations for popularization of science in schools viz. organization of Science Exhibition at regional and national level, orientation programme for science teachers to enhance professional competency, theme projects to create scientific temper at national and regional level, science based activities like science quiz competition, science debate and science seminar, development of text books and self-instructional material with projects and activities appropriate for the level, and Audio-video support for learning material.

Protection of witness

869. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 17th Law Commission has recommended protection of witness identity to prevent them from turning hostile and ensure that all criminal trials do not end in acquittals;

(b) if so, the other recommendations of the 17th Law Commission on various topics of public importance;

(c) whether the Government has taken action for implementing these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The 198th Report of the Law Commission has covered the subject of 'Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programmes'. The contents of this Report are treated as confidential until the Report is laid in Parliament.

Foreign funds to NGOs

870. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number NGOs which are receiving foreign funds under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) during each of the last three years, till date, NGO-wise, State-wise;

(b) whether such NGOs are authorized to receive foreign contribution under foreign Contribution Regulation Act;

(c) if not, the number of NGOs that are in receipt of foreign fund;

(d) the total number of such contribution received during each of the last three years NGO-wise, State-wise;

(e) whether all such recipient NGOs have submitted reports to Government on the utilization of foreign contribution;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the manner in which the Government is going to make such submission of reports mandatory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (f) Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, various Associations (including NGOs) in India are permitted to receive foreign contribution from foreign sources for *bona fide* activities in cultural, economic, educational, social or religious fields after obtaining registration/prior permission under the said Act. The registration/prior permission is granted after due verification of activities and antecedents of Office bearers of Associations. The State-wise and district-wise list of Associations registered or granted prior permission under the said Act are available on MHA's website—<http://mha.nic.in/fore.htm>. As on 20/11/2006, 33513 Associations are registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. The amount of foreign contribution received during the last three years by Associations are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
2002-2003	5046.50
2003-2004	5105.50
2004-2005	6256.68

It is submitted that the Associations that are registered or which have obtained prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 are required to submit annual returns duly certified by a Chartered Accountant within four months after closure of the financial year. The number of Associations that have filed annual returns during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of Associations
2002-2003	16590
2003-2004	17153
2004-2005	18540

Further, 8673 Associations have not submitted annual returns during the last three years and they have been placed under the Prior Permission category. The State-wise list of the Associations placed under the Prior Permission category are available on the MHA's website—<http://mha.nic.in/fore.htm>.

(g) MHA has already introduced the facility for on-line submission of applications for grant of registration and filing annual returns under FCRA. This will facilitate the Associations in furnishing their applications for grant of registration and filing their annual returns as well as it will help Government in improving the monitoring mechanism.

Export of Agricultural Products

871. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of agricultural products of the country is decreasing;

(b) if so, the details of export of agricultural products during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has made any study to find out the reasons for such decrease in agricultural products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase export of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Export of agricultural products of the country has been showing an increasing trend over the last three years. Some of the major agricultural products being exported during the last three years are rice, wheat, cereals, poultry & dairy products, floriculture products, tobacco, spices, cashew sugar, meat products, fruits, vegetables and processed foods.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) Encouraging export is a continuous process. The Government is taking steps to encourage export of agro products through measures and incentives under Plan schemes of the Commodity Boards etc. In order to boost Indian agricultural products, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative (MAI), Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) etc. with modified guidelines under which the various Boards/Councils undertake programmes like organization of Buyer-Seller Meet, participation in Trade Fairs, Visit of Organisation of delegations of traders and exporters to various countries. Under these schemes mentioned, the exporters are also provided grants in aid for modernization, technology upgradation, packaging and quality improvement etc. with a view to enhance the exports of the country. The Government has also declared 60 Agri Export Zones for improving the production for exports of various agricultural commodities in the country.

Export of Foodgrains

872. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the quantum of foodgrains exported from India during last two years;

(b) the names of the countries to which foodgrains have been exported during the said period;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to take steps to boost the export of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The quantum of foodgrains exported from India during last two years is as follows:

Year	Qty: in Lakh MTs
2004-05	72.15
2005-06	58.43

(b) Some of the major countries to which foodgrains have been exported during the said period are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UK, UAE, Yemen Arab Republic, Nigeria, Bangladesh, South Africa, Ivory Coast, Nepal, Philippines, Belgium, Sudan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, USA, Algeria, Egypt, Spain, Canada and Italy.

(c) and (d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) operates various schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the exporters for market development, infrastructure development, quality development, research and development and transportation. The efforts are constantly being made for opening up of new markets.

[Translation]

Impure Gold

873. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the business of impure gold is increasing in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to prevent it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) No such complaint has been received by this Ministry on this matter. However, as per a market survey of non-hallmarked jewellery conducted by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in 16 cities of the country some time back shortage in purity of gold content in the jewellery was found to be widespread. On gold jewellery, BIS is running a voluntary hallmarking scheme under the BIS Act, 1986. The scheme is aimed at providing third party assurance to consumers on the purity of gold for its fineness. Purchasers of Hallmarked Jewellers can get their jewellery tested from any BIS recognized assaying centre. The scheme is operated through network of Regional and Branch Offices of BIS all over the country.

Modern Indian Language Status to Hindi

874. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindi has been provided the status of the modern Indian language in the new curriculum being prepared by the N.C.E.R.T.;

(b) if so, whether declaring Hindi as modern Indian language would not amount to lowering its status of our national and official language; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) NCERT has informed that there is no mention in the National Curriculum Framework 2005 prepared by NCERT of Hindi having been provided the status of the modern Indian language.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Cash Crops sector in Kerala

875. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Kerala for a special package for the development of cash crops sectors,

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the proposal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Government has received a proposal from Government of Kerala for revival/rejuvenation of various agricultural crops which also included proposal for revival of plantation crops in Kerala. The Union Cabinet has, on a proposal made to the Agricultural Department, already approved a special rehabilitation package in this regard for farmers in 31 disturbed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The Cabinet respect to rejuvenation of plantations, paddy lands and coconut cultivation in Alappuzha and Idukki districts of Kerala.

Import of Fruits

876. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fruits/vegetables imported/exported during the last three years particularly after the removal of import restrictions showing the quantum of each fruit/vegetable imported, State-wise;

(b) whether the export of these items from their respective States is satisfactory;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that there is optimum export of these items from their producing States;

(d) the customs duty imposed on each of these imported fruit varieties;

(e) the impact of these imports on the domestic fruit growers and traders; and

(f) steps taken to safeguard the interest of domestic fruit/vegetable growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Import and export of fruits and vegetables are given as under—

(Quantity in Tons)

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007 (Apr-Jun)
Export						
Edible Fruit And Nuts; Peel Or Citrus Fruit Or Melons	373,611.84	425,997.81	475,244.44	488,790.72	591,098.44	170,083.81
Edible Vegetables and Certain Roots and Tubers	822,681.06	991,894.50	1,268,285.25	1,410,369.75	1,766,503.25	578,367.36
Import						
Edible Fruit And Nuts; Peel Or Citrus Fruit Or Melons	484,155.59	655,572.56	738,148.25	854,976.00	928,009.50	269,075.81
Edible Vegetables And Certain Roots And Tubers	2,395,902.25	2,229,147.00	1,983,010.00	1,530,948.25	1,885,137.00	502,043.63

State-wise information is not maintained.

(d) The information is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) No assessment has been made on the impact of import of fruits on the domestic fruit growers/traders.

(f) the following three schemes are under implementation for holistic development of horticulture crops in the interest of domestic fruit/vegetable growers in the country-

(i) National Horticulture Mission

(ii) Technology Mission for Integrated development of Horticulture

(iii) Micro-irrigation.

Statement

Discription	Basic customs duty
1	2
Coconuts	70%
Brazil nut	30%
Cashew nuts in shell	Nil
Cashew nuts shelled	30%
Almonds in shell	Rs. 35 per kg.
Almonds shelled	Rs. 65 per kg.
Hazelnuts or filberts	30%

1	2
Walnuts	30%
Chestnuts	30%
Pistachios	30%
Betal Nuts	100%
Bananas	100%
Dates	30%
Figs	30%
Pineapples	30%
Avocados	30%
Guavas, Mangoes and mangosteens	30%
Citrus fruit fresh or dried	30%
Oranges	
Mandarins (Including tangarines and satsumas) Clemantines, wilkings and similar citrus hybrids	30%
Grape fruit	25%
Lemon	30%
Other	30%
Grapes Fresh	30%
Grapes Dried, raisins	100%
Melons (Including watermelons) and papaws (papauas), fresh	30%
Apples	50%
Pears and quinces	30%
Apricots	30%
Cherries	30%
Peaches, Including nectarine	30%
Plums and sloes	25%
Other fruit, fresh Strawberries	30%

1	2
Raspberries, blacknerries, mulberries and loganberries	30%
Black, white or red currants and gooseberries	30%
Cranberries, bilberries and other fruits of the genus Vaccinium	30%
Kiwi fruit	30%
Durians	15%
Pomegranates	15%
Tamarind, fresh	15%
Sapota (chico)	15%
Custard-apple (Afa)	15%
Bore	15%
Lichi	15%
Other	15%
Strawberries	30%
Respberred, blackberries, mulberries, loganberries black, white or red currants and gooseberries;	30%
Cherries	30%
Mango slices in brine	30%

Source: M/o Finance

Flood affected States

877. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:
 SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
 SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
 SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
 SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
 SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
 SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
 SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
 DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States/UTs affected by flood and other calamities during 2006;

(b) whether Central team have visited the flood affected areas in various States;

(c) if so, the details of reports submitted by such teams, State/UT-wise;

(d) the details of loss of life and property damaged during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(e) the details of assistance requested and released by Union Government to such States/UTs so far;

(f) whether States have violated the norms for payment of compensation to affected farmers;

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

(h) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Twenty-two States and One UT have reported damage in varying degrees due to heavy rains, floods, landslide, cloudburst and cyclonic depression during the year 2006. These are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Pondicherry.

(b) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and U.T. of Pondicherry have submitted memoranda to G.O.I, for seeking assistance from National Calamity

Contingency Fund (NCCF) for the cyclonic storms/heavy rains/floods of 2006. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams had been constituted and visited all the aforesaid States/UT, except Himachal Pradesh, for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. The memorandum of Himachal Pradesh has been received recently. A Central Team is being constituted to visit the State.

(c) The reports of all the Central Teams, which had visited the affected States, have been received and are being processed in accordance with the laid down procedure for assistance from NCCF. The Report of the Central Team is a document for Inter-Ministerial discussions. In the case of UT of Pondicherry, the assistance is provided from the budget provision of Union Territories.

(d) The details of loss of life and damage to property, as received from the affected States/UT, based on their preliminary assessment, are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(e) Statement showing the Central assistance sought by the affected States/UT in their Memorandum is given in the enclosed Statement-II

An amount of Rs. 2554.79 crore has been released to the affected States from the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and Rs. 1904.61 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during the year 2006-07. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-III Further assistance to the affected States will be provided after their Memoranda are processed as per the laid down procedure.

(f) This Ministry has received no report on violation of the norms in payment of relief to affected farmers.

(g) and (h) Does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise details of damage due to Cyclonic storms/heavy rains/floods/landslides during the year 2006

(Provisional, as on 28.9.2006)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Lives lost (No.)	Cattle lost (No.)	Houses (No.)	Cropped area (in lakh ha.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	247	366308	322074	8.13
2.	Assam	7	20	2367	0.11

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	25	19	17447	0.75
4.	Chhattisgarh	37	9653	15820	0.15
5.	Gujarat	293	8421	161625	7.47
6.	Goa	—	—	5	0.002
7.	Haryana	6	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	48	846	4379	0.94
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	25	2677	11835	0.61
10.	Jharkhand	5	101	3011	0.03
11.	Karnataka	123	236	20440	1.55
12.	Kerala	180	2269	114435	0.24
13.	Madhya Pradesh	168	6107	129998	—
14.	Maharashtra	423	13417	594516	12.59
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	neg.
16.	Orissa	90	1656	120356	3.09
17.	Punjab	8	16	224	0.02
18.	Rajasthan	146	42253	254844	17.36
19.	Tamil Nadu	23	67	444	17.37
20.	Tripura	4	—	—	—
21.	Uttar Pradesh	508	588	—	—
22.	West Bengal	36	697	160575	0.45
23.	Pondicherry	—	268	285	neg.

Statement II

The assistance sought by States/UT affected by heavy, rains/floods during 2006

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State/UT	Amount
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9969.58
2.	Chhattisgarh	376.22
3.	Gujarat	2707.27
4.	Himachal Pradesh	393.32

1	2	3
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	645.48
6.	Kerala	149.08
7.	Karnataka	1895.61
8.	Maharashtra	5423.28
9.	Madhya Pradesh	749.62
10.	Orissa	2383.76
11.	Rajasthan	3284.22
12.	Pondicherry	73.03

Statement III*Statewise details of releases from CRF and NCCF during the year 2006.*

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Allocation under CRF	Centre's share of CRF released	Released under NCCF
1.	Andhra Pradesh	361.28	335.48	203.06
2.	Assam	198.62	72.40	0.00
3.	Bihar	153.23	0.00*	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	114.98	150.33	0.00
5.	Goa	2.21	1.62	0.00
6.	Gujarat	258.30	246.87	545.69
7.	Haryana	130.60	58.31	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	103.60	38.85	25.14
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	88.96	33.36	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	129.71	48.64	0.00
11.	Karnataka	120.39	113.98	384.97
12.	Kerala	89.77	33.67	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	261.58	246.67	30.85
14.	Maharashtra	234.05	220.00	589.90
15.	Meghalaya	11.61	8.59	0.00
16.	Orissa	310.24	291.34	25.00
17.	Punjab	153.33	112.26	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	436.42	413.66	100.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	219.53	0.00*	0.00
20.	Tripura	13.22	14.60#	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	304.48	114.18	0.00
22.	West Bengal	241.50	0.00*	0.00
Total		3937.61	2554.79	1904.61

*Centre's share of CRF has not been released for want of information relating to crediting of earlier released funds, utilisation certificate and annual report.

This includes 1 & 2 instalments of Rs. 9.64 crore for the year 2005-06.

[Translation]

Grants to Madhya Pradesh under Operation Black Board Project

878. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Central grants provided to Madhya Pradesh under Operation Black Board Project;

(b) whether the State Government requested the Union Government to provide hundred percent grants for the said scheme; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) A total sum of Rs. 33554.21 lakhs was provided to the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh under the Operation Black Board, which ended in the IXth Plan.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Value based Compensation on Minerals

879. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study conducted by the Ministry reveals that the value based compensation on Minerals/ Mines will replace the tonnage-based royalty currently being paid at *ad valorem* of 2.5% to 7%;

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) the decision taken/proposed to be taken by the Mineral Advisory Council in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) A Study Group was set up in the Ministry of Mines to suggest revision of rates of royalty and dead rent on major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing). There was no recommendations of the Study

Group to replace the tonnage base royalty currently being paid at *ad valorem* of 2.5% to 7%.

(c) 28th meeting of the Mineral Advisory Council was held on 6.11.2006 at New Delhi in which the issue of transition of rates of royalty on *ad valorem* basis was supported by State Governments. As per the MMDR Act, 1957 the Central Government shall enhance the rates of royalty in respect of any mineral once in a period of 3 years. Since the last revision of rates was done on 14.10.2004, the next revision of rates would be possible after 13.10.2007.

Increasing rate of Maternal and Child Mortality

880. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maternal mortality and child mortality rate are showing upward trends in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement giving details of Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate, both for the country as a whole and for some bigger states, in 1998 and 2003 is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education to the children. Pregnant women & lactating mothers are also covered under the Scheme.

Reduction in the incidence of mortality, morbidity and malnutrition is one of the objectives of the Scheme. Launched in 1975 in 33 blocks, the Scheme is currently sanctioned for 6118 blocks in the country. ICDS Scheme is being further expanded to bring uncovered habitations/settlements within its ambit.

Apart from this, Government of India, in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is also implementing several programmes/schemes viz. Reproductive & Child Health Programme, National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, National Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Control Programme, Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness, National Rural Health Mission to address the issue of maternal, child and infant mortality in the country.

To reduce Maternal Mortality, Government of India is undertaking several measures, under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood. Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken are as under:

- Implementation of the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).
- Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000 to facilitate access to health care services, mobilize pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal check ups.
- Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child health services.
- Making 50% Primary Health Centres functional for providing 24-hours delivery services, over the next five years.
- Ensuring quality of services by implementing India Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.
- Ensuring skilled attendance at every birth both in the community and the institutions.

Statement

Increasing Rates of Maternal and Child Mortality

S.No.	1998		2003	
	MMR	IMR	MMR	IMR
India	407	72	301	60
Bigger States				
1. Andhra Pradesh	150	66	195	59
2. Assam	409	76	490	67
3. Bihar	452	67	371*	60
4. Gujarat	28	64	172	57
5. Haryana	103	70	162	59
6. Karnataka	195	58	228	52
7. Kerala	198	16	110	11
8. Madhya Pradesh	498	98	379*	82
9. Maharashtra	135	49	149	42
10. Orissa	367	98	358	83
11. Punjab	199	54	178	49
12. Rajasthan	670	83	445	75
13. Tamil Nadu	79	53	134	43
14. Uttar Pradesh	707	85	517*	76
15. West Bengal	266	53	194	46

*Bihar & Jharkhand, M.P., Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal

[Source: RGI, Sample Registration System (SRS) 1998 & 2003]

Indo-Pak Trade Agreement

881. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into any trade agreement with Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the proposal to revive the sea trade and open some new rail/road routes to boost bilateral trade between India and Pakistan was under the consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the benefits likely to accrue to India alongwith its implication on national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Services of Anganwadi workers

882. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to regularize the services of workers of Anganwadi centres in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has constituted any committee to look into the demands of the Anganwadi workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which its report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Review Committee has been set up for examining the current levels of honorarium and related issues of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. The Terms of Reference of the Review Committee are given in the Statement enclosed. The Committee is expected to submit its report by 31st December, 2006.

Statement*Terms of Reference of the Review Committee*

(a) To review the job responsibility and job content of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers under ICDS Scheme.

(b) To identify the Scheme/Programmes of the Departments/Ministries of the Government of India, State Governments and local bodies in implementation of which Anganwadi Workers and Helpers are associated/involved.

(c) To review whether the additional honoraria being paid for duties and responsibilities assigned under Schemes/Programmes, other than ICDS, of the Central/State Governments or local bodies is reasonable.

(d) To review the existing levels of honorarium being paid to AWWs and AWHs for duties & responsibilities assigned under ICDS Scheme.

(e) To revisit rate of honorarium paid under ICDS Scheme.

(f) To consider whether additional honorarium is to be paid for functions/responsibilities assigned under other Schemes of Government of India/ State Governments/local bodies.

(g) Any other suggestion that the Committee may like to make to further motivate these workers to discharge their responsibilities efficiently.

*[English]***Hike in Cement Prices**

883. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep increase in the price of cement in recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor including the sectors getting affected due to hike in cement price;

(c) whether steep rise in price is a result of cartelization by the cement manufacturers;

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to bring down the prices and to prevent cement manufacturers from cartelization;

(e) whether the Government has issued any directive allowing fly ash to be blended in cement; and

(f) if so, the aims and objectives of such directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a), (b) and (d) Cement prices increased between December, 2005 and April 2006 at varying rates across the country; however these have stabilized since May 2006. Cement is a decontrolled commodity and the price is governed by economic factors, viz., demand and supply, cost of raw materials and other inputs, production and distribution costs. Government had impressed upon the cement manufacturers the need to rationalize cement price. Responding to it, the Cement Manufacturers' Association gave an undertaking to maximize production and dispatch of cement; ensure that the retailers do not indulge in profiteering; bring in fresh investment to create additional capacities; and supply cement on priority and at 5% discount on the ruling prices to the Central Government Departments.

(c) Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has informed that it has referred the complaints relating to cartelization by the Cement Manufacturers to the Director General (Investigation & Registration) for investigation.

(e) and (f) No Sir, blended cement is manufactured with addition of fly ash or slag. This has been permitted by BIS as per the prescribed BIS Standards, viz., IS-1489, 1991.

Export Promotion Council for North-Eastern States

884. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether north eastern region has been contributing Rs.1000 crores to the country's exports with tea accounting for 60 percent, coal 20 percent and cement 20 percent;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan by the Government for setting up a separate export promotion council for the North Eastern States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per DGCIS data, the Indian exports during 2005-06 from the North Eastern Region amounted to Rs. 1130 crores.

(b) No Export Promotion Councils have been constituted for important commodities/sectors with a view to promoting exports. No export promotion council has been constituted by the Government of India to promote exports from specific region.

(c) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Definition of Natural Calamities**

885. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after handing over the responsibility to deal with the natural calamities to the Ministry of Home Affairs the work of re-defining the natural calamities by the Ministry is going on;

(b) if so, the calamities which have been kept under the definition of natural calamities at present and the details of the suggestions contained in the proposals under consideration regarding inclusion of certain calamities in the definition of natural calamities;

(c) whether Twelfth Finance Commission has also made recommendations for inclusion of certain calamities in the definition of natural calamities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether recommendations have also been made in the Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners of the States in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The Scheme of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has been notified by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) based on the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC). TFC had considered the proposals submitted by some States for inclusion of some calamities in the list of natural calamities eligible for assistance under CRF/NCCF.

The TFC has extended the definition of natural calamities eligible for assistance under CRF/NCCF to cover the calamities of land slides, avalanches, cloud burst and pest attacks to the existing list of cyclone, drought, earthquake/Tsunami, fire, floods and hailstorm.

Inclusion of any calamity in the list of natural calamities to be eligible for assistance from CRF/NCCF comes under the purview of the Finance Commission.

(e) and (f) The issue of inclusion of new calamities in the approved list of natural calamities for assistance under CRF/NCCF was discussed in the Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners of the States and the position as mentioned above has been appraised.

[English]

Setting up of NHRC in States

886. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States who have and who have not constituted National Human Rights Commissions (NHRC) as on date, separately;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has expressed its unhappiness over non-seriousness of the State Governments in the cases of violation of NHRC; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government to constitute NHRC in all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per information available as on date, the following 18 States have set up State Human Rights Commission:

Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar and Gujarat.

The following 10 States do not have Human Rights Commission:-

Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttaranchal.

(b) Assuming that the Question refers to violation of human rights and not violation of NHRC, the following is the reply:

To ensure compliance of '11 requirements' against custodial violence as spelt out by Hon'ble Supreme Court in D.K. Basu's and others Vs. State of West Bengal and Others, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the State Human Rights Commissions to constitute a sub committee in their respective Commissions with a view to oversee whether the 11 requirements as spelt out in D.K. Basu's case are being carried out or not and to take all such

further necessary steps as are required to ensure that those requirements are carried out. It shall be open to such sub committee to make surprise checks with a view to see actual implementation of those requirements. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further directed that the report of the action taken by the Committees constituted by the State Human Rights Commissions, as per the order above, is to be sent to them directly.

(c) The Government has been pursuing with the concerned State Governments from time to time, to set up SHRC.

Import of Cheap Products

887. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: '

(a) whether the cheap subsidized products from various developed countries are being imported and dumped in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has formulated any strategy to check cheap imports with a view to protecting the interests of domestic industry and the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore and by when arrangements would be made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) In order to counteract, trade distortion caused by dumping/subsidy and the consequential injury to the domestic industry, the Government has set up the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) to conduct anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigations and make recommendations to the Central Government for imposition of anti-dumping or countervailing measures, where appropriate. The Government has also set up the Directorate General of Safeguards under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance to investigate and recommend safeguard duty when faced with situation of increased imports of any commodity which causes or threatens to cause serious injury to domestic producers. Besides, imports of commodities declared as sensitive are constantly being monitored by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

Import of Spices

888. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted import of spices especially pepper and cardamom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the precautionary measures taken by the Government to save the indigenous spice growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) India removed all quantitative restrictions on imports except those necessitated, inter alia, on grounds of health, security, public morals and environment in the year 2001. A customs duty of 70% is levied on import of pepper and cardamom.

[Translation]

Launching of Pilot Project 'Sakshat'

889. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently launched a pilot project 'Sakshat'; and

(b) if so, the details and aim of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The portal envisages providing one stop solution to educational requirements of learners ranging from class KG to Research level covering all fields of study including vocational education and learning for life skills.

[English]

Insurance Scheme for weavers

890. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequent changes are being made in the insurance schemes introduced as weavers welfare schemes;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The Government of India was implementing a Group Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers since 1992-93 till December 2003. The annual premium under the scheme was Rs.120/- per weaver which was shared equally by the weaver, the State Government and the Government of India. The sum assured for natural death was Rs. 10,000/-. The scheme did not cover accidental death. The scheme was replaced by the Bunkar Bima Yojana in December, 2003. The objective of the Bunkar Bima Yojana was to provide an enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death. The sum assured under the Bunkar Bima Yojana was Rs. 50,000/- for natural death and Rs. 80,000/- in case of accidental death. Besides this, a scholarship of Rs. 300/- per quarter per child was available to the Students studying in standards IX to XII for a maximum period of 4 years. The benefit was available for two children of the member covered under the Bunkar Bima Yojana. The annual premium was Rs. 3807/, out of which the weaver's share was Rs. 130/-, LIC's share was Rs. 100/- and the Government of India's share was Rs. 150/-

The Bunkar Bima Yojana was modified in 2005-06 and rechristened as Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing insurance cover of Rs. 5 0,000/- for natural death and Rs. 80,000/- for accidental death with a *reduced premium* of Rs. 330/- per annum. The scholarship benefit available under the Bunkar Bima Yojana is also available under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana. Out of total premium of Rs. 330/- the weaver's share is Rs. 80/-, LIC's share is Rs. 100/- and the Government of India's share is Rs. 150/-. The scheme is implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). This scheme is an improvement over the old scheme because the weavers' contribution is less by Rs. 50/- per annum in new scheme for same amount of benefits.

Health Insurance Scheme

The Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) was introduced in 2005-06 in place of the earlier Health Package Scheme in which the upper limit for the reimbursement claims received from the State Governments was only Rs. 1500/- in a year. The scheme covered only the individual and not members of his family. The newly introduced Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) covers not only the weaver but his wife and two children also. It covers all pre-existing and new diseases. The maximum limit per family is Rs. 15000/- per annum out of which the OPD cover is Rs.7500/-.

(d) Thus the newly introduced Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and the Health Insurance Scheme aim at providing more benefits to the handloom weavers.

Activities of ULFA

891. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ULFA is recruiting persons from the neighbouring countries in their cadres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has asked security and intelligence agencies to get tough with ULFA cadres and make appropriate responses to their violence; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the activities of ULFA has been curbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) There is no specific report regarding recruitment of foreign nationals in their cadres by United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) from the neighbouring countries.

(c) and (d) Following the twin blasts on 5.11.2006, State Police/Central Police Organisations have been asked to intensify counter Insurgency (CI) operations against ULFA and other extremists groups. The CI operations are continuing. The security forces have been successful in neutralizing a number of cadres of ULFA and other extremists groups.

[Translation]

Infiltration by ISI Agents in various Government Organisations

892. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani intelligence agency has infiltrated in the various Government organisations;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure of Indian intelligence agencies in getting information about it;

(c) whether ISI has made its impact in armed forces of the country;

(d) if so, the total number of Government institutions from which ISI agents have been apprehended;

(e) whether secret and important documents have been seized from them;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of investigation conducted and the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Security & Intelligence Agencies have been keeping a close watch on espionage activities including that of Pak ISI agents. As per available information, during the current year (till 22.11.2006), a total number of 21 ISI backed espionage modules have been neutralized in the country resulting in the arrest of espionage agents including some defence personnel.

(e) to (g) In these cases, some important and secret documents have been seized from the arrested persons. Necessary investigations into these cases are conducted and action is taken as per the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1923. Besides, comprehensive preventive measures based on the modus operandi of hostile intelligence agencies are enforced and regular security review is carried out from time to time with a view to sensitize the environment for making security apparatus foolproof. In addition, the existing Counter Intelligence set up in the Armed Forces is synergized on a regular basis to meet the new challenges. Stringent action is undertaken against the accused persons and exemplary punishment is awarded.

[English]

Ashok Ganguly Committee on Nursery Admission

893. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the Ashok Ganguly Committee report on nursery admission;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Ganguly Committee in regard to the admission in nursery class;

(c) whether the action committee of unaided private schools was against the no interview, no interaction policy as suggested by the Ganguly Committee;

(d) if so, the reasons given by them for the same

(e) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government against the schools who will not follow the recommendations of Ganguly Committee; and

(f) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to ensure effective implementation of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A FATMI): (a) to (f) The Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashok Ganguly, Chairman CBSE on matters relating to Nursery admission, was appointed by the

Hon'ble Delhi High Court and the Committee has submitted their report directly to the Hon'ble High Court, and not to the Government of India.

[English]

Registration of Complaints by Delhi Police

894. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Police is registering FIR of every complaint regarding cognizable offence at Police Stations as per the decision of Supreme Court in October, 2006;

(b) if so, the number of complaints of such offence received by Delhi Police during each of the last three years, district-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Delhi Police against such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Delhi Police registers cases under appropriate section of law for taking up investigation in respect of such complaints wherein cognizable offence is made out. Details of cases registered by Delhi Police on such complaints during the years 2003, 2004, 2005 & 2006 (upto 15.11.06) are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Registration of Complaints by Delhi Police

Name of District	Year			
	2003	2004	2005	2006 (upto 15th November)
New Delhi District	2530	3024	2668	2269
East District	6374	8014	8167	7094
North-East District	5156	6321	7277	6958
South District	11640	13690	15140	14539
South-West District	6743	7550	7202	7670
West District	11367	11553	11397	10563
North District	5584	6059	6053	4968
North-West District	12551	14234	15808	13917
Central District	5185	5915	6507	5515
Special Cell	106	177	152	88
Crime & Railways	1354	1477	1394	1108
Indira Gandhi International Airport	724	745	873	881

[English]

Employment in Small Scale Industries

895. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has emphasized the creation of more employment opportunities for women in rural and tribal areas by implementing various rural development schemes through the small scale industries;

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

(c) the incentives provided and targets fixed and achieved in regard to new industrial units set up for creating job opportunities for women in rural and tribal areas during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government is implementing various Schemes/ Programmes to enable individual entrepreneurs including women in rural and tribal areas to set up micro, small and tiny units and thus create employment opportunities. A Scheme entitled 'Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD)' was launched by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries in 2004 for the economic empowerment of women through development of their entrepreneurial skills in non-farm activities. The main components of this Scheme are as under:

- (i) Grants up to 30% of the total project cost, as appraised by lending institutions which would finance the remaining 70% as loan assistance.
- (ii) Grants up to Rs. 1.00 lakh to training organisations viz., Entrepreneurship Development Institutes, National Institute of Small Industry extension training and Non-governmental Organisation conducting training programmes for empowerment of women beneficiaries identified under the Scheme.
- (iii) Need based Grants upto Rs. 5.00 lakh to training institutes per project for field surveys, research studies, evaluation studies, designing of training modules, etc.

Under the Scheme, central grant of Rs. 69.31 lakh has been released to 1785 women beneficiaries including women from rural and tribal areas. As small scale units are set up by individual entrepreneurs on their own consideration of advantages, no target for setting up SSI units is fixed.

Closed Textile Mills in A.P.

896. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of textile mills in Andhra Pradesh lying closed as on date;

(b) the assets and liabilities of each closed mills;

(c) whether there is any proposal to sell the land of these mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) In the private and cooperative sectors, there were 39 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) lying closed in the state of Andhra Pradesh as on 31st October 2006. Their names are given in Statement-I. Also, the following four mills of the National Textile Corporation are lying closed as on date in the State of Andhra Pradesh :

- Azam Jahi Mills, Warrangal
- Netha Mills, Secunderabad
- Adoni Cotton Mills, Adoni
- Nataraj Spinning and Weaving Mills, Nirmal

(b) Government does not maintain information regarding assets and liabilities of the private and cooperative sector mills. However, assets and liabilities position in respect of National Textile Corporation Mills is given in Statement-II

(c) and (d) Government does not maintain information regarding sale of land of private and cooperative sector mills. However, in respect of National Textile Corporation Mills position regarding sale of land is as follows:

- Azam Jahi Mills, Warrangal—Land already sold.
- Netha Mills, Secunderabad—2.17 acres to be sold.
- Adoni Cotton Mills, Adoni—7.17 acres to be sold.
- Nataraj Spinning and Weaving Mills, Nirmal—Land already sold.

Statement I

Closed textile mills in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 31.10.2006 (Private and Cooperative Sector)

Sl.No.	Name of the Mills
1	2
1.	Anantapur Cotton Mills
2.	The Andhra Coop. Spg. Mills Ltd
3.	The Chirala Co-Operative Spinning Mills Limited
4.	The Nellore Coop. Spinning Mills Limited
5.	Karimnagar Coop. Spg. Mills Ltd
6.	The Chilakaluripet Cotton Growers Co-Op. Spg. Mills Ltd.
7.	Sathavahana Cotton Growers Coop Spinning Mills Ltd.
8.	The Nandyal Co-Op Spg. Mills Ltd.
9.	The Parchur Cotton Growers Co-Op. Spg. Mills Limited
10.	The Hemalatha Textiles Limited
11.	The Rayalaseema Mills Limited
12.	Shree Ramchandra Spg. Mills
13.	Sri Veera Venkatalakshmi Textiles (P) Limited
14.	G.N.Products (P) Ltd (Adoni Spg & Wvg. Co.) Kothari Ind Corpn
15.	Andhra Cotton Mills Ltd.
16.	Saicharan Cottons (P) Ltd (Anusuya Spinners Ltd.)
17.	Sri Murali Spinning Mills Ltd. (Venkatachalapathi Mills Ltd)

1	2
18.	Sarvaraya Textiles Limited
19.	Abirami Cotton Mills (P) Limited
20.	Telangana Spinning & Weaving Mills Limited
21.	Penguin Textiles Limited
22.	VSM Spinning Mills P. Ltd. (Venkataraya Spg. Mills P. Ltd.)
23.	Leena Textiles Limited
24.	Omkareshwar Spinning Mills (P) Ltd (Quality Spg & Weav. P. Ltd
25.	Navya Spinning Mills Limited (Eou)
26.	Srinivasa Spg Mills Pvt. Ltd.
27.	Telangana Spinning & Weaving Mills Limited
28.	Sree Srinivasa Spg Mills P. Ltd
29.	Sudha Sewing Threads Limited
30.	Shree Manufacturing Company Limited
31.	Sree Kalyana Srinivasa Tex Ltd
32.	Samrat Spinners Ltd. Eou (Sree Satyam Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd.)
33.	Shri Maruthi Textiles Ltd
34.	Parkins Textiles (P) Limited
35.	Feno Fiber Limited
36.	S.L.S. Textiles Limited
37.	Dhanalaxmi Roto Spinners P. Ltd.
38.	Sirilaxmi Fibres Limited
39.	Dewan Bahadur Ramgopal Mills Ltd.

Statement II*Assets and liabilities of closed National Textile Corporation Mills in Andhra Pradesh*

	Azam Jahi Mills, Warrangal	Netha Mills, Secunderabad	Adoni Cotton Mills, Adoni	Nataraj Spinning and Weaving Mills, Nirmal
Liability				
Share Capital	578.81	120.27	297.76	123.70
Reserves and Surplus	128.35	20.07	39.04	1.97
Loans Unsecured (HO)	9177.83	2389.67	2283.56	2269.53
Loans Unsecured (Others)	2023.11	Nil	16.77	Nil
Current liabilities	986.97	327.99	973.22	132.58
Total liabilities	12895.07	2858.00	3590.35	2527.78
Assets				
Net fixed assets	7.83	0.41	23.10	0.89
Current Assets	2964.02	2474.80	344.52	160.01
P&L A/c accumulated loss	9923.22	382.79	3222.73	2366.87
Total Assets	12895.07	2858.00	3590.35	2527.78

Production/Profit of NALCO

897. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target for production and export of Aluminium has been fixed by NALCO for 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target for production and sale of Aluminium fixed by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) for 2006-07 based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Ministry of Mines is as under:-

Production of Aluminium	3,45,000 tonnes
Total sale of Aluminium (Export & Domestic)	3,45,000 tonnes

No specific target for exports of aluminium has been fixed under the MOU.

(c) The performance of the Company is reviewed by the Government from time to time so as to ensure that the targets fixed are achieved.

[Translation]

Foreign Direct Investment in The Industrially Backward States

898. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG
PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major chunk of the foreign direct investment approved during January 1999 upto 31st December, 2005 has gone to most industrialised States;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide more incentives for foreign direct investment in the selected industrially backward States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the share of foreign direct investment by main investors like USA and Japan in India is merely one per cent of the total foreign direct investment made by them globally and whether they are more interested in investing in other countries in Asia-Pacific region;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the reasons behind such a large gap in the amount of approved foreign direct investment and the actual investment;

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce this gap; and

(h) the success achieved by the Government through these steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Statement showing state-wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved during January 1999 to December, 2005 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the

automatic route in most sectors/activities. Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions, including choice of location, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their commercial judgement and other relevant factors which may include investment climate in different States, quality and availability of necessary infrastructure, simplification of regulatory process etc. The FDI policy applies uniformly across the country with no special dispensation for any particular state or region.

(d) and (e) As per the World Investment Report 2005 published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the FDI inflow into India from USA and Japan is less than 1% of their total outflow. FDI inflows depend on various factors, both external and internal. Besides the macro-economic environment in the host economy, global economic environment, corporate strategy of the transnational corporations, and economic situation in other FDI destinations play a major role.

(f) to (h) Approval for foreign direct investment accorded by the Government reflects the intent of the entrepreneur to invest in a particular State/Sector. However, a large number of approvals/clearances such as allotment of land, power connection, registration of factories, administration of land laws, sales tax, etc. are to be accorded by the State Government. Furthermore, implementation of projects may have a long gestation period. In such cases the investment is not received immediately but over a period of time depending on the need of capital at various stages of project implementation.

Statement

State-wise Break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Approved by Government during January 1999 to December 2005.

(Amount in crore)

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Approvals Financial	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved (in Rs.)	% to Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra	2629	21,968.95	22.78
2.	Delhi	1936	12,604.12	13.07
3.	Tamil Nadu	1296	10,692.65	11.09
4.	Karnataka	1517	9,270.76	9.61

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gujarat	331	5,723.06	5.93
6.	Andhra Pradesh	633	3,987.62	4.14
7.	West Bengal	258	2,251.99	2.34
8.	Madhya Pradesh	54	2,247.67	2.33
9.	Uttar Pradesh	236	1,937.81	2.01
10.	Haryana	227	1,749.53	1.81
11.	Punjab	57	1,236.32	1.28
12.	Kerala	184	1,217.16	1.26
13.	Pondicherry	50	932.66	0.97
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17	891.48	0.92
15.	Rajasthan	81	791.13	0.82
16.	Bihar	6	631.95	0.66
17.	Goa	157	570.25	0.59
18.	Orissa	24	472.70	0.49
19.	Chhattisgarh	7	216.24	0.22
20.	Chandigarh	57	186.17	0.19
21.	Daman and Diu	15	40.59	0.04
22.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	35.95	0.04
23.	Jharkhand	8	26.80	0.03
24.	Uttaranchal	13	10.71	0.01
25.	Tripura	2	2.41	0.00
26.	Mizoram	1	1.52	0.00
27.	Assam	2	0.91	0.00
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0.40	0.00
29.	Meghalaya	1	0.00	0.00
30.	Manipur	1	0.00	0.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1	0.00	0.00
32.	State Not Indicated	987	16,732.87	17.35
Grand Total		10792	96,432.39	

*[English]***Construction of Building under SSA**

899. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
 SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
 SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
 SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:
 SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
 SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:
 SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
 SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT:
 SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for opening schools, construction of school buildings, additional class rooms, enrolment of Education Guarantee Scheme Centres/AIE; appointment of new teachers, free text books, setting up of block resource centres and cluster resource centre, each separately; State-wise;

(b) the achievements/progress in implementation of the same, state-wise;

(c) the number of proposals received from the State Governments for grant of financial assistance for implementation of the said scheme, alongwith the status thereof, Statewise; and

(d) the total amount of expenditure incurred on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) during the last three years including the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A FATMI): (a) and (b) State-wise targets and achievements under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are given in the table.

(c) The Annual Work Plans & Budgets of all States and Union Territories, under the SSA for the year 2006-07 were approved by the Government of India by May, 2006.

(d) The total expenditure incurred during last three years, including current year, is Rs. 22144.09 crore.

Statement*Construction of building under SSA*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Appointment of new Teachers		Free Textbooks		Setting up of Block Resource Centre		Setting up of Cluster Resource Centre	
		Target	Achievement upto 30.09.2006	Target	Achievement upto 30.09.2006	Target	Achievement upto 30.09.2006	Target	Achievement upto 30.09.2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	63	46	0	0	9	9	37	37
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36300	34676	416174	2291	1128	1128	6970	6970
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2924	2166	134286	134286	62	68	184	185
4.	Assam	5410	3871	2849185	2849165	164	145	2473	2473
5.	Bihar	184081	70151	7575118	4445085	526	533	4479	4564
6.	Chandigarh	785	240	32000	0	0	0	20	20
7.	Chhattisgarh	50786	40567	2984739	2984739	146	146	2169	2169

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	750	356	0	0	3	0	17	0
9.	Daman and Diu	66	63	7842	7842	2	2	7	7
10.	Delhi	20	0	220336	220336	7	0	136	0
11.	Goa	195	0	60270	60270	11	11	180	33
12.	Gujarat	1848	1662	465445	403580	224	224	3351	3351
13.	Haryana	6104	4823	1375661	1375661	119	119	1235	1235
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2994	2433	215056	207969	75	75	2104	2104
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	16976	15660	786202	786202	118	199	1592	1592
16.	Jharkhand	83709	46189	3421904	3421904	212	209	2079	1952
17.	Karnataka	16395	10998	0	0	176	176	2299	2299
18.	Kerala	248	0	1749514	1748162	152	162	1356	1356
19.	Lakshadweep	13	0	11985	0	3	1	10	9
20.	Madhya Pradesh	90477	80416	8043341	8043341	318	314	6330	6330
21.	Maharashtra	1236	1236	8954044	8894737	389	389	5567	5667
22.	Manipur	123	0	321951	282039	35	34	299	124
23.	Meghalaya	6543	0	560570	560570	39	39	295	295
24.	Mizoram	866	578	197376	197376	22	22	159	159
25.	Nagaland	168	0	33678	33678	41	41	0	0
26.	Orissa	64734	55770	3402376	3402376	314	314	5257	4397
27.	Pondicherry	30	0	0	0	6	5	25	0
28.	Punjab	3070	1868	2043712	471825	141	141	1499	1499
29.	Rajasthan	86516	31896	424034	424034	190	161	2323	2531
30.	Sikkim	468	375	20398	0	9	9	131	131
31.	Tamil Nadu	16966	8686	0	0	385	385	4068	4068
32.	Tripura	3311	2504	618344	0	40	40	314	332
33.	Uttar Pradesh	233583	215950	15917311	15917311	878	878	8249	8176
34.	Uttaranchal	4532	3327	886645	877748	95	95	1002	1006
35.	West Bengal	87881	30333	3120658	83893	707	707	4212	1425
TOTAL		1012103	666840	66870135	57836420	6746	6771	70386	66487

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Opening of schools		Construction of school buildings		Additional classrooms		Enrolment in education guarantee scheme centers/AIF	
		Target	Achievement upto 30.09.2006	Target	Achievement upto 30.09.2006	Target	Achievement upto 30.09.2006	Target	Achievement upto 30.09.2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	9	5	4	0	143	14	5255	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7011	7961	9016	6698	27224	12730	261348	49772
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	850	670	936	200	1158	223	30028	1294
4.	Assam	0	0	7132	6928	35542	5542	1102248	655310
5.	Bihar	23687	3990	17466	1309	89556	15370	1676921	427722
6.	Chandigarh	14	6	24	2	94	0	72680	10404
7.	Chhattisgarh	15518	9233	13812	4022	7816	5168	142785	40111
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	78	41	120	0	256	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	12	0	12	5	11	1	356	0
10.	Delhi	0	0	2	0	903	327	160377	190535
11.	Goa	0	0	0	0	136	0	32001	0
12.	Gujarat	831	101	835	696	14270	6950	370630	77277
13.	Haryana	1993	1322	1745	926	10126	5094	226347	26974
14.	Himachal Pradesh	910	811	0	0	7438	3939	47391	25160
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6156	6154	4644	1286	5572	1632	274525	0
16.	Jharkhand	16124	20505	8100	1144	30120	16735	506065	275790
17.	Karnataka	8483	2069	2319	1283	28388	13217	825375	646213
18.	Kerala	139	0	521	290	5778	2773	12895	12895
19.	Lakshadweep	1	0	6	0	10		312	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	49990	37999	35147	19490	36627	13471	609065	324950
21.	Maharashtra	847	568	10706	7810	35402	20203	666331	189189
22.	Manipur	271	132	968	69	698	40	123436	59733
23.	Meghalaya	2151	1854	270	204	39	7	54223	27500
24.	Mizoram	522	257	884	546	321	314	24820	24820
25.	Nagaland	56	0	166	61	2269	550	33383	62672
26.	Orissa	12494	8207	9296	3757	15121	6504	594954	332075

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
27.	Pondichery	40	0	28	0	264	0	1782	84
28.	Punjab	1093	1005	505	204	13702	7032	724892	627342
29.	Rajasthan	37118	28370	8340	7523	40962	12212	1099672	1080737
30.	Sikkim	87	78	50	30	403	119	7968	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	5180	4424	5416	4908	21922	7501	161062	6050
32.	Tripura	1948	493	1182	531	1251	870	63318	63318
33.	Uttar Pradesh	28006	27050	34351	28112	175898	91121	343185	15, *?
34.	Uttaranchal	1724	352	3355	1420	3734	1948	63726	53950
35.	West Bengal	10215	0	4124	585	75445	29304	2349834	1420305
Total		232938	164477	181484	97999	687639	281001	12689299	6707944

Insurance cover to CRPF

900. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide insurance cover to CRPF Jawans at par with the armed forces as reported in the Times of India, dated October 29, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has also pending demand for housing proposals for the personnel of CRPF;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the such demand is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Like the contribution based insurance scheme of

the defence personnel CRPF Jawans are covered by a contributory group insurance scheme. Improvement in welfare measures for the Central Police Force (CPF) personnel on the basis of the assessment of their working environment is a continuous exercise.

(c) to (e) The Government have enhanced the authorization of accommodation for Other Ranks in the CPFs from 14% to 25%. The time frame to achieve this target for CPFs, including CRPF, will depend upon the building capacity of the construction agencies in the coming years, who are being provided with adequate funds.

Foreign Entrepreneurs Investment in India

901. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government imposed any restriction on foreign entrepreneurs to invest in India;

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

(c) the number of entrepreneurs whose request for investment in India were turned down during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per Regulation 5(1) of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Regulations, 20/2000-RB dated 3-5-2000 as amended, a person resident outside India (other than a citizen of Bangladesh or Pakistan) or an entity outside India, whether incorporated or not, (other than an entity in Bangladesh or Pakistan), may purchase shares or convertible debentures of an Indian company under Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Scheme, subject to the terms and conditions specified in FDI Scheme. Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities. Sectors attracting FDI caps are detailed in Press Note 4(2006 Series) which is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Data on proposals turned down is not centrally maintained.

Statement

Government of India

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion

SIA (FC Division)

Press Note No. 4 (2006 Series)

Subject: Rationalisation of the FDI Policy

The policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been reviewed on a continuing basis and several measures announced from time to time for rationalization/liberalization of the policy and simplification of procedures.

2. Government of India has recently further reviewed the policy on FDI and decided as under:

(a) To allow under the automatic route, FDI up to 100%, for:

- i. distillation & brewing of potable alcohol;
- ii. manufacture of industrial explosives;
- iii. manufacture of hazardous chemicals;
- iv. manufacturing activities located within 25 kms of the Standard Urban Area limits which require Industrial license under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951;
- v. setting up Greenfield airport projects;

vi. laying of Natural Gas/LNG pipelines, market study & formulation and investment financing in the Petroleum & Natural Gas sector; and

vii. cash & carry wholesale trading and export trading.

(b) To increase FDI caps to 100% and permit it under the automatic route for:

- i. coal & lignite mining for captive consumption;
- ii. setting up infrastructure relating to marketing in Petroleum & Natural Gas sector; and
- iii. exploration and mining of diamonds & precious stones,

(c) To allow FDI up to 100% under the automatic route in

- i. power trading subject to compliance with Regulations under the Electricity Act, 2003;
- ii. processing and warehousing of coffee and rubber.

(d) To allow FDI up to 51% with prior Government approval for retail trade of 'Single Brand' products, detailed guidelines for which have been notified vide Press Note 3 (2006 Series).

(e) To allow under the automatic route transfer of shares from residents to non-residents in financial services, and where Securities & Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares & Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 are attracted, in cases where approvals are required from the Reserve Bank of India/Securities & Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares & Takeovers) Regulations, 1997/Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority. With this, transfer of share from residents to non-residents, including acquisition of shares in an existing company would be on the automatic route subject to sectoral policy on FDI.

(f) To dispense with the requirement of mandatory divestment of 26% foreign equity in B2B-Commerce.

3. FDI/NRI investment under the automatic route shall continue to be governed by the Sectoral regulations/licensing requirements.

4. A summary of the FDI policy and regulations applicable in various sectors/activities is given in the Annexure.

(UmeshKumar)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

F. No. 5(3)/2005-FC

Dated 10th February, 2006.

Annexure**Policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)****I. Sectors prohibited for FDI**

- i. Retail trading (except Single Brand Product retailing)
- ii. Atomic energy
- iii. Lottery business
- iv. Gambling and Betting

II. All Activities/Sectors would require prior Government approval for FDI in the following circumstances:

i. where provisions of Press Note 1(2005 Series) are attracted;

ii. where more than 24% foreign equity is proposed to be inducted for manufacture of items reserved for the Small Scale sector.

III. In Sectors/Activities not listed below, FDI is permitted up to 100% on the automatic route subject to sectoral rules/regulations applicable.

IV. Sector-specific policy for FDI: In the following sectors/activities, FDI upto the limit indicated below is allowed subject to other conditions as indicated:

S.No.	Sector/Activity	FDI Cap/Equity	Entry Route	Other conditions	Relevant Press Not issued by Deptt. of IPP www.dipp.gov.in
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Airports				
	a. Greenfield projects	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation www.civilaviation.nic.in	PN 4/2006
	b. Existing projects	100%	FIPB beyond 74%	Subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation www.civilaviation.nic.in	PN 4/2006
2.	Air Transport Services	49%- FDI; 100%- for NRI investment	Automatic	Subject to no direct or indirect participation by foreign airlines. Government of India Gazette Notification dated 2.11.2004 issued by Minister of Civil Aviation www.civilaviation.nic.in .	PN4/2006
3.	Alcohol-Distillation & Brewing	100%	Automatic	Subject to license by appropriate authority	PN4/2006
4.	Asset Reconstruction Companies	49% (only FDI)	FIPB	Where any individual investment exceeds 10% of the equity, provisions of Section 3 (3) (f) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial	

1	2	3	4	5	6
				Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 should be complied with. <i>www.firmin.nic.in</i>	
5.	Atomic Minerals	74%	FIPB	Subject of guidelines issued by Department of Atomic Energy vide Resolution No. 8/1(1)/97-PSU/1422 dated 6.10.98.	
6.	Banking-Private sector	74% (FDI+FI)	Automatic	Subject to guidelines for setting up branches/subsidiaries of foreign banks issued by RBI. <i>www.rbi.org.in.</i>	PN2/2004
7.	Broadcasting				
a.	FM Radio	FDI+ investment up to 20%	FIPB	Subject to Guidelines notified by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting <i>www.mib.nic.in.</i>	PN 6/2005
b.	Cable network	49% (FDI+FI)	FIPB	Subject to Cable Television Network Rules (1994) Notified by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting <i>www.mib.nic.in</i>	
c.	Direct-to-House	49% (FDI+FI). Within this limit, FDI component not to exceed 20%	FIPB	Subject to guidelines issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting <i>www.mib.nic.in</i>	
d.	Setting up hardware facilities such as up-linking, HUB, etc	49% (FDI+FI)	FIPB	Subject to Up-linking Policy notified by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting <i>www.mib.nic.in</i>	PN1/2006
e.	Up-linking a News & Current Affairs TV Channel	28% FDI+FI	FIPB	Subject to guidelines issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting <i>www.mib.nic.in</i>	PN1/2006
f.	Up-linking a Non-news & Current Affairs TV Channel	100%	FIPB	Subject to guidelines issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting <i>www.mib.nic.in.</i>	PN1/2006

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Cigars & Cigarettee-Manufacture	100%	FIPB	Subject to industrial license under the Industries Development & Regulation) Act, 1951	PN4/2006
9.	Coal & Lignite mining for captive consumption by power projects, and iron & steel, cement production and other eligible activities permitted under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.	100%	Automatic	Subject to provisions of Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 <i>www.coal.nic.in.</i>	PN4/2006
10.	Coffee & Rubber processing & warehousing	100%	Automatic		PN4/2006
11.	Construction Development projects, including housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city level infrastructure, townships.	100%	Automatic	Subject to conditions notified vide Press Note 2 (2005 Series) including: a. Minimum capitalization of US\$ 10 million for wholly owned subsidiaries and US\$ 5 million for joint venture. The funds would have to be brought within six months of business of the Company. b. Minimum area to be development under each project-10 hectares in case of development of serviced housing plots; and built-up area of 50,000 sq.mts.in case of construction development project; and any of the above in case of a combination project. Note: For investment by NRIs, the conditions mentioned in Press Note 2/2005 are not applicable.]	PN2/2005 & PN2/2006

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Courier services for carrying packages, parcels and other items which do not come within the ambit of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.	100%	FIPB	Subject to existing laws and exclusion of activity relating to distribution of letters, which is exclusively reserved for the State. <i>www.indiapost.gov.in.</i>	PN 4/2001
13.	Defence production	26%	FIPB	Subject to licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and guidelines on FDI in production of arms & ammunition.	PN 4/2001 & PN 2/2002
14.	Floriculture, Horticulture, Development of Seed, Animal Husbandry, Pisciculture, cultivation of vegetables, mushrooms, under controlled conditions and services related to agro and allied sectors.	100%	Automatic		PN 4/2006
15.	Hazardous chemicals, viz., hydrocyanic acid and its derivatives; phosgene and its derivatives; and isocyanates and diisocyanates of hydrocarbon.	100%	Automatic	Subject to industrial license under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and other sectoral regulations.	PN 4/2006
16.	Industrial explosives- Manufacture	100%	Automatic	Subject to industrial license under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and regulations under Explosives Act, 1898.	PN 4/2006
17.	Insurance	26%	Automatic	Subject to licensing by the Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority <i>www.irda.nic.in.</i>	PN 10/2000

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Investing companies in infrastructure/ services sector (except telecom sector)	49%	FIPB	Foreign investment in an investing company will not be counted towards sectoral cap in infrastructure/services sector provided the investment is up to 49% and the management of the company is in Indian hands	PN 2/2000 & PN 5/2005
19.	Mining covering exploration and mining of diamonds & precious stones; gold, silver and minerals.	100%	Automatic	Subject to Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 www.mines.nic.in . Press Note 18 (1998) and Press Note 1 (2005) are not applicable for setting up 100% owned subsidiaries in so far as the mining sector is concerned, subject to a declaration from the applicant that he has no existing joint venture for the same area and/or the particular mineral.	PN1 2/2000, PN 3/2005 & PN 4/2006
20.	Non Banking Finance Companies-approved activities.				
(i)	Merchant banking	100%	Automatic	Subject to:	PN 2/2000,
(ii)	Underwriting			a. Minimum capitalization norms for fund based	PN 6/2000, &
(iii)	Portfolio Management Services			NBFCs-US\$ 0.5 million to be brought upfront for FDI up to 51%; US\$ 5 million to be brought upfront for FDI above 51% and up to 75%; and US\$ 50 million out of which US\$ 7.5 million to be brought upfront and the balance in 24 months for FDI beyond 75% and up to 100%.	PN 2/2001
(iv)	Investment Advisory Services			b. minimum capitalization norms for non-fund based NBFC activities-	
(v)	Financial Consultancy			US\$ 0.5 million.	
(vi)	Stock Broking			c. foreign investors can set up 100% operating	
(vii)	Asset Management				
(viii)	Venture Capital				
(ix)	Custodial Services				
(x)	Factoring				
(xi)	Credit Reference Agencies				

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(xii) Credit Rating Agencies (xiii) Leasing & Finance (xiv) Housing Finance (xv) Forex Broking (xvi) Credit card business (xvii) Money changing business (xviii) Micro (xix) Rural credit.			subsidiaries without the condition to divest a minimum of 25% of its equity to Indian entities subject to bringing in US\$ 50 million without any restriction on number of operating subsidiaries without bringing additional capital. d. joint venture operating NBFC's that have 75% or less than 75% foreign investment will also be allowed to set up subsidiaries for undertaking other NBFC activities subject to the subsidiaries also complying with the applicable minimum capital inflow. e. compliances of the RBI.	
21.	Petroleum & Natural Gas sector				
a.	Other than Refining and including market study and formulation; investment/ financing; setting up infrastructure for marketing in Petroleum & Natural Gas sector.	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral regulations issued by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; and in the case of actual trading and marketing of petroleum products, divestment of 26% equity in favour of Indian partner/public within 5 years. www.petroleum.nic.in .	PN 1/2004 & PN 4/2006
b.	Refining	26% in case of PSUs 100% in case of Private companies	FIPB (in case of PSUs) Automatic (in case of private companies)	Subject to Sectoral policy www.petroleum.nic.in	PN 2/2000

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Print Media-				
	a. Publishing of newspaper and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs	26%	FIPB	Subject to Guidelines notified by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. www.mib.nic.in	
	b. Publishing of scientific magazines/ specialty journals/ periodicals	100%	FIPB	Subject to guidelines issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. www.mib.nic.in	PN 1/2004
23.	Power including generation (except Atomic energy); transmission, distribution and Power Trading.	100%	Automatic	Subject provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 www.powermin.nic.in	PN 2/1998, PN 7/2000, & PN 4/2006
24.	Tea Sector, including tea plantation	100%	FIPB	Subject to divestment of 26% equity in favour of Indian partner/Indian public within 5 years and prior approval of State Government for change in land use.	PN 6/2002
25.	Telecommunications				
	a. Basic and cellular, Unified Access Services, National/ International Long Distance, V-Sat, Public Mobile Radio Turnked Services (PMRTS), Global Mobile Personal Communications Services (GMPCS) and other value added telecom services	74% (Including FDI, FII, NRI, FCCBs, ADRs, GDRs, convertible preference shares, and proportionate foreign equity in Indian promoters/ Investing Company)	Automatic up to 49% FIPB beyond 49%	Subject to guidelines notified in the PN 5 (2005 Series).	PN 5/2005

1	2	3	4	5	6
	b. ISP with gateways, radio-paging, end-to-end band width.	74%	Automatic up to 49%, FIPB beyond 49%.	Subject to licensing and security requirements notified by the Department of Telecommunications. <i>www.dotindia.com.</i>	PN 4/2001
	c. ISP without gateway, infrastructure provider providing dark fibre, electronic mail and voice mail	100%	Automatic up to 49% FIPB beyond 49%	Subject to the condition that such companies shall divest 26% of their equity in favour of Indian public in 5 years, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world. Also subject to licensing and security requirements, where required. <i>www.dotindia.com.</i>	PN 9/2000
	d. Manufacture of telecom equipments	100%	Automatic	Subject to sectoral requirements. <i>www.dotindia.com</i>	PN 2/2000
26.	Trading				
	a. Wholesale/cash & carry trading	100%	Automatic	Subject to guidelines for FDI in trading issued by Policy & Promotion vide Press Note 3: (2006 Series).	PN 4/2006
	b. Trading for exports	100%	Automatic		
	c. Trading of items sourced from small scale sector	100%	FIPB		
	d. Test marketing of such items for which a company has approval for manufacture	100%	FIPB		
	e. Single Brand product retailing	51%	FIPB		
27.	Satellite-Establishment and operation	74%	FIPB	Subject to Sectoral guidelines issued by Department of Space/ISRO <i>www.isro.org</i>	
28.	Special Economic Zones and Free Trade Warehousing Zones covering setting up of these Zones and setting up units in the Zones	100%	Automatic	Subject to Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Foreign Trade Policy. <i>www.sezindia.nic.in</i>	PN 9/2000, PN 2/2006 & PN 4/2006

**Special Constitutional status to
North-Eastern States**

902. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any demand from the North East Students Organisation (NESO) regarding Special constitutional status for the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government had received a memorandum from North East Students Organization (NESO) in June, 2006 wherein various issues, including special constitutional status for the people of North Eastern States, have been raised.

(c) Special provisions with respect to the States of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have already been made under Article 371 of the Constitution of India. In addition special provisions have been made in Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India for administration of tribal areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. This schedule confers vast legislative, financial and executive powers to the Councils set up for the Autonomous Districts in these four States. No further proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Export of Gems and Jewellery

903. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of Gems and Jewellery is getting affected due to the heavy ups and downs in the prices of gold during the current year;

(b) whether any target has been set for the export of such Gems and Jewellery during the current year;

(c) if so, whether any downfall has been recorded during the first half of the year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps being taken by the Government and the percentage of downfall estimated in comparison to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The target of export of Gem & Jewellery in the current year is US\$ 18212 million.

(c) and (d) As per latest available figures, during the period April-July, 2006, there is a decline of 0.14% over the corresponding period during 2005-06. This is due to decline in export of cut and polished diamonds from bonded warehouses. The following facilities have been extended to boost exports from this sector:

- (i) Import of gold of 8 carat and above has been allowed under the replenishment scheme subject to the import being accompanied by an Assay Certificate specifying the purity, weight and alloy content.
- (ii) Duty Free import entitlement of consumables for metals other than Gold, Platinum to be 2% of FOB value of exports during the previous financial year.
- (iii) Duty free import entitlement of commercial samples to be Rs. 300,000.
- (iv) Duty free re-import entitlement for rejected jewellery to be 2% of the FOB value of exports.
- (v) Cutting and polishing of gems and jewellery, to be treated as manufacturing for the purposes of exemption under Section 10A of the Income Tax Act.
- (vi) Import of precious metal scrap/used jewellery has been allowed for melting, refining and re-export of jewellery. However, such import will not be allowed through hand baggage.
- (vii) Gem & Jewellery exporters have been allowed to export jewellery on consignment basis as per Rules.
- (viii) Gem & Jewellery exporters have been allowed to export cut and polished precious and semi-

precious stones for treatment and re-import as per Rules.

- (ix) Value addition norms for different categories of gems and jewellery products have been reduced.

[English]

Norms for Plying of School Buses

904. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the students in Delhi risk their lives while travelling to schools in overcrowded Maruti vans and buses fitted with unsafe and illegal/spurious/sub-standard LPG and CNG kits everyday;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure implementation of standards/norms fixed for plying of school buses/vans etc. in Delhi separately;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to paint yellow colour on Maruti vans ferrying school children for their safety;

(d) if so, the details; thereof;

(e) the details of school buses, RTVs, Maruti vans etc. involved in accidents during each of the last three years in Delhi.

(f) the total number of students injured/killed in those accidents during each of the last three years; school-wise separately; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the

drivers of school buses alongwith the steps taken to stop such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) It is true that some private vehicles, including Maruti vans and buses are being used for transporting school children in Delhi.

(b) Delhi Traffic Police/Transport Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi carry out periodical checking of school vehicles to ensure that they follow the norms laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Vehicles found to be violating the norms are prosecuted and legal action is taken against the defaulters.

(c) and (d) A proposal to regulate passenger motor vehicles, which are presently unauthorizedly plying for hire/reward, ferrying school children, including by assignment of colour, is under consideration.

(e) and (f) Details of cases of road accidents reported/registered in Delhi involving school buses, RTVs, Maruti vans etc. and the number of students injured/killed in such accidents (school-wise) during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 (upto 31st October) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(g) The action taken against erring drivers and to regulate operation of such vehicles include prosecution of such drivers by Delhi Traffic Police, cancellation/suspension of their driving licenses, cancellation/suspension of registration certificates/permits of vehicles involved in accidents by the State Transport Authority, sensitizing school authorities about safety and security of students and not to engage vehicles fitted with unauthorized gas kits.

Statement

Norms for plying of School Buses

S.No.	Name of School	Number of students killed	Number of students injured	Type of school vehicle involved in accident
1	2	3	4	5
Year 2004				
1.	Central School CRPF, Jharoda Kalan, Najafgarh, New Delhi.	—	1	RTV (hired by school)

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Lady Irwin School, D-block, Defence Colony, New Delhi	—	1	Maruti Van
3.	Rajouri Public School, Nirankari Colony, Delhi.	—	11	School Bus
Year 2005				
1.	Army Public School, Ring Road, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi.	—	1	School Bus
2.	Manav Sthali School, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi	—	2	School Van
3.	Rishikul Vidyalyaya, Alipur, Delhi.	—	10	School RTV
4.	Shanti Niketan School, RK Puram, New Delhi	1	—	DTC School Bus
5.	Senior Secondary Schol, Fateh Academy, Prasad Nagar, Delhi.	—	2	School RTV
6.	Mother International School, New Delhi	—	—	School Van
Year 2006				
1.	Central School No. 2, Naraina, Delhi.	2	8	School Bus (Hired)
2.	Shivani Model Senior Secondary School, Palam, New Delhi	—	1	School Bus
3.	Rajinder Lakra Public School, Mundka, Nangloi, Delhi.	—	2	RTV
4.	Air Force School, Bawana, New Delhi.	—	16	RTV.

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Mount Holivet Senior Secondary School, Sant Nagar, Delhi.	—	7	RTV
6.	Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ghoga, New Delhi.	—	6	Bus (ITBP)
7.	Appex School, Sant Nagar, Delhi.	1	—	RTV
8.	(i) Gyan Deep Public School, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.	—	2	School Bus
	(ii) Shanti Niketan Public School Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.	—	1	
9.	Nutun School, M.S. Park, New Delhi.	1	—	Maruti Van

Status of Implementation of SSA in J&K

905. SHRI CHEHWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) status of implementation of SSA in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the total funds allocated to the State during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government has deputed any Central team to evaluate status of implementation of the programme in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering special assistance to the State in view of its requirements due to extraordinary situation as prevailing these; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the State of Jammu & Kashmir has shown improvement. The total funds released by Government of India during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto August 2006) were Rs. 14612.09 lakhs, Rs. 19988.15 lakhs and Rs. 8770.73 lakhs respectively.

(c) to (f) A Central Team visited the earthquake affected areas and found little progress in reconstruction of schools. Adequate allocations have already been incorporated in the annual work plan of SSA for J&K State for the year 2006-07.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units

906. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export oriented industrial units functioning as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals received for setting up the export oriented units alongwith the number of proposals which have been given approval during the last two years and current year, State-wise; and

(c) the number of units which have been provided infrastructure and other facilities for starting production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) As per the EOU scheme indirect tax exemptions are provided on raw material & components required for export production besides Corporate Tax exemption on export profits for a period of 10 years. No separate infrastructure or facilities are provided to these Units.

Statement

S.No.	States/Union Territories	No. of EOU's in operation as on 31.3.2006	No. of proposals received 2004-05	No. of proposals Approved 2004-05	No. of proposals received 2005-06	No. of proposals Approved 2005-06	No. of proposals received 2006-07	No. of proposals Approved 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	206	73	63	73	67	52	49
2.	Assam	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	0	0	1	1	1	1
6.	Goa	30	4	2	9	9	6	5
7.	Gujarat	253	80	74	74	55	35	27
8.	Haryana	89	21	19	22	17	18	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	0	0	4	3	2	2
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
11.	Jharkhand	7	1	0	1	0	0	1
12.	Karnataka	510	97	95	103	98	50	50
13.	Kerala	57	13	13	11	10	6	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	30	5	2	7	4	2	2
15.	Maharashtra	312	123	94	95	73	55	40
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20.	Orissa	13	0	0	9	8	3	2
21.	Punjab	24	10	7	17	15	1	1
22.	Rajasthan	90	16	12	31	26	15	10
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	417	100	78	85	81	49	46
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	99	22	14	20	15	13	6
27.	Uttaranchal	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
28.	West Bengal	83	27	21	24	17	9	8
29.	Delhi	48	30	27	26	23	18	13
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	5	4	1	1	1	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	12	3	3	1	0	1	0
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	19	1	2	2	2	1	2
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	13	4	4	2	2	0	0
Total		2334	635	531	619	527	340	284

Loan from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

907. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan taken from the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) is not being repaid;

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government to recover the said loan; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure proper utilization of the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The loan taken from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) is being repaid as per

repayment schedule of the RMK. The loan recovery rate is 91%.

(b) The following measures are taken by RMK to recover loan instalments overdue:

- Send demand notices to the defaulter organizations and closely follow up.
- Blacklist the defaulter organization and advise all concerned Ministries of Central and State Governments, District Administration, Banks and other Funding agencies not to consider any grant/assistance to the defaulter organization.
- Take steps for cancellation of their Registration in FCRA.
- Start legal proceedings against them.

(c) In order to ensure proper utilization of the loan, the following steps are taken:-

- The organization is asked to submit Utilisation Certificate and Disbursement Certificate showing the details of the beneficiaries.
- RMK's Monitor visits the organization and verifies all books and records at the NGO/Organization level to ensure full utilization of the loan disbursed by RMK.
- The Monitor appointed by RMK also visits the SHGs who are financed out of the loan, verifies their books and records.
- In certain cases, the Monitor verifies the assets of the SHG members created out of loan disbursed by the NGO/organization.
- The borrowing NGO/Organization is asked to submit Quarterly Progress Reports showing the inflow and outflow of the funds.
- It is mandatory for all the partner NGOs to submit annual report and audited balance sheet at the close of every financial year during the pendency of loan till the loan account is closed.

[English]

Increasing Cyber Crime

908. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cyber crimes are on increase in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide investigation facilities to crime detective agencies and the police forces of the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring new law to curb this crime and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) During 2005, the number of cases under Information Technology Act, 2000 increased to 179 as against 60 and 68 cases reported during 2003 and 2004 respectively.

However, during 2003 to 2005, the number of cases reported under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code was 411, 279 and 302 respectively, which showed a mixed trend.

(b) The Central Bureau of Investigation and many State police organisations have computer forensic facilities which are upgraded from time to time. In addition, all the laboratories of the Directorate of Forensic Science and Government Examiners of Questioned Documents have computer forensic facilities. Regular training programmes, workshops, seminars and symposia for trainers to handle digital crimes are also organised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Involvement of youth in Terrorist Activities

909. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of employment opportunities to the youth in Uttar Pradesh and in other sensitive areas of the country the youth are helping terrorists;

(b) if so, whether the Government has focused its target on the activities of SIMI and other fundamentalist organisations to ensure that these unemployed youth do not play in wrong hands;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to such youth;

(d) whether any special task force is being set up against these terrorist organisations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) There are no specific inputs suggesting linkages between unemployed youth and terrorists.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal. However, anti-national & terrorist organizations, including SIMI, continue to be banned as unlawful associations or as terrorist organizations under the relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

*[Translation]***Promotion of Small and Medium Scale Industries**

910. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is drawing up a fresh promotional package small and medium scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the package comprises the restructuring and fine tuning of a host of existing schemes for SSIs;

(d) the extent to which the SSIs sector is likely to be benefited;

(e) whether the Government proposes a five yearly census for the SSI sector;

(f) if so, whether Government is also considering enhancing the credit flow to small scale entrepreneurs by giving more teeth to credit guarantee fund scheme for small industries; and

(g) if so, the time by which scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (g) Government is finalizing a package for the promotion of micro and small enterprises.

*[English]***Infiltration of Terrorists**

911. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of extremists of various organisations entering from the borders in India making attempts on Indians is increasing day-to-day;

(b) if so, whether the Border Security Force (BSF) has expressed serious concern over the recent attempts by Pakistan-based terrorists entering from Western Border as reported in the *Times of India* dated October 8, 2006;

(c) if so, the number of such incidents reported during 2006, till date;

(d) the number of terrorists killed/nabbed while attempting to enter Indian during the said period; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to stop infiltration and to save the life of civilians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However Director General, Border Security Force has shown concern over the attempts of the infiltration of the terrorists through Rajasthan and Punjab in the light of the attempt of infiltration bid in Amritsar Sector and Ganganagar Sector which was foiled. In both the incidents, BSF had killed the militants and recovered the arms & ammunition.

(c) and (d) During the year 2006 till date, two (2) such incidents have occurred in which four militants were killed and one was apprehended on the Western border.

(e) BSF maintain round the clock surveillance of the border and work in close coordination with the State Governments. BSF has also beefed up intelligence network and coordination with other intelligence agencies. The agencies also have their local sources for information gathering. BSF has also been provided modern surveillance equipments including Night Vision Devices.

*[Translation]***Tea Export**

912. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of tea has declined during the current year;

(b) whether the tea industry is in financial crunch due to this decline;

(c) the quantum of export decreased during the current year in comparison to the previous year;

(d) whether there is a decline in demand of tea in the tea importing countries;

(e) whether the Government has set up a special contingency fund to bring out the tea industry from present crisis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Amendment in FCRA

913. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering comprehensive amendment in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some NGOs have opposed the aforesaid amendments;

(d) if so, the details alongwith reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to connect all the NGOs with IT network for monitoring effectively; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is considering to amend the FCRA Bill, 1976 to consolidate the law relating to

the receipt and utilization of foreign contribution or acceptance of foreign hospitality for any activity detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. By and large, following are the salient features of the draft Bill:

(i) The Bill has been titled as "The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2006".

(ii) The preamble has been reworded to prohibit acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activity detrimental to the national interest.

(iii) Amount received by any foreign source, by way of fee, payment in lieu of certain services rendered, etc. has been excluded from the definition of foreign contribution.

(iv) The following additional types of associations/persons have been barred from receiving foreign contribution:

(a) Organization(s) of political nature, not being political party;

(b) Association/Company engaged in the production or broadcast of audio news or audio visual news or current affairs programmes through electronic mode or any other electronic form or any other mode of mass communication:

(c) Correspondent or columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner of the association or company referred to in (b) above.

(v) Provision for proscribing use of foreign contribution or any income arising out of it for speculative business.

(vi) Administrative expenses capped at fifty percent of the foreign contribution and any such expenses beyond that limit can be incurred only with the prior approval of the Central Government.

(vii) Provision made to specify the person who, the areas where, the purposes for which, and the sources from which foreign contribution can be accepted only with prior permission of the Central Government.

(viii) Fee to be charged for registration, grant of prior permission and renewal.

- (ix) Provisions for intimating the grounds for refusal of registration or prior permission in harmony with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- (x) The provision for suspension of registration certificate for maximum 180 days has been introduced. Automatic renewal of registration for a period of five years to all applicants except defaulters. Utilization of foreign contribution allowed through more than one bank account.
- (xi) Provision for sharing information on foreign contribution received through banking channels exceeding a specified amount, or suspicious transactions, with security agencies.
- (xii) Provision for compounding of certain offences under the Bill.

(c) and (d) The draft FCMC Bill was placed on the website of MHA and comments/suggestion of various NGOs were received. The NGOs have suggested that some provisions in the draft Bill like the provision for renewal of registration certificate in five years, provision of suspension/cancellation of certificate of registration, provision for restricting administrative costs, provision for payment of fees for registration/prior permission, provision for custody of assets in case of cancellation of registration, etc. may be deleted. The draft Bill is at an advanced stage of consideration.

(e) and (f) MHA has already introduced the facility for on-line submission of application for grant of registration and filing of annual returns under FCRA. This will facilitate the NGOs in filing annual returns and applications for grant of registration, as well as it will help Government in improving the monitoring mechanism.

Ministerial level meeting on the talks of Doha Round

914. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministerial level meeting held at Geneva to ease the deadlock on Doha round of talks under WTO, proved to be a failure;

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

(c) India's policy stand on Doha round of talk with regard to subsidy being provided to farmers by developing countries;

(d) whether the Government is aware about the repercussion of subsidies, being provided to the farmers of developed countries, on the farmers of developing countries;

(e) whether any strong steps have been taken to safeguard the interests of the Indian agriculture and farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) An informal meeting of 31 Trade Ministers, including of India, was convened by the Director General (DG), WTO between 29th June and 1st July 2006. Domestic Support and Market Access in Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) were discussed by the Ministers. Convergence could not be achieved. A meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) of the WTO was also held on 1st July 2006 wherein the DG, WTO was requested to conduct intensive and wide-ranging consultations with a view to facilitating the establishment of modalities in Agriculture and NAMA. These consultations were to be based on the draft texts prepared by the Chairs of the respective Negotiating Groups. The DG was requested to report back to the TNC as soon as possible.

A meeting of the Trade Ministers from G-6 countries of the WTO (Australia, Brazil, the European Communities, India, Japan and the United States of America) was held at Geneva on 23rd and 24th July 2006 and there was no convergence on the core issues of substantial reduction of trade distorting support in agriculture and other development issues. At the informal meeting of the TNC held on 24th July 2006, the Director General who is its Chairman, reported that "it remained clear that the gaps remain too wide", and recommended that the only course of action would be to suspend the negotiations across the Round as a whole to enable the serious reflection by participants which was clearly necessary and time-out to review the situation, examine available options and review positions, particularly in respect of divergences in

agricultural domestic support and market access issues. The Members, therefore, agreed to suspend the negotiations across all areas of the Doha Work Programme. The WTO General Council, at its meeting held on 27th July 2006, took note of the report of the TNC Chairman, and supported the suspension of the negotiations.

Subsequent to the suspension of negotiations under the Doha Work Programme, the WTO Members have been holding informal consultations on how to resume the negotiations. At the informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) held on 16th November 2006, a consensus has emerged on resumption of the negotiation process in the Negotiating Groups of the TNC, with the Chairs of the Groups having the responsibility to determine the rhythm their work in consultation with the WTO Member delegations.

(c) to (f) The G-20 and the G-33 alliances on negotiations in Agriculture, of which India is a Member, have been emphasising that the livelihood and standards of living of the poor farmers in developing countries are seriously jeopardised by the subsidies and market access barriers prevailing in international agricultural trade and that any Round that would be faithful to its development dimension must urgently redress this situation.

Towards safeguarding the interests of Indian agriculture and farmers, India has also been playing a key role in further strengthening the developing country coalitions by bringing together the G-20, the G-33, the African Group, Africa-Caribbean-Pacific countries and the Least Developed Countries to reinforce each others' positions on issues of mutual interest. India has been emphasising that the specific and detailed proposals that have been made in domestic support and market access by the G-20, and on Special Products (SPs) and the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) by the G-33, should ensure a final outcome that is consistent with the agreed negotiating mandate for substantial and effective reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, and substantial improvements in market access particularly for products of export interest to developing countries. India has taken the position that the self-designation of an appropriate number of SPs and an effective and operable SSM for safeguarding the vulnerable farm communities and proportionately lower tariff reduction commitments should be integral to the final outcome on agriculture. The Government has also been holding stakeholder

consultations to protect and pursue our national interest, in particular the interests of our farmers.

Government is committed to intervene in a WTO-compatible manner, including by calibrating the applied tariffs within the bound duties, to protect their interests. The Government has introduced a number of initiatives and interventions, for enhancement of production and productivity of agricultural products so as to increase the competitiveness of Indian agriculture. The schemes implemented by the Government in this regard, inter alia, include the Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM),

National Horticulture Mission and Integrated Cereal Development Programmes. Further, to provide a level playing field for exports of agricultural products, the Government implements schemes such as the Transport Assistance Scheme and Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their exports as well as increased access to the international market.

[English]

Monitoring of KVIs Functioning

915. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether periodical monitoring and evaluations is made with regard to the performance of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB);

(b) if so, the details thereof in physical and financial terms during the last three years;

(c) whether these boards have helped developing cottage and traditional industries in rural India;

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

(e) the steps being contemplated to make payments for the small honey producers and traders for their produce purchased specially by the Sarvodaya Sangh, Eraniel in Kanyakumari?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES
AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES

(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Performance of various schemes/programmes for promoting and developing khadi and village industries (KVI) sector being implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), including those implemented through the Khadi and Village

Industries Boards (KVIIBs) of States/Union Territories is periodically monitored and evaluated by the Government from time to time.

(b) The major indicators of performance of the KVI sector are given in the table below:

Year	Production (Rs. in crore)		Employment (lakh persons)		Margin Money Utilisation (Rs. in crore)	Number of VI Units
	Khadi	VI	Khadi	VI		
2002-03	443.07	8126.30	8.58	57.87	193.71	21024
2003-04	453.50	9228.27	8.61	62.58	265.74	24747
2004-05	461.54	10458.89	8.64	68.14	295.88	23453

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The major indicators of performance of the KVI sector through State/Union Territory KVIIBs are given in the table below:

Year	Production (Rs. in crore)		Employment (lakh persons)		Margin Money Utilisation (Rs. in crore)	Number of VI Units
	Khadi	VI	Khadi	VI		
2002-03	175.30	5428.79	2.42	46.41	50.94	6652
2003-04	166.08	5958.90	2.36	48.46	100.97	11380
2004-05	140.33	6593.59	2.20	50.72	120.89	11745

(e) The Sarvodaya Sangh, Eraniel, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu is an institution registered with KVIC. Due to certain managerial problems, this institution is categorised as problematic. The institution procures honey from the individual honey producers and is not financially sound resulting in occasional delays in payment to honey producers. The delay in getting rebate dues from the State Government, amounting Rs. 16 lakh, is the main cause for shortage of working capital with the said institution.

Trafficking of Women

916. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of trafficking of women from North Eastern parts of India to various parts of the country

for sex trade has been reportedly increased in the recent time;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb such activities;

(c) whether such incidents have also been reported from other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to assign the work of survey of status of adolescent girls in the North Eastern parts of the country to the non-governmental organisations working in the field of women welfare;

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

(g) if not, the other steps Government propose to take to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the study on 'Girls/Women in Prostitution in India' 2004, conducted by Ministry of Women and Child Development through Gram Niyojan Kendra, It is estimated that the number of sex workers in the country has increased from 2 million in 197 to 3 million in 2003. About 3/4th of the total number of sex workers are estimated to be victims of trafficking.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the India Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The amended Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006 and is now under the examination of the Ministry related Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking. The Ministry of WCD also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to sex workers including child sex workers. A pilot project on combating trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is also being implemented.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Information as above.

Juvenile Children in Jails

917. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of juvenile children below 14 years have been stagnating in jails for years in different States, on minor accusations for non-availability of bails;

(b) if so, the number of children as on September 1, 2006, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to have their cases reviewed and secure justice to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per section 10 of the Juvenile Justice [Care and Protection of Children] Act, 2000, as amended on 23rd August, 2006, no juvenile can be lodged in a jail. Pending inquiry by the Juvenile Justice Board, children are required to be sent to observation homes if not released on bail. As per the information available in the Ministry, the number of children in observation homes, state-wise, is given in the Statement. Data on juvenile children in jails is not maintained by the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Number of juveniles staying in the Observation Homes set up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of Juveniles
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	308
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	150
4.	Bihar	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	297
6.	Goa	61
7.	Gujarat	1377
8.	Haryana	123
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—
11.	Jharkhand	443
12.	Karnataka	87
13.	Kerala	78
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3480

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	4323
16.	Manipur	—
17.	Meghalaya	76
18.	Mizoram	75
19.	Nagaland	50
20.	Orissa	76
21.	Punjab	101
22.	Rajasthan	44
23.	Sikkim	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	190
25.	Tripura	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	713
27.	Uttaranchal	50
28.	West Bengal	502
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—
30.	Chandigarh	—
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—
32.	Daman and Diu	—
33.	Delhi	264
34.	Lakshdweep	—
35.	Pondicherry	1
Total		12,884

Industrial Investment

918. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Industrial investment during the last three years and current year;

(b) the details of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEM) and the projects under implementation during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(d) the number of projects abandoned during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) A Statement—I of the number of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEM) filed in the delicensed sector and Letters of Intent/Direct Industrial Licences issued in the licensable sector indicating State-wise proposed investments during the last 3 years and the current year is enclosed.

(b) A Statement—II indicating Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows received during the last 3 years is enclosed.

(c) Information regarding IEM/projects under implementation is not separately maintained centrally.

(d) A Statement—III Indicating State-wise number of IEM deleted from the records during the last 3 years is enclosed.

Statement I*State-wise Investment Proposals for the last three years and current year*

Name of the State/UTs	IEMs+LOIs+DILs			
	Jan2003-Dec2005		Jan-2006-Sept2006	
	Nos	Prop.Inv (Rs.Crore)	Nos	Prop.Inv (Rs.Crore)
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	1	30
Andhra Pradesh	1084	44893	514	40952

1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	19	145	5	111
Assam	184	1596	48	1916
Bihar	27	514	76	8486
Chandigarh	2	1	3	177
Chhattisgarh	890	94100	185	80429
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	401	5990	99	3739
Daman and Diu	209	1590	46	1275
Delhi	21	45	7	79
Goa	103	943	21	264
Gujarat	1718	131223	500	39560
Haryana	591	15950	211	15467
Himachal Pradesh	268	6025	97	1686
Jammu and Kashmir	306	5366	87	1829
Jharkhand	320	39983	89	33477
Karnataka	637	38679	263	15375
Kerala	79	1183	43	429
Madhya Pradesh	356	28083	149	5154
Maharashtra	2077	40412	743	23197
Manipur	2	7	0	0
Meghalaya	96	836	16	1468
Nagaland	6	16036	0	0
Orissa	570	97190	84	31964
Pondicherry	127	733	42	706
Punjab	453	11224	181	10159
Rajasthan	492	7835	152	6170
Sikkim	12	302	7	591
Tamil Nadu	1191	66157	636	16105
Tripura	11	255	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	1381	49616	516	35951
Uttaranchal	619	8818	416	10626
West Bengal	1292	33546	244	12896
Location in more than One State	3	11	0	0
Total	15547	749287	5481	400268

Note: IEMs: Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda filed; LOIs: Letters of Intent; DILs: Direct Industrial Licences.

Statement II*Statement on RBI's Region-wise/Year-wise FDI Inflows from January 2003 to September 2006.*

(Amount in crore)

Sl.No.	Regional offices of RBI	States Covered	2003 Jan-Dec	2004 Jan-Dec	2005 Jan-Dec	2006 Jan-Sep	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	275.69	858.09	723.28	1,675.47	3,52.53
2.	Guwahati	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura	15.45	20.00	0.00	0.00	35.45
3.	Patna	Bihar, Jharkhand	1.13	0.00	0.00	0.60	1.73
4.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1,042.63	688.46	635.21	1,270.00	3,636.30
5.	Bangalore	Karnataka	999.07	1,064.25	1,606.98	1,353.58	5,023.88
6.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	44.69	49.55	26.25	40.77	161.26
7.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh	25.71	61.64	53.82	72.54	213.71
8.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu.	1,022.81	3,246.50	2,272.90	6,566.68	13,108.89
9.	Bhubneshwar	Orissa	0.00	0.00	261.86	103.59	365.26
10.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	2.14	4.27	2.66	226.40	235.47
11.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondichery	805.46	366.10	1,096.49	2,210.05	4,478.09
12.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh, Uttanchal	0.00	0.00	0.03	15.24	15.27
13.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	146.79	459.56	405.42	258.79	1,270.56
14.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh	18.12	71.89	377.79	40.28	508.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	New Delhi	Delhi, Part of UP and Haryana	2,104.72	3,303.61	4,297.61	5,293.07	14,999.00
16.	Panaji	Goa	131.22	79.85	81.40	347.57	640.04
17.	State Not Indicated*		2,928.37	4,507.60	7,429.22	8,899.74	23,764.93
Grand Total			9,564.00	14,781.37	19,270.72	28,374.35	71,990.44

Note: (i) Includes 'equity capital components only.

(ii) The Region-wise FDI inflows are classified as per RBI's - Region-wise inflows, furnished by RBI, Mumbai.

(iii) *Represents inflows through acquisition of existing shares. For this, region-wise information is not provided by Reserve Bank of India.

Statement III

State-wise number of IEMs deleted during the last three years and current year

Name of the State/UTs	Jan. 2003- Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006 Sept. 2006
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	54	12
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0
Assam	12	1
Bihar	1	0
Chhattisgarh	60	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21	1
Daman and Diu	8	3
Delhi	2	0
Goa	6	0
Gujarat	83	7
Haryana	30	6
Himachal Pradesh	17	2
Jammu and Kashmir	25	2
Jharkhand	16	0
Karnataka	30	6

1	2	3
Kerala	2	2
Madhya Pradesh	17	4
Maharashtra	126	15
Meghalaya	4	0
Orissa	28	1
Pondicherry	5	0
Punjab	33	5
Rajasthan	27	4
Sikkim	1	0
Tamil Nadu	57	8
Tripura	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	71	9
Uttaranchal	51	19
West Bengal	83	6
Total	872	114

Functions of Public Sector Undertakings

919. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and functions of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry; and

(b) the details of the profit earned/loss incurred by their, during each of the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) is the only Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Small Scale Industries. NSIC was established in 1955 to assist and promote small scale industries in the country.

(b) The details of the profit earned/loss incurred by NSIC during each of the last three years and current year (upto 31.10.2006) is as under:

Year	Net Profit/loss
2003-04	Net Profit: Rs. 77.05 lakh
2004-05	Net Loss: Rs. 1147.58 lakh
2005-06	Net Profit: Rs. 125.44 lakh
2006-07 (upto 31.10.2006)	Net Loss: Rs. 97.45 lakh (provisional)

[Translation]

Arrest of Bangladeshi Spy agents

920. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign nationals have been arrested on charges of espionage during 2005 and so far in 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any action against them so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per available inputs during the period January, 2005 to November 22, 2006, a total of 26 foreign nationals have been arrested on charges of espionage. Out of the 26 foreign nationals, 24 are Pakistani nationals and one each a Nepalese and Bangladeshi national.

(c) and (d) Necessary action has been initiated against such persons under the relevant provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 and/or other relevant laws.

Dues of Closed Textile Mills workers

921. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding dues of the workers of closed textile mills in the country, mill-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of workers rehabilitated and the scheme for rehabilitation of remaining workers of these mills; and

(c) the status of the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme in this regard and the details of the payment made so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Government does not maintain information related to outstanding dues of workers of closed textile mills.

(b) There is no scheme at present in operation for rehabilitation of workers of closed textile mills in the country.

(c) The Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) provides interim relief to the eligible workers of eligible closed textile mills in the Non-SSI private sectors in order to enable them to settle in another employment. So far 45 mills covering 79927 workers have been benefited to the extent of Rs. 185.03 Crore. Details of State-wise number of workers covered under TWRFS and disbursement position as on 31.10.2006 is as under:

Sr. No.	State	No. of Mills	No. of workers on roll	No. of workers paid	Amount Paid (in Rs.)
1.	Gujarat	32	66044	50776	1187440877
2.	Maharashtra	3	3225	2995	64954928
3.	Madhya Pradesh	4	18957	16035	394938540
4.	Tamil Nadu	4	5286	4590	67879719
5.	Karnataka	1	433	361	15818168
6.	Delhi	1	5187	5170	119253744
Total		45	99132	79927	1850285976

Open Development Centre Scheme

922. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be please to state:

(a) the number of development centres opened under Development Centre Scheme for the industrial development in the tribal dominated backward areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the funds made available to these industrial development centres established in the tribal dominated areas during the last three years till 2005-06;

(c) the number of tribal people provided employment under the scheme;

(d) whether the funds allotted by the Government have been utilised by the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (f) The Minister of Small Scale Industries has sanctioned 8 Integrated Infrastructural Development Centre (IIDC) under its IIDC Scheme for the State of Madhya Pradesh. These are in Satna, Mandsaur, Khargone, Kanti, Sagar, Neemuch, Tiklamgarh and Morena districts of Madhya Pradesh. Against the

sanctioned Central grant of Rs. 10.29 crores for these Centres., Rs. 5.37 crores have been released so far. These Centres are at various stages of development and the Utilisation Certificates which had become due have been received. Implementation of these Centre is likely to generate additional employment opportunities, including for the tribale population in these districts.

[English]

Training to Teachers

923. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any MoUs with any country for giving training to teachers and university lecturers in different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also started any new courses in university to suit the present conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mental Stress on Children

924. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in regard to the mental condition of the innocent children (between the age group of 6 to 10 years) who are facing mental stress due to the home work assigned to them by the schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the children in India are becoming psychiatric patients;

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

(e) whether the Government/Central Board of Secondary Education has any concrete measures to check and improve the mental condition of such children;

(f) if so, whether the number of child psychiatric patients in India is very alarming: and

(g) the number of Government and Non-Government institutions from which assistance has been received in this regard and the grant-in-aid provided to them alongwith the positive outcome thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have not conducted any such surveys.

(e) The CBSE has taken following measures to reduce the stress on children and to make learning a joyful experience:

(i) Abolition of homework for the children of Classes I to II.

(ii) Interesting and meaningful alternative activities to replace the dull and mechanical homework from classes II to V.

(iii) Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation from class I to V with no pass/fail criterion.

(iv) Gradual implementation of grading system for the assessment of students.

(v) Comprehensive School Health Programme and establishment of Health Clubs in the schools.

(vi) Education in life skills for the students of class VI to VIII with focus on developing self-awareness, interpersonal relationship, equanimity and strength of character.

(vii) Adolescence Education programme for students of classes VI to XII to cater to the special needs of the adolescent in physical, emotional, mental and social development.

(viii) Providing counseling services to children before and during examination and after the announcement of results using multimedia, newspapers and television.

(ix) Providing guidelines to teachers for diagnostic techniques of teaching children with learning difficulties.

(x) Greater emphasis on soft subjects like dance, art, music, craft, etc. in order to foster creativity and harmonious development of the total personality of children.

(f) No such survey has been conducted by either NCERT or CBSE.

(g) No such grant-in-aid has been provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development for reduction of homework related stress.

Allocation to Chhattisgarh

925. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government to the State of Chhattisgarh in the current financial year to set up agro and rural industries;

(b) the amount utilised out of allocated funds so far; and;

(c) the number of persons benefited from the said funds?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Government provides grant assistance to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for development of khadi and village industries throughout the country, including Chhattisgarh. KVIC reallocates the same as per the targeted programme to each State. An amount of Rs. 1014.22 lakh has been allocated by the KVIC for 2006-07 current financial year to assist the entrepreneurs in setting up village industry units in Chhattisgarh under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).

(b) While KVIC has released Rs. 527.27 lakh for implementation of REGP in Chhattisgarh, the latter has utilised Rs. 374.10 lakh, upto October, 2006.

(c) 3587 persons have benefited from these funds in Chhattisgarh upto October, 2006

[English]

Trade Deficit

926. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India recorded a monthly trade deficit of 5.33 billion dollars in September, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the trade deficit resulted due to higher import bill to feed strong consumer demands; and

(c) if so, steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rectify the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The increase in trade deficit during the month of September, 2006 was mainly on account of rising imports of capital goods, intermediate products, raw-materials required by the booming manufacturing sector and also spurt in import of gold and silver. The trade deficit situation of the country is being watched. However, as of now no measures have been taken by the Government to artificially restrict imports as this may lead to dampening of the growth impetus of the economy and resurgence of inflationary pressures.

[Translation]

Conditions of WTO

927. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accepted all the conditions of WTO;

(b) if not, the details of issues on which disagreement still prevails;

(c) whether WTO wants to control the agricultural sector of India;

(d) whether the Government feels that agricultural sector should be kept aloof from provisions of WTO keeping in view the interests of the country;

(e) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the details of agricultural produce exported from the country during the current year alongwith the details of agricultural produce imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) All Members of the WTO, including India, have undertaken to subscribe to the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO along with the annexed Agreements in Annex 1A relating to the Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods; Annex 1B relating to the General Agreement on Trade in Services and Annexes (GATS); Annex 1C relating to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); Annex 2 relating to the Understanding on Rules and Procedures governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU); and Annex 3 relating to the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM), in the form of a Single Undertaking. The range of WTO Agreements, which constitute a rule based system for the governance of international trade, represent a balance of rights, concessions, commitments and obligations on the part of all Member countries of the WTO.

While decision making in the WTO is governed by Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO, all decisions have so far been taken by consensus among the WTO Members.

In accordance with the mandate given in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the July Framework Agreement Decision of the General Council dated 1 August, 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December 2005, negotiations are going on under the Doha Work Programme on a wide range of issues.

(c) to (e) WTO is not meant to control the agricultural sector of any of its Member countries. Under the ongoing negotiations of the Doha Work Programme, Members are aiming to bring about reforms in the international trade in agriculture, through *inter-alia* reduction of trade distorting domestic support and phasing out of export subsidies provided by developed countries. As part of these negotiations, Members are also negotiating the provisions relating to special and differential treatment for developing countries. Hence it would not be in the interest of developing countries, including India, to keep agriculture out of the Doha Round negotiations of the WTO.

Under the existing provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, India's domestic policy for the agriculture sector has by and large not been constrained. India has not been required to reduce its domestic subsidies in the agricultural sector, since its total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) is negative and remains well within the de minimis level. Subsequent to the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports in 2001 by India, the Government has put in place a mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items. Protection to the domestic producers, including farmers, is provided by applying WTO compatible measures, which include appropriate calibration of applied tariff within bound levels and safeguard action under specified circumstances.

The Government has introduced a number of initiatives and interventions for enhancement of production and productivity of agricultural products, so as to increase the competitiveness of Indian agriculture. The schemes implemented by the Government in this regard, *inter alia*, include the Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission and Integrated Cereal Development Programmes. Further, to provide a level playing field for exports of agricultural products, the Government implements schemes such as the Transport Assistance Scheme and Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana to ensure that the farmers get

remunerative prices for their exports as well as increased access to the international market.

(f) During April-May 2006 of the current year, the total exports of agricultural products amounted to Rs. 83,786.71 crore, while imports of agricultural products during the same period amounted to Rs. 1,23,244.65 crore.

[English]

Tea Festival

928. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to organise a Tea Festival in 2007;

(b) if so, the amount of funds earmarked alongwith the probable date and venue for the same; and

(c) the reasons for organizing this festival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir. The Tea Board & the tea industry propose to organise a Tea Festival & Conference.

(b) The probable date and venue are likely to be May/June 2007 and Guwahati respectively. The costs are being worked out.

(c) The reasons for organizing this festival is export promotion by showcasing various Indian and Assam teas to overseas buyers.

International Market of Vanilla

929. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Vanilla produced including the number of farmers involved therein during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) whether the demand of Vanilla in the international market has been going down;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps being taken to help Vanilla farmers facing hardships due to fall in price of their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMEMRCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The production of vanilla in India estimated by Spices Board for the last three years are given below:

Year	Production (cured beans)(MT)	No. of farmers *(appox estimate)
2003-04	134	18.000
2004-05	196	27.000
2005-06	188	30.000

*Mostly vanilla is cultivated as intercrop with other agricultural commodities.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is neither an increase nor a decline in the global demand for natural vanilla in 2005 and 2006. The estimated global demand for natural vanilla is around 2300-2400 MT. US is the major importer accounting for 50 to 60% of the global demand followed by France and Germany at 10 and 15% respectively.

(d) Following steps have been taken to improve the demand within the country and abroad:

- Participation in international fairs exhibiting Indian vanilla and vanilla extracts. This has resulted in an export of 72.6 tonnes during 2005-06 and 73.1 tonne during April-September 2006-07.
- Spices Board had launched a premium brand 'flavourit' to popularize Indian premium quality spices including vanilla.
- Board also is in talks with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to use natural vanilla in the ice cream they are producing as part of the efforts for improving the domestic demand.

- M/s State Trading Corporation Limited (STCL), Bangalore had procured vanilla directly from the farmers (3 tones) during 2005-06 crop season. This has given some relief to the farmers.
- Board is supporting the growers in setting up of curing units for onfarm processing.

Ease the Entry of Foreign Investors in Real Estate

930. SHRI G. V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ease the entry of foreign investors in real estate;

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

(c) the details of measures taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of Indian consumers/end users of real estate; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check violation of the guidelines on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government *vide* Press Note 2 (2005 Series) has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100%, under the automatic route, in construction development projects, including housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure, townships, in order to promote FDI in the Sector. FDI is not permitted in any other activity of Real Estate. Copy of the Press Note 2 (2005 Series) is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) FDI in Real Estate has been allowed up to 100% on the automatic route but is subject to the conditions of the Press Note 2 (2005 Series) which lays down, *inter-alia*, conditions to be fulfilled regarding minimum area, minimum capitalisation and development of plots, in order to safeguard interest of end users. Violation of guidelines are dealt under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999.

Statement

*Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion
SIA (FC Division)*

Press Note 2 (2005 Series)

Subject: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects.

With a view to catalysing investment in townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects as an instrument to generate economic activity, create new employment opportunities and add to the available housing stock and built-up infrastructure, the Government has decided to allow FDI up to 100% under the automatic route in townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects (which would include, but not be restricted to, housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure), subject to the following guidelines:

a. Minimum area to be developed under each project would be as under:

- i. In case of development of serviced housing plots, a minimum land area of 10 hectares
- ii. In case of construction-development projects, a minimum built-up area of 50,000 sq.mts
- iii. In case of a combination project, anyone of the above two conditions would suffice.

b. The investment would further be subject to the following conditions:

- i. Minimum capitalization of US\$10 million for wholly owned subsidiaries and US\$ 5 million for joint ventures with Indian partners. The funds would have to be brought in within six months of commencement of business of the Company.
- ii. Original investment cannot be repatriated before a period of three years from completion of minimum capitalization. However, the investor may be permitted to exit earlier with prior approval of the Government through the FIPS.

c. At least 50% of the project must be developed within a period of five years from the date of obtaining all statutory clearances. The investor would not be permitted to sell undeveloped plots.

For the purpose of these guidelines, "undeveloped plots" will mean where roads, water supply, street lighting, drainage, sewerage, and other conveniences, as applicable under prescribed regulations, have not been made available. It will be necessary that the investor provides this infrastructure and obtains the completion certificate from the concerned local body/service agency before he would be allowed to dispose of serviced housing plots.

d. The project shall conform to the norms and standards, including land use requirements and provision of community amenities and common facilities, as laid down in the applicable building control regulations, bye-laws, rules, and other regulations of the State Government/Municipal/Local Body concerned.

e. The investor shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary approvals, including those of the building/layout plans, developing internal and peripheral areas and other infrastructure facilities, payment of development, external development and other charges and complying with all other requirements as prescribed under applicable rules/bye-laws/regulations of the State Government/Municipal/Local Body concerned.

f. The State Government/Municipal/Local Body concerned, which approves the building/development plans, would monitor compliance of the above conditions by the developer."

2. Para (iv) of Press Note 4 (2001 Series), issued by the Government on 21.5.2001, and Press Note 3 (2002 Series), issued on 4.1.2002, stand superceded.

(Umesh Kumar)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

F.No.5(6)/2000-FC
dated 3rd March 2005

New Linguistic Survey by UGC

931. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC proposes to undertake a New Linguistic Survey of India as reported in 'Times of India' dated November 02, 2006;

(b) if so, the need for such a survey and the details of the same;

(c) the total expenditure involved in the survey; and

(d) the time by which the survey would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The original Survey completed between 1894 and 1927 is outdated and hence there is a need for a new Survey. The survey is expected to cost Rs. 308 crores over the 11th Five year plan and if approved, is likely to be completed over a time frame of 10 years (2007—2017).

Enhancement of Seats in IIMs and IITs

932. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to IIMs and IITs to enhance the seats from the 2006-07 academic year;

(b) if so, the number of seats proposed to be increased by each IIM and IIT; and

(c) the steps taken by each IIT and IIM in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Oversight Committee on the Implementation of the New Reservation Policy in Higher Educational Institutions has recommended that all centrally funded institutions of higher learning should fully implement the proposed 27% reservation of seats for OBCs within a maximum period of 3 years, if not earlier, beginning from the year 2007-2008 along with expansion in capacity so that the present level of seats available to general category students is maintained. Accordingly, all the centrally funded institutions of higher learning have been asked to submit their Detailed Project Report (DPR) regarding their expansion plan.

Setting up of Alumina Plant

933. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Alumina Plant and Aluminium Smelter plant is proposed to be set up in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith stake of Union Government in each of such plants; and

(c) the capacities of the above two plants and the details of benefits to State Government/Union Government from these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) As per information obtained from the State Government, the Alumina Plants/Smelters to be set up in Orissa are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location	Project cost	Capacity (Rs. in Crore)
1.	M/s Vedanta Alumina Ltd. (Refinery)	Lanjigarh, Kalahandi	4000	1.00 Million tonnes per Annum (MTPA)
2.	M/s Vedanta Alumina Ltd. (Smelter) (Proposed)	Jharsuguda	3000	2.50 Lakh tonnes per annum (LTPA)
3.	M/s Aditya Aluminium (Refinery) Smelter	Koraput/ Rayagada Sambalpur	11000	1.00 MTPA 2.60 LTPA
4.	M/s Utkal Alumina International Ltd. (Refinery)	Kashipur, Rayagada	4500	1.00 MTPA

Apart from the above, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Public Sector Enterprise of the Government of India, is expanding its Alumina Refinery capacity from 15.75 lakh tonnes per year to 21 lakh tonnes per year and its Aluminium Smelter from 3.45 lakh tonnes per year to 4.6 lakh tonnes per year.

(c) Besides creating new employment opportunities, the projects would also bring increased revenue for the Government in the form of dividend/taxes.

[Translation]

Strength of Delhi Police

934. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the officers and employees/constables working in various categories of Delhi Police as on date, category-wise;

(b) the total number of various vacancies of different categories are vacant as on date, category-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies; and

(d) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The rank-wise number of sanctioned posts of Delhi Police, and those lying vacant as on date is given in Statement-I enclosed. In addition, the Government has also sanctioned five India Reserve Battalions for the NCT of Delhi. Rank-wise number of sanctioned posts of the IR Battalions and those which are yet to be filled up is given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) Filling up of vacant posts is a continuing process. The steps taken to fill up the existing vacancies include holding/convening of meetings of Departmental Promotion Committee in cases where the posts are required to be filled up by promotion; inviting applications from suitable candidates in cases where the posts are required to be filled up on deputation basis; holding of Physical Measurement Tests and conducting written examination, interviews etc. and intimating vacancies to the Union Public Service Commission/Staff Selection Commission for taking necessary action to select suitable candidates in cases where the posts are to be filled up by direct recruitment.

Statement I

Sl No.	Rank	Sanctioned strength	Number of vacant posts
1	2	3	4
1.	Commissioner of Police	1	0
2.	Special Commissioner of Police	3	0
3.	Joint Commissioner of Police	15	0
4.	Additional Commissioner of Police	10	0
5.	Deputy Commissioner of Police	44	17
6.	JA Grade Officers	28	0
7.	Assistant Commissioner of Police	269	30
8.	Inspector	1055	22
9.	Sub-Inspector	3834	465

1	2	3	4
10.	Assistant Sub-Inspector	5624	364
11.	Head Constable	14448	1211
12.	Constable	32419	2130
13.	Civilian	74	35
14.	Class-IV Employee	1786	7
Total		59610	4274

Statement II

SI No.	Rank	Sanctioned strength	Number of vacant posts
1.	Deputy Commissioner of Police	20	20
2.	Assistant Commissioner of Police	35	35
3.	Inspector	40	5
4.	Sub-Inspector	130	77
5.	Assistant Sub-Inspector	115	18
6.	Head Constable	955	240
7.	Constable	3375	1446
8.	Civilian	20	20
9.	Class-IV Employee	345	139
Total		5035	2000

*[English]***Cigarettes and Tobacco Products**

935. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of cigarettes and tobacco products under the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement;

(b) whether India has placed these products under negative list; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA), cigarettes and tobacco products are not in the Negative List of India.

(c) At the time when the ISLFTA was finalised, there was no threat perception to the domestic industry on account of import of cigarettes and tobacco products and hence it was not considered necessary to place these items in the Negative List of India.

[Translation]

Linking of Scholarship amount with Price Index

936. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to link the amount given as scholarship to the Scheduled Tribe students with the price index; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Artificial Shivlingam at Amarnath

937. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report of the Investigation Commission constituted to look into the dispute regarding the creation of artificial Shivlingam at Amarnath;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report has fixed the responsibility for creation of artificial Shivlingam;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the action taken against the persons responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per the information made available by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the one-man Commission of Enquiry of Justice (Retd.) Shri K.K. Gupta of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, constituted by the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, who is also the Ex-officio Chairman of Shri Amarnath ji Shrine Board, has submitted its Report to the Governor on August 26, 2006.

(b) The Gupta Commission of Enquiry in its Report has concluded that no tampering of any nature with the Holy Shivlingam took place. They have further said that they saw no hand of any official of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board in the formation of the Shivlingam or in tampering with the natural ice Shivlingam, which in fact had not been tampered with during the Yatra period announced by Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board.

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

[English]

Foreign Direct Investment

938. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared some FDI proposals recently as reported in the 'Hindu' dated September 19, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals cleared by the Government;

(c) the number of proposals pending with the Government for clearance; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals, seeking prior approval of the Government, are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The Government has approved 26 proposals of FDI amounting to Rs. 992.8436 crore in its meeting held on 8th September, 2006. Details of the proposals cleared are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Proposals seeking Government approval are considered by FIPB in a time-bound manner and decisions on the proposals with complete information are normally conveyed in 6-8 weeks. 23 proposals seeking Government approval are pending as on 15-11-2006. Meetings to clear proposals are regularly held and receipt of such proposals and decisions thereon is a continuing process.

Statement*Cases Approved in the FIPB Meeting held on 8.9.2006*

S.No.	Name & Address of the existing/proposed foreign company	Name & Address of the Indian company, if already incorporated	Activity	Location	Particulars of the proposal	FDI/NRI Inflows (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Industrial Policy & Promotion						
1.	M/s. Spheros GmbH, Krallinger Str 5,83131, Stockdorf, Germany	M/s Motherson Advanced Automobile Solutions Pvt. Ltd. 43, Community Centre, Bhageria House, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-52	Manufacturing/ assembling, sale and exports of hatches, heaters, air conditioners, thermal management systems and their components for their end use in buses and in wholesale trading of the products	Not indicated	To set up a JV company to be engaged in the manufacturing/ assembling, sale and exports of Hatches, heaters, air-conditioners, thermal management systems and their components for their end use in buses and in wholesale trading of the products Proposal attracts Press Note 1 (2005 series)	1.02
2.	Mary Kay Inc. 16251 Dallas Parkway P.O. Box 799045 Dallas, USA	New WOS	Import of skin care and cosmetic products manufactured Kay for the purpose of carrying out <i>test marketing</i> activities in India.	Not indicated	To set up a WOS to undertake Test marketing activities	0.0225
3.	M/s Timken Company 1835, Dueber Avenue S.W. Canton, Ohio 44706-0928 USA	New WOS	Manufacture, marketing, sale and distribution of highly engineered, specialized bearing products	Chennai	To set up a WOS to undertake manufacture marketing, sale and distribution of highly engineered, specialized, bearing products. Proposal attracts Press Note 1 (2005 series)	49.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	M/s PPG Industries Security Inc. 1888, Lynnbury Woods Road Dover, Delaware 19904. USA	New WOS	to carry on the business of manufacturer, applicator, trader, dealer, importer, exporter, seller, agent and to render all services associated therewith, for all kinds of coating and paint products, optical products of glass and fibre glass products, and commodity and speciality chemicals and the products derived therefrom.	Not indicated	To set up a WOS. Proposal attracts Press Note 1 (2005 series)	0.40
5.	M/s. WPP Group Plc. And/or any of its subsidiaries/affiliates, including Berkeley Square Holding BV 27, Farm Street, London W1X 6 RD, UK	M/s. Ray Z & Keshavan Design Associates Pvt. Ltd. #22, Brunton Road Bangalore-560 025	Advertising, branding and designing services	Bangalore	Induction of foreign equity upto 100% by way of subscription and acquisition. Proposal attracts Press Note 1 (2005 series)	0.02
6.	M/s JSC Technochim Holding 11, ul Rubinsteina St. Petersburg, Russia	M/s. Saraf Agencies Pvt. Ltd. 4/1, Red Cross Place Kolkata-700 001	Manufacture of Titanium Products (Titanium Slag High Purity Pig Iron (By product), Titanium Sponge & Titanium dioxide pigment	Chhatrapur, Orissa	To set up Titanium project with 55% foreign equity as an Indo-Russian Joint Venture	192.50
Information & Broadcasting						
7.	M/s. Ezyhealth Asia Pacific-Limited 12 Science Park Drive #02-03, The Mendel Singapore Science Park, Singapore	M/s Ezyhealth India Pvt. Ltd. 2, Hindi Prachar Sabha St. T. Nagar, Chennai-17	To Publish Indian edition of "Medical Grapevine" publication	Chennai	To set up a WOS to publish Indian edition of "Medical Grapevine" publication	0.10
Economic Affairs						
8.	Mr. Niket Patankar 13, Larkspur Drive Dayton, New Jersey 09910 USA Mr. Jagdish Iyer 18, Jodran Way, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey-08852, USA	M/s. Adventity BPO India Pvt.Ltd. "Adventity House" c-2, Wagle Industrial Estate MIDC, Thane (West) Mumbai-400604	Business of voice-based call center.	Mumbai	Transfer of shares held by resident trustees to NRIs of the Trust	0.256

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
9.	Dr. Sujata Pammi # 3704, Sumterway, Carmet, OM, USA	M/s. Ocimum Bio-solutions (India) Ltd. 6th floor, Reliance classic Road No. 1 Banjara Hills, Hyderabad	Software Development and Microarrays	Hyderabad		Transfer of shares by way of inflow share swap	No fresh
10.	M/s. Caim UK Holdings Limited 50 Lothian Road Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 9BY, UK	M/s. Kaim India Limited (new company)	Surveying, prospecting, drilling and exploring for, acquiring, developing, producing, maintaining, refining, storing, trading, supplying, transporting, marketing, distributing, importing, exporting and generally dealing in minerals, oils, petroleum, gas and related by-products and other activities incidental	Not indicated		To set up a holding company and transfer of shares by way of share swap	Inflows under automatic route
11.	Mr. Stephane Paumier, French National	M/s, SPA Design Pvt.Ltd. 72 Khirki Village, Malviya Nagar New Delhi-17	Consultancy work related to design and development	New Delhi		Post-facto approval for issue of 8500 shares to a French national	No fresh inflow
Chemicals & Petrochemicals							
12.	M/s. Mitsubishi Chemicals Corporation, Japan M/s. Mitsubishi Corpn Japan M/s. Sojiz Corporation M/s. Marubeni Corpn. Japan M/s. Toyota Tsusho Corporation Japan M/s. Sumikin Bussan Corpn. Japan	M/s MCC PTA India Corp, Private Limited 22, Camac Street, Block C 4th Floor, Kolkata - 700016	Manufacture, marketing, sale and distribution of Purified terephthalic Acid (PTA)	Kolkata, West Bengal		Infusion of additional investment and payment of lump- sum fee under technical collaboration account beyond the permissible limit under automatic route	342.00
Industrial Policy & Promotion							
13.	M/s. Acer Computer International Ltd, Singapore M/s. Acer Holdings Inc. British Virgin Islands	M/s. Acer India Pvt. Ltd. 1st Floor, George Thangiah Complex (Extn.) 80 Feet Road Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560 075	Assembling of Acer Branded personal computers, note book computers, Wholesale trading on cash and carry basis, etc.	Bangalore		To undertake wholesale trading instead of test marketing for which permission was already granted	No fresh inflow

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Telecommunications						
14.	M/s. Hutchison Telecom (India) Ltd. Mauritius	M/s. Hutchison Essar Cellular Ltd.	Cellular Mobile telephone services	Not indicated	To take note of indirect foreign equity participation through HEL in the company, as per Press Note 5 of 2005.	No fresh inflow
15.	M/s. Hutchison Telecom (India) Ltd. Mauritius	M/s. Hutchison Essar Mobile Services Ltd.	Cellular Mobile telephone services	Not indicated	To take note of indirect foreign equity participation through HEL in the company, as per Press Note 5 of 2005.	No fresh inflow
16.	M/s. Hutchison Telecom (India) Ltd. Mauritius	M/s. Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	Cellular Mobile telephone services	Not indicated	To take note of indirect foreign equity participation through HEL in the company, as per Press Note 5 of 2005	No fresh inflow
17.	M/s. Hutchison Telecom (India) Ltd. Mauritius	M/s. Hutchison Telecom East Ltd.	Cellular Mobile telephone services	Not indicated	To take note of indirect foreign equity participation through HEL in the company, as per Press Note 5 of 2005	No fresh inflow
18.	M/s. Hutchison Telecom (India) Ltd. Mauritius	M/s. Aircel Diglink India Ltd.	Cellular Mobile telephone services	Not indicated	To take note of indirect foreign equity participation through HEL in the company, as per Press Note 5 of 2005.	No fresh inflow
19.	M/s. Hutchison Telecom (India) Ltd. Mauritius	M/s. Fascal Ltd.	Cellular Mobile telephone services	Not indicated	To take note of indirect foreign equity participation through HEL in the company, as per Press Note 5 of 2005.	No fresh inflow

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Petroleum & Natural Gas						
20.	M/s. BG Energy Holdings Limited 100, Thames Valley Park Drive, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1PT United Kingdom	New WOS	Developing gas distribution & Transmission infrastructure, distribution, supply and sale of Piped Natural Gas to domestic, commercial and industrial customers and compressed natural gas to natural gas vehicle customers	Andhra Pradesh	To set up a WOS to undertake Development of Gas distribution & transmission infrastructure in the state of Andhra Pradesh	135.00
21.	M/s. BG Energy Holdings Limited 100, Thames valley Park Drive, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1PT United Kingdom	New WOS	Developing gas distribution & Transmission infrastructure, distribution, supply and sale of Piped Natural Gas to domestic, commercial and industrial customers and compressed natural gas to natural gas vehicle customers	Karnataka	To set up a WOS to undertake Development of Gas distribution & transmission infrastructure in the state of Karnataka	135.00
22.	M/s. BG Energy Holdings Limited 100, Thames Valley Park Drive, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1PT United Kingdom	New WOS	Developing gas distribution & Transmission infrastructure, distribution, supply and sale of Piped Natural Gas to domestic, commercial and industrial customers and compressed natural gas to natural gas vehicle customers	Tamil Nadu	To set up a WOS to undertake Development of Gas distribution & transmission infrastructure in the state of Tamil Nadu	135.00
Urban Development						
23.	M/s. Benias International Pvt.Ltd. 4th Floor, Ken Lee Building Edith Cavell Street, Port Louis Mauritius	M/s. Lanarth Developers Private Limited 8, Shinge Building 432 Lamington Road Mumbai -4	Development of Real Estate	Cochin	Modify and extend the terms of redemption of preference shares from 5 years to 15 years.	No fresh inflow

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Economic Affairs						
24.	M/s. Infos TEP Inc. 2340 Mission College Blvd # 290, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA	M/s. MIC Electronics Ltd. Electronic Complex Hyderabad - 500 062	Manufactures of electronic display systems, design and development of telecom products for wireline and wireless communication and development of telecom software and IT services	Hyderabad	Transfer of shares by way of share swap	No fresh inflow
Commerce						
25.	M/s. Idemitsu Kosan Co.Ltd 1-1, Marunouchi 3-chome Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan	New WOS	-To sublicense only to Savita, Technical Information and Trademarks relating to manufacture and marketing of Idemitsu Licensed Products; - To receive royalty only from Savita, for sub licensing of Technical Information and Trademarks relating to manufacture and marketing of Idemitsu Licensed Products; - To purchase only from Savita, Factory Fill Genuine Products to be invoiced by Subsidiary to Idemitsu Global Customers in the Territory; - If found commercially viable by both Savita and Subsidiary, to import only from Idemitsu Group and/or its approved suppliers; - finished Genuine Products and finished Non Blendable Products not being manufactured by Savita; and - proprietary Additives.	Not indicate	To set up a WOS. Proposal attracts Press Note 1 (2005 series)	2.025

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tourism						
26.	M/s. Navigate Mauritius Limited 606, St. James Court, St. Denis Street, Port Louis, Mauritius	M/s. Navigate Restaurants Brands (India) Private Limited A-15, Second Floor Heuz Khas New Delhi	Hotel & Restaurant Business	New Delhi	Change in the status from operating company to holding-cum-operating company.	No fresh inflow

OBC Students in Primary Schools

939. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ordered headcunt of OBC students in primary schools across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this move; and

(c) the number of Government and aided schools in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) A statement showing State-wise number of Government and aided primary and upper primary schools as per DISE data 2004-05 is enclosed.

Statement*OBC Students in Primary Schools*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Primary School			Upper Primary School		
		Govt.	Aided	Total	Govt.	Aided	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	261	2	263	118	2	120
2.	Andhra Pradesh	66763	2704	69467	21587	1260	22847
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2805	43	2848	656	29	685
4.	Assam	28909	57	28966	7263	1596	8859
5.	Bihar	51194	422	51616	15802	433	16235
6.	Chandigarh	104	6	110	82	7	89
7.	Chhittigarh	31987	495	32482	11049	303	11352
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	191	12	203	77	5	82
9.	Daman and Diu	32	3	35	19	4	23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Delhi	2378	213	2591	1032	238	1270
11.	Gujarat	32174	584	32758	20959	661	21620
12.	Haryana	9204	60	9264	4135	62	4197
13.	Himachal Pradesh	10626	29	10655	3759	44	3803
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	1561	24	1585	5371	21	5392
15.	Jharkhand	34756	237	34993	8463	157	8620
16.	Karnataka	43814	2295	46109	19848	2188	22036
17.	Kerala	2825	3948	6773	1419	2146	3565
18.	Lakshadweep	26	0	26	17	0	17
19.	Madhya Pradesh	70057	1626	71683	25380	1010	26390
20.	Maharashtra	56303	5248	61551	21993	11425	33418
21.	Manipur	2934	289	3223	572	155	727
22.	Meghalaya	3541	2637	6178	476	1118	1594
23.	Mizoram	1262	52	1314	757	90	847
24.	Nagaland	1478	0	1478	425	0	425
25.	Orissa	43753	292	44045	14461	605	15066
26.	Pondicherry	331	30	361	162	26	188
27.	Punjab	13062	438	13500	5135	368	5503
28.	Rajasthan	53168	714	53882	21831	552	22383
29.	Sikkim	833	37	870	285	13	298
30.	Tamil Nadu	32859	7526	40385	10320	3454	13774
31.	Tripura	3362	42	3404	1582	43	1625
32.	Uttar Pradesh	96775	3432	100207	26148	3817	29965
33.	Uttaranchal	11964	232	12196	3724	348	4072
34.	West Bengal	49661	336	49997	3113	6199	9312
Over All		760953	34065	795018	258020	38379	296399

Implementation of Recommendations by KVIC

940. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations of Expert Committee to strengthen marketing strategy were not acted upon by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether trading units having a huge investment are running in losses; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the erring officials of KVIC for not implementing the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee constituted to suggest measures for revamping of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and programmes/schemes had *inter alia* recommended strengthening of the marketing strategy for the khadi and village industry products. The recommendations of the Expert Committee were accepted by the Government and in pursuance of these recommendations, KVIC has prepared proposals for enhancing the domestic marketing as well as export of KVI products.

(c) In the course of its statutory functions, KVIC undertakes activities to assist the khadi and village industries (KVI) institutions in the marketing of their products through some sales outlets owned and run by KVIC. Some of these outlets are running in loss mainly due to heavy establishment expenditure in the form of salary and allowances payable to the employees of the outlets based on the implementation of the 5th Central Pay Commission Recommendation by KVIC. Besides, there are 7050 sales outlets of registered KVI institutions under the purview of KVIC and most of them are running without incurring any loss.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Review of Handicraft Schemes

941. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the ongoing handicraft schemes being implemented in various states particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the short coming came to the notice of the Government;

(c) whether any complaints against the role of Government officials has been received; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The schemes of this office are not state specific, but are Central Sector Schemes being implemented throughout the country including the State of Gujarat. No shortcomings have been noticed in the schemes with reference to the objective envisaged. However, a few suggestions have been received to improve the effectiveness and out reach of the schemes.

(c) and (d) No complaint concerning role of Government Officials resultant to review of handicrafts schemes has been received. However, complaints are received from time to time regarding irregularities by Government Officials, which are dealt as per rules.

[English]

Languages in Eighth Schedule

942. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for inclusion of Kodava Language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also received any proposal from other State Government Institutions for inclusion of languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the languages State-wise; and

(e) the time by which these languages are likely to be included in 8th Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has received demands from State Governments/Chief Ministers for inclusion of various languages, including Kodava, in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution as follows:-

Name of Language	State Government
(i) Bhojpuri	Bihar
(ii) Chhattisgarhi	Chhattisgarh
(iii) Bhutia, Lepcha & Limboo	Sikkim
(iv) Kodava & Tulu	Karnataka
(v) Mizo	Mizoram
(vi) Rajasthani	Rajasthan
(vii) Tenyidie	Nagaland

(e) A Committee was set up under Shri Sitakant Mohapatra to evolve a set of objective criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule. The Committee has submitted its report and made certain recommendations. The demands for inclusion of these languages in the Eighth Schedule will be considered in the light of the recommendations of the Committee and Government decision thereon.

[Translation]

Location-wise details of EPZs, SEZs, FTZs and Agro Export Zones

943. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of the Export Processing Zones, Special Economic Zones, Foreign Trade Zones and Agro-Export Zones functioning in Orissa;

(b) the functions performed by the said zones during the last three years;

(c) whether the said zones are not being able to perform as per their targets;

(d) whether the Government have carried out any survey in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Export Processing Zones or Special Economic Zones are functioning in Orissa. Only one Agri Export Zone (AEZ) on Organic Ginger and Turmeric in Orissa covering District Kandhamal and Koraput is functioning in Orissa.

(b) 11,457 farmers including 10457 women have been imparted training mainly on organic farming and vermi-composting. 901 vermi-compost demonstration units have been set up in the turmeric growing areas of Kandhamal. Besides, Seed Multiplication Programme for Turmeric were taken up covering an area of 12 hectares in Kotagarh Farm.

(c) to (e) A statement giving details of exports projected and actual exports during the last 3 years in respect of AEZ is enclosed. Survey/inspections are carried out by APEDA in respect of AEZ from time to time.

Statement

Year	(Rs. Lakhs)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Projected Exports	501.00	549.00	602.00
Actual Exports	51.40	51.45	51.76

Cottage Industry in Gujarat

944. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cottage industries of Gujarat are in miserable condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to set up cottage industries in the backward areas of Gujarat; and

(d) the extent to which success achieved through these steps?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Cottage industries in the country, including those in Gujarat, may face financial difficulties due to several reasons such as, weak financial base and managerial skills of entrepreneurs, inadequate credit availability, delayed payment from buyers, etc.

(c) For setting up Cottage industries in the rural areas of the country, the Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) provides assistance to prospective entrepreneurs under its credit-linked subsidy scheme, namely, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), implemented by the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000 throughout the country, including in backward areas of Gujarat. 1990 units have been set up by eligible beneficiaries under the REGP (up to 31 March 2006) in the State of Gujarat.

(d) Details of the progress made under the REGP in terms of units set up and additional employment opportunities generated in the State of Gujarat during the past three years are given in the table below:

Sl.No.	Year	Number of units	Employment (number of persons)
1.	2003-04	290	2236
2.	2004-05	376	8581
3.	2005-06	516	17947

[English]

Textile units in Karnataka

945. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile units i.e. powerlooms, handlooms, synthetic yarn, ready-made garments and hosiery items manufacturing units in Karnataka, separately;

(b) the amount spent by Government on these units during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to promote export of fabrics manufactured in these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The number of powerloom, handloom, synthetic yarn, and ready-made garments & hosiery Units in Karnataka State are as under:

Powerlooms	Handlooms	Synthetic Yarn	Ready-made Garments & Hosiery
81,869	50741	Nil	614

(b) A majority of the activities in the Textiles sector are decentralized. The Government does not spend funds directly on these units. However, funds are released to various implementing agencies under various schemes, which are also not State specific. This is on the basis of the viability of the proposals received. Some of the important schemes under which funds have been released in the State of Karnataka are given below:

(Rs. In crores)

Name of Scheme	Sanctioned			Disbursed	
	Number of applications	Project Cost	Amount	No. of applications	Amount
Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)	181	1889.29	1412.35	144	411.44

(Rs. In Lakh)

Name of Scheme	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (as on date)	
	No. of Units	Amount released	No. of Units	Amount released	No. of Units	Amount released
Subsidy under 20% CLCS for Decentralized Powerloom Units	1	1.15	1	0.94	5	10.11

(Rs. In Lakh)

Name of Scheme	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (as on date)	
	No. of Units	Amount released	No. of Units	Amount released	No. of Units	Amount released
Group Insurance Scheme for Scheme for powerloom workers (Government share of premium released to LIC towards insurance)	—	15.80	—	13.39	—	9.96 (up to 31.10.06)

(Rs. In Lakh)

Name of Scheme	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (up to 15.11.06)
	Amount released	Amount released	Amount released
Funds released under different Plan Schemes in the Handlooms Sector	472.18	1140.59	62.15

(c) The Government has taken the following steps for the promotion of textiles exports:

- (i) Rationalisation of fiscal duty structure undertaken to attract investment and modernization;
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernization and upgradation of the textiles sector;

(iii) To accelerate modernization in the powerlooms segment of the textiles industry, 20% Capital assistance is available on investment upto Rs. 100 lakh for specified machinery, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20 lakh;

(iv) Woven readymade garments have been de-reserved from the SSI Sector;

(v) The "Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks" (SITP) was introduced by merging to schemes

viz, "Apparel Park for Exports Scheme" and "Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS).

- (vi) The Technology Mission for Cotton was launched to improve the productivity and quality of the cotton crop;
- (vii) Financial assistance is provided under the Handloom Export Scheme to eligible agencies to develop exportable products, and for publicity and participation in international trade events.

Status of BALCO

946. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Government stake in BALCO;
- (b) whether the Government has set up any Committee to sell the remaining Government stake in BALCO;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the employees working in BALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) The present Government stake in BALCO is 49%.

(b) and (c) The Share Holders Agreement (SHA) signed between the Government and Strategic Partner provides for arbitration clause under which, negotiations and conciliation are the first steps before referring the dispute to arbitration. The Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs with Secretary, Department of Disinvestment and Secretary, Ministry of Mines as Members for negotiation/conciliation with M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Limited, the Strategic Partner (SP).

(d) In the SHA signed in March 2001, provision was made not to retrench any part of the labour force of the Company for a period of one year from the Closing Date other than any dismissal or termination of employees in accordance with applicable staff regulations and standing orders of the Company or applicable law. In the event of any reduction in the strength of the Company, provision for an option to voluntarily retire on terms that are not,

in any manner less favourable than the voluntary scheme offered by the Company was also provided in the SHA.

Education Programme under SSA

947. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam and other North-Eastern States have requested the Union Government to continue the existing fund sharing norms under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the details of the present fund sharing norms and details of the request made by the Government of these States; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The Centre-State funding pattern in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the Xth Plan period is in the ratio of 75:25. At the request of the North-Eastern States for a 90:10 funding pattern in SSA, the Government of India decided that for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, 15% of the requirement of funds for SSA to the respective North-Eastern State Governments, would be met out of the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources operated by the Ministry of the North Eastern Region.

The North-Eastern States have made a further request for the funding pattern of SSA to be kept at 90:10 in the XIth Plan period. Fund sharing patterns in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are determined by the Planning Commission of India.

[Translation]

Textile Industry in Rajasthan

948. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties and corresponding quantity of textiles being produced in Rajasthan at present and their locations;

(b) the initiatives taken by the Government so far to promote various kinds of textile industries in private and co-operative sectors separately in Rajasthan;

(c) whether Textile Parks Scheme is being implemented in Rajasthan also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The varieties and corresponding quantity of textiles being produced in Rajasthan at present and their locations are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The measures taken by the Government in the recent past to promote textile industry in the country including the State of Rajasthan are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) was launched to provide the industry with world class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units. Two projects under SITP have been sanctioned in the State of Rajasthan. Their details are as follows:

Name of the project/Location	Estimated project cost (Infrastructure component) (In Rs. Crore)	Estimated assistance of Government of India (in Rs. Crore)
Jaipur Texweaving Park Limited, Silora, Kishangarh, Rajasthan	96.81	38.72
Kishangarh Hi-tech Textile Park Limited, Silora, Kishangarh, Rajasthan	115.09	40.00

Statement I

Location-wise variety of Cotton items produced during 2005-06 by the Mill-sector in the State of Rajasthan

(In Sq. Mtr.)

Location	Variety Produced	Quantity
1	2	3
Nemrana Alwar, Industrial Area Bandwara, Sri Ganga Nagar	Drills, Gaberdines and Corduryoys	2924301
Nemrana Alwar	Satins, Coating Suiting	2871678
Sri Ganga Nagar	Denims	29462
Sri Ganga Nagar	Dosuti/Dedsuti	841958
Nemrana Alwar Palli-Marwar, Palli	Shirting and Sucs	466975
Nemrana Alwar, Palli-Marwar, Palli	Other wearables	2951905
Sri Ganga Nagar	Mulls, Voils, dorias and printed voils	81727
Nemrana Alwar, Palli-Marwar, Palli, Sri Ganga Nagar	Popline, Creps, Twills, Chintz, Cellular	11753496

1	2	3
Hamirgurh, Bhilwar, Palli-Marwar, Palli, Sri Ganga Nagar	Longcloth all widhts, sheetings & marking below 54" width	4738793
Palli-Marwar, Palli, Sri Ganga Nagar	Bedsheets, Chadars, Sheetings & markeing below 54" widht	3527771
Sri Ganga Nagar	Tapestry Curtain & Furnisihing	45612
Sri Ganga Nagar	Filter, Lint and Polishing cloth	448091
Nemrana Alwar, Sri Ganga Nagar	Canvas & ducks	7293313
Grant Total		37975082

Spun yam production in the State of Rajasthan during the year 2005-06 (Provisional)

(Thousand Kg.)

Cotton	Blended	100% Non cotton	Total
90529	136075	37950	264554

Location-wise variety of Blended item produced during 2005-06 by the Mill-sector

(In Sq. Mtr.)

Location	Variety produced	Quantity
Palli- Marwar, Palli	Mulls, Voils, Dorias & Printed Voils	414304
Nemrana Alwar	Poplin, Creps, Twills, Chintz and Cellular	1204884
Nemrana Alwar	Longcloth all widhts, sheetings & marking below 54" widht	9910
Nemrana Alwar, Industrial Area Banswara, Banswara, Lodha, Palli-Marwar, Palli	Shirting and Sucs	4281571
Nemrana Alwar, Industrial Area Banswara, Banswara, Lodha	Drills, Gaberdines and Corduryoys	13373460
Nemrana Alwar, Banswara, Lodha	Satins, Coating, Suting	13133989
Nemrana Alwar	Canvas And Ducks	441809
	Grant Total	31230829

Location-wise variety of 100% Non-cotton item produced during 2005-06 by the Mill-sector

(In Sq.Mtr.)

Location	Variety produced	Quantity
Hamirgurh, Bhilwara	Longcloth all widths Sheelings & markins below 54" width	351283
Industrial Area Banswara	Madapalam, Cambric, Lawns	4638
Industrial Area Banswara	Drills Gaberdines and Cordyroys	5761
Industrial Area Banswara	Other wearables	393
Grant Total		362075

Statement II*Important measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector*

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.
- (v) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.
- (vi) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (vii) In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- (viii) In the Budget 2006-07 the following important announcements for the textile sector have been made:-
- Reduction in the excise duty on all man-made fibre yarn and filament yarn from 16 per cent to 8 per cent.
 - Reduction in the import duty on all man-made fibres and yarns from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
 - Reduction in the import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG be from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.

- Provision of Rs. 189 crore during 2006-07 for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP)
- (ix) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (x) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).
- (xi) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.
- (xii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- (xiii) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been established to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.
- (xiv) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:
 - Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.
 - Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.
 - Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.

[English]

Diamond Processing Industries

949. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of diamond processing industries located in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of diamond processing units have suffered huge losses and were washed away due to this year's heavy rain and flood in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has provided any assistance to those industries which have suffered huge losses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) To the extent information is available; there are 9,500 diamond processing units in the country, mainly located in Surat. Ahmedabad-Palanpur belt and Bhavanagar-Rajkot belt of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) The recent floods have affected Gem & Jewellery units of Surat.

(d) to (f) A relief package to assist flood affected gems and jewellery units of Surat is under the consideration of Government of India.

Committee on National Police Commission

950. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the executive Committee of National Police Commission has recently met;

(b) if so, the details of the various issues discussed by the said Committee as reported in 'The Times of India' dated November 06, 2006;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a data bank of all criminal offences committed in the country;

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

(e) the extent to which the Government is able to transform the police into a modern, capable and responsible organization in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A joint meeting of the Empowered Steering Group and Executive Committee set up for the proposed National Police Mission was held on 3rd November, 2006 in order to formulate the objectives, goals, structure and implementation methodology of the Mission.

(c) and (d) Data banks of all crimes and criminals are maintained at the district, State and national levels under the Crime Criminal Information System (CCIS), by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

(e) Police being a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, it is primarily the State Governments which have to implement various measures for police reforms. However, the Central Government has been extending assistance to State Governments in various forms to help them modernize and reform their police forces.

Multiple Entry Visa Facility to Foreigners

951. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to clear long term visas with multiple entry facility to boost tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the long-term visas alongwith the multiple entry facility would make the travel process less cumbersome for foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to grant long-term Tourist visa with five year validity, with multi entry facilities to the nationals of France, Germany, Luxembourg,

Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Spain, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Vietnam with the stipulation "Continuous stay on each visit should not exceed 90 days".

(c) and (d) The long-term visa to the foreign nationals of the above-sated countries would make the travel process relatively easier and would also help in promoting tourism in the country.

[Translation]

Export of Potatoes

952. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for export of potatoes during the current year;

(b) whether farmers are getting remunerative price for potatoes;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate a permanent export policy for export of potatoes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No targets are fixed for export of potatoes.

(b) and (c) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities to protect the growers from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop resulting in prices falling below economic levels or cost of production. The market intervention under the Scheme is done at the behest of the Governments of States and Union Territories. No request has been received from any State government for procurement of potato under the MIS.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to formulate a separate export policy for potatoes. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is extending financial assistance under its

schemes for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research & Development and Transport Assistance to exporters to facilitate export of agricultural produce including potato. Other steps in this direction include setting up of Agri Export Zones, organization of promotion campaigns abroad and buyer-seller meets to promote export of potato.

**Providing Education to Muslim
Community Children**

953. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sachar Committee appointed to assess the social, economic and educational status of Indian Muslims has revealed that the status of Muslims in the field of education and employment has fallen below the status of SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government for upliftment of Muslims in view of the Sachar Committee report and Gopal Singh Committee report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Guidelines for Infrastructure Development in SEZs

954. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized detailed guidelines for developing infrastructure in the proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of activities listed under each SEZ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) List of authorized operations to be used by the Board of Approval while approving authorized operations to be undertaken in a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has been notified on 27-10-2006. A *statement* giving details of the list of authorized operations in different classes of SEZ is enclosed.

Statement

For IT/ITES, Biotechnology and Gems and Jewellery SEZs, the authorized activities include:

Roads including street lighting; Water supply system including for Water treatment, Sewage and garbage disposal including Sewage treatment; Electrical, Gas and Petroleum Natural Gas Distribution Network including necessary sub-stations; Security and related offices; Effluent treatment plant, pipelines and other infrastructure; Office space; Parking facilities; Telecom and other communication facilities; Rain water harvesting plant; Power including back up facilities; Air conditioning; Swimming pool; Fire protection systems; Recreational facilities; Employee welfare facilities like Automated Teller Machines, Creche, Medical center; Shopping arcade and/or Retail space; Business and/or Convention Centre; Common Data centre with inter-connectivity; Housing and/or Service apartments; Play ground; Bus bay; Food Services including Cafeteria, food court(s), Restaurants, coffee shops, canteens and catering facilities; Landscaping and water bodies; Clinic and Medical Centers; Wi Fi and/or Wi Max Services; and Drip and Micro Irrigation systems.

In addition to the above activities, following operations are allowed in multi-product and sector specific SEZs:

Schools/Technical Education; Hotels; Hospitals; Rail Head; and Access Control and Monitoring systems.

Further additional authorized activities in multi-product SEZs are:

Port; Airport and/or Air Cargo Complex; Inland container Depot; and Banks.

Naxalism

955. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
 SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
 SHRI JUAL ORAM:
 SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
 SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
 YOGI ADIYTA NATH:
 SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
 SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
 SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
 SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers of Naxal affected States have recently held discussions with the Union Government on the Naxal problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such discussion;

(c) the details of naxal activities reported during 2006 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year;

(d) the number of civilian, security personnel and Naxalite/Maoists killed/injured and the property damaged in such activities, State-wise;

(e) the details of funds provided by the Union Government for development and reimbursement of

security related expenditure to naxal affected States in the country during each of the last three years;

(f) whether the Nepalese Maoists are hiding their arms in India particularly in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal as reported in 'The Times of India', dated September 25, 2006; and

(g) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check such activities of Naxalites/Maoists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The 2nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Chief Ministers of the naxal affected States was held on April 13, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. In the meeting, some of the important decisions taken include according the highest priority to effectively combating the naxalite menace; States to prepare/revise and implement comprehensive but realistic action plans at the State and District levels with short term and long term approaches and strategies to combat the naxalite menace on both security and development fronts; States to give higher priority and focused attention on socio-economic development in the naxal affected areas through convergence of existing developmental schemes and fund missing links, if any, in these schemes by utilizing funds under BDI, Backward Regions Grant Fund, etc.

(c) During the current year till 31st October, there have been 1272 incidents of naxal violence as against 1361 incidents in the corresponding period of last year.

(d) As per available information, the number of civilians, security personnel and naxalites killed and the property damaged during the current year (upto October 31) are as under:

States	Civilians killed	Security personnel killed	Naxalites killed	Property damaged
Andhra Pradesh	33	10	108	62,25,000
Jharkhand	71	28	18	80,00,000
Chhattisgarh	292	73	52	9,65,43,000
Bihar	34	5	4	7,75,000
Maharashtra	33	2	12	85,11,765
Orissa	4	4	12	2,50,000
Uttar Pradesh	4	—	4	—
Madhya Pradesh	1	—	—	—
West Bengal	9	7	—	10,00,000

(e) The details of funds provided in the last three years under the Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) component of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) to fill in the critical gaps in social and physical infrastructure in the naxal affected areas, are as under:

2003-04	—	Rs. 167.50 cr.
2004-05	—	Rs. 395.00 cr.
2005-06	—	Rs. 427.50 cr.

In addition, Rs. 250 crore per annum has been released for the Special Plan for the KBK districts covering eight districts of Orissa including four naxal affected districts, namely, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Navrangpur.

Reimbursement and the advance releases made to the naxal affected States under the SRE Scheme during 2004-05 to 2006-07 (till date) are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2006-07 (Advance release)
Andhra Pradesh	282.00	1316.03		200.00
Jharkhand	341.27	605.85	497.33	200.00
Chhattisgarh	200.00	200.14		500.00
Bihar	60.41	434.99		—
Maharashtra	125.55	272.16		200.00
Orissa	65.77	254.60		200.00
Uttar Pradesh	—	605.85		—
Madhya Pradesh	23.52	108.00		100.00
West Bengal	—	227.53		150.00

(f) No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(g) Does not arise

[Translation]

Activities of Al-Qaida

956. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any report that a terrorist outfit 'Al-Qaida' has strengthened its base in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken to check such activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Available inputs do not confirm direct presence of Al-Qaida in the country. However, some of the Pak based ISI sponsored terrorist outfits reportedly active in the country are known to have links with Al-Qaida.

[English]

Restricted/Protected Area Permit

957. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to relax the Restricted Area Permit/Protected Area Permit for the foreigners in the country, particularly in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of locations of such restricted areas in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has received proposals to relax Restricted Area Permits (RAPs)/Protected Area Permits (PAPs) for the foreigners in the country, including the North-Eastern States.

(b) These proposals, *inter-alia*, relate to expansion, modification, addition, deletion, etc. of the existing Restricted/Protected Areas, increase/decrease in the number of days allowed in the permit for visit to PAP/RAP areas, addition/ deletion of the authorities empowered to issue the permit, size of the tourist group and restriction on movement of the tourist, etc.

(c) The locations of RAP/PAP areas are as defined in the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 and Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, as amended from time to time. PAP areas are usually all areas falling between the 'Inner Line' and the International Border of the State concerned. The whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and parts of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal & Sikkim fall under PAP areas. The RAP areas cover the entire Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and parts of Sikkim.

Increasing Retirement Age of Faculty Members

958. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Group of Ministers to examine the proposal to increase the retirement age of faculty members of Central Education

Institutions from 62 to 65 years with a provision for re-employment till 70 years as reported in *The Time of India* dated September 22, 2006;

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

(c) whether the above proposal to increase the retirement age of faculty members is not likely to aggravate the unemployment problem; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon;

(e) whether the government proposes to recruit fresh faculty members implementing reservation quota to tackle the unemployment problem; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) In view of shortage of teachers in various institutions, a proposal for enhancement in the age of superannuation from 62 to 65 years for teaching positions in Centrally funded institutions in higher and technical education is under consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) Recruitment of faculty member at entry levels which is an ongoing process, is done in accordance with the relevant Acts and Statutes governing universities or other institutions as also in accordance with the policies of reservation.

[Translation]

Export Inspection Council of India

959. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the export firms inspected by the Export Inspection Council of India during the year 2004-05;

(b) the total number of export firms against whom the Council has received complaints and has been blacklisted;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take action against these blacklisted firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) 500 export firms were inspected by the Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) during the year 2004-05.

(b) to (d) EIC received complaints against 24 export firms during the year 2004-05. Against the export firms having complaints from importing countries, such actions were initiated as laid down under procedure of EIC for handling such complaints which ranged from placing them 'on alert' leading to rigorous monitoring of activities of these firms by EIC, putting the firm on Consignment-Wise Inspection (CWI), suspension of production & exports and withdrawal of approval for exports.

Continuous Education Scheme

960. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh under continuous education scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned/released under the scheme, the time by which remaining amount is likely to be sanctioned/released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted proposals for implementing Continuing Education Programme in 45 districts of the State.

(c) The Continuing Education Programme was sanctioned in 42 districts of the State with total cost of Rs. 121.70 crores for the first project year of the programme out of which Rs. 80.43 crores was released as the first installment of grant. As per the provisions of the financial sanction the next installment of grant can be released after the final settlement of accounts in respect of the first installment of grant and fulfillment of other terms and conditions.

[English]

ISI-LTTE Terror Agenda

961. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traces of ISI linking itself with LTTE targeting South India in its terror agenda has been noted by the Government as reported in 'The Times of India' dated October 28, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government does not have reliable inputs to suggest ISI linking itself with LTTE to target South India.

(c) The Central and State security and intelligence agencies are alert to thwart any such designs and activities of LTTE which continues to be a banned organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Criteria to Sanction IRB

962. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of India Reserve Battalion presently in operation in the country:

(b) the details of the proposals submitted by the State Governments particularly Orissa in the recent past for sanctioning India Reserve Battalion;

(c) the criteria laid down by the Government to sanction India Reserve Battalion; and

(d) the time by which the India Reserve Battalion would be made operational in the States posing requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per information received from State Governments, 66 India Reserve Battalions have been raised.

(b) In response to the request for three Battalions received from Government of Orissa, all have been sanctioned.

(c) India Reserve Battalions are sanctioned to the States on the basis of their request and taking into account law & order and security situations.

(d) As per the scheme, the India Reserve Battalions are raised by State Government within two years from the date of sanction.

Canteen Facility to Central Police Force

963. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide Canteen Store Department (CSD) facilities to serving and retired personnel of Para-Military Forces including the Assam Rifles on the pattern of Defence personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons and time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Union Government has announced introduction of a Canteen system for the Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) on 18.09.2006. A seven member Central Administrative Committee (CAC) comprising ADG/IG level officers of CPFs has been constituted to oversee the management of the Canteen up to the battalion/unit level. A seven-member Purchase Committee of Central Police Canteen has also been formed under the administrative control of the CAC.

[Translation]

Export of Processed Iron

964. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to export the processed iron-ore and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of main impediments in this regard;

(c) the details of the iron-ore exported during the last three years and the benefits accrued to the Government therefrom; and

(d) whether without exporting iron-ore the Government are unable to derive its benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Foreign Trade Policy allows export of processed iron ore. Government has also allowed setting up of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) undertaking to process and export their entire production of iron ore. Details of steps taken to export processed iron ore are not maintained state-wise.

(b) The major impediments to export of processed iron ore are environmental issues which affect iron ore processing and mining as large number of mines are located in ecologically sensitive areas; limited availability of railway wagons for transportation of iron ore; limited port capacity to unload railway wagons and load iron ore ships; and inadequate water and power.

(c) The details of iron ore exported during the last three years are as under:

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)		
2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Prov.)
625.79	781.45	892.77

Source: GMOEA, KIOCL & MMTC.

Exports bring in valuable foreign exchange, create employment opportunities and protect environment from pollution caused by iron ore fines.

(d) In case iron ore surplus to domestic demand is not exported, it would lead to glut in domestic market discouraging investment in mining, cause unemployment in mining areas particularly the areas predominantly inhabited by the tribals, cause environmental hazards, loss of valuable foreign exchange, etc. It would also confer unintended benefit to other competitor countries like Australia, Brazil and South Africa who would take advantage of the situation and monopolise the market, edging out India from International market which is

disadvantageous to the country especially on account of the cyclical nature of the sector.

[English]

Strengthening of National Security Guard

965. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to strengthen the National Security Guard (NSG);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total funds earmarked by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) A five year plan (2002—07) has been approved for NSG to modernize weaponry, communication, machinery and training facility at a cost of Rs. 79.58 crore.

Right to Education Bill

966. SHRI K. S. RAO:
DR. R. SENTHIL:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the National Knowledge Commission regarding implementing of Right to Education (RTE) Bill in meeting Government responsibilities;

(b) the allocation of funds required and sanctioned by the Centre and response of State Governments in meeting their share of responsibilities;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Right to Education Bill to provide for adequate Central funds, setting a time frame for States to pass corresponding RTE laws and to set a time limit to achieve universal education for children in the age group of 6—14 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) National Knowledge Commission have

expressed their view that consequent upon enactment of the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002, the legislation envisaged under Article 21-A of the Constitution which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6—14 years must be enacted and enforced by the Central Government requiring the States to enact Right to Education Bills within a specified time period, and with the primary financial responsibility for this resting with the Central Government.

The National Knowledge Commission have also made a number of suggestions regarding, *inter alia*, schedule of norms and standards to be followed by the schools, specification for teachers, justiciability of the Right to Education, redressal mechanism and universal schooling etc.

In pursuance of Article 21-A of the Constitution, a draft Model Right to Education Bill has been formulated and circulated as framework to the States/UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon. In order to motivate the State Governments to adopt the Model Right to Education Bill, 2006, it is proposed that the scale of funding under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) be made contingent upon enactment of appropriate State Acts on free and compulsory education where none exist, or suitable adaptation of existing Acts. The proposal to incentivise the States to adopt the Model Bill has also been sent to the States/UTs for their comments.

Manufacturing Investment Regions

967. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to set up five manufacturing investment regions, akin to special economic zones in the country;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far like areas where they are to be set up, proposed investment;

(c) whether the issues of land acquisition has also been worked out; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Setting up of the Manufacturing

Investment Regions (MIRs) in the country is an initiative for providing quality infrastructure and efficient & transparent regulatory system in order to encourage manufacturing growth. The proposal has not been firmed up and the contours of the policy and the legal framework in respect of the scope and establishment of such regions is under consultation with stakeholders.

Fixation of Tenure of Senior Police Officers

968. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed to separate the functions of investigation, maintenance of Law and Order and fix tenure for senior Police Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Delhi Police and other States to separate the functions of investigation and maintenance of Law and Order, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) In Civil Writ Petition No. 310 of 1996 in the matter of Prakash Singh & others Vs. Union of India & others, the Supreme Court of India has on 22nd September, 2006 issued directions to all States and Union Territories covering *inter-alia* selection methodology and minimum tenure for Director General of Police and other key police functionaries and separation of investigation wing from law and order wing initially in towns/urban areas having population of ten lakhs or more. State Governments/Union Territories have been advised to note the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court for appropriate consideration and necessary action.

Trade and Economic Issues

969. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the India-China Eminent Persons Group was held recently to discuss the trade and other economic issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China registered its concern before the Government of India over blacklisting some of its companies;

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

(e) whether this move will have any impact on the bilateral trade between India and China; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fifth meeting of the India-China Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) was held in New Delhi during September 25-26, 2006. The Co-Chairman on the Indian and Chinese sides were Shri C.V. Ranganathan and Mr. Liu Shuqing respectively. The meeting discussed various issues relating to India-China bilateral relations including political and bilateral, trade and economy, education, culture, News media and Journalism education, tourism, science & technology, etc. and made Joint Recommendations for the consideration of the two governments and relevant ministries/departments.

(e) to (f) No, Sir. The minutes of the said meeting do not reflect any such concern shown by the Chinese side over blacklisting of some of its companies.

Medical Kits in Anganwadi Centres

970. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any request from the Karnataka Government to release total grants of Rs. 780.06 lakhs under Monitoring and evaluation/purchase of equipments/purchase of pre-school kits, medicine kits, for the newly sanctioned 11313 additional Anganwadi centres;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in releasing the amount; and

(c) by when the amount is likely to be released to the Karnataka Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. Such request was received in the last financial year and an amount of

Rs. 780.00 lakh was released also to the Government of Karnataka on 10.3.2006.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Meat Export Policy

971. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to change meat export policy in view of the recent judgement of Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in their judgement in the case of Civil Appeal No. 3968 of 1994 of Akhil Bharat Krishi Sangh *vs.* State of Andhra Pradesh and others dated 29.3.2006 has asked the Central Government to review the meat export policy, in the light of the Directive Principles of State Policy under the Constitution of India, and also in the light of the policy's potentially harmful effects on livestock population, and therefore on the economy of the country.

[English]

Closing of Shelter Homes for Destitute Women

972. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shelter homes set up for destitute women have been closed in recent times;

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

(c) whether the Ministry will take appropriate measures to restart these Houses and also to check closure, if any, of these homes in other parts of the country;

(d) whether implementation agencies are facing problems in maintaining these shelter homes; and

(e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to address these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) One Swadhar Shelter Home run by Universal Social Health Association at Simla in Himachal Pradesh has been closed on account of non-receipt of requisite documents from the organization and State Government for processing of further release of funds to the organization.

(c) Restart of said home would depend upon the organization's willingness and receipt of requisite documents for release of further funds. State Governments have been requested to carry out survey to identify Swadhar Shelter Homes which are on the verge of closure and to take pre-emptive remedial action to prevent closure.

(d) and (e) Adequate funds are being provided under Swadhar Scheme to implementing agencies for maintaining shelter homes. State Governments have been requested to take specific remedial steps with regard to the problems being faced by the implementing agencies so as to enable them to implement the programme in an effective manner.

Anti-dumping Duties

973. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has recently slapped anti-dumping duties on imports of certain items from China;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government of India have also received complaints from producer's Association against some Chinese firms exporting goods to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been published on the website of the European Communities (http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/stats.htm.) that the European Union has imposed both provisional and definitive anti-dumping duties

during 2006 on the exports of certain items from China. Provisional anti-dumping duties were imposed on the export of Chinese lever arch mechanisms, chamois leather, footwear (with leather uppers) and tungsten electrodes. Definitive anti-dumping duties were imposed on the exports of tartaric acid, lever arch mechanisms, chamois leather and plastic sacks and bags from China.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A number of producer Associations have complained against dumping by Chinese firms exporting goods to India. Based on these complaints, the Government had initiated investigations. Out of 96 such investigations against Chinese exports, anti-dumping duties have been imposed in 83 cases, primarily covering the product groups of chemicals & petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, steel and other metals, fibres and yarns and consumer goods. Government would continue to take permissible and appropriate trade remedial measures for preventing dumping of goods from China as well as from other countries.

Terrorist Activities in NE

974. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding terror economy hurts North East appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated October 23, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts and the reaction of the Government thereto:

(c) whether according to study conducted by institute for conflict management the majority of funds available to the Government of Assam for rural development are siphoned off by ULFA cadres;

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

(e) the corrective measures taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) Some reports indicate that various insurgent outfits in the North-

East are engaged in extortion activities. The outfits have established well-knit networks for such collection.

Government have taken a number of steps to check the menace of extortion which, *interalia*, includes payment of salaries by cheques, larger labour component for development projects, strengthening of security on the National Highways and major roads, and execution of large projects by established organizations.

[Translation]

Review of SSA and Mid-Day-Meals Scheme

975. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day-Meal Scheme were reviewed on 22.9.2006 in a meeting conducted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether suggestions and recommendations regarding the smooth functioning of the programmes were made in that meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any proposal for merger of SSA and Mid-Day-Meal Scheme also discussed in the meeting; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Some of the key suggestions made in the meeting were to disseminate good practices across States in the Country; develop mechanisms for ranking of States/UTs on progress achieved; and discuss in the National Development Council to develop consensus on these flagship programmes of the Government.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

*[English]***Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres**

976. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre (IIDCs) functioning at present in the country;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the package given to each State particularly Orissa to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance the competitiveness both domestically and globally; and

(d) the steps taken to develop infrastructure for the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) On the basis of the proposals received from various States, 85 Integrated Infrastructural Development Centres (IIDCs) have been approved under the IID Scheme. As per the information received from the implementing agencies, units have been

established in 48 centres. A statement showing the state-wise IID Centres, both approved and functioning in the country, is enclosed.

(c) The development of small scale sector is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory Administration. The Central Government, however, supports and supplements their efforts through various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development etc. These are implemented across the country including the State of Orissa. The measure taken by the Government from time to time for the promotion and development of small scale industries and to enhance their competitiveness have helped them to compete in the global as well as, domestic markets as is evident from their growth in terms of number of units, contribution to national production, employment generation and exports.

(d) As per the provision of the IID Scheme, proposals for setting up IID Centres are required to be submitted by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations or Non-Governmental Organisations to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for techno-economic appraisal. IID centers are approved by the government on the basis of the appraisal report of SIDBI.

Statement

Statement showing Number of IID Centres approved and Functioning in the Country

State	District in which located	No. of Centres approved	No. of functioning Centres
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Kurmoor, Rangareddy, Nellore, Chittoor, Krishna	5	4
Assam	Darrang, Nowgaon, Cachar, Sibsagar, Kamrup, Jorhat, Nalbari, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur	9	2
Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund, Kabirdham	2	—
Gujarat	Junagarh	1	—
Haryana	Sirsa, Yamunanagar, Sonapat	3	2
Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur	1	1
Jammu and Kashmir	Udhampur, Kathua	2	1
Karnataka	Belgaum, Bijapur, Kolar, Bagalkot	4	3

1	2	3	4
Kerala	Trivendrum, Kannur, Malappuram, Ernakulam, Kasargod, Trichur, Pathananthitta, Wayanad	8	7
Maharashtra	Yeotmal, Satara	2	2
Madhya Pradesh	Satna, Mandsaur, Khargone, Katni, Sagar, Neemuch, Tikamgarh, Morena	8	4
Mizoram	Lunglei, Champhai	2	1
Nagaland	Kohima	1	—
Orissa	Khurda, Rayagada, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore	4	2
Punjab	Hoshiarpur, Mukatsar, Ludhiana	3	—
Rajasthan	Jodhpur, Nagam, Tonk, Udaipur, Karauli, Pali, Baran, Bharatpur, Rajasmand, Alwar	10	7
Tamil Nadu	Madurai, Coimbatore, Thiramudivakkam, Kattur Avadi MGR distt., Thiruvellore, Trichirapalli, Salem	7	5
Tripura	North Tripura	1	—
Uttaranchal	Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar	3	3
Uttar Pradesh	Etah, Mathura, Unnao, Bhadohi, Baghat, Barabanki, Ghaziabad, Chandaul	8	4
West Bengal	Tangra (Kolkata)	1	—
Total		85	48

Unauthorised Products of FCV Tobacco

977. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCV Tobacco in the country is being produced over and above the crop size fixed by the Tobacco Board during 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to help the tobacco growers in the country and fix minimum guaranteed price of tobacco; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The crop size for Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco fixed for 2006-07 crop season is 242.4 million kgs. inclusive of 10% quantity as the nature's bounty. Plantations in Andhra Pradesh are in progress and it is not possible to assess the estimated crop. The auctions are in progress in Karnataka.

(c) and (d) The minimum guaranteed price (MGP) is an average price assured by the trade to the farmers and is purely voluntary. The trade has stopped announcing the MGP. The concept has lost its relevance as in spite of increase in production growers are getting much higher prices.

*[Translation]***Misuse of Criminal Procedure Code**

978. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criminals are misusing anticipatory bail provisions of Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. P.C.); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) In case of *Balchand Jain Vs. State of Madhya Pradesh* AIR 1977 SC 366, the Supreme Court of India has laid down that the power under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is of an extraordinary character and must be exercised sparingly and in exceptional cases only. However, this matter falls exclusively within the purview of the judiciary.

*[English]***Board of Trade**

979. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct regular consultations with the industry, board of trade, Indian missions abroad and to ensure effective facilitation for exports promotion;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this direction;

(c) the progress achieved so far in each category;

(d) whether the Government has also extended the scheme for duty free import of consumables including fabric exporters; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Foreign Trade Policy envisages exporters, business and industry as partners of the Government in achievement of its stated objectives and goals. For this purpose Government invites suggestions and does formal consultation with trade and industry, represented by Board of Trade, Exporters' Associations and Administrative Ministries.

(d) and (e) As per Foreign Trade Policy, exporters of Handlooms are eligible for duty free import entitlement of hand made carpet samples upto 1% of FOB value of exports during the previous financial year. Exporters of Handlooms and Handicrafts are also allowed to import duty free specified trimmings and embellishments upto 5% FOB value of exports during previous financial year. Similarly in Leather sector and in case of textile garments, duty free import entitlement of specified items is allowed upto 3% of FOB value of exports during the preceding financial year. For cotton made ups, the exporters are entitled for duty free entitlement upto 1% FOB value of cotton made ups exported during the preceding financial year.

Funds for Rajbhasha

980. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds granted by the Government for the promotion of Rajbhasha during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether such funds have been utilised by the State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the mechanism adopted by the Government to check proper utilisation of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) According to Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi is the official language of the Union Government and use of English language has also been kept continuous for official purposes. There is no scheme of

Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language) to grant funds for the promotion of the official language of the Union to the States.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Does not arise.

Request from Kerala for Setting up of SEZs

981. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from Government of Kerala is received to include Kerala in the lists of States classified as Special States eligible for relaxed area requirements for setting up Special Economic Zones as per the SEZ Rule, 2006; and

(b) if so, whether any action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No such proposal has been received from Government of Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Import of Consumer Goods

982. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to grant permission to import certain consumer goods;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has imposed any terms and conditions for such imports;

(d) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on domestic production and small scale industries; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of Quantitative Restrictions on imports since 1991. India removed all quantitative restrictions on imports except those necessitated, *inter alia*, on grounds of health, security, public morals and environment in the year 2001. All imports in the country are subject to applicable customs duty. Such imports are being closely monitored by the Government and the Government resorts to suitable corrective measures as and when required.

New Cross Border Trade Centres

983. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open new cross border trade centres as published in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated September 04, 2006;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has been proposed to open up trade centres;

(c) whether the Government proposes to spend the amount on development of such centres;

(d) the total number of cross border countries with whom it has been proposed to open up new trade centres;

(e) whether a time limit has been fixed to spend the amount on these trade centres; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) Trade with the neighboring countries through land route is regulated by Land Customs Stations located at the border. Several projects have been taken up to upgrade the infrastructure available at these Land Customs Stations. The Government has identified 13 Land Customs Stations 7 along Indo-Bangladesh border, 4 along the Indo-Nepal border, one along Indo-Pakistan border, and one along

Indo-Myanmar border for upgradation in a phased manner.

[English]

**National Institutes of Technical Teachers
Training and Research**

984. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training and Research in the country in respect of its updated skill and strength of faculty, required infrastructure equipped for training in advanced courses, research and technology inputs;

(b) the manner by which these institutes have contributed in providing upgraded skill;

(c) whether regional character of these organisations could cater to the needs of all such States and institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof for each of the last five years, State-wise;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the extent to which the Government plan to improve the functional status of these institutes to meet the present day requirement as an institute of excellence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The four National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training & Research at Bhopal, Kolkatta, Chandigarh and Chennai were established during mid sixties as key catalyst institutions for ensuring quality in technician's education in their respective regions. These institutes are fully funded by the Government of India and Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860. The institutes are actively involved in planning, designing, organising quality education, curriculum development, training programmes, research studies and learning package for polytechnics industries and community. Besides this, NITTTRs also undertake ME/M.Tech programmes for Polytechnic Teachers, The institutes have

been extending supports and also sharing their experiences and expertise to the State Governments in implementing the World Bank Assisted Technician's Education Project. NITTTRs have developed strong linkages with the business and industry, and also professional relationship with educational institutions to work in areas of common interests;

(c) Each NITTTR is able to cater to the needs of not only all the States and Institutions of their respective regions but even out of their region also. Recognizing their national character their name was changed from Technical Teachers' Training Institutes to National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training & Research;

(d) and (e) State-wise details of teachers trained by each NITTTR during last five years are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House;

(f) The Government is fully committed to improve the functional status of these institutes to meet the present day requirement as an institute of excellence.

[Translation]

**Installation of Condom Vending Machine In
Barracks of PMF**

985. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to install Condom Vending Machine in the barracks of para-military forces constructed in border areas to prevent AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such machines are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) As per Action Plan taken up by MHA installation of 1080 Condom Vending Machines has been approved for different Central Para Military Forces as per details given in Statement.

Statement

Condom Vending Machines (CVM) to be installed for Central Para Military Forces by March 2007

Name of CPF	CVM
CRPF	300
BSF	300
Assam Rifles	125
CISF	125
SSB	100
ITBP	125
NSG	05
Total	1080

[English]

Investment in Textile Industry

986. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the need-based investment required to be made in the textile industry by 2010 and the actual investment made so far;

(b) whether investment made so far is lagging behind the need-based requirement;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of the impact on textile industry in case the investment falls short of the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) As per the "Vision Statement for the Textile Sector" made by the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation in August 2004, an investment of Rs. 140,000 crore for the textile sector is required by 2010 towards machinery. Against this requirement, the investment made by the textile industry, based on the indigenous demand of the textile machinery is estimated to be Rs. 74640 crore during the period 01.04.1999 to 31.08.2006.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Does not arise. The existing measures of which list is given in the enclosed Statement are sufficient.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Important measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.
- (v) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-aided Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

- (vi) To facilitate import of state-of-the-art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (vii) In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- (viii) In the Budget 2006-07 the following important announcements for the textile sector have been made:-
- * Reduction in the excise duty on all man-made fibre yarn and filament yarn from 16 per cent to 8 per cent.
 - * Reduction in the import duty on all man-made fibres and yarns from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
 - * Reduction in the import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG be from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
 - * Provision of Rs.189 crore during 2006-07 for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP)
- (ix) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (x) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).
- (xi) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.
- (xii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- (xiii) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.
- (xiv) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:-
- * Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.
 - * Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.
 - * Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.

[Translation]

Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries in Rajasthan

987. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made during the last three years in Agro and Rural Industry sector in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any proposal of the State Government of Rajasthan are lying pending with the Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Industries in the rural areas of the country including Rajasthan are promoted by the Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) through two credit-linked subsidy schemes, namely, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), implemented by the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and the

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana (PMRY), implemented through the State and Union Territories. PMRY is, however, implemented in both rural and urban areas. Approximately, fifty per cent of the units established under PMRY are estimated to be in rural areas. These units

are part of agro and rural industries sector. The progress made in terms of units set up by eligible beneficiaries of these two schemes and employment generated in Rajasthan during the last three years are given in the table given below:

Year	REGP		PMRY	
	Number of Units	Employment (number of persons)	Number of Units	Employment (number of persons)
2003-04	2496	51337	12769	19154
2004-05	1537	38287	12919	19378
2005-06	2133	59596	13760	20640

Further, the Government has approved the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). This Scheme envisages the development, *inter alia*, of 25 clusters of khadi and 50 clusters of village industries, over five years beginning 2005-06. The guidelines of SFURTI are available on the website of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries at <http://ari.nic.in>.

(b) Applications for setting up industry units mentioned at (a) above are not received directly by the Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries. Under the REGP, an eligible entrepreneur can establish a village industry by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank. For this purpose the prospective entrepreneur has to submit a project proposal to the State offices of the KVIC or the district offices of the respective State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) or the implementing banks directly. Approval of the project depends on technical and financial appraisal by the respective banks. Similarly, under the PMRY, educated unemployed youth can establish a self-employment unit of village industry in the rural areas by availing of permissible subsidy and loan from the banks. This Yojana is implemented through the District Industries Centres of States and Union Territories. For this purpose, the prospective entrepreneur has to submit a project proposal to the District Industries Centre concerned, which in turn, sponsors short listed applications to the implementing banks.

All proposals received for cluster development under the SFURTI have been examined and 29 clusters of khadi (including 2 in Rajasthan), 50 clusters of village industries

(including 2 in Rajasthan) and 25 clusters of Coir have been identified for development under SFURTI.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Wheat through State Trading Corporation

988. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details on the import of pulses and wheat to meet the shortage during the current year including the amount spent on the import;

(b) whether the Government propose to import wheat through public sector State Trading Corporation (STC);

(c) if so, whether zero import duty has been fixed for the said import of wheat;

(d) if so, the revenue loss to be incurred to the Government on account of import of import duty free wheat;

(e) the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of price to be fixed for the imported wheat according to the tender floated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Quantity and amount spent on import of wheat and pulses during the period April to September, 2006 is as below:

Commodity	Quantity (in Lakh Tonnes)	Amount spent in Rs. Crores
Pulses	8.06	1351.29
Wheat	5.40	500.00

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

Note: The figures are provisional and subject to continuous updation till finalization.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The exact amount of revenue loss on account of duty free import of wheat can be estimated at the end of this scheme which is still in operation.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The price to be fixed for the imported wheat is determined by the domestic and international market conditions.

[English]

Elimination of Domestic Trade Subsidies

989. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has forged a formidable alliance with 13 other developing countries on farm trade negotiations at the WTO seeking phased elimination of domestic trade distorting export subsidies doled out by the developed (EU-US) countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which such alliance will be able to break the ice with the developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The G-20 group on agriculture, which currently has 23 Members, was formed in August 2003 prior to the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). In view of the skewed nature of the proposals contained in the EU-US joint text of 13 August, 2003 for developing a framework for modalities for negotiations on domestic support, export competition and market access in agriculture, the G-20, which includes India, Argentina,

Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa and Zimbabwe, had maintained that the offers of these developed countries for the reform of their farm sector did not meet the objectives of the Doha mandate on the negotiations in agriculture.

The G-20, emphasizes achieving substantial and effective reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, the early phasing out of all forms of export subsidies, and substantial improvements in market access, while ensuring that special and differential treatment for developing countries enables them to effectively address their development needs, including food security, livelihood security and rural development. The G-20 proposals have found widespread recognition among developed and developing country Members as being technically sound and representing the middle ground. The G-20 has also coordinated with other developing countries in order to secure their common interests in the negotiations.

National Commission for Minorities

990. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether near about 5307 families are still living in 46 make shift camps across Gujarat hit by 2002 riots as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated October 24, 2006;

(b) if so, whether a team of National Commission for Minorities visited these camps and submitted their report to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made in said report;

(d) the action so far taken by the Government on such recommendations; and

(e) the strategy chalked out by Government for rehabilitation of these displaced persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) A team of the National Commission for Minorities visited the make shift camps of displaced victims of riots of 2002 in Gujarat and made the following recommendations to improve the lot of the residents of these camps:

- (i) Provision of basic amenities like safe drinking water, street lights, approach roads, etc. by the State Government;
- (ii) Provision of special economic package for rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Muslim families in Gujarat by Central Government; and
- (iii) to design a National Policy on Internal Displacement due to violence.

Copy of the NCM report has been sent to the State Government for a factual report.

[Translation]

National Merit Scholarship Scheme

991. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of scholarships being given under National Merit Scholarship Scheme is on decline,
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to enhance the number of such scholarships; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Merit Scholarship Scheme is a Centrally sponsored Scheme, being implemented by the States/UTs. Funds released by the Central Government under the Scheme have increased from Rs. 16.31 lakhs for 5893 scholarships during 2003-04 to Rs. 64.21 lakhs for 8978 scholarships during 2004-05 and Rs. 836.21 lakhs for 25857 scholarships during 2005-06.

Normally, the Plan Schemes require fresh sanction for the new plan period and at that time they may undergo modifications based on feedbacks. It is unlikely that the National Merit Scholarship Scheme would get revised during the current plan period.

[English]

Mining Lease of Iron Ore Block

992. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards difficulties being faced by States in getting mines lease of Iron ore from other States;

(b) if so, whether non-supply of iron ore would lead to unequal development of States;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to ensure uninterrupted supply of iron ore from States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to review the existing mining policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) National Mineral Policy enunciated in 1993 *inter alia* seeks to promote necessary linkages for smooth and uninterrupted development of the mineral industry to meet the needs of the country.

(e) and (f) A High Level Committee (HLC) under the chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission was constituted to review the National Mineral Policy and recommend possible amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation), Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the sector. The Committee has submitted its report to the Central Government, which is under consideration.

Price of Natural Rubber

993. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rise in prices of automobile tyres have been increasing due to rise in prices of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the details of the rise in prices of automobile tyres each month since February this year;

(c) whether the price of natural rubber in the International Market has come down during the past several weeks;

(d) if so, whether the consuming industries is pressing for more imports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b)

Retail Market Price of Passenger Car Tyre & Tube

Month/Year	Brand 'A'	Brand 'B'
Feb., 06	2100	2047
March, 06	2100	2047
April, 06	2150	2053
May, 06	2150	2053
June, 06	2175	2125
July, 06	2175	2125
August, 06	2200	2299
September, 06	2200	N.A.

Retail Market Price of Truck & Bus Tyre, Tube and Flap (TTF) Size; 10.00-20 PR LUG

Month/Year	Brand 'A'	Brand 'B'	Brand 'C'
Feb., 06	N.A	10200	10150
March, 06	N.A	10300	10250
April, 06	10323	10300	10350
May, 06	10512	10300	10400
June, 06	11187	10350	11000
July, 06	11327	10300	11500
August, 06	11877	10300	11650
September, 06	10377	10500	N.A

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e) As there are no quantitative restrictions on import of natural rubber since April, 2001, consuming industries are free to import any quantity of natural rubber through the open channel by paying the prevailing customs duty.

Guidelines on SEZs

994. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is setting up any regulatory authority for framing guidelines on SEZs;.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress achieved in this direction;

(d) whether there is any national referendum on the SEZ policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, for management of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up by the Central Government, the SEZ Act, 2005 provides for setting up of SEZ Authority.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Silk Technology Mission

995. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has launched Silk Technology Mission on the lines of Cotton Technology Mission;

(b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide any subsidy to the entrepreneurs for the project; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the domestic production of silk and to cut out dependence on imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No, Sir. Union Government has not launched Silk Technology Mission on the lines of Cotton Technology Mission.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Policy for STs'

996. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has requested to States to prepare exclusive annual plan to spend the outlay earmarked for Scheduled Tribes population as reported in 'The Hindu' dated October 13, 2006;

(b) if so, the response of the States thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government has prepared new tribal policy;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the new tribal policy; and

(e) the extent to which new tribal policy would bring the scheduled tribes on a par with the rest of the population in terms of Human Development Index, socio-economic development and basic infrastructure facilities in their areas?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has written to the State Governments to ensure earmarking of funds under TSP in proportion to the Scheduled Tribe population in the State and to prepare the Annual Plan for 2006-07 accordingly. The guidelines of the Planning Commission in this regard were also brought to the notice of the States.

(c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has prepared a draft National Tribal Policy, which is being finalized taking into consideration the comments received from various stakeholders.

(d) Implementation of the National Tribal Policy can be taken up only once it is finalized.

(e) The draft policy envisages measures for regulatory protection, socio-economic and political empowerment, women empowerment, development of infrastructure, increased livelihood opportunities, improved governance and administration, preservation of cultural and traditional rights and traditional knowledge, conservation and protection of intellectual property rights regime and access to privileges, in order to bring STs at par with the rest of the population in terms of their Human Development Index, socio-economic conditions and basic infrastructure facilities in tribal areas.

[Translation]

Indian Artisan in International Market

997. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to place Indian artisans in the International market;

(b) the ongoing schemes in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the function of the aforesaid schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Master craftpersons are sponsored to participate for display and live demonstration of crafts in International fairs/exhibitions under the agreed Cultural Exchange Programme between India and other nations from time to time. In addition, Master craftpersons also participate in the events abroad through Export Promotion Councils and State Handicrafts Development Corporations.

(b) Export Promotion scheme is currently in operation under which the expenditure on the activities mentioned at (a) above is being met..

(c) Implementation of export promotion scheme helps in creating awareness about Indian Handicrafts in the international market which contributes in enhancing exports of Indian Handicrafts.

[English]

Review of CRF Norms

998. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for review of norms of expenditure, increase in the compensation and inclusion of certain other items under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has constituted an expert committee to examine such requests;

(d) if so, whether the expert committee has submitted its recommendations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (f) An Expert Group has been set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs to comprehensively review the existing items and norms of expenditure for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and formulate the norms for newly added calamities in the approved list of natural calamities. The Expert Group,

in order to have a wider cross section of opinion on board, have sought suggestions from all the State Governments, including Government of Karnataka and concerned Central Ministries/Departments. The issues proposed by the State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments have been considered by the Expert Group. The Group has since submitted its report and it has been considered by the Government of India in the Ministries of Home Affairs, Finance as well as National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The proposal of revision of items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF is now being placed before the High Level Committee (HLC) for its consideration and approval. Thereafter, the revised items and norms, as approved by the HLC, will be notified and circulated to the States and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments/Organisations.

Surrendered Militants in NE Region

999. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of militants and insurgents in the North Eastern Region have laid down their arms;

(b) if so, the details of such insurgents and militants who has laid down arms during 2006, so far, State-wise;

(c) the details of terms agreed for such surrender; and

(d) the steps taken and Central aid given for rehabilitation of such surrendered militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) During the year 2006 (upto 31.10.2006) 1,389 militants have surrendered in the North Eastern States. State-wise details are as follows:

State	No. of militants surrendered
Arunachal Pradesh	002
Assam	374
Manipur	020
Meghalaya	034
Mizoram	847
Nagaland	007
Tripura	105
Total	1389

2. The Central Government has been implementing a scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of militants in the North East. The expenditure incurred by the State Governments is 100% reimbursable by the Central Government. Following benefits have been provided in the scheme:

- i. An immediate grant of Rs. 1.5 lakhs to be kept in the bank in the name of surrenderee as Fixed Deposit for a period of 3 years. This money can be utilized as collateral security /Margin Money against loan to be availed by the surrenderee from the bank for self-employment.
- ii. Stipend of Rs. 2000 per month for each surrenderee for 36 months; and
- iii. Provisions for vocational training to the surrenderees for self-employment.

[Translation]

NTC Mills in Rajasthan

1000. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of National Textile Corporation (NTC) Mills in Rajasthan, location-wise;
- (b) the profit earned/loss incurred by each of these mills during the last three years;
- (c) the number of employees working therein indicating the category to which they belong;
- (d) the number of employees who opted for VRS and resorting VRS;

(e) the number of these mills likely to be closed down or referred to BIFR;

(f) whether any request/representation from the State Government/mill workers' union/public representatives has been received by the Government in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) NTC has a total of 4 mills in Rajasthan:

- (i) Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur,
- (ii) Shree Bijay Cotton Mills, Bijay Nagar,
- (iii) Mahalakshmi Mills, Beawar.
- (iv) Edwards Mills, Beawar (closed under I.D. Act w.e.f. 06.05.2002)

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

(e) All these mills have been referred to BIFR. As per modified Revival Schemes approved by BIFR in March 2006, Udaipur Mill is identified for modernisation by NTC itself, & Shree Bijay Cotton Mills and Mahalakshmi Mill have been identified for modernisation through Joint Venture route.

(f) and (g) Two representations dated 20.1.06 and 7.3.06 were received from Shri Rasa Singh Rawat, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles for restarting of Mahalakshmi Textile Mills Beawar and Bijay Cotton Mills, Bijaynagar. These mills have been identified for modernisation through Joint Venture route.

Statement

(b) Cash Profit/Loss for the last 3 years (Rs. in Crs.)

Mills	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Edward	Closed under I.D. Act since 6.5.2002		
Mahalakshmi	-2.59	-3.16	-2.69
Shree Bijay	-2.78	-2.78	-2.71
Udaipur	-2.95	-3.03	- 1.80

(c) Position of Employees as on 01.11.2006

Mills	Workers	Staff	Officers
Edward	Closed under I.D. Act since 6.5.2002		
Mahalakshmi	69	50	15
Shree Bijay	36	38	12
Udaipur	9	28	12

(d) VRS availed up to 01.11.2006

Mills	Nos. of employees opted for VRS	Amount Rs. in Crs. Paid against VRS,
Edward	280	6.89
Mahalakshmi	270	6.77
Shree Bijay	404	9.79
Udaipur	361	9.72

*[English]***Atrocity against Women**

1001. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has convened a meeting of Secretaries of various States incharge of women and child development some time ago; and

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the meeting progress of the programmes and schemes of the Ministry were reviewed with the State Governments concerned.

Raising of Women's Battalion by BSF

1002. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSF has decided to raise a women's battalion with seven companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the such battalion is going to have new cadre or is it going to be selected from the existing personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the main duties and responsibilities of such battalion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The Government has allowed BSF to recruit women personnel against the normal vacancies to from a few Coys on experimental basis and to allocate duties as per the operational requirements.

Child Marriages

1003. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI M. RAJAMOHAN REDDY:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the child marriage is still prevalent in various parts of the country;

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Kerala	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	3	2	1	1	0	2	3	2	0	0	18	16	6	5	12
Maharashtra	16	12	4	1	2	14	15	10	2	8	22	17	19	3	8
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	1	3	11	6	2	0	0
Rajasthan	6	3	3	1	9	2	3	4	1	8	3	2	5	2	7
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	3	2	1	1	1	5	6	1	0	0	4	2	7	1	1
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	4	4	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	4	4	2	1	18
Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Total (States)	62	55	45	20	61	93	82	52	24	95	122	88	65	24	86
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	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	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi (UT)	1	1	1	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	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (UTs)	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (All India)	63	56	46	20	61	93	82	53	24	95	122	88	65	24	86

Source: Crime in India

Note: Figures of 2005 are provisional.

Statement II

Cases registered under Child Marriages restraint Act during 2006 (upto available Month)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Incidence	(Figs. are upto the Month of
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	May
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	May
3.	Assam	0	May
4.	Bihar	0	May
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	May
6.	Goa	0	May
7.	Gujarat	2	May
8.	Haryana	0	May
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	May
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	May
11.	Jharkhand	0	May
12.	Karnataka	3	April
13.	Kerala	0	May
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4	May
15.	Maharashtra	9	May
16.	Manipur	0	May
17.	Meghalaya	1	April
18.	Mizoram	0	May
19.	Nagaland	0	March
20.	Orissa	0	Jan.
21.	Punjab	0	May
22.	Rajasthan	0	May
23.	Sikkim	0	May
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	May

1	2	3	4
25.	Tripura	0	May
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	May
27.	Uttaranchal	0	May
28.	West Bengal	0	March
Total (States)		24	
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	June
30.	Chandigarh	0	May
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	March
32.	Daman and Diu	0	June
33.	Delhi	0	April
34.	Lakshadweep	0	June
35.	Pondicherry	0	May
Total (UTs)		0	
Total (All-India)		24	

Source: Monthly crime Statistics.

Note: Figures Are Provisional.

Implementation of Reservation Policy

1004. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the reservation provided/being provided in various higher and minority educational institutes to each of the reserved category in the country;

(b) whether the Moily Committee set up to prepare a roadmap for implementing quota for OBCs in elite Central educational institutions has presented their Report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether private educational institutes have agreed to implement government reservation policy in their institutes as reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated October 27, 2006;

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

(f) whether these private educational institutes has placed demand prior to the implementation of government policy;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the reaction of Union Government on such demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The present policy of reservation in matters of admission to centrally maintained and aided institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the Central Universities is limited to 15% seats for the SCs and 7.5% seats for the STs, subject to candidates meeting the prescribed standards of eligibility in the respective categories. Minority Educational Institutions established under Art. 30(1) of the Constitution are exempted from implementing the policy of reservation of the Government.

(b) and (c) The Over Sight Committee constituted to suggest a road-map has recommended the implementation of 27 percent reservation of seats for OBCs without any decline in the present level of seats available to the General Category of students in all the Centrally Aided institutes of Higher Learning at a cost of Rs. 12338.22 crores over three years beginning from the Academic session in the calendar year 2007-2008.

(d) to (h) A proposal in regard to reservation in unaided educational institutions coming under the purview of the Central Government is under consideration.

Establishment of Security Forces

1005. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has failed to fulfil the growing demand of CISF security;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has urged State Governments to establish security forces on the pattern of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The demand for CISF security from the Central Public Sector undertakings and sensitive installations, buildings, airports, etc. are met.

(c) and (d) For meeting the similar requirement in the States, State Governments need to raise specialized force on the pattern of CISF.

Online Engineering Education

1006. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) propose to impart engineering education online to the students across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have taken several steps to impart engineering education online. Towards this end, the Ministry is supporting National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), the main objective of which is to enhance the quality of engineering education in the country by developing curriculum based video and web-courses by all IITs and IISc, Bangalore. IIT Kanpur has developed a software called Brihaspati wherein courses being taught by it are available on the Institute's website. These are accessible to universities/organizations across the country.

[Translation]

Deterioration of Khadi Industry

1007. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi Industry in the country particularly West Bengal has been adversely affected due to availability of cheap Chinese silk in the country on the opening of the Nathula Pass;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the government thereto; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to remove the adversities?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Silk khadi activities in the khadi sector are based on utilization of locally available cocoons, hand reeling of yarn, as also procurement of hand-reeled yarn and therefore, any availability of cheap Chinese silk in the country on the opening of the Nathula Pass is not likely to adversely affect the khadi industry in the short term.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Multi-Purpose National Identity Card

1008. SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pilot project for issuing Multi-purpose National Identity Cards was started in the year 2003;

(b) if so, the total fund granted and spent so far;

(c) whether the said project has failed to achieve its target;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which all the persons covered under the scheme are likely to be issued identity cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; Rs. 44.36 crores have been sanctioned for the pilot project. Of this, Rs. 12.34 crores has been spent so far.

(c) The main purpose of the pilot project has been to create a test-bed for evaluating the identity processes and associated technology as well as for identifying the limitations and pitfalls thereof. The pilot project has helped to provide insights into the complexities with processes as well as data management and integration, data retrieval and data warehousing, connectivity, etc.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The contract for production and distribution of identity cards to persons of age 18 years and above in the pilot project areas, has been awarded to the Government Companies. As per the time schedule agreed with them, the distribution of identity cards will be completed by May, 2007.

[English]

Professional Stream in Senior Secondary

1009. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) proposes to introduce a professional stream from the academic year 2007 at the senior secondary level as reported in the 'Times of India' dated September 22, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal with CBSE to introduce the following three new courses under Vocational Education Programme:

(i) Financial Market Management.

(ii) General Health Care.

(iii) Fashion Design and Garment Technology.

(c) The final decision is likely to be taken by the end of the academic year 2006-07.

*[Translation]***Expenditure on Education**

1010. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocation alongwith the expenditure of education during each of the last three years, scheme-wise;

(b) the percentage increase in education expenditure during the year 2005-06 over previous year;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate 6% of gross domestic product on education;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(e) whether there is a proposal to increase budget allocation for primary, secondary and higher education in the next five year plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The scheme-wise details of budgetary allocation (Plan) alongwith the expenditure of education in respect of schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development during last three years is given in the enclosed Statement. The Percentage increase of education expenditure during the year 2005-06 over pervious year is 44.05%.

(c) to (f) The Common Minimum Programme of the Government pledges to increase the public spending in education to at least 6% of GDP in a phased manner with at least half of the amount being spent on primary and secondary education sectors.

Statement*Budgetary allocation and Expenditure (Plan) during 2003-04 to 2005-06*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Annual Plan 2003-04		Annual Plan 2004-05		Annual Plan 2005-06	
		Approved Outlay	Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I. SECONDARY EDUCATION							
1.	Access and Equity	20.00	5.92	30.00	3.72	10.00	5.51
2.	Quality Improvement in Schools	26.00	11.13	20.00	5.13	10.00	3.72
3.	ICT in Schools	111.00	9.00	97.00	19.39	50.00	45.10
4.	Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC)	35.00	38.46	39.00	36.49	45.00	41.49
5.	Grants-in-aid to Institutions in School Education						
	(i) NCERT	14.00	17.90	19.00	17.76	19.00	19.00
	(ii) National Open School	15.00	9.00	7.00	5.40	4.00	360

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	(iii) Navodaya Vidyalayas	360.00	439.56	392.00	449.00	550.00	571.00
	(iv) Kendriya Vidyalayas	85.00	103.57	85.00	112.00	183.00	183.00
	(v) Central Tibetan School Admn. (CTSA)	3.00	2.93	3.00	3.00	3.99	3.60
6	Joint Indo-Mongolian School at Mongolia	0.00	0.52	1.00	0.40	0.01	0.50
II. UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION							
1.	National Programme for Women	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
2.	Association of Indian Universities	0.40	0.40	0.50	0.45	0.50	0.49
3.	Institutions of Higher Learning	1.30	0.73	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.99
4.	Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial College Trust	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.40
5.	U.G.C.	516.75	516.75	541.75	719.75	785.40	786.30
6.	I.G.N.O.U.	67.00	16.56	67.00	66.65	60.00	30.24
7.	Institutions of Research						
	(i) I.C.H.R.	2.80	2.50	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.50
	(ii) I.A.S.	2.75	2.51	2.75	1.84	2.00	1.64
	(iii) I.C.P.R.	2.40	1.99	2.40	1.31	2.00	1.45
	(iv) I.C.S.S.R.	17.50	17.30	17.50	15.75	17.50	17.80
	(v) PHISPC	1.90	1.69	1.90	1.70	1.40	1.53
	(vi) National Council of Rural Institutes	0.80	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.24
III. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT							
1.	Appointment of Language Teachers	11.50	11.10	13.00	14.87	16.00	15.38
2.	Area Intensive and Madarasa Modernisation Programme	31.50	29.00	29.00	22.05	29.00	26.46
3.	Education in Human Values	9.00	3.00	3.00	2.74	3.00	2.88
4.	Grants-in-aid to the Institutions for Language Development						
	(i) Central Hindi Directorate (including Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha)	5.50	6.34	7.34	6.99	7.34	6.94
	(ii) Commission for Scientific and Tech. Terminology (inc. Univ. Level Books)	2.10	1.47	2.10	1.92	2.10	1.69
	(iii) Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (including Propagation of Hindi Abroad)	5.75	2.50	3.00	2.88	3.00	3.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(iv)	Central Institute of Indian Languages (including scheme of NGOs/ Regional Language Centres)	6.03	6.07	8.00	7.90	8.95	8.37
(v)	National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language	9.75	9.75	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.53
(vi)	National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language	0.40	0.40	0.85	0.76	0.85	0.60
(vii)	Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL)	1.40	2.80	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.78
5.	Scheme for Development of Tamil Language	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.20
6.	Development of Sanskrit Education	13.00	14.73	18.00	7.22	19.00	10.38
7.	Grant-in-aid to the Institutions in Sanskrit						
(i)	Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (including Encyclopedia of Sanskrit Dictionary)	15.07	15.50	19.50	15.30	17.30	15.57
(ii)	Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthanm, Ujjain	3.00	1.00	2.50	1.35	2.50	0.25
IV. SCHOLARSHIP							
1.	National Scholarship Scheme	5.00	0.13	4.00	0.30	11.00	8.36
2.	Scholarships for Talented Children from Rural Areas	3.00	0.02	3.00	0.42	0.00	0.00
V. BOOK PROMOTION AND COPY RIGHT							
1.	Educational Libraries	0.50	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Book Promotional Activities & Vol. Agencies	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.07	2.00	1.34
3.	Scheme for Intellectual Property Education, Research and Public Outreach	3.80	2.19	2.50	0.79	5.00	0.93
4.	Grants-in-aid to Institutions for Book Promotion						
	Grant to National Book Trust	6.70	3.00	3.00	1.80	3.60	9.50
VI. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION							
1.	Strengthening of Statistical Machinery at State level	1.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
2.	Scheme of Studies, Seminars, Evaluation for Implementation of Edn. Policy	0.90	0.40	0.90	0.53	0.90	0.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Strengthening of Activities of INC						
	(i) Reorgn. of INC Library	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.03
	(ii) Holding of Meetings, Committees, Conferences (since discontinued)	0.10	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
	(iii) Strengthening of VAs engaged in UNESCO Progs, and Activities	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.03	0.02
4.	Construction of UNESCO House	0.85	0.00	0.85	0.00	1.50	0.00
5.	Strengthening of External Academic Relations	0.50	0.29	0.50	0.15	0.50	0.14
6.	NIEPA	2.25	2.35	2.65	2.61	2.65	2.44
7.	Grants-in-aid to Auroville Management	1.35	1.55	1.94	1.70	3.67	1.29
8.	Other Schemes (since discontinued)						
VII. TECHNICAL EDUCATION							
1.	Vocationalisation of Education	50.00	7.10	50.00	2814	20.00	10.94
2.	Programmes for Quality Improvement in Technical Edu.						
	Group - A						
	(i) Payment for Professional & Spl. Services	2.50	2.50	2.50	000	2.41	0.60
	(ii) Technology Development Mission	8.00	0.20	4.00	3.60	4.00	0.22
	(iii) Research & Development	20.00	13.06	25.00	33.15	0.01	0.00
	(iv) MODROB	15.00	12.82	5.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
	(v) Thrust Areas of Tech. Education	15.00	9.22	5.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
	(vi) Research & Information Services	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Group-B						
	(i) National Prog. for HRD in IT (Soft. Manpower Dev.)	30.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
	(ii) Support to New and Emerging Technology Area	5.00	4.92	3.76	1.12	0.01	3.00
	(a) National Programme for Earthquake Engineering						
	(b) Programme for Education in the Area of Bio-technology and Bioscience						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	(iii) Support to Distance Education and Web-based Learning	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
	(iv) Support for Networking of Inett. for Optimization of Resources	0.14	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Community Polytechnics	70.00	19.76	29.23	20.78	29.00	13.09
4.	Polytechnic for Disabled	6.00	5.00	4.00	1.88	4.00	3.45
5.	Grants-in-aid to Institutions in Technical Education						
	(i) AICTE	100.00	50.00	60.00	54.00	100.00	81.48
	(ii) Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.70
	(iii) IISc, Bangalore	17.00	30.00	30.00	27.00	30.00	89.00
	(iv) IITs	140.00	214.40	200.00	200.00	220.00	292.00
	(v) R E Cs (National Institute of Technology; NIT)	80.00	80.00	80.00	78.00	90.00	87.88
	(vi) IIMs	25.00	10.00	15.00	25.00	35.00	31.51
	(vii) Investment in EdCIL	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
	(viii) North-Eastern Regional Inett. of Science & Technology (NERIST)	3.00	9.00	3.00	1.50	5.00	4.00
	(ix) IIIT, Allahabad	2.50	8.00	5.00	4.50	10.00	11.00
	(x) IIITM, Gwalior	2.50	2.50	5.00	4.85	6.00	3.40
	(xi) TTTI's	12.00	7.68	12.00	9.70	12.00	11.70
	(xii) NIIE, Mumbai	5.00	5.00	3.00	1.00	4.00	3.60
	(xiii) NIFFT, Ranchi	3.50	3.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	3.60
	(xiv) SPA, New Delhi	4.00	4.00	4.00	2.55	4.00	3.60
	(xv) ISM, Dhanbad	6.00	6.00	3.00	2.99	5.00	3.50
	(xvi) BOATS including Apprenticeship Training	16.50	12.00	16.50	14.85	22.50	20.25
6.	Informal Sector Development	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Support for National Level Entrance Test Exam and Competency based Assessment Services	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Support for Dev. of Ednl. Admn.	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	National Mission for Tech. Edu.	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	International Techl. Cooperation	1.00	0.44	1.00	0.63	1.00	0.89
11.	Tech. Edu. Quality Improvement Programme	50.00	100.47	100.00	82.50	100.00	4.99
12.	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kanchipuram	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	10.00	0.00
13.	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Jabalpur	0.00	0.00	10.00	4.00	10.00	<5.00
14.	Govt. College of Engg. & Technology, Jammu	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	001	0.00
15.	Infrastructure Programme in Polytechnic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00
16.	Setting up of New Polytechnics	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00
17.	CIT, Kokrajhar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
18.	IIM (North East)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
19.	Indian Institute of Sc. for Education & Research	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
VII. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION							
Other than Externally Aided Projects							
1.	Teacher Education	207.00	149.69	207.00	202.66	200.00	21 1,18
2.	National Council of Teacher Education	6.25	4.65	7.75	0.00	5.00	0.00
3.	Bal Bhawan Society	4.00	1 86	4.72	4.23	5.00	4.50
4.	National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education	1175.00	1375.00	1675.00	1588.55	3345.26	3186.83
5.	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	1851.25	2730.61	2557.08	5139.22	6440.00	7568.34
6.	Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya	8.50	0.00	100.00	92.57	250.00	224.31
Externally Aided Project							
1.	Shiksha Karmi	10.00	10.00	39.04	39.04	6.50	11.50
2.	Lok Jumbish	70.00	125.00	29.41	29.41		
3.	Mahila Samakhya	30.00	10.38	30.00	14.99	30.00	19.23
4.	District Primary Education Programme	1200.00	792.88	600.00	599.51	600.00	560.85
5.	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	100.00	*	500.00	*	1360	*
6.	Joint GOI—UN Programme for Primary Education	5.00	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IX. ADULT EDUCATION							
1.	Literacy Campaign and Operation Restoration	25.00	24.31	26.00	25.06	25.00	30.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Continuing Education for Neo-literates	145.00	144.38	157.24	155.06	184.45	149.09
3.	Support to Non-Governmental Organisations	24.50	24.29	25.00	17.81	25.00	13.82
4.	Directorate of Adult Education	12.00	10.74	11.50	8.40	13.75	9.18
5.	Jan Shiksha Sansthan	25.00	25.86	28.00	27.81	39.55	42.08
6.	NLMA	1.00	0.54	1.00	0.64	1.00	0.55
7.	National Institute of Adult Education	0.50	0.50	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	National Population Education Project (EAP)	0.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.22

*Included under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan under other than Externally Projects.

Proposal for Allotment of Iron Ore Mines

1011. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by the State Government of Jharkhand to the Union Government for approval regarding allotment of iron ore mines during the last three years;

(b) the number of such proposals finalized and pending till date;

(c) the reasons for pending of such proposals;

(d) whether the Government proposes any special drives for exploration and exploitation of iron ore available in abundance in the State; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) Twenty two proposals have been received from the State Government of Jharkhand since 1.1.2003 till 22.11.2006 seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease for iron ore to various individuals and companies. Out of these, decision on 18 proposals has been conveyed to the State Government. Out of the remaining 4 proposals, 3 proposals are pending since

further information/clarification from the State Government on these proposals is awaited, and one proposal, in which the information/clarification has been received recently, has been processed for decision.

(d) and (e) In so far as Ministry of Mines is concerned, the Geological Survey of India, a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, has proposed to take up a new programme for assessment of iron ore in Rajhara, Sokra, Nawa, Datam & Bhiwa Batham areas in Palamau district of Jharkhand during Field Season 2006-2007.

[English]

Emigration Counters at IGI Airport

1012. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether officials posted at Emigration Counters at Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi are not polite and generous towards passengers as compared to other airports in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to give them proper training to deal with international passengers;

(c) whether Emigration officers have been found harassing passengers by finding faults with passports; and

(d) If so, the steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Immigration officials at Indira Gandhi International, Airport, Delhi are polite and courteous towards passengers as they are at other international airports in the country.

(c) and (d) Such cases are very rare. If any such case is reported it is inquired into promptly and appropriate action is taken against erring officials.

Ban on using Fogging Spray

1013. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has banned the use of fogging spray since it is harmless to humans and cause asthma; and

(b) if so, the reasons for restoring fogging spray despite ban by MCD in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Municipal Corporation of Delhi has informed that no such order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been received by it.

(b) Fogging spray is useful to cut down transmission of dangerous diseases like dengue.

Jute Exports

1014. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a National Policy on jute so as to give a fillip to export of jute and jute products;

(b) if so, the salient features of the jute policy;

(c) the manner in which the policy emphasizes the need to develop next generation jute machinery which is very vital for exporting our jute products to other countries;

(d) the share of India in the jute exports of the world;

(e) whether any target has been set for the 10th plan to export jute;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the policy are to increase the quantity of export of jute and jute products by achieving a CAGR of 15% per annum, produce good quality jute fibre and value added diversified jute products, ensure remunerative prices to the jute farmers and enhance per hectare yield of raw jute.

(c) For the successful development of next-generation Jute Machinery to reduce the cost of production and/or quality improvement, as also for aiding export of jute products, the National Jute Policy, 2005 recommended that the following measures have to be put in place in a time span of five years:

(i) To complete comprehensive Benchmarking (through Technology Audit) to assess the present technological status of the jute industry;

(ii) To formulate a 5 year Plan for machinery development, for both the organized and decentralized sectors (and also for the cottage industry); and

(iii) To establish a separate R&D set-up in the area of a Public-Private Partnership in consultation with the appropriate Ministries of the Government of India.

The National Jute Policy also envisages the establishment of a Jute Technology Mission (JTM). Mini Mission-IV of the Mission has a component for Machinery Development.

(d) As per statistics : June, 2006, published by FAO, World exports of jute, kenaf and allied fibres during 2004 was 7,40,200 M.Ton. India's export during 2004-05 was 3,21,800 M.Ton. This constituted 43 per cent of world export.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Export Target fixed for the 10th Plan period is US\$ 634.52 million for Jute, Hemp, Mesta Textiles.

(g) Export Performance of Indian Jute Sector during the 10th Plan period is given below:

Year	Qty. ('000 M.Ton)	Value (Rs./Crore)	US\$ / Million
2002-03	226.0	913.32	187.00
2003-04	310.4	1051.88	234.00
2004-05	321.8	1146.90	263.00
2005-06	285.8	1186.24	276.00
Total	1144.0	4298.34	960.00
2006-07 (April-Sept)	104.3	583.60	126.86

[Translation]

Bullet Proofing of Ayodhya Temple

1015. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to provide bullet proof protection at Ayodhya temple;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work has started on the aforesaid project;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the aforesaid work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Based upon the recommendations received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Government of India has filed an application before the Supreme Court for permission to carry out strengthening of the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex. Decision of the Supreme Court is awaited. The work would be carried on as per the decision of the court, based on the inputs provided by all concerned parties which have submitted their statements in the court, in the concerned case. The work would be started on receiving the decision in the matter.

[English]

Revision of Staffing Patterns in ICDS

1016. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Karnataka regarding revision of staffing pattern in ICDS Projects and Ceiling on annual expenditure of State and District ICDS cells;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have considered the request of the Karnataka Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka requested for enhancement of the annual expenditure ceiling of the State ICDS Cell and District ICDS Cells to Rs. 40 lakh and Rs. 12 lakh per annum respectively.

(c) and (d) The Government of Karnataka has been requested to adhere, for the present, to the existing annual financial ceiling on State Cell and District Cell.

Mining Policy

1017. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to review the Mining Policy or to introduce New Mining Policy to resolve the differences between the Centre and the mineral rich States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether delays in securing mining licenses and land have undermined India's efforts to win more investment leaving the South Asian nation short of raw materials needed for an economy forecast;

(d) if so, whether the new mining policy aims to attract foreign direct investment in metals and minerals sector;

(e) if so, the extent to which the new policy will help mining sector; and

(f) the time by which the new policy is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (f) A High Level Committee (HLC) under the chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission was constituted to review the National Mineral Policy and recommend possible amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the sector. The Committee has submitted its report to the Central Government, which is under consideration.

This Ministry has not received any information about effect of the procedural delay in grant of mineral concessions on the economic growth of the country due to short fall in supply of any major minerals.

Names of States Prepared SEZ Act

1018. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any instructions/guidelines on setting up of SEZs to various State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States so far prepared their own SEZ Act;

(d) the number of States in which such Act is under process;

(e) the number of cases in which violation of tax exemption/guidelines by these SEZs has been reported during 2005-06; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to check violation of such tax exemptions/guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The State Governments have been advised that while acquiring land for SEZs, if perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ.

(c) Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have so far enacted their State SEZ Acts.

(d) SEZ Bills from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra Government have been received.

(e) and (f) 4 (four) cases of diversion of duty free goods had been reported during 2005-06. Their Letters of Approval have been cancelled.

Setting up of Clusters

1019. PROF. M. RAMADASS;
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN;
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed clusters under which "Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme" was to be implemented and the actual number of clusters in which it has been implemented;

(b) the reasons for non-covering other clusters;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to develop 100 clusters from the next financial years;

(d) if so, the locations thereof, State-wise;

(e) the criteria set to establish such clusters;

(f) if so, whether the Government has fixed definite time frame for covering 100 clusters;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the number of beneficiaries assisted under various schemes to facilitate handloom industries in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(i) the number of existing handloom and weavers' clusters in the country particularly in Orissa, State-wise;

(j) whether the Government is laying emphasis on developing various requisite handloom and weaving infrastructure for the benefit of artisans and weavers in handloom clusters in Orissa; and

(k) if so, the steps the Government has taken to develop infrastructure like marketing credit extension and preservation of unique traditional design and artisan skills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech for the year 2005-06 had announced for adoption of 20 handloom clusters in the first phase at a cost of Rs. 40.00 crore. In accordance, a scheme "Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme" is under implementation in 20 identified handloom clusters namely; Chirala, Madhavaram (Andhra Pradesh), Bijo Nagar (Assam), Bhagalpur (Bihar), Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Gadag (Karnataka), Trivendrum (Kerala), Chanderi/Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Imphal (Manipur), Sonapur, Bargarh (Orissa), Thiruvannamalai, Trichy, Kurinjipadi (Tamil Nadu), Barabanki, Mubarakpur, Bijnore, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Burdwan, Nadia (West Bengal).

(c) to (g) The Government has identified additional 100 handloom clusters for their integrated and holistic development at a total cost of Rs. 50.00 crore. These clusters have loomage between 100 - 5000 per cluster. These clusters will be developed in a time frame of about three years. A statement-I showing State-wise location of these clusters is enclosed.

(h) A statement-II showing number of weavers assisted under various schemes is enclosed.

(i) There are 470 handloom clusters in the country, including 30 clusters in Orissa State. A statement-III showing State-wise number of clusters is enclosed.

(j) and (k) The Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme will support weavers in the cooperative and outside the cooperative fold, including Self Help Groups, NGOs, small and medium enterprises and attached weavers. Following a holistic approach, the programme will cover the entire needs of each cluster for supply of raw materials, marketing support, credit requirements, design inputs, upgradation of technology and welfare of the weavers. In the State of Orissa, a Weavers' Service Centre is functioning at Bhubaneswar to cater to the technical requirements, including design development and skill upgradation of the handloom weavers, exporters, manufacturers, designers, etc. Weavers' Service Centre, Bhubaneswar is equipped with Computer Aided Textile Design System to develop new and innovative designs. During the last two years, training programmes for 1240 weavers have been sanctioned under the "Integrated Handloom Training Project" for skill upgradation of handloom weavers/workers.

Statement I

List of 100 clusters identified for development

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Cluster allocated to the State	Names of the cluster
1	2	3	4
East			
1.	Bihar	4	(i) Champanagar—Bhagalpur Distt., (ii) Madhubani (Bhawara)—Madhubani Distt., (iii) Katoria—Banka Distt., (iv) Biharsharif—Nalanda Distt.,

1	2	3	4
2.	Jharkhand	2	(i) Jhajori—Godda Distt., (ii) Irba & Chuti—Ranchi Distt.,
3.	Orissa	6	(i) Boudh (Boudh, Bausani, Kandaliamahar, Butupali, Manmunda)—Boudh Distt., (ii) Baramba (Maniabandha, Mukta Nagar, Baramba)—Cuttack Distt. (iii) Berhampur (Aska, Pital, Hinjikat, Rangailunda, Bomkai, Berhampur)—Ganjam Distt., (iv) Jagatsinghpur (Badbag, Kendal, Jayeepur, Nabapatna)—Jagatsinghpur Distt., (v) Fakirpur (Fakirpur and Dhekillikot)—Keonjhar Distt., (vi) Patnagarh (Bongaimunda, Loisingh)—Bolangir Distt.,
4.	West Bengal	10	(i) Mirzapur—Murshidabad Distt., (ii) Toofanganj Bl. I & II—Coochbehar Distt., (iii) Gangarampur—Dakshin Dinajpur Distt., (iv) Bishnupur Town—Bankura Distt., (v) Jagipara & Rajbalhat—Hooghly Distt., (vi) Raghunathpur block—Purulia Distt., (vii) Kurchi and Harali (Udaynarayanpur Block)—Howrah Distt., (xi) Begumpur—Hooghly Distt., (ix) Radhamoni—Purba Medinipur Distt., (x) Dandihat—North 24 Pargana Distt.,
NER			
5.	Assam	4	(i) Srimati—Kamrup Distt., (ii) Betbari—Sivasagar Distt., (iii) Lakhipur—Cachar Distt., (iv) Kapalbari—Nalbari Distt.,
6.	Manipur	4	(i) Kumbi—Bishnupur Distt., (ii) Kakching/Wabagai—Thoubal Distt., (iii) Tupul (Nungba) Tamenglong Distt., (iv) Churachandpur

1	2	3	4
7.	Nagaland	2	(I) Kohima, (II) Dimapur
8.	Tripura	4	(I) Gobindapur—North Tripura Distt., (II) Amarpur—South Tripura Distt., (III) Nalchar—West Tripura Distt., (IV) Nutannagar—West Tripura Distt.,
9.	Meghalaya	1	(i) Garobanda—West Garo Hills Distt.
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	(I) Ziro—Lower Subansiri Distt.,
11.	Mizoram	1	Thanjol- Distt. Thanjol.
Total		39	

West

1.	Chhattisgarh	2	(i) Chhuikhadan, Distt. Rajnandgaon (ii) Mungjhar, Distt. Raipur
2.	Gujarat	4	(i) Bhuj, Distt. Kutch (ii) Limbdi, Distt. Surendemagar (iii) Palanpur, Distt. Banaskantha (iv) Porbandar, Distt. Porbandar
3.	Madhya Pradesh	3	(i) Maheswar—Distt. Khargone (ii) Sarangpur—Distt. Rajgarh (iii) Saunsar—Distt. Chhindwara
4.	Maharashtra	3	(i) Yeola—Distt. Nasik (ii) Mohadi—Distt. Bhandara (iii) Kamptee—Distt. Nagpur
Total		12	

North

1.	Haryana	1	(i) Ambala- Distt. Ambala & Raipur Rani. Distt. Panchkula
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2	(i) Kangra, Distt. Kangra (ii) Mandi., Distt. Mandi

1	2	3	4
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	(i) Kathua/Bilawar, Distt. Kathua (ii) Nadihal/Bandipor, Distt. Baramula
4.	Rajasthan	3	(i) Pokran, Distt. Jaisalmer (ii) Napasar, Distt. Bikaner (iii) Lavan, Distt. Dausa
5.	Uttar Pradesh	10	(i) Gorakhpur (City and Khalilabad) - Distt. Gorakhpur (ii) Amroha - Distt. J.P. Nagar, (iii) Bhojpur (Thakurdwara, Fareednagar)—Distt. Muradabad, (iv) Dulhi pur (Mugal Sarai. Chandoull) Distt. Chandauli, (v) Kairana (Village Kairana & surrounding area) Distt. Muzaffar Nagar (vi) Jhansi (Mau Ranipur & Prithivipur), Distt Jhansi, (vii) Saraiyan (Batlohia and Konia) - Distt. Varanasi (viii) Pilibhit (Meerpur, Vahanpur & surrounding area) Distt. Pilibhit (ix) Adalhat (Narayanpur block, Patihata, Khutaha) Distt. Mirzapur. (x) Bhajediah, Varanasi Distt.
6.	Uttaranchal	2	(i) Chhinka, Distt. Chamoli (ii) Manglore, Distt. Haridwar
Total		20	

South Zone

1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	(i) Payakaraopeta- Vishakhapatnam Distt. (ii) Pedana - Krishna Distt. (iii) Isukpalli, Ilavaram - Guntur. Mt., Guntur Distt. (iv) Muddireddipally - Ananthapur Distt. (v) Proddutur - Cuddapah Distt. (vi) Siripuram - Yellanki - Nalgonda Distt. (vii) Gadwal - Mahboobnagar Distt.
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1	2	3	4
			(viii) Puttapaka - Nalgonda Distt.
			(ix) Kothapalli - Karimnagar Distt.
			(x) Yemmiganur- Kumul Distt.
2.	Karnataka	5	(i) Mahalingapur - Bagalkot Distt.
			(ii) Challoskere Town, Chitradurga Distt. (Villages Gorlakatte, Nerlagunte, Chikkaminahalli, Rangavanalli, Gopanahally, Lakehmipura, Doddullarthy, T.N. Kote, Kamsamudra, Pagdalbande, Chowlur, P. Mahadevapura, Obalapura.),
			(iii) Kollegal - Chamarajanagar Distt. (Hannur village, Kanchaphalli, Sandanapalay marathahalli, Kodanakere, Chellipalya, Chamrajanagar, Shettipura, Gundalapet taluk, Pete hoosur, Yadahuni, Kabbahalli, sungegundenahall
			(iv) Thimmasandara - Kolar Distt (Chintramani),
			(v) Mulakalamuru-ChitradurgaDistt. (Kondalahalli)
3.	Kerala	4	(i) Chennimangalam - Emakulam Distt.
			(ii) Koothapally-Thrissur Distt. (Thalapally Taluk)
			(iii) Vadakara - Kozikode Distt. (Koyilandi),
			(iv) Payyannur - Kannur Distt.
4.	Tamilnadu	10	(i) Nilayur - Madurai Distt.
			(ii) Palani-Dindigul Distt. (Santhanchettyvelasu, Kolumankondan Narikkalpatty),
			(iii) Veeravanallur - Thirunelveli Distt.
			(iv) Padirivedu-Thiruvallur Distt. (Madarapakkam, Manellure)
			(v) Jayankondam - Peramdalur Distt.
			(vi) Kandachipuram - Villupuram Distt. (Kedar, Viappathu, Chithathur)
			(vii) Sholingar - Vellore Distt.
			(viii) Appakudal - Erode Distt.
			(ix) Sirumugai - Coimbatore Distt.
			(x) Thandampalayam - Erode Distt.

Statement II

State-wise number of weavers assisted under various handloom schemes during last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) is as follows

S.No.	State	No. of weavers assisted
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	21616
2.	Assam	812719
3.	Andhra Pradesh	295196
4.	Bihar	824
5.	Chhattisgarh	4663
6.	Delhi	2823
7.	Gujarat	24262
8.	Haryana	745
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6525
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2570
11.	Jharkhand	11260
12.	Karnataka	116891
13.	Kerala	61895
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8651
15.	Manipur	20291

1	2	3
16.	Maharashtra	7936
17.	Meghalaya	1071
18.	Mizoram	240
19.	Nagaland	36477
20.	Orissa	100379
21.	Punjab	12700
22.	Rajasthan	42235
23.	Tripura	2027
24.	Tamilnadu	949062
25.	Uttar Pradesh	73701
26.	Uttaranchal	5790
27.	West Bengal	62236
28.	Other agencies	2995
Total		2687780

Under Marketing Promotion Programme, individual weavers are assisted through their participation in various Crafts Mela and at Delhi Haat. Around 600 handloom weavers participate in Craft Mela and about 1200 weavers

participate in Delhi Haat every year to sell/dispose off their products. Handloom weavers are also provided opportunity to market their products in number of exhibitions held at National and District Levels.

Statement III

State-wise Concentration of handlooms as per Census 1995-96

S.No.	State	Upto 1000	1000-5000	5,000-10,000	10,000-25,000	25,000-50,000	Above 50,000	Total District
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Assam	0	0	0	4	5	14	23
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4	3	7	8	1	0	23
3.	Bihar	41	13	1	0	0	0	55
4.	Gujarat	11	7	1	0	0	0	19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.	Haryana	16	0	0	1	0	0	17
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6	4	1	1	0	0	12
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	7	0	0	0	0	14
8.	Karnataka	5	9	5	1	0	0	20
9.	Kerala	5	6	1	2	0	0	14
10.	Madhya Pradesh	40	5	0	0	0	0	45
11.	Manipur	0	0	0	2	5	1	8
12.	Maharashtra	25	1	0	2	0	0	28
13.	Nagaland	0	0	4	2	1	0	7
14.	Orissa	9	15	5	1	0	0	30
15.	Punjab	9	3	0	0	0	0	12
16.	Pondicherry	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
17.	Rajasthan	19	11	1	0	0	0	31
18.	Tripura	0	0	0	2	1	1	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	3	3	2	6	5	2	21
20.	Uttar Pradesh	38	20	8	1	0	1	68
21.	West Bengal	2	3	2	7	3	1	18
Total		240	111	38	40	21	20	470

[Translation]

Concession to Handloom Weavers

1020. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received by the Government from the cooperative societies of handloom weavers and other organizations for providing more concessions during the last three years and current year;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of the concessions being provided to the handloom weavers at present; and

(d) the number of handloom weavers benefited from these concessions till date alongwith the total number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Several representations have been received from time to time, from various handloom weavers' organizations, including Handloom Co-operative Societies for extending benefits to the handloom weavers. The Government, has introduced various new Schemes like Health Insurance Scheme, Mahatma Gandhi Bunker Bima Yojana, Handloom Mark, Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for development of handloom sector.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is providing financial support as a grant under the following schemes for development of Handloom Sector and welfare of handloom weavers:

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY)
- (ii) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme,
- (iii) Integrated Handloom Training Project (HTTP)
- (iv) Marketing Promotion Programme
- (v) Handloom Export Scheme
- (vi) Mill Gate Price Scheme
- (vii) Thrift Fund Scheme, etc.

Under the handloom Schemes, no. of weavers benefited during the last two years and current year (till September 2006) are as follows:

2004-05	10,07,178
2005-06	9,81,342
2006-07 (upto Sept. 06)	7,51,802
Total	27,40,322

Under the Marketing Promotion Programme, individual weavers are assisted through their participation in the Craft Melas and at Delhi Haat. Around 600 handloom weavers participate in the Craft Melas and around 1200 weavers participate in Delhi Haat every year to sell their products. Handloom weavers are also provided opportunity to market their products in the Exhibitions held at National and District Levels.

[English]

Hiring of Private Detective Agencies for Fighting Terrorism

1021. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hire private detective agencies for fighting terrorism as reported in the *Times of India* and *Hindu* dated November 5, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the various intelligence agencies are not capable to detect information of terrorists; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which the private detective agencies are likely to be more useful in checking crime and acts of terrorism by some persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to hire private detective agencies for fighting terrorism. However, Government is considering enactment of a law to regulate the private detective agencies operating in the country.

(c) The intelligence agencies are capable of detecting information on terrorists and many cases of terrorists plans have been detected in the past and continue to be detected.

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

[Translation]

Financial help to Terrorist by Pak High Commission

1022. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any information about the financial help extended to terrorists by Pakistan High Commission during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the terrorist organisation found involved therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per available inputs, a few such cases came to the notice of the Government in 2003, 2004 and 2005 wherein some staff of the Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi was reported to be involved in extending financial help for the purpose of terrorist activities. Terrorist organisations for which money in some of these cases was meant are those operating in Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) The Government amended the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to incorporate provisions necessary to combat financing of terrorism. Prevention of Money

Laundering Act is also a step in this direction. Further, necessary action is also taken through diplomatic channels, wherever required.

[English]

Private Investment in Mining Sector

1023. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to invite private investment in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the number of FDI proposals received since the opening of the mining sector to private participation, State-wise;

(c) the present status of each of such proposals, State-wise;

(d) if so, whether the Government has notified exclusive economic zone for development and regulation of mineral resources in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response received from the private sector in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the National Mineral Policy, enunciated in 1993 the exploration and exploitation of all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals have been thrown open to private investment.

(b) and (c) As per available information, the Government has approved 73 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) envisaging an investment of Rs. 4044 crores since opening up of mining sector for private participation. The approval granted is for foreign equity participation in a company incorporated in India. After incorporation, these companies are required to apply to the respective State Governments for grant of mineral concessions, which are the owners of minerals in their respective territorial jurisdiction.

(d) Government has not notified exclusive economic zone for development and regulation of mineral resources in the country.

(e) and (f) In view of (d) above, does not arise.

Pension to Freedom Fighter

1024. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of freedom fighters, their widows and other eligible dependents who are beneficiaries of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme separately as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints of 'Fake Freedom Fighters' claiming pension and some of the genuine freedom fighters are running from pillar to post to get their pensions and are starving for livelihood;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has adopted any mechanism to check the genuineness of the case to get rid from these fake freedom fighters and to protect the genuine cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Since the inception of the Scheme in 1972, pension has been sanctioned to about 1,69,964 freedom fighters and their eligible dependents till 31.10.2006. A statement indicating the State-wise details is enclosed. This Ministry does not have the exact number of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents presently living and drawing pension.

(b) and (c) Receipt of complaints/information from various sources alleging bogus/fraudulent pensions is a continuous process. Each such matter is examined with reference to the applicable provisions of the Central Scheme, in consultation with the concerned State Government. On examination, wherever it is established that the claim meets the eligibility criteria and the evidentiary requirements of the Central Scheme, the pension is sanctioned, after following due process. Such matters are dealt with individually.

(d) to (f) Persons who consider themselves eligible for Samman pension under the 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980' are required to apply on prescribed application forms, duly filled, and supported

by documentary evidence of claim of suffering, jail certificate, arrest warrant, detention order, etc. routed through the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration.

The claims of Central Samman Pension can be considered only when these are duly verified and reported by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme. The Central Government takes its decision on the basis of all prescribed eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements of the Scheme.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Pensions Sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14,572
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	4,437
4. & 5.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	24,870
6.	Goa	1,425
7.	Gujarat	3,591
8.	Haryana	1,684
9.	Himachal Pradesh	617
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,808
11.	Karnataka	10,082
12.	Kerala	3,190
13. & 14.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	3,465
15.	Maharashtra	17,581
16.	Manipur	62
17.	Meghalaya	86
18.	Mizoram	04
19.	Nagaland	03
20.	Orissa	4,188

1	2	3
21.	Punjab	7,005
22.	Rajasthan	808
23.	Tamil Nadu	4,097
24.	Tripura	887
25.	Sikkim	00
26. & 27.	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	17,990
28.	West Bengal	22,479
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	03
30.	Chandigarh	89
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	83
32.	Daman and Diu	33
33.	Lakshadweep	00
34.	NCT of Delhi	2,043
35.	Pondicherry	317
Indian National Army (INA)		22,467
Total		1,69,964

Competition with Multi-National Companies

1025. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is stiff competition being faced by the cottage industries from multi-national companies; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to protect the interest of traditional cottage industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) With the globalisation of Indian economy, the industries in the country, including cottage and rural industries, are facing greater competition in the market. The Government has adopted the policy of strengthening the cottage industries facing competition from the multinational companies on

account of globalisation of the Indian economy so that they remain competitive in the market economy and generate new job opportunities.

To strengthen the cottage and rural industries and make them competitive, Government has been implementing schemes like Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) providing subsidised rates of interest on bank loans, Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improving designs and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for setting up village industries by providing subsidy in the form of margin money. Assistance is provided to khadi and village industry units to participate in exhibitions at the national, sub-national levels, etc. for improving marketing of both khadi and village industry products. These facilities are available to all eligible cottage and rural industries. Further, the Government has recently launched the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) in 100 clusters of khadi, village and coir industries over five years beginning 2005-06. The scheme envisages assistance for setting up of common facility centres (CFC), quality improvement, training and capacity building, development of new products, improved packaging, new design, market promotion, etc.

Anganwadi Karyakatri Bima Yojana for Workers

1026. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to release funds for the life insurance cover to Anganwadi workers, helpers under the "Anganwadi Karyakatri Bima Yojana";

(b) if so, whether this request of State Government is pending with Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the funds would be released to State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Under the Anganwadi Karyakatri Bima Yojana, Government of India (GOI) pays an annual premium @ Rs. 100 per insured member

directly to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for the insured Anganwadi Workers/Helpers of all the States/Union Territories. Government of Karnataka, *vide* its letter dated 7.3.2005, had requested for release of GOI share to LIC. The GOI released Rs. 5.00 Crore in 2004-05 and Rs. 8.00 crore in 2005-06 to LIC under the aforesaid scheme.

[Translation]

Monitoring Mechanism for Grants

1027. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has proper mechanism to ensure that the major grants and loans etc. are not misused;

(b) if so, the details of such mechanism to check misappropriation;

(c) the number of cases of misappropriation noticed during last two years;

(d) if so, whether any enquiries have been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) An integrated audit system is in vogue in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to ensure that the assistance provided to the implementing agencies is not misutilised by its implementing agencies. The integrated audit system has been entrusted with the duties and responsibilities, *inter alia*,

(i) to verify the matters related to Khadi certification which covers the procurement of raw material, its processing, payment of wages, costing, etc.;

(ii) to ensure utilization of funds released are properly utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned in terms of guidelines issued;

(iii) to conduct spot audit for checking the veracity of rebate claims in order to ensure that the rebate provided under khadi is not misappropriated.

(iv) KVIC is implementing Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in conjunction with Public Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks. Under this programme, pre-inspection of project site, joint physical verification of project after set up along with banks, regular review meetings with banks, etc., are arranged in order to ensure correct utilisation of funds provided under REGP.

(c) No cases of misappropriation of grants and loans were reported during the last two years. In a few cases where violation of Certification Rules were noticed, actions like cancellation of certificates were initiated. During the last three years, 1107 audits were conducted and Khadi Certificates were cancelled in 97 cases where violation of Khadi Certification Rules were noticed. Similarly, under REGP also, no misappropriation was reported in loans sanctioned by banks under this programme. However, sporadic cases of excess payment of margin money were reported and in such cases recoveries of excess amount were effected. In the case of REGP, banks financing

36 cases of ineligible entrepreneurs were reported during the last three years and also 30 cases of recoveries of margin money were already effected.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Prices of Man-Made Fibre

1028. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry is not getting artificial and synthetic fibres at international prices;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to meet the situation; and

(c) the impact of disparity in the domestic prices and international prices of man-made fibres on the blended yarn spinning industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The domestic & International prices of synthetic fibre for the period January 06 to October 06 are as under:

(Rs./Kg.)

Period	ASF (3D)		PSF (1.2 D)		VSF (Standard)	
	Domestic	International	Domestic	International	Domestic	International
Jan-06	86.25	104.7	76.83	65.02	90.73	110.86
Feb-06	81.75	106.19	77.12	65.46	90.73	N.A.
Mar-06	88.25	106.56	71.39	64.05	84.36	91.69
Apr-06	88.25	107.67	67.60	63.32	85.99	91.61
May-06	88.25	110.47	69.76	67.63	85.99	102.89
Jun-06	88.25	N.A.	71.84	N.A.	85.99	N.A.
Jul-06	112.25	N.A.	75.17	N.A.	91.40	N.A.
Aug-06	112.25	N.A.	75.17	N.A.	91.40	N.A.
Sep-06	112.25	N.A.	86.26	N.A.	91.40	N.A.
Oct-06	112.25	N.A.	81.93	N.A.	97.88	N.A.

Note : Domestic prices are inclusive of basic plus excise duty. International prices are the landed prices, which include cost, insurance, freight, BCD, CVD, Special CVD and Educational Cess.

(Source : Domestic Price - Tecoya trend, Manufacturers and DGCIS.

International price - ASFI - Year Book - 2005-06.)

The above statement shows that domestic prices of Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF), which is consumed as the main raw material in the textile industry, have been slightly higher compared to international prices.

(b) and (c) The Government is examining the impact, if any, of disparity in the domestic prices and international prices of manmade fibres and whether there is a need for further Government intervention in this regard.

[Translation]

Ban on Imported Marble

1029. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose a total ban on the import of marble; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Doha-WTO Talks

1030. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the recent IMF meet in Singapore, it was decided to resume Doha (WTO) talks;

(b) if so, whether the point of break down was well appreciated by the IMF and in what terms and the specific direction set by the IMF for contained talks; and

(c) the process since made towards resumption of such talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) At the meeting of the Development Committee of the IMF held in Singapore on 19 September 2006, the Committee felt

that the de-facto' suspension of the Doha Round negotiations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) represented a setback in the common efforts to make more rapid progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Committee reemphasized the importance of the multilateral trading system and called upon all WTO Members to avoid backsliding and to provide trade ministers with the necessary flexibility to resume the negotiations by the end of 2006.

(c) At the informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) of the WTO held on 16 November 2006, a consensus has emerged on resumption of the negotiation process in the Negotiating Groups of the TNC, with the Chairpersons of the respective Groups having the responsibility to determine the rhythm of their work in consultation with the WTO Member delegations.

Spices in Kerala

1031. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of cardamom, pepper and other spices in Kerala State;

(b) whether the growers of cardamom, pepper and other spices in Kerala are facing serious difficulties due to the low price their produce is fetching for the past several years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the action taken/proposed to help these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The details of production of pepper and other spices in Kerala State is given below:

Spice	Production: MTs		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Pepper	67358	69015	74980
Cardamom (Small)	8680	8875	8616
Chilli	787	679	775

1	2	3	4
Ginger	32412	32972	45305
Turmeric	6938	5652	6244
Garlic	10472	10846	5202
Tamarind	29514	29406	29945
Cloves	53	49	53
Nutmeg	2086	2427	2700
Vanilla	19	34	68

Source: Cardamom & Vanilla: Estimate by Spices Board.
Other spices: Department of Economic & Statistics, Govt of Kerala, Trivandrum.

(b) and (c) The prices of pepper, cardamom, chilli, clove are fetching higher prices as compared to the previous year. The prices of spices except that of ginger, turmeric and vanilla are showing upward trend during the April-October period 2006-07 as compared to the previous year. Board is implementing programmes like production and supply of quality planting material, re-planting of senile un economic gardens, irrigation and land development, rain water harvesting and setting up of improved curing devices with alternate fuel in cardamom in Kerala state. In the case of vanilla, Board is supporting growers in setting up of curing devices and supply of planting material. Government of India has been giving a freight subsidy of Rs. 7 per kg i.e. Rs. 5 for ocean freight and Rs. 2 for internal transport subsidy for encouraging export of pepper upto a maximum of 20,000 MTs.

Enhancement of Strength of Home Guard

1032. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Government of Karnataka to enhance the strength of Home Guards in State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a reminder was also received on December 08, 2004 in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has also received any such proposal from other State Governments;

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

(g) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Karnataka had requested in 1995 for increasing the strength of Home Guards from 18,700 to 25,000.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) After consideration, the Government of India agreed to raise the strength from 18,700 to 21,700 in March 2005.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) A few other States/UTs also requested for enhancing their strength of Home Guards and after consideration of their demands, it was decided in March, 2005 to enhance their strength as detailed below:

State/UT	Earlier Strength	Revised Strength
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	654	800
Andhra Pradesh	12903	15903
Assam	20407	23907
Bihar	54612	55612
Jharkhand	22790	25490
Chandigarh	1132	1352
Goa	500	750
Karnataka	18700	21700
Chhattisgarh	6006	7345
Mizoram	760	1260
Sikkim	546	766
Uttar Pradesh	117009	118348

A proposal from Uttaranchal for an addition of 1979 to their target strength of 6411 Home Guards received recently has not been accepted since the State has not

so far enrolled Home Guards upto the earlier target strength itself.

National Register of Citizens

1033. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2 crore for upgradation and updating of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of the NRC scheme and its objective;

(c) whether Government has received any representations from Members of Parliament voicing the demand in the North Eastern Region, to upgrade and update the National Register of Citizens of 1951 (NRC);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for updating the NRC and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) All Assam Students Union is demanding upgradation and updating of the National Register of Citizens, 1951 in Assam on the basis of Electoral Rolls, 1971. The Government has agreed to provide necessary support to the Government of Assam. Towards this end in addition to Rs.1.02 crore provided in 2005-06, further sum of Rs. 2 crore has been committed for upgradation and updating of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the State of Assam.

(c) and (d) Government had received a communication from one Member of Parliament seeking status note on updating and upgradation of NRC in Assam. The information was provided to the Member of Parliament.

(e) The Government of Assam has reported that it has set up a separate Directorate for upgradation of NRC and has accordingly engaged manpower for this purpose. The preliminary works for updating the NRC has been started. Scanning of all available electoral rolls upto 1971 is in progress and the same is being carried out in the district headquarters of the 23 districts of the State.

[Translation]

Inquiry against IPS Officers

1034. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the various State Governments to conduct inquiry against the Indian Police Service (IPS) officers during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken with regard to the request received from respective State Governments against these IPS officers and reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, in the matter of recruitment of Sub-Inspectors, Government of Uttaranchal had made a complaint and an enquiry was conducted. As a result of the enquiry, a chargesheet has since been filed in the Court by CBI against 2 I.P.S. Officers of the State Cadre, namely Shri P.D. Raturi and Shri Rakesh Mittal, who were found involved.

Import of Foodgrains and Pulses

1035. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to import foodgrains due to stagnation in production of foodgrains especially pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details including the quantity and the rate at which wheat, sugar, pulses and rice foodgrains/pulses are being imported, country-wise

(c) whether the imports of these commodities has arrested their price rise especially price of pulses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the measures adopted to ensure the quality of the imported foodgrains; and

(f) the steps taken to boost production of foodgrains especially pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Decision to import wheat by Government was taken on account of low level of stocks in the Central Pool, high ruling open

market prices and due to low levels of production and procurement. Import of pulses is free. Domestic production of pulses remains inadequate as compared to the demand in the country.

(b) The details are enclosed as Statement-I and II.

(c) and (d) The monthly whole sale price index for foodgrains (cereals + pulses) for the year 2006 is as follows:

Month/Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
2006	192.7	194.4	194.8	194.5	196.7	198.4	198.8	201

(e) All imports of food/edible products in India are subject to compliance to the provisions under Prevention of food Adulteration Act, 1954. Further, the imported wheat is being scrupulously subjected to sampling and analysis by the PFA Authorities of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and through approved laboratories and being cleared only on conforming to the laid down

standards. Similarly, the imported wheat is being subjected to strict Plant Protection and quarantine (PPQ) checks by the Ministry of Agriculture, before being cleared by FCI.

(f) A Centrally Sponsored Integrated scheme of Pulses, Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation to increase productivity and production of pulses.

Statement I

Import of Rice, Pulses and Sugar

Apr. 06-July 06 (Provisional)

	Quantity (Tons)	Value in Rs. Lakhs	Average rate (Rs./Kgs)
	1	2	3
Rice	133	34.46	25.91
Saudi Arab	120	31.38	26.15
Uarab Emrs	13	3.08	23.69
Pulses	496547	78335.07	15.78
Australia	53621	6857.98	12.79
Canada	203018	21150.77	10.42
China P. Rep.	7993	1884.95	23.58
Ethiopia	1704	372.92	21.88
France	39320	3964.59	10.08
Indonesia	207	54.24	26.20

	1	2	3
Iran	301	87.24	28.98
Italy	2	0.38	19.00
Malaysia	119	36.96	31.06
Myanmar	148303	38469.28	25.94
Mozambique	229	53.34	23.29
Nepal	2992	813.73	27.20
New Zealand	182	25.22	13.86
Pakistan IR	201	69.61	34.63
Peru	44	19.9	45.23
Russia	5197	509.34	9.80
Singapore	133	14.08	10.59
South Africa	154	32.22	20.92
Sri Lanka DSR	37	6.83	18.46
Tanzania Rep.	360	87.22	24.23
Thailand	60	19.24	32.07
Ukraine	6230	685.44	11.00
USA	26140	3119.59	11.93
Sugar	322	111.19	34.53
Canada	5	2.15	43.00
France	0	0.98	
Germany	66	36.07	54.65
Hong Kong			
Italy	1	4.13	413.00
Korea DP RP	154	37.96	24.65
Korea RP			
Mozambique			
Singapore	86	23.16	26.93
UK	10	6.74	67.40

Source-DGCI & S, Kolkata

Statement II*Import of Wheat*

Sl.No.	Name of Suppliers	Quantity (MTs) Covered	Weighted average price US\$ PMT
1.	AWB (Geneva) SA	500,000	178.750
2.	AWB (Geneva) SA, Agrico (Switzerland)	800,000	191.388
3.	ADM (USA), Cargill (Geneva), Concordia (S'pore), Glencore (Netherlands), Toepfer (Singapore)	2,200,000	197.817
4.	Agrico (Geneva)	330,000	210.72
5.	Concordia (S'pore), Glencore (Ne'land), Toepfer (Singapore), AWB (Geneva) SA	1,670,000	228.94
Grand Total		5,500,000	205.31

Source: Min. of Consumer Affairs

*[English]***Setting up of KVs**

1036. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of proposals received from State Governments/Public undertakings for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas in their respective States during the last three years and till date alongwith the present status thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI): The details are enclosed as Statement.

Statement*Setting up of KVs*

S.No.	State	Number of Proposals received from State Govt./ Public Undertaking since 01.04.2003	Present Status		
			Sanctioned	Not yet sanctioned	Not feasible
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	02	01	01	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	02	—	01	01
3.	Assam	02	01	01	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	04	—	04	—
5.	Delhi	01	—	01	—
6.	Haryana	11	—	11	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	02	—	02	—
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	01	—	01	—
9.	Jharkhand	04	03	01	—
10.	Karnataka	06	—	06	—
11.	Kerala	04	01	03	—
12.	Lakshdweep (UT)	01	—	01	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	04	—	04	—
14.	Maharashtra	01	—	01	—
15.	Orissa	06	02	04	—
16.	Rajasthan	07	01	06	—
17.	Tamil Nadu	01	—	01	—
18.	Tripura	01	—	01	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	05	—	05	—
20.	Uttaranchal	02	—	02	—
21.	W. Bengal	01	—	0.1	—
	Total	68	09	58	01

Textile Export

1037. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile export in the country has increased in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the period of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of Indian textile / quality in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per latest available DGCI&S provisional data, textile export during the period April—July 2006 has amounted to US\$ 6134.37 million, recording a growth of 16.08% in comparison to the corresponding period of previous year.

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken for extension or otherwise beyond March 2007 in respect of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).

(e) The Government has been taking a number of steps for the modernization of textiles and garment

industry so as to enable it to adopt modern management principle. Some of the important initiatives taken in this regard are as follows:

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4- 1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) A new Scheme namely "Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks" has been formulated by merging "Scheme for Apparel Parks for Exports" and "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" in order to expand the production base of textile and garment sector. The Scheme envisages to create 25 Textile Parks of international standard at potential growth centres of India by 2007-08.
- (v) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given an option of excise exemption.
- (vi) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (vii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (viii) For the speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, w.e.f 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

- (ix) The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (x) Facilities like eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get garments/textiles pre-tested so that they conform to the requirements of the importing countries.

Revision in Industrial Policy

1038. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the existing industrial policy in view of the achievements made in the industrial sector since the inception of structural reforms, especially on the unemployment and regional imbalances;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Ministry has identified any industrially backward areas in country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(f) details of special schemes being implemented by the Government for providing fiscal concessions, to improve the industrial infrastructure and to create conducive climate for setting up of industry and flow of Foreign Direct Investment in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(g) the details of big industries established in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(h) the steps being taken by the Government to establish big industries in the country particularly in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) No Sir. The extant Industrial Policy is liberal and investor friendly which allows entrepreneurs to take investment decisions based on techno-economic considerations.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue has notified, for the purposes of income tax exemption, a list of industrially backward districts in the country, under the Income Tax Act. A copy of the notification listing industrially backward districts, including those in Andhra-Pradesh, is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(f) and (g) Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions are taken by entrepreneurs based on techno-economic considerations which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Governments in creating conducive environment by way of providing infrastructure facilities and other incentives. Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible. Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion is implementing the Growth Centre Scheme (GCS), Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), North-East Industrial Policy Package, Special Category States Package and Industrial Parks Scheme in this regard to promote industrial development. For the State of Andhra Pradesh 2 projects under the IIUS and 4 Growth Centres under the GCS have been sanctioned. Statement-II and III of the number of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEM) filed in the delicensed sector and Letters of Intent / Direct Industrial Licences issued in the licensable sector indicating State-wise proposed investments and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows received during the last 3 years and the current year are enclosed respectively.

(h) Under the existing Industrial Policy investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on techno-economic considerations, which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Government in creating conducive environment by way of providing infrastructural facilities and other incentives. The Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible. This policy is applicable for the entire country, including the State of Punjab.

Statement

*Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Direct Taxes*

New Delhi, the 7th October, 1997

Notification

Income-tax

S.O. 714(E) - In exercise of powers conferred by Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), as amended by Section 3 of the Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (15 of 1997) and in supersession of the notification of Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue (Central Board of Direct Taxes) number 636(E), dated 3rd September, 1997, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government specifies the following districts as industrially backward districts of Category 'A' and Category 'B' under Sub-clause (c) of clause (iv) of sub-section (2) of Section 80-IA read with-rule 11EA of the Income Tax Rules, 1962; namely:

A. Category 'A' Industrially backward districts

1.	Godda	Bihar
2.	Gumla	Bihar
3.	Araria	Bihar
4.	Gadchiholi	Maharashtra
5.	Madhepura	Bihar
6.	Sidharthanagar	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Dumka	Bihar
8.	Mandla	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Khagaria	Bihar
10.	Kishanganj	Bihar
11.	Malda	West Bengal
12.	Palamau	Bihar
13.	Phulbani	Orissa
14.	Madhubani	Bihar
15.	Kalahandi	Orissa

16.	Jehanabad	Bihar	48.	Jaipauri	West Bengal
17.	Saharsa	Bihar	49.	Almora	Uttaranchal
18.	West Dinajpur	West Bengal	50.	Pithoragarh	Uttaranchal
19.	Nawadah	Bihar	51.	Tehri Garhwal	Uttaranchal
20.	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	52.	The Dange	Gujarat
21.	Sitamarhi	Bihar	53.	Banswara	Rajasthan.
22.	Sahebganj	Bihar	B. Category 'B' Industrially Backward districts		
23.	Murshidabad	West Bengal	1.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh
24.	Cooch Behar	West Bengal	2.	Mahbubnagar	Andhra Pradesh'
25.	Bankura	West Bengal	3.	Katihar	Bihar
26.	Panna	Madhya Pradesh	4.	Bhagalpur	Bihar
27.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	5.	Gopalganj	Bihar
28.	Maharajganj	Uttar Pradesh	6.	Darbhanga	Bihar
29.	Jalore	Rajasthan	7.	West Champaran	Bihar
30.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	8.	Saran	Bihar
31.	East Charaparan	Bihar	9.	Bhojpur	Bihar
32.	Banda	Uttar Pradesh	10.	Samastipur	Bihar
33.	Barmer	Rajasthan	11.	Deoghar	Bihar
34.	Purna	Bihar	12.	Nalanda	Bihar
35.	Bastar	Madhya Pradesh	13.	Gaya	Bihar
36.	Siwan	Bihar	14.	Mazaffarpur	Bihar
37.	Vaishali	Bihar	15.	Rohtas	Bihar
38.	Basti	Uttar Pradesh	16.	Banaskantha	Gujarat
39.	Sarguja	Madhya Pradesh	17.	Sabarkantha	Gujarat
40.	Chamoli	Uttaranchal	18.	Bidar	Karnataka
41.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	19.	Seoni	Madhya Pradesh
42.	Lohardagga	Bihar	20.	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
43.	Chhatarpur	Madhya Pradesh	21.	Shivpuri	Madhya Pradesh
44.	Uttarkashi	Uttaranchal	22.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh
45.	Churu	Rajasthan	23.	Jhabua	Madhya Pradesh
46.	Wayanad	Kerala			
47.	Idukki	Kerala			

24.	Sidhi	Madhya Pradesh	55.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh
25.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	56.	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh
26.	Raigarh	Madhya Pradesh	57.	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh
27.	Morena	Madhya Pradesh	58.	Jalaun	Uttar Pradesh
28.	Betul	Madhya Pradesh	59.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh
29.	Rajgarh	Madhya Pradesh	60.	Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh
30.	Rajnandgaon	Madhya Pradesh	61.	Kanpur Dehat	Uttar Pradesh
31.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	62.	Mainpuri	Uttar Pradesh
32.	Beed	Maharashtra	63.	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh
33.	Bolangir	Orissa	64.	Farukhabad	Uttar Pradesh
34.	Mayurbhanj	Orissa	65.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh
35.	Balasore	Orissa	66.	Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh
36.	Ganjam	Orissa	67.	Mau	Uttar Pradesh
37.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan	68.	Purulia	West Bengal
38.	Dholpur	Rajasthan	69.	Birbhum	West Bengal
39.	Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan	70.	Midnapore	West Bengal.
40.	Tonk	Rajasthan	<p><i>Explanation.</i> For the purpose of this notification the districts correspond to the districts mentioned in the report of the Study Group on Identification of Backward Districts dated 4th October, 1994 and are based on districts as they stood in the Census Report of 1991. Where a district specified as an industrially backward district for the purpose of Section 80-1A is reorganized, either by split or otherwise, after the Census Report of 1991, all the areas comprised in the district as it existed in the Census Report of 1991 will qualify for the purpose of this rule.</p> <p>2. This notification shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the 1st day of October, 1994.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Explanatory Memorandum</i></p> <p>The Central Government had set up a Study Group to identify industrially backward districts for the purposes of Section 80-1A of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The Group, submitted its Report to the Central Government in the month of October, 1994. The Central Government constituted another Study Group to review the said Report. On the basis of the reports of both the Study Groups, the Central Government decided that the industrially</p>		
41.	Nagaur	Rajasthan			
42.	Jhalawar	Rajasthan			
43.	Sikar	Rajasthan			
44.	Hardoi	Uttar Pradesh			
45.	Lalitpur	Uttar Pradesh			
46.	Hamirpur	Uttar Pradesh			
47.	Badayun	Uttar Pradesh			
48.	Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh			
49.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh			
50.	Etah	Uttar Pradesh			
51.	Barabanki	Uttar Pradesh			
52.	Etawah	Uttar Pradesh			
53.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh			
54.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh			

backward districts should be classified into two categories i.e., Category 'A' and Category 'B' Section 80-IA was amended by the Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (15 of 1997) so as to classify the industrially backward districts of category 'A' and industrially backward districts of Category 'B'. The said Ordinance has come into force on the 16th September, 1997, Rule 1 IE A of the Income Tax Rules, 1962 has also been amended retrospectively with effect from 1.10.1994 so as to give effect to the amendment made in Section 80-IA of the

Income Tax Act by the said Ordinance; It is certified that the retrospective operation of this amendment shall not prejudicially effect the interest of assesses.

Sd/-

(Dr. Dheeraj Bhatnagar)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

F.No. 142/20/94-TPL(Pt. HI)

Notification No. 10441.

Statement II*State-wise Investment Proposals for the last three years and current year*

IEMs+LOIs+DILs

Name of the State/UTs	Jan 2003-Dec 2005		Jan 2006-Sept 2006	
	Nos.	Prop.Inv (Rs.Crore.)	Nos.	Prop.Inv (Rs.Crore)
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	1	30
Andhra Pradesh	1084	44893	514	40952
Arunachal Pradesh	19	145	5	111
Assam	184	1596	48	1916
Bihar	27	514	76	8486
Chandigarh	2	1	3	177
Chhattisgarh	890	94100	185	80429
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	401	5990	99	3739
Daman and Diu	209	1590	46	1275
Delhi	21	45	7	79
Goa	103	943	21	264
Gujarat	1718	131223	500	39560
Haryana	591	15950	211	15467
Himachal Pradesh	268	6025	97	1686
Jammu and Kashmir	306	5366	87	1829
Jharkhand	320	39983	89	33477
Karnataka	637	38679	263	15375

1	2	3	4	5
Kerala	79	1183	43	429
Madhya Pradesh	356	28083	149	5154
Maharashtra	2077	40412	743	23197
Manipur	2	7	0	0
Meghalaya	96	836	16	1468
Nagaland	6	16036	0	0
Orissa	570	97190	84	31964
Pondicherry	127	733	42	706
Punjab	453	11224	181	10159
Rajasthan	492	7835	152	6170
Sikkim	12	302	7	591
Tamil Nadu	1191	66157	636	16105
Tripura	11	255	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	1381	49616	516	35951
Uttaranchal	619	8818	416	10626
West Bengal	1292	33546	244	12896
Location in more than One State	3	11	0	0
Total	15547	749287	5481	400268

Note: IEMs: Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda filed; LOIs: Letters of Intent; DILs: Direct Industrial Licences.

Statement III

Statement on RBI's Region-wise/Year-wise FDI inflows from January 2003 to September 2006

(Amount in Crore)

Sl.No.	Regional Offices of RBI	States Covered	2003 Jan-Dec	2004 Jan-Dec	2005 Jan-Dec	2006 Jan-Sep	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	275.69	858.09	723.28	1,675.47	3,532.53
2.	Guwahati	Assam Arunachal Pradesh Manipur	15.45	20.00	0.00	0.00	35.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Meghalaya Mizoram Nagaland Tripura					
3.	Patna	Bihar, Jharkhand	1.13	0.00	0.00	0.60,	1.73
4.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1,042.63	688.46	635.21	1,270.00	3,636.30
5.	Bangalore	Karnataka	999.07	1,064.25	1,606.98	1,353.58	5,023.88
6.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	44.69	49.55	26.25	40.77	161.26
7.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh	25.71	61.64	53.82	72.54	213.71
8.	Mumbai	Maharashtra Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu	1,022.81	3,246.50	272.90	6,566.68	13,108.89
9.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	0.00	0.00	261.66	103.59	365.26
10.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	2.14	4.27	2.66	226.40	235.47
11.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu Pondicherry	805.46	366.10	1,096.49	2,210.05	4,478.09
12.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.03	15.24	15.27
13.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andman & Nicobar Islands	146.79	459.56	405.42	258.79	1,270.56
14.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh	18.12	71.89	377.79	40.26	508.06
15.	New Delhi	Delhi, Part of UP and Haryana	2,104.72	3,303.61	4,297.61	5,293.07	14,999.00
16.	Panaji	Goa	131.22	79.85	81.40	347.57	640.04
17.	State Not Indicated*		2,928.37	4,507.60	7,429.22	874	23,764.93
		Grand Total	9,564.00	14,781.37	19,270.72	28,374.35	71,990.44

Note: (i) Includes 'equity capital components' only.

(ii) The Region-wise FDI inflows are classified as per RBI's Region-wise inflows, furnished by RBI, Mumbai.

(iii) *Represents inflows through acquisition of existing shares. For this, region-wise information is not provided by Reserve Bank of India.

Industrial Development Centres

1039. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Industrial Development Centres (IDCs) in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has received request from various States for setting up of Industrial Development Centres during 2004-05 and 2005-06 and thereafter;

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

(d) the details of IDC proposed to be set up during the current year, State-wise; and

(e) the details of funds provided by the Government to such Centres in various States during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Ministry of Small Scale Industries has approved 85 Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Centres under the IID Scheme. State-wise information of approved IID Centres is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (e) The IID Scheme is demand driven. Details of the proposals received and sanctioned since 2004-05, and also the amounts of Central Grant released are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I*State-wise Number of IID Centres*

State	District in which located	No. of Centres approved
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Kumool, Rangareddy, Nellore, Chittor, Krishna	5
Assam	Darrang, Nowgaon, Cachar, Sibsagar, Kamrup, Jorhat, Nalbari, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur	9
Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund, Kabirdham	2
Gujarat	Junagarh	1
Haryana	Sirsa, Yamunanagar, Sonapat	3
Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur	1
Jammu and Kashmir	Udhampur, Kathua	2
Karnataka	Belgaum, Bijapur, Kolar, Bagalkot	4
Kerala	Trivendrum, Kannur, Malappuram, Ernakulam, Kasargod, Trichur, Pathanamthitta, Wayanad	8
Maharashtra	Yeotmal, Satara	2
Madhya Pradesh	Satna, Mandsaur, Khargone, Katni, Sagar, Neemuch, Tikamgarh, Morena	8
Mizoram	Lunglei, Champhai	2
Nagaland	Kohima	1

1	2	3
Orissa	Khurda, Rayagada, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore	4
Punjab	Hoshiarpur, Mukatsar, Ludhiana	3
Rajasthan	Jodhpur, Nagaur, Tonk, Udaipur, Karauli, Pali, Baran, Bharatpur, Rajsamand, Alwar	10
Tamil Nadu	Madurai, Coimbatore, Thirumudivakkam, Kattur Avadi MGR dist., Thiruvellore, Trichirapalli, Salem	7
Tripura	North Tripura	1
Uttaranchal	Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar	3
Uttar Pradesh	Etah, Mathura, Unnao, Bhadohi, Baghpat, Barabanki, Ghaziabad, Chandauli	8
West Bengal	Tangra (Kolkata)	1
	Total	85

Statement*State-wise Number of IID Centers Approved Since 2004-05*

(Rs. in lakh)

State	District in which located	Central Grant sanctioned	Central Grant released
1	2	3	4
2004-05			
Assam	Nalbari	367.20	100.00
Chhattisgar	Kabirdham	87.72	43.86
Maharashtra	Satara	167.00	78.00
Rajasthan	Alwar	200.00	26.74
Tripura	North Tripura	365.04	0.00
Uttaranchal	Dehradun	400.00	100.00
	Haridwar	400.00	100.00
	Udhamsingh Nagar	40.00	100.00
2005-06			
Assam	Dhemaji	325.34	200.00
	Lakhimpur	321.61	100.00
Kerala	Pathanamthitta	186.02	27.60

1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	Kathua	400.00	200.00
Nagaland	Kohima	399.07	199.54
2006-07			
Mizoram	Champai	365.30	182.65
West Bengal	Tangra	80.57	30.00
Orissa	Balasore	174.61	0.00

**Peace talks with Insurgent/Fundamentalists/
Naxal Groups**

1040. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started peace talks with various insurgent/fundamentalist/naxal groups;

(b) if so, the name of the groups that have come forward to discuss the issue with Government, organisation-wise;

(c) whether the Government as well as ULFA has deviated from their earlier stand of talk without precondition;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to restart the process of ceasefire with such organisations;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the achievement of such peace talks with various organizations so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (h) At present, Government has entered into agreement for ceasefire/Suspension of Operations with National Socialist

Council of Nagaland (I/M), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), Dima Halam Daogah (DHD), United People's Democratic Solidarity (UPDS) and Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC).

During talks with the Peoples' Consultative Group set up by ULFA, the Government had agreed to favourably consider the request of ULFA for release of five ULFA detainees in consultation with the Government of Assam provided ULFA makes formal approach to Government of India/Government of Assam for holding direct talks, nominates the delegation for these talks, indicates the time frame and abjures violence in all forms including extortions, notices, etc. Efforts with Peoples' Consultative Group representatives for holding these talks were continued even after three rounds through mutual initiatives. Government had also declared unilateral suspension of operations by Army against ULFA from 13-8-2006 to 20-9-2006 with a view to create a conducive atmosphere for holding of peace talks. Since there was no direct response from ULFA and reports were received of regrouping, new raisings, violence and extortion by ULFA cadres, Counter Insurgency operations against ULFA have been resumed.

The Government is open to talks with any militant group provided they shun violence. However, Government is duty bound to protect the lives and property of its citizens.

As a result of the continuing ceasefire/Suspension of Operations with a number of militant outfits, the number of Security Forces personnel and civilians killed in the current year upto 31 October 2006, and the corresponding period in 2005.

[Translation]

Indian Export Trade

1041. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian trade export has declined rapidly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of quantity and value of major exported commodities during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any suggestion from various Export Promotion Councils to expedite export; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. Exports from India increased from US \$ 64 billion in 2003-04 to \$ 84 billion in 2004-05 and \$ 103 billion in 2005-06 recording an average annual rate of growth of around 25%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government is in constant touch with the Export Promotion Councils regarding problems faced by them in respect of export of specific commodities. Based on their suggestions appropriate measures are taken from time to time to fine tune export promotion and duty neutralisation schemes.

Export of Steel Wire

1042. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel (Iron) wire has been exported from India;

(b) if so, the quantity of steel wire exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether the Government provide export tax subsidy to the units exporting steel wire; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2005-2006, 42976 tonnes of stainless steel wire have been exported, value of which was Rs. 48.30 crores.

(c) and (d) As a policy, taxes and duties on goods exported are exempted/refunded to exporters. The Government has withdrawn tax benefit u/s 80HHC earlier available to the exporters. However, the exporters do not have to pay any taxes and duties on their export sales.

[English]

Competition with Multinational Companies

1043. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the stiff competition being faced by the Handloom industries from multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to protect the interest of handloom industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No, Sir. The Handloom industry is not facing competition from the multinational companies. Actually, the handloom sector is facing competition from the domestic powerloom and mill sector.

(b) In order to protect the interest of the handloom industry in the country, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been implementing the Handlooms (Reservation of Article for Production) Act, 1985, in addition to the following development and welfare schemes for handloom sector:

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana
- (ii) Integrated Handloom Training Project
- (iii) Handloom Export Scheme
- (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
- (v) Marketing Promotion Programme
- (vi) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

- (vii) Weavers Welfare Schemes like Thrift Fund Scheme, Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bima Bunkar Yojana.

Besides, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has also introduced some new Schemes/ Programmes, viz., Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, Handloom Mark, Opening up of 273 New Yarn Depots and Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for handloom sector.

Free Trade Agreement

1044. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to enter into free trade agreement with China;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to protect Indian industries;

(c) whether India's export to China as compared to the import from China is much less;

(d) if so, whether free trade agreement between them will be more beneficial to China as compared to India;

(e) whether Government's positive view would adversely affect the Indian industries especially electronics, grocery and textiles; and

(f) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of Indian industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a), (b) and (d) to (f) The two governments have appointed a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of, and the benefits that may derive from the/possible China-India Regional Trading Arrangement and also give its recommendations regarding its content. Representative of FICCI and CM have been included in the Joint Task Force to reflect the interests of Indian industries.

(c) Yes, Sir. During the year 2005-06 India's export to China was US \$ 6.72 billion and India's import from China was of US \$ 10.73 billion. (DGCIS Provisional figures).

[Translation]

Aid to Rajasthan State for SSA

1045. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided to the States for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals for assistance pending as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the outstanding proposals are likely to be sanctioned, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Annual Work Plan & Budgets of all States & UTs towards the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year 2006-07 had been approved by the Government of India by mid May 2006.

State-wise amounts released by Government of India towards its share, up to 16.11.2006, are given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise releases of GOI share to State/ UTs during 2006-07

Sl.No.	States/UTs	GOI releases during 2006-07 upto 16.11.2006 (Rupees in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43245.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4109.92
3.	Assam	36418.35
4.	Bihar	54972.39
5.	Chhattisgarh	30182.20
6.	Goa	424.12
7.	Gujarat	14806.97

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	20514.12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3223.12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8770.73
11.	Jharkhand	35015
12.	Karnataka	39901.98
13.	Kerala	4382.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	84379.68
15.	Maharashtra	31658.56
16.	Manipur	9.24
17.	Meghalaya	1794
18.	Mizoram	1713.94
19.	Nagaland	2315.2
20.	Orissa	25010.95
21.	Punjab	12879.92
22.	Rajasthan	72231.91
23.	Tamil Nadu	26329.65
24.	Tripura	1918.86
25.	Uttar Pradesh	206654.00
26.	Uttaranchal	13534.00
27.	West Bengal	44236.80
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	419.62
29.	Delhi	2930.24
30.	Lakshadweep	87.47
Total		824070.5

[English]

Futuristic Plans

1046. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has requested the States to prepare very forward looking futuristic plans for

providing security to mega cities to be financed jointly by the States and the Centre as reported in *Hindu* dated September 21, 2006.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States who have prepared such plans; and

(d) the manner in which such plans are likely to be financed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken an initiative in 2005-06 for upgrading the standards of metropolitan policing in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Kolkata as part of the ongoing Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme). During 2006-07, the respective State Governments have reflected components for Mega City Policing in their annual proposals for the MPF Scheme, which were considered by the Government. Assistance for these cities are released to the respective State Governments as per the terms of the MPF Scheme which carries 75% Central grant and 25% matching contribution from the States.

Guidelines for Sick Small Scale Industries

1047. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI issued comprehensive guidelines in 2002 on early detection of sickness in SSI and taking remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick Small Scale Industries (SSIs) units so identified are viable;

(b) whether a fresh set of guidelines have again been issued by the RBI in 2005, for revival of SSIs in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons and the difference between 2002 guidelines and 2005 guidelines;

(d) the number of SSI units in each State, State-wise;

(e) the number of SSIs units which are sick and on the brink of closure, State-wise;

(f) the details of SSIs that have been provided, with financial assistance, debt restructuring, fresh loans, etc., for rehabilitation State-wise, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the 2002 guidelines and the units that got benefits under 2005 guidelines so far;

(g) the number of small scale industries established so far and closed in the country during the last one year and till date, particularly in West Bengal and North Eastern States, State-wise, small scale industry-wise;

(h) the reasons for closing down of small scale industries;

(i) whether some small scale units have been closed due to relaxation in import from foreign countries, specially from China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, etc.; and

(j) if so, the details of measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to revive them by removing the difficulties being faced by SSIs?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The 2002 guidelines on rehabilitation of sick small scale industries (SSIs) include, *inter alia*, a change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on the viability of sick units and concessional finance. The 2005 guidelines are on debt restructuring mechanism for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and include viability criteria, prudential norms for restructured accounts, provision of additional finance and time frame for working out the restructuring package and its implementation.

(d) The State-wise estimated number of SSI units (both registered and unregistered) at the end of March 2006, based on the Third All India Census of the SSIs with reference year 2001-02, is enclosed as Statement-I

(e) and (f) As per the latest data compiled by RBI from the scheduled commercial banks, the State-wise number of sick SSI units and viable sick SSI units put under nursing (as per 2002 guidelines) at the end of March 2005 is enclosed as Statement-II. Under debt restructuring mechanism (as per 2005 guidelines), 594 SMEs have been covered till 31 March 2006.

(g) The State-wise estimated number of SSI units is enclosed at Annexure-I. Information on SSIs closed due

to sickness is not maintained centrally. According to the Third All-India Census of the SSIs, 8,87,427 registered units were found closed out of the total of 22,62,401 units registered upto 31 March, 2001. The State-wise distribution of these closed units is given in Statement-III.

(h) Some of the main reasons identified for closure of the SSI units include fall in demand for the products of SSI units, use of outdated technology, difficulty in availability of working capital and raw materials, undue delays in receiving payments, constraints in electricity supply and other infrastructure and management inadequacies.

(i) and (j) In the wake of trade liberalization, the Government has put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include special focus on technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, more timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other information technology (IT) applications, marketing and timely information dissemination to help the SSIs face the emerging challenges of liberalization. Besides, protection is available in the form of raising customs duties up to the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports, etc. Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of MSMEs and enhancement of their competitiveness.

The Act has come into effect from 2 October, 2006.

Statement I

State-wise estimated number of SSI units at the end of March 2006

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Estimated number of SSI units (as at the end of March 2006)
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	85855
2.	Himachal Pradesh	89037
3.	Punjab	438448
4.	Chandigarh	25678

1	2	3
5.	Uttaranchal	125218
6.	Haryana	259638
7.	Delhi	206599
8.	Rajasthan	517906
9.	Uttar Pradesh	2010772
10.	Bihar	608537
11.	Sikkim	436
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	1490
13.	Nagaland	17221
14.	Manipur	55972
15.	Mizoram	13149
16.	Tripura	28410
17.	Meghalaya	26637
18.	Assam	228024
19.	West Bengal	900420
20.	Jharkhand	155437
21.	Orissa	453591
22.	Chhattisgarh	308143
23.	Madhya Pradesh	930204
24.	Gujarat	624300
25.	Daman and Diu	2331
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1537
27.	Maharashtra	942574
28.	Andhra Pradesh	1021519
29.	Karnataka	773630
30.	Goa	8403
31.	Lakshadweep	630
32.	Kerala	524824
33.	Tamil Nadu	940531

1	2	3
34.	Pondicherry	10452
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	3809
All-India		12341661

Statement II

State-wise number of sick SSI units and viable sick SSI units put under nursing at the end of March 2005

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of sick SSI units (as at the end of March, 2005)	Viable sick SSI units put under nursing (as at the end of March, 2005)
1	2	3	4
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	2630	18
2.	Himachal Pradesh	332	6
3.	Punjab	2506	82
4.	Chandigarh	770	4
5.	Uttaranchal	353	—
6.	Haryana	1000	7
7.	Delhi	1488	13
8.	Rajasthan	2241	1
9.	Uttar Pradesh	12085	417
10.	Bihar	7596	104
11.	Sikkim	13	—
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	—
13.	Nagaland	154	1
14.	Manipur	786	—
15.	Mizoram	76	—
16.	Tripura	1734	—
17.	Meghalaya	104	1

1	2	3	4
18.	Assam	2954	4
19.	West Bengal	38612	912
20.	Jharkhand	3419	3
21.	Orissa	7384	8
22.	Chhattisgarh	3058	20
23.	Madhya Pradesh	7640	12
24.	Gujarat	3461	38
25.	Daman and Diu	42	—
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	48	—
27.	Maharashtra	6939	47
28.	Andhra Pradesh	5508	53
29.	Karnataka	4093	23
30.	Goa	130	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—
32.	Kerala	10873	230
33.	Tamil Nadu	9938	76
34.	Pondicherry	70	—
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—
All-India		138041	2080

Statement III

State-wise distribution of closed SSI units as per Third All-India Census of registered SSIs (2001-02)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Total number of closed units
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	22709
2.	Himachal Pradesh	6509
3.	Punjab	82731
4.	Chandigarh	1405

1	2	3
5.	Uttaranchal	12100
6.	Haryana	27546
7.	Delhi	8357
8.	Rajasthan	36847
9.	Uttar Pradesh	122282
10.	Bihar	20525
11.	Sikkim	155
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	248
13.	Nagaland	129
14.	Manipur	1226
15.	Mizoram	1313
16.	Tripura	1077
17.	Meghalaya	1908
18.	Assam	10338
19.	West Bengal	26080
20.	Jharkhand	13822
21.	Orissa	9708
22.	Chhattisgarh	27830
23.	Madhya Pradesh	65649
24.	Gujarat	39159
25.	Daman and Diu	454
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	423
27.	Maharashtra	54243
28.	Andhra Pradesh	38582
29.	Karnataka	46611
30.	Goa	2327
31.	Lakshadweep	16
32.	Kerala	74832
33.	Tamil Nadu	127185
34.	Pondicherry	2586
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	515
All-India		887427

GSI Survey

1048. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in which Geological Survey of India has conducted survey during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount spent by GSI on such survey conducted in various States; and

(c) the details of minerals reserved areas discovered by GSI in various States mineral-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted surveys and regional exploration for minerals in last three years in the states of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

Mineral investigations were also carried out in Tripura during the years 2003-04, 2004-05.

(b) Total amount spent by GSI on surveys and regional exploration for minerals (including coal) in last three years is Rs. 10674.57 lakhs.

(c) Total resources for different minerals as estimated by GSI during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 in various states are—Coal: 11995 m. tonnes; Lignite: 207 m. tonnes; Gold Ore 44.89 m. tonnes; Base Metals: 6.33 m. tonnes; Manganese Ore: 7.68 m. tonnes; Iron Ore: 24.42 m. tonnes; Limestone: 1589.28 m. tonnes; and Clay: 5.83 m. tonnes.

WTO

1049. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether developed countries and others have been pressing India to offer concessions in regard to agriculture issues before reviving trade talks under the aegis of the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken so far by the developed countries in response to developing countries demand to withdraw the disproportionate support given by developed nationals in their agriculturists to bring the farmers in developing countries on an equal footing with their counterparts in developed countries under the WTO regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The suspension of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) across all areas of the Doha Work Programme in July 2006 was to enable the serious reflection by Members and time-out to review the situation, examine available options and review positions, particularly in respect of the divergences in agricultural domestic support and market access issues.

Since then, informal consultations have been held among Members of the WTO with a view to gauging the flexibilities in the previously held positions of all Members, including the G-20 and G-33 alliances of which India is a Member. The G-20 Ministerial Meeting held at Rio de Janeiro in September 2006, along with country-coordinators of the G-33, the African-Caribbean-Pacific countries, the Least Developed Countries, the African Group, the Small Vulnerable Economies, the Cotton-4, and NAMA-11, emphasized that the livelihood and standards of living of the poor farmers in developing countries are seriously jeopardized by the subsidies and market access barriers prevailing in international agricultural trade, and that any Round that would be faithful to its development dimension must urgently redress this situation. This position has been reiterated since then by India and others. On 16 November 2006 it has been agreed to resume work in all the negotiating groups across all areas of the Doha Work Programme.

(c) Through the WTO General Council Decision of August, 2004, certain principles and elements to guide further negotiations towards establishing modalities, *inter alia*, in agriculture were agreed upon by all WTO Members, including the developed countries. These included harmonization of overall trade-distorting domestic support and the Amber Box support, and agreement on a ceiling on the payments made under the Blue Box provisions of five per cent of the agricultural production value in a historic base period. A Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference of

the WTO held at Hong Kong in December 2005, whose key outcomes included a decision to eliminate export subsidies by 2013, with the substantial part in the first half of the implementation period, and to eliminate cotton export subsidies by developed countries by 2006. On trade-distorting domestic support, the three heaviest subsidizes would attract higher linear cuts, and trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to cotton have to be reduced more ambitiously and over a shorter period of time.

Tobacco Development Board

1050. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCV tobacco in the country is being produced over and above the crop size fixed by the Tobacco Board during 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up Tobacco Development Board to help the tobacco growers in the country and fix minimum guaranteed price of tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of the expert committee likely to be constituted for the tobacco growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The crop size for Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco fixed for 2006-07 crop season is 242.4 million kgs inclusive of 10% quantity as the nature's bounty. Plantations in Andhra Pradesh are in progress and it is not possible to assess the estimated crop. The auctions are in progress in Karnataka.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for setting up of a Tobacco Development Board under consideration of the Government. The minimum guaranteed price (MGP) is an average price assured by the trade to the farmers and is purely voluntary. The trade has stopped announcing the MGP. The concept has lost its relevance as in spite of increase in production growers are getting much higher prices.

Infiltration of Bangladeshi Nationals

1051. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of Bangladeshi migrants illegally living in the country;

(b) whether the Government has failed to check influx of Bangladeshis due to geographical complexities at Indo Bangladesh border;

(c) if so, the strategy laid down to overcome such complexities including the number of infiltration attempts by Bangladeshi's foiled by the PMF guarding Bangladesh border;

(d) whether these migrants have been found possessing ration card, passport, voter card, PAN card, smart cards driving licence, etc. and involved in criminal activities;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith measures taken by the Government in this regard to curb this practice;

(f) whether the Government proposes to install Israeli Reconnaissance System-LORROS to check intrusion along international border; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the said system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) According to available reports, Bangladeshi nationals have been using porous Indo-Bangladesh border to enter into India illegally. It is difficult to make a realistic estimate about the number of such illegal Bangladeshi immigrants because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

However, the Government has taken various measures to check illegal infiltration. These include round the clock surveillance of the borders by carrying out patrolling; upgradation of intelligence network and co-ordination with other intelligence agencies; erection of border fencing; riverine patrolling; and introduction of modern surveillance equipments including night vision devices. Besides, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered under section 3 (2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals illegally staying in India. The matter has also been taken up diplomatically with the Government of Bangladesh at various levels. Administrative instructions are issued from time to time requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations to detect and deport illegal Bangladeshi migrants staying in the country.

(d) and (e) There are reports that some of the illegal Bangladeshi migrants have managed to obtain ration cards, passports and voter identity cards, etc. The State Governments/UT Administrations are competent to deal with such cases, including cases of crime, as and when detected, in accordance with the provisions of law.

(f) and (g) The Government has approved the procurement of high-tech electronic surveillance equipments including Long Range Reconnaissance and Observation System (LORROS) for effective surveillance.

Food under Mid Day Meal Scheme

1052. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of supply of substandard/unhygienic food to children have been reported in the country despite mismanagement of Mid-Day Meal Scheme seriously views by Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details along with the number of cases of supply of substandard/unhygienic food notice of the Government;

(c) the details of funds allocated to various states under the scheme during each of the last three years;

(d) the name of the states who have not followed the scheme as per the guidelines of the Union Government;

(e) the action taken by the Government against such states; and

(f) the steps taken for strict compliance of Central guidelines for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected.

(c) During 2003-04, the scheme permitted assistance for supply of free foodgrains to States. Therefore, no funds were released. From Sept, 2004, the scheme was revised under which Central assistance was released to States to meet cooking cost. Funds released during 2004-05 and 2005-06 for this component is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) As per available information, all States are implementing the programme as per the Guidelines of the scheme.

Statement

State-wise Central Assistance released towards Cooking Cost during 2004-05 & 2005-06

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	2004-05 Funds released by Central Govt.	2005-06 Funds released by Central Govt.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7,600.98	12441.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	276.96	396.24
3.	Assam	2,310.62	5462.37

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	7,081.92	19719.27* (16030.20+3689.07)
5.	Chhattiagarh	3,974.28	5204.57
6.	Goa	60.42	119.34
7.	Gujarat	4,304.29	7157.70
8.	Haryana	2,174.32	3464.338
9.	Himachal Pradesh	344.96	1429.61
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	433.46 * (246.85+186.61)	1282.23
11.	Jharkhand	2,845.00 * (1620.21+1224.79)	7180.10
12.	Karnataka	6,589.93	10704.99
13.	Kerala	2,453.00	2890.17
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13,258.92	18613.56
15.	Maharashtra	13,995.44	12957.16 * (7919.95 + 5037.21)
16.	Manipur	218.98	501.43
17.	Meghalaya	543.89	687.78
18.	Mizoram	112.34 * (63.97+48.37)	104.05
19.	Nagaland	246.42	397.66
20.	Orissa	7,356.12	4794.81 * (1917.52+2877.29)
21.	Punjab	1,309.86* (745.96+563.90)	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	13,151.22	11479.63
23.	Sikkim	113.50* (64.64+48.86)	211.52
24.	Tamil Nadu	5,819.30	8964.30
25.	Tripura	701.66	1063.91
26.	Uttaranchal	1,233.64	1553.03
27.	Uttar Pradesh	17,067.44	35637.03* (29553.00+6084.00)
28.	West Bengal	12,280.00* (6993.37+5286.63)	22756.93
Total		128858.87	197175.60

*Amount shown includes balance released in the subsequent year.

[Translation]

Textile Design Exhibition

1053. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any textile design exhibition was held in States including Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the export orders received through such exhibitions, country-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to hold more such exhibitions in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) During the last three years, exhibitions titled "Tantvi" were organised, highlighting Indian Handlooms, at Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Guwahati, Cannanore, Coimbatore, Bhubneshwar, Jaipur and Meerut.

(c) No, Sir. In these exhibitions generally the crafts persons showcase their creations and sell their products direct to consumers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government is organizing "Tantavi" during 2006-07 at Imphal (Manipur) Kohima (Nagaland), Chirala (Andhra Pradesh), Shantiniketan (West Bengal) and Sambhalpur (Orissa).

Trade with Canada

1054. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve its trade ties with the Government of Canada;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any negotiations have been held between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Strengthening of trade relations with Canada is a continuous and ongoing process. Efforts are regularly made to encourage investments, joint ventures and collaborations, expand and diversify trade through various trade promotion measures such as market research, information dissemination, buyer-seller meets, participation in important trade fairs.

(c) India-Canada Trade Policy Consultations were held in May, 2006. Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement talks were held in New Delhi and Ottawa in January, 2006. The Premier of Quebec led a delegation of business representatives and held discussion with Commerce & Industry Minister. In February, 2006 the Premier of Manitoba province led a 15-member business delegation and visited New Delhi.

(d) The bilateral trade between India and Canada increased from US \$ 1642.53 million in 2004-05 to US\$ 1941.44 million in 2005-06, thereby registering a growth of 18.20%.

[English]

KVIC Assistance to Self Help Groups

1055. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Self Help Groups (SHGs) are receiving assistance from Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these SHGs are facing difficulties in the implementation of the responsibilities assigned to them;

(d) if so, whether the Government has assessed the nature of difficulties being faced by these SHGs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry of

Agro & Rural Industries has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), throughout the country, to assist eligible applicants in setting up labour-intensive industries in the rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000 and thus generate additional employment. Under this programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries, by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Under REGP, self-help groups (SHGs) have been assisted, with effect from 01 April 2002, in setting up village industries by providing margin money assistance through the KVIC and loans through public sector commercial banks, etc. 136 projects have been sanctioned to SHGs under the REGP till September 2006. KVIC also provides marketing support to such SHGs by way of assistance to participate in exhibitions and in the sale of their products through outlets set up in the KVIC fold. In addition, KVIC provides training through its network of training centres to such SHGs, which are established under other programmes of the State and Central Governments.

(c) No, Sir

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Facility to Family of Martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh

1056. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities being provided to the family members of martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar in Punjab; and

(b) the total number of families getting such facility as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):
(a) The 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980' provides for grant of pension to living freedom fighters and eligible dependents of deceased freedom fighters and martyrs. A statement indicating the facilities provided to freedom fighters is annexed.

No additional facilities have been provided for family members of martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh.

(b) No statistics relating to the number of families of martyrs who are getting pension are maintained.

Statement

Facilities to Freedom Fighters

Apart from pension, freedom fighters are also provided the following facilities by the Government of India:

- (i) Free railway pass (1st Class/2nd AC Sleeper) for freedom fighter and widow, along with a companion, for life;
- (ii) Free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and in hospitals run by PSUs under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. C.G.H.S facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents;
- (iii) Telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half the rental;
- (iv) General Pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to freedom fighters in Delhi;
- (v) Widow/widower of the freedom fighter is also permitted to retain the accommodation for a period of six months after the death of the freedom fighter; and
- (vi) Accommodation in the Freedom Fighters' Home set up at New Delhi for freedom fighters who have no one to look after them.

In addition to the above facilities, ex-Andaman freedom fighters are also entitled to the following facilities:

- (a) Free voyage facility for freedom fighter and widow, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion; and
- (b) Free air travel facility for freedom fighter, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion.

All major facilities provided to freedom fighters are also extended to their widows/widowers.

World Trade Liberalization Talks

1057. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the developing and developed countries proposes to continue the World Trade Organisation's Doha round on agriculture with the two adamant blocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the developed countries has agreed to provide a special dispensation for sensitive and special products of developing countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any move from the developed countries to reverse or renegotiate the architecture of negotiation; and

(f) if so, the response of the Government of India and other developing countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The suspension of negotiations under the Doha Work Programme in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in July 2006 was to enable the serious reflection by Members and time-out to review the situation, examine available options and review positions, particularly in respect of the divergences in agricultural domestic support and market access issues. On 16 November, 2006 it has been agreed by all WTO Members to resume work in all the negotiating groups across all areas of the Doha Work Programme, including agriculture.

(c) and (d) Through the General Council Decision of August 2004 certain principles and elements to guide the further negotiations towards establishing modalities, *inter alia*, in agriculture were agreed by all WTO Members, including the developed countries. At the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the WTO held at Hong Kong, a Declaration was adopted at its conclusion, whose key outcomes have included a decision to enable developing countries to self-designation of an appropriate number of Special Products guided by indicators based on the three fundamental criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural

development needs. These Special Products will be eligible for more flexible treatment.

In respect of sensitive products, it was agreed that developed and developing Members may designate an appropriate number, to be negotiated, of tariff lines to be treated as sensitive, and that substantial improvement in market access will be achieved through combinations of tariff quota commitments and tariff reductions applying to each sensitive product.

(e) and (f) In order to break the impasse in the negotiations, various Members are seeking steeper commitments to substantially and effectively reduce the trade-distorting support provided by the main subsidizing developed countries. Various other Members are seeking improvements in the offers on additional market access, including from developing countries.

The G-20 Ministerial Meeting held at Rio de Janeiro in September 2006, along with country-coordinators of the G-33, the African-Caribbean-Pacific countries, 'the Least Developed Countries, the African Group, the Small Vulnerable Economies, the Cotton-4, and NAMA-11, emphasized that the livelihood and standards of living of the poor farmers in developing countries are seriously jeopardized by the subsidies and market access barriers prevailing in international agricultural trade, and that any Round that would be faithful to its development dimension must urgently redress this situation. This position has been reiterated since then by India and others. Government has elaborated that the progress made so far in the negotiations must be carried forward.

Children Dropout from School

1058. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dropout ratio of children is high in the frontier State of Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof as compared to previous year;

(c) whether the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) authorities have set an any ambitious target of bringing more than 50,000 children including 3,477 physically challenged back to schools through a special drive have been set; and

(d) if so, steps Government propose to take to achieve this ambitious goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANESWARI): (a) and (b) In the year 2003-04, the dropout rates in Meghalaya at the primary stage (Classes-I-V) and elementary stage (Classes I- VIII) were 53.4% and 71.1% respectively as against 56.5% and 71.7% in the respective stages during 2002-03. Several socio-economic factors are responsible for this improvement.

(c) and (d) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Meghalaya has outlined a strategy for 2006-07 of bringing 59,142 out-of-school children into schools by conducting Back to School Camps. The State has identified 9306 children with special needs and has enrolled 5238 such children in schools. In addition, 168 severally disabled children are being provided home-based education.

Coaching Centres for ST's

1059. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pre-examination coaching centres for competitive examinations being run in Kerala for SC/ST students, location-wise;

(b) the total number of students benefited by these coaching centres during last three years in the state, district-wise;

(c) the funds allocated to the state under this scheme during each of the last three years; and

(d) the system being practiced to monitor the performance of these coaching centres?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) There are four institutions functioning under the control of Scheduled Caste Development Department, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, under the scheme of Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including SCs, OBCs & Minorities, as under:

- (i) Institute for Civil Services Examination Training Society, Thiruvananthapuram;
- (ii) Pre-Examination Training Centre, Thiruvananthapuram;
- (iii) Pre-Examination Training Centre, Ernakulam; and
- (iv) Pre-Examination Training Centre, Kozhikode.

So far as Scheduled Tribes are concerned, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has funded the SC/ST Development Department, Thiruvananthapuram, Government of Kerala for conducting a coaching course for the Civil Services UPSC (Preliminary Examination) for ST candidates during 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Funds released to the Government of Kerala during 2003-04 was Rs. 20.54 lakhs. 1010 SC students have been benefited by these coaching centres during 2003-04. There was no release of grants-in-aid during the year 2004-05 & 2005-06 to Government of Kerala under the scheme. This is a demand driven-scheme. Funds are released only against proposal received. There was no State-wise fund allocation under the scheme of Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including SCs, OBCs & Minorities during the last 3 years.

So far as STs are concerned, there was no state-wise allocation of funds under the Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs till 2003-04. During 2004-05 and 2005-06, Rs. 2.00 lakhs and Rs. 0.60 lakh respectively were allocated to the State Government of Kerala. There was no release during 2003-04 and 2004-05 in respect of Kerala. An amount of Rs. 0.48 lakhs was released during 2005-06 to Government of Kerala for benefiting 9 ST students.

(d) There is a provision of Screening Committee under the scheme for monitoring of the performance of these coaching centers under the scheme of Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including SCs, OBCs & Minorities administered by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

So far as Ministry of Tribal Affairs is concerned, the performance of each institution/organization is reviewed by a Selection Committee every year as prescribed under the scheme of Coaching and Allied for STs. Since 2005-06, information related to success rate of the students coached is also insisted upon from the institutions.

[Translation]

Trade with Neighbouring Countries

1060. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to increase trade with neighbouring countries by road through North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of additional check posts proposed to be set up on border to facilitate the trade;

(c) the amount likely to be spent by the Government to implement this scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assessment of DPEP

1061. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP);

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether this programme is still continuing in all the States of the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to take steps to fulfilling the increasing demand for primary education in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The D.P.E.P. is reviewed every six months by the Government of India and external funding agencies through a Joint Review Mission. The review in May, 2006 brought out that the programme has resulted in significant increase in enrolment, improvement in learning levels and increased community involvement in Orissa, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

(c) to (f) The programme presently covers 8 districts in Orissa and 9 districts in Rajasthan, only. All districts in the country are covered under the centrally sponsored scheme of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

[English]

Linking of Schools with SSA

1062. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schools upto higher secondary level are proposed to be linked with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

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

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the suggestions given by them, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) To cope with the likely surge in demand in enrolment at secondary level as a result of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, this Ministry has prepared a concept note of a scheme to universalize access to an improvement of quality of secondary education. The State Governments have been requested to constitute a high level task force to work out comprehensive policies, plans and programmes for their respective States. Concrete suggestions have not been received from the State Governments.

[Translation]

Converting Industrial Houses in to SEZs

1063. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some industrial houses have demanded the Government to include additional industrial activities under the industrial institutions established by them and convert them into Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the names of the industrial houses which have made the said demand till now; and

(d) the details of the demands on which a decision has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MTNISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) A request was received for conversion of Unnao Industrial area in Uttar Pradesh to Special Economic Zone. However, since the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 require the land to be vacant at the time of application for establishment of SEZ and as such the request for conversion was not accepted.

[English]

UNESCO's Report on Education of Children

1064. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report has indicated lacunae in the amount allocated for education for all scheme and also gives very poor grades to India when it comes to educating its children as reported in the 'Times of India' dated October 29, 2006 and 'Dainik Jagran' dated November 10, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has studied the said report;

(d) if so, the finding thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the report submitted by UNESCO is in complete contrast to regularly monitored and updated figures of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which show that the dropout rate is coming down and more and more girls are going to school; and

(f) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) The UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report - 2007 is not India specific. However, references have been made to India throughout the Report. As per the report India ranks 99th in the list with a composite Education for All Development Index (EDI) of 0.789. Referring to a Nationwide Sample Survey on out of school children by the Social and Rural Research Institute in 2005, the report says that the number of out of school children has halved from 25 million in 2002 to 13.5 million in 2005. The nationwide sample survey was commissioned by the Government of India under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme.

In the matter of teacher absenteeism, the Report includes India in a group of six developing countries. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has addressed this issue by strengthening the process by decentralized management and supervision of schools through Village Education Committees and Panchayati Raj Institutions, so as to ensure better local accountability of schools and teachers to the Community.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan including National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, there is a clear targeting for education of girls especially those of disadvantaged communities like SC, ST, OBC and Minority groups; and in specific pockets of the country where female literacy is low.

Although the Report is, titled "The 2007 Report", the data used in the present issue is from 2004. In case of India, the 2001 population census data has been used and therefore does not accurately reflect the present situation

Setting up of Centres of Global Excellence

1065. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up a high level expert committee to consider proposals of 'Centre of Global Excellence'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the impact of such centers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Custom Duty Centres

1066. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve regional trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent in this regard; and

(d) the number of custom-duty centres functioning on land routes at the borders of the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) It is the endeavour of the Government to improve regional trade. To improve cross border regional trade in South Asia, the Government had concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Srilanka in December 1998 which is in operation since March 2000. South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) was concluded on 6th January, 2004 and is in operation since 1st January, 2006. India also has free trade arrangement with Bhutan & Nepal. We are also investing in upgradation of the infrastructure at the Land Customs Station.

(d) There are 75 functioning Land Customs Station in the country at present.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODALYA GAVIT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the special Order (Hindi and English versions) authorizing Government

of Goa for additional expenses under 'Tour Expenses' of Schedule-II to the Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1987 under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5040/2006)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 34 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5041/2006)

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Citizenship Act, 1955:

(i) G.S.R. 695(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2006, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 225 (E) dated the 11th April, 2005.

(ii) G.S.R. 698(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2006, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 484 (E) dated the 20th July, 2005.

(iii) G.S.R. 514(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2006, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 702(E) dated the 2nd December, 2005.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5042/2006)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 43 of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Act, 1996:
- (i) Notification No. 29 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July 2004 containing No Objection to the framing of the three Ordinances mentioned therein.
- (ii) Notification No. 25 published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2002 making Amendments and Additions to the Statute 39 of the Statutes of Maulana Azad National Urdu University Act, 1996.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5043/2006)
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004:
- (i) The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Procedure for Appeal) Rules 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 553 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2006.
- (ii) The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Annual Statement and Accounts) Amendment Rules 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 554 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2006.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5044/2006)
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal), Agra, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal), Agra, 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—5045/2006)
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, Agra, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, Agra, for the year 2004-2005.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5046/2006)
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5047/2006)
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): I beg to lay on Table:
- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) section 77 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005:
- (i) The Disaster Management National Executive Committee (Procedures and Allowances) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 597 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2006.
- (ii) The Disaster Management (Term of Office and Conditions of Service of Members of the National Authority and Payment of Allowances to Members of Advisory Committee) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 598 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2006.

(iii) The Disaster Management (National Institute of Disaster Management) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 680 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2006.

(iv) The National Institute of Disaster Management Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 681 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2006.

(v) The Disaster Management (Annual Report of National Authority) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 682 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5048/2006)

(2) A copy of the Disaster Management (Removal of Difficulties) Orders, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1619 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2006, under sub-section (2) of section 79 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5049/2006)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries, Kanpur, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries, Kanpur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5050/2006)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, 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 Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5051/2006)

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5052/2006)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5053/2006)

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 7 - Shri Ashwani Kumar. It is very unfortunate that he is not present here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 470 (E) in Gazette

of India dated the 10th August, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 55 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, together with Explanatory Notes, statement of objects and reasons.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5057/2006)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ashwani Kumar, you have to express your regrets.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): Sir, I express my regrets.

I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Indian Boiler (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 201 in Gazette of India dated 12th August, 2006 under sub-section (2) of section 28 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5054/2006)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2005-2006

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5055/2006)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5056/2006)

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 2006."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 2006."

12.03 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Business transacted during the last week

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Out of the 60 Starred Questions admitted, only three could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 669 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

During the period, as many as 21 matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour and before the adjournment of the House for the day. Also, 20 matters were raised under Rule 377 during the period.

As regards the Legislative Business, the House discussed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006 for about 1 hour and 06 minutes. However, the discussion was not concluded.

As regards the Private Members' Business, 8 Bills were introduced. The Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill, 2004 seeking to provide for abolition of capital punishment

in the country moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan on 14th August, 2006 was also taken up for further discussion for about 2 hours and 22 minutes. The Bill was withdrawn by the leave of the House.

The House also took up for discussion the Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005 seeking to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith moved by Shri Hannan Mollah. However, the discussion was not concluded.

During this period, 3 Action Taken Reports and 9 Reports on Bills were presented

During the three days last week that we had, we lost 5 hours and 44 minutes due to interruptions and adjournments.

The House sat late and worked extra for 55 minutes for raising matters of urgent public importance after the normal business of the House was over.

I convey my thanks to the hon. Members for their cooperation with the hope that we should not lose in future any time, valuable time of this House in matters of disruptions and forced adjournments.

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-second Report

[English]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): I beg to present the Twenty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 'The Seeds Bill, 2004'.

12.05½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Twelfth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASVAN (Araria): I beg to lay Twelfth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2006-2007)

regarding 'Working Directorate General of Hydrocarbons—'A Review'.

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Forty-first to Forty-third Reports

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:

- (1) Forty-first Report on the Introduction of New Income Tax Return Forms.
- (2) Forty-second Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-third Report on the subject "Widening of Tax Base and Evasion of Tax".
- (3) Forty-third Report on Efficacy of Reform Process in the Capital Market—Recent IPO Scam.

12.06½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the following Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:

- (1) 24th Report on 'Land Management.
- (2) 25th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their 13th Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Procurement of Wagons.'

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Seventeenth Report

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta—North East): I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of

the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2006-2007) on the subject 'Central Public Works Department'.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, May I respectfully submit something?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, you have kindly admitted a number of 'Zero Hour' submissions.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no hour called 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Anyway, that is the convention. There is no dictionary of legislative vocabulary. But that is how we speak. Since we have enough time, I request you to allow some 'Zero Hour' submissions now.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow, but not before the Calling Attention.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You will allow at the end of the day!

MR. SPEAKER: If necessary, I will allow after the luncheon recess.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: After the Lunch Break!

MR. SPEAKER: It may not be necessary. The Calling Attention may be completed even earlier.

12.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (1) Situation arising out of a large number of cases pending in various courts of the country for a long time and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Law and Justice to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of a large number of cases pending in various courts of the country for a long

time and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

*THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, the Government is aware of the pendency of cases in the various courts in the country and its increasing trend. The matter of finding remedial measures to reduce the pendency of cases has been discussed with the judiciary and the State Governments in different Conferences of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justice of the High Courts, from time to time. The matter has also been looked into by the Law Commission and Committees constituted for this purpose. Though the speed of disposal of a case in the courts is primarily a judicial function, Government has taken a number of steps to facilitate reduction of pendency and backlog of cases in the courts. Important steps taken by the Government in this regard are:

- (1) With a view to liquidating cases pending for long in the Sessions Courts, Government introduced a scheme of Fast Track Courts which has been extended upto 31.3.2010. These courts have disposed of 10.42 lakh cases out of 18.21 lakh cases transferred to them.
- (2) Government reviews the strength of judges (in the High Courts) triennially and ensures prompt filling up of vacancies so that administration of justice does not suffer from inadequate number of judges.
- (3) In respect of filling up of vacancies in the Subordinate Courts, a matter falling within the domain of the State Governments, the hon. Supreme Court has given directions to the States in the *Malik Mazhar Sultan* case. Government has reminded the State Governments in this regard.
- (4) Measures like encouraging alternative modes of disposal and setting up of special tribunals, etc. have been taken so that congestion in the courts is reduced.
- (5) Government provides infrastructural support for construction of court buildings and residential accommodation for judicial officers which go a long way in justice administration including criminal justice administration.

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

- (6) Government has initiated a scheme for application of Information and Communication Technology in the courts that would facilitate faster justice delivery including faster trials in criminal cases.

In addition, Government has, with a view to ensuring speedy disposal of cases, made appropriate changes in the Code of Criminal Procedure through Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005. Separately, the Government has introduced the concept of 'plea bargaining' in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Except that, there is no reference about the pending cases.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I will give the details.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, according to the information available, as on 30th June 2005, there are 27,87,979 Civil cases and 6,36,539 Criminal cases pending in various High Courts in the country. The number of pending Civil and Criminal cases in various Subordinate courts are running in crores, that is, nearly about 2.5 crore.

But, after establishment of Fast Track Courts, there is a very good disposal of cases throughout the country as the hon. Minister has referred to in his reply. But unfortunately, the vacancies in the Fast Track Courts are also not filled up timely. For example, the disposal of motor accident cases takes nearly four to six years, but I am given to understand that these cases are to be disposed of within six months. This type of delay causes great inconvenience to the victims and kins of victims in the accidents.

There is a rule that criminal cases should also be disposed of within six months from the date of charge-sheet, but in reality, this is running in years and it is not done so far. I would like to mention the famous proverb here: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Sir, in *toto*, these delays are caused, among other reasons, mainly due to shortage of judges in various courts. According to my knowledge, in Europe, the ratio of judges is according to the population. Whereas in India, the ratio of judges with the population of India is very low, like one judge for lakhs of people whereas in Europe, one judge for some thousands of people.

The Statesman, published on 14th February 2006, states: "Empty Benches" — Judiciary needs full financial autonomy'. The shortage of judges in law courts at all levels is the main cause for delay in disposal of cases and the huge arrears in proportion to its population, India has the lowest number of judges among the major democracies of the world. In its report of 1987 on Manpower planning, the Law Commission placed the judge population ratio at 10.05 judges per million people as against 50.09 in the United Kingdom, 57.07 in Australia, 75.02 in Canada and 107 in the United States. Against the requirement, in India in the lower courts, of 75,000 judicial officers, the sanctioned strength of judges remains just 13,000. Out of this, 1,871 courts are vacant and only 12,780 incumbents are working across the country."

This causes delay in disposing of cases in various courts which creates lots of inconvenience like expenditure, time, etc. to the people and the people are suffering like anything with this delay in disposal of cases. If the vacancies of judges are filled in time, I think, there will be no delay in disposing of cases in various courts.

Sir, the Government should come forward seriously to see that these judiciary vacancies are filled in various courts in the country on war-footing basis. I also request the Union Government to create more number of posts of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts in the country and I also demand that *ad hoc* judges should also be appointed especially in Supreme Court for speedy disposal of cases.

Keeping in view of the facts above, I would like to know from the Minister, whether the Union Government has taken any serious view on this matter. If so, what are the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to fill up the vacancies of judges in various Courts in the country immediately? By what time these vacancies are likely to be filled up? Whether the Government is considering to create more posts of judges in various Courts as per the population like in Europe? If so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Law Minister has apprised the House in his statement, about the number of cases pending in different courts since it was categorically asked

to state the action being taken regarding the cases currently pending in the courts of India. The figures have been submitted before you and according to these there are 35.5 lakh cases pending in 21 High Courts and 2.5 crore cases are pending in the Subordinate Courts while 32,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court.

This statement does not reflect the severity of the problem since the number of pending cases is quite high. The manner in which the cases are being disposed of, it will take around 360 or 400 years to clear the backlog and in the meanwhile more cases will be registered. Satisfaction is being expressed in this regard that fast track courts and other courts are being set up to clear the backlog. This is alright. The Hon. Minister has just stated about the shortage of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. Overall there are 116 vacancies in High Court and as per sanctioned strength, presently, there are four vacancies in the Supreme Court. Firstly, we need to increase sanctioned strength since there is only one judge for 10 lakh people in our country. If there is only one judge for 10 lakh people then we should think about the number of vacancies of the Judges. This situation has arisen because even the sanctioned posts are not being filled.

I would like to draw his attention towards points. People get retired and even die but the cases remain pending. Lakhs of people are languishing in jails and their cases have been pending for 10 years. No verdict is delivered in such cases. In some cases, the accused remain in jails for a period exceeding the jail term which may be awarded to them in that case. They do not get bail and there is no one to defend them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that presently only rich people who can pay lakhs of rupees, get justice. The poor can not get justice as they do not afford to pay hefty fees. If a poor man gets death sentence, he can not do anything about it. On the other hand a rich man can hire a reputed lawyer and can save himself from punishment. Therefore, it is said that

[English]

Our system is lengthy, inefficient, full of uncertainty and expensive.

[Translation]

It is impossible for a poor man to fight a case in the court since the cases prolong for years and cost lakhs of rupees. We should consider what we are doing to ensure that the poor may get justice.

Incidents of Bomb blasts took place in Mumbai in 1992. In the same year of 1992, similar incident of bomb blasts took place at trade centre in America. The judgement regarding bomb blasts at trade centre came as early as in the year 1994, while in our country the judgement is being delivered now after a long period of 14 years. We can see how many years were taken to give verdict in Priyadarshinin Mattoo case. The situation is pretty hopeless regarding all the cases, be they the cases of labourers or of a poor man or Cases in the subordinate courts. There is a need to take some radical steps, appoint some more judges and consider increasing the working hours of the judges, reducing their holidays and fixing the time schedule for the disposal of cases so that these pending cases could be disposed of. Even the cases for which a time schedule of six months has been fixed are dragging on for more than ten years. It is necessary to fix a time schedule within which the judgement should be delivered. We should make similar provisions regarding small and petty cases also. A total of ten lakh cases have been disposed of so far in the fast track courts. If two to three crore cases are pending and out of them around ten lakh cases have been disposed of in one year, then we can easily estimate the time which will be required to dispose of all the cases. In the meantime, twenty lakh more cases will be registered and in this way the backlog will keep on increasing. The Hon'ble Minister has made a very disappointing statement. No silver lining is visible in his statement suggesting that a decision will be taken in this regard and people will get some respite. He should take a revolutionary step in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you know that we had two notices. Since then, some other hon. Members have given notices. As it is an important matter, I have got nine notices. Of course, I am not obliged to do it. I cannot call all of them. I will call serially as we have got it.

Now, Shri Shailendra Kumar. Please put questions only.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The issue regarding which the calling attention motion has been moved by Hon'ble G. Karunakara Reddy and Shri Malhotra ji is a matter of concern for the country. As the Hon'ble Members have expressed their views it is

[Shri Shallendra Kumar]

a fact that justice is not being delivered on time and at affordable rates. This issue has been debated upon many a time in the House. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to ensure reservation for the posts of Judges also in the lower courts, the High Courts and in the Supreme Court. Only then justice will be meted out to us.

Secondly, I would like to state that the posts of judges should be increased and the vacancies filled up. Keeping in view the number of pending cases more fast track courts should be set up. Only then millions of cases pending in the country could be disposed of timely.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Thank you, Sir. I would straightaway put my questions. There is a longstanding demand from the Government of Kerala to establish a High Court Bench in Trivandrum. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is contemplating to establish a High Court Bench in Trivandrum considering the long pendency of the cases.

Sir, some of the members have pointed out that the ratio in respect of population and judges is far low in our country. I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating to increase the number of Benches in the High Court and likewise in the District Courts also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir as per the available figures, especially regarding Bihar, there are around 90,000 to one lakh cases pending in the High Court and 12 lakh cases are pending in the lower courts and I think these cases have been pending since a long time. There are large scale vacancies of judges in the lower courts and there are some vacancies in the High Court also. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what action he is going to take at his level regarding the cases pending in Bihar for such a long time and regarding appointment of the Judges so that twelve lakhs and one lakh cases pending in the lower courts and the High Courts respectively can be disposed of and relief could be provided to the common man.

[English]

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I am very grateful to you and the hon. Members, who have drawn attention of the Government on this very important issue. I am

reminded of the first Resolution brought by your esteemed father, Shri N.C. Chatterjee during Nehru's time, for giving a speedy and inexpensive justice to the country. Drawing inspiration from that Resolution, Nehru intervened in the debate and assured the establishment of the first Law Commission in the country, and since then a lot of efforts have been made. I am proud to say that this country has a wide network of courts in the country at all levels; and institution of cases, year after year, is on the increase.

Sir, firstly, I would like to give a brief account of the pendency of cases in the various courts because the hon. Members wanted it. Then, I would come to the responsibilities of various stakeholders in this.

With regard to the Judges, I would like to first make it very clear, and I need not quote the Constitution, that there are two kinds of courts in the country — the superior courts, namely, the Supreme Court and the High Courts; and then the subordinate courts. The Supreme Court of India and the High Court of Delhi come in the administrative control of the Central Government and the Union Territory. Rest of the courts — High Courts as well as the subordinate courts — have to be funded by the States. But what has happened is that over the years, adequate finances have not been provided to the justice administration, namely, the funds required for increasing the judges ratio. And, we are aware that the Judiciary has been asking for this ratio. But the State Governments have not yet agreed to provide those funding ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): You offer subsidy ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, this is a very important matter; you should not interrupt him.

Hon. Minister, you please carry on.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, about the pendency, in the High Courts, the number of pendency is 42 lakhs. In the Supreme Court, it is about 38,000 cases pending. In the subordinate courts, the pendency is more; it is about 2.5 crore.

Sir, if you go into it, most of the cases, which are pending in the subordinate courts, are located in various States. The major pendency of these 2.5 crore cases is in the major States only. I would briefly touch upon it. Andhra Pradesh has got about nine lakh cases pending;

Bihar has got more than 12 lakh cases pending; Gujarat has got more than 39 lakh cases pending; Karnataka has got more than 10 lakh cases pending; Maharashtra has got more than 40 lakh cases pending; Orissa has got more than nine lakh cases pending; Rajasthan has got about 10 lakh cases pending; Uttar Pradesh has got about 42 lakh cases pending; West Bengal has got about 19 lakh cases pending; Punjab has got about five lakh cases pending; and Haryana has got about five lakh cases pending in the subordinate courts. So, these cases are spread out in the country. So, this comes to about 2.5 crore cases pending in various States.

Sir, you will ask me: "What have you done to reduce this pendency?" I requested the hon. Prime Minister to convene a joint meeting of the Chief Ministers, Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justices of various High Courts to find a solution as to what should be done. I would simply quote from the Resolution that all the States agreed to the Resolution for financing the strength of the subordinate courts and the High Courts. All the parties expressed the concern on huge pendency in the subordinate courts and stressed the need to find ways and means. This is part of the Resolution.

So, thereafter, what the NDA Government provided was Rs. 500 crore from the Finance Commission. This Government extended that allocation in the Budget for continuing the assistance in the Session Courts. Now, the session courts have been eased of the pendency by providing financial assistance. The State Governments have been approached by me time and again. It is not that I have not approached them. I asked them to improve the strength of the judges. Frankly, they said they have no money. This is where we are struck up. I would need the help of this august House, cutting across the Party lines, to give strength to this issue so that the States as well as the Centre can sit together and find ways and means to get rid of this pendency. It is not beyond our capacity to finish the arrears.

Our courts have examined the trend of disposal of cases. A High Court judge decides about 2,300 cases every year. A single judge decides within a year 2,300 cases. That is a good ratio. In Uttar Pradesh, it is much more but yet the pendency is more because it is a vast State where the pendency and institution are there. But institution is more than the disposal. Disposal continues at the same rate. There is no decline in disposal of cases. As much as the cases are instituted, they are disposed. The pendency is not being wiped out because

we are not adding to the strength of the judges. So, this is where the hon. Members should help so that the States should come forward to give more funds for the justice administration.

After all, there is a Law Minister in every State. I am prepared to share my responsibility with your help and grapple with this. We have demonstrated that we are willing to help. We are granting about Rs. 1,000 crore for updating the judicial infrastructure during these three years and we are giving free facility of computerization to the States. We have provided Rs. 500 crore again for fast track courts. But no facilities and financial support are forthcoming from the States. You cannot blame me for all this. Therefore, I want this House to emphasize that let all the concerned do their work in this direction so that the pendency in the trial courts to the tune of two crores are wiped out. Some States have been very forthcoming. We have done a lot of works in West Bengal. They have brought conciliation, ADR to wipe out the arrears. Some other States are also doing the same. Most of the cases, which are pending, are petty cases in criminal courts.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Some financial help is required.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you carry on

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I want to clarify this that wherever the problem lies, if I had the powers to give you the finance, I would have readily agreed. But you know my constraints. Within my own Budget, I can provide you the money. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not take notice of any interruption. Otherwise, interruptions will go on mounting.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, now you will ask me about my job. Regarding the vacancy position, I inherited 350 vacancies in the High Courts. I have wiped out 271 out of them. Within these two years, I am going to zero in on the vacancy position in all the High Courts. This is the time for that.

I have reviewed the strength of the High Courts, and I am adding more judges in the High Courts. But, of course, you know I will have to get the concurrence of the States because it is they who would have to agree and most of the States have already been approached that they should add more judges. For instance, the State

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

of Uttar Pradesh will require 50 more judges. The State Government may or may not agree to finance this. Once they agree, they will be immediately appointed. Some States have done very well. Uttar Pradesh has disposed of more cases. As a matter of fact, their disposal rate is very good but yet their institution of cases is more.

In the Supreme Court, there were four vacancies. I have already received three proposals. So, these recommendations have to come there. The litigation of High Courts and Supreme Court is being co-ordinated very well but the problem is in the subordinate courts where there are petty cases under section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. There are 15000 cases of one type. They can be disposed of by just one order if they just relax the norms. So, all these innovations we will have to do. But the main problem is, we will have to again call the Chief Ministers, Law Ministers of the States, Registrars and Law Secretaries to discuss that they should provide more funds and they should provide it from their side.

I have already approached the Union Government to give me more facilities in the magisterial courts. As a matter of fact, I have requested that this financial assistance which is being given for fast track courts in the Sessions courts, should also be extended to the Magistrates' Courts. Recently, I have examined it. The real problem lies in the village side. As you introduced the West Bengal Conciliation Mechanism, all States should use this ADR system so that small cases can be disposed of at the block level. Thereafter, we have requested again to set up Grameen Nyayalayas for the villages. Sir, I have already worked on another Bill of the Grameen Nyayalayas where the judges will go to the doorsteps of the poor people and resolve their disputes at the threshold. If this scheme is implemented, it will be better. I have written to the States. Some States have co-operated also. There also, the Centre will be willing to help the States to establish these Grameen Nyayalayas. I need only 7,000 judges to go to the block level and dispose of these cases. This revolution is possible.

We are doing so much in other matters, but justice administration is our least priority everywhere. I am fighting every inch of this ground for the benefit of the States, but you kindly give me strength within your respective States so that we get more money, more judges' strength. I have no dispute with Shri Reddy who has initiated this debate. All the points which he has mentioned are valid

points. The judges' ratio in India is very poor. We can increase it. You will remember that when the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was there, the Chief Justice of India and the Prime Minister clashed on the stage about allocation of money for justice administration.

You cannot simply blame me. This is a matter which deserves utmost attention at all levels. All the stakeholders must come forward. Sir, I am very grateful to you. I am doing my best to introduce ADR, plea-bargaining, Grameen Nyayalayas, but we must jointly meet it. There is no partisanship into it. No single Law Minister of this country can do it for the whole country. We will have to co-operate and we will have to sit together as we do in National Development Council or National Integration Council. This is an issue where we will have to jointly fight the arrears so that we have the first-rate system in the country and the people of the country live freely.

Sir, I have worked on my brief very well. Within the Supreme Court, I have already worked on increasing the strength of judges. Every three years, we review it with the Chief Justice of India. We will appoint about 100 more judges within this year and increasing the strength, but I will have to take the permission of Chief Ministers of the States because unless they agree, I cannot sanction this. Similarly, the vacancies which are still pending in the States, have to be filled by the High Court and the respective State Governments in the subordinate Judiciary, and they should agree to more judges' strength. I have written to them and I will right to them again.

Possibly, I will call another meeting of Chief Ministers, Chief Justices and Chief Justice of India to see how we can find mutually a system where money is provided. My difficulty is that when I ask for more money for States to be given in the matter of subordinate Judiciary, the constitutional hitch comes between. You know very well, Sir, that this funding of the subordinate courts is not within my domain. So, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have raised this issue. I promise, Sir, that I will push this issue again with the stakeholders and authorities which are involved, and the Central Government will be definitely willing to increase the strength of judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: He has not said anything about Reservation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When the Speaker, when the Chair is speaking, you interrupt him also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, from very high quarters, a suggestion has been made for more sittings or reducing the holidays. Is there any proposal on that?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I am very glad that you have raised this issue. This year this issue ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Sir, just give me one minute ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I am very sorry that such a matter is being laughed at.

You just listen. Hon. Speaker has raised an issue and I have to reply to it. Please give me one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you can understand the agony of the Speaker also.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Yes. I am very much concerned, and I share your agony. I raised this issue. This issue was raised to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) directly by the highest quarters. This year, the Supreme Court (SC) held regular sittings during the vacations.

In Gujarat, an initiative has been taken by holding evening shifts. There are other States that are prepared to follow it. All States will have to do it. I recently went

to Karnataka, and they have sat on Saturday. They have also said that they will sit on one more day in the week. Therefore, this initiative is being taken, but the Executive must share its responsibility by providing them funds for it, so that it is up-to-date. One cannot do it without money, and the required strength of the judges.

In England, they provided recorders and other things for two years, and disposed of their arrears. We will have to follow this. Therefore, I seek cooperation from various States that they should also follow it. I am in continuous dialogue with them on those traditions — which the English left here — that you go on furlough, and have more vacancies. They are willing to reduce their vacancies, and increase the working days.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

(ii) Situation arising out of handing over of some hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh to private parties for which investment has already been made by the National Hydel Power Corporation and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item 17, Calling Attention. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Power to the following matter of urgent public importance ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to make only one Submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you trying to do?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not give you a chance to speak. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word of this.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Power ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know that there is anything called the 'Rule Book' of this House? Have you ever read it? I do not think that you have done it. Please read it first, and try to respect the Chair. This is the minimum duty to be discharged by you, and you are not discharging that duty of yours. You are behaving in a manner, which is dispicable. Do not try to hide yourself. Do not do it.

[Translation]

This is not a place for nockery. If you want to do so you can do it outside. Do not make a noise here.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you speaking? Not one word is being taken down. You are also not on your allotted seat. You want to get prominence by making yourself a nuisance to others.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Power to the following matter of urgent public importance, and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of handing over of some hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh to private parties for which investment has already been made by the National Hydel Power Corporation and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can lay the statement on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, it will clarify the issue in a better manner if I read the statement in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, please go ahead.

*SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: My friend will be able to understand the issue in a better manner if I read it. Otherwise, some of the issues might not get clarified.

The Hydro Policy of 1998 of the Ministry of Power, Government of India provides guidelines to the States on the allocation of hydro-sites to private developers through the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) route for capacities up to 100 MW, and for allocation of capacities above 100 MW through the competitive bidding route. In the interest of transparency, there is a further requirement that even for projects allocated through the MoU route — of capacity below 100 MW — the developer must award construction-contracts following the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) process.

In the recent past, a number of States have started allocating hydro projects to private developers on considerations such as the quantum of free power to State, up front payment, equity stake to the State and return of the project to the State after a certain period of time, that is, on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis. Up to now, about 35 projects with an estimated capacity of about 10,000 MW have been allocated to the private sector by the Himalayan States, where most of the undeveloped hydro potential exists.

Recently, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has allocated five large projects of capacities ranging from 500 MW to 1600 MW to private companies on considerations such as quantum of free power to the host State, free equity to the State Government and return of the project to the State Government after about 40 years. In doing so, two projects - namely, 1,000 MW Siang Middle (Siyom) of which NHPC had submitted DPR to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for concurrence and 1600 MW Siang Lower of which the DPR was in advanced stage of preparation by NHPC—were also allocated to private developers. At the same time, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh had also put on hold the allocation of projects to the CPSUs.

NHPC had brought this matter to the notice of this Ministry when the Government of Arunachal Pradesh was contemplating withdrawal of these projects for allocation to the private sector. The then Minister of Power had taken up the matter *vide* letter dated 3rd October, 2005 urging the State Government not to withdraw these projects from NHPC.

Subsequently, when this was brought to my notice, I had immediately taken up the matter with the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh *vide* my letters dated 18th March, 2006 and 17th May, 2006 urging him to keep the above allocations to the private sector on hold till the issue was sorted out and invited the Chief Minister for an urgent meeting. Subsequently, I have held a number of meetings and as a result, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh have now allocated five projects to NHPC totaling about 8,100 MW (including two projects totaling 3,600 MW subject to settlement of certain environment related issues). In addition, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh have allocated to NTPC, two projects of about 4,500 MW capacity and to NEEPCO, two projects totaling about 1,200 MW capacity. The State of Arunachal Pradesh have also informed NHPC that the private developers have been asked to reimburse to NHPC the costs incurred in the preparation of the DPRs.

An issue has also been raised by one of the hon. Members as to why NHPC was not allowed to file suit against the two private players. In this connection, I would like to inform that the NHPC had neither approached the Ministry nor does it require any permission from the Ministry of Power to decide on such matters which relate to its commercial interests.

I would like to inform the House that my Ministry is fully seized of the matter. It may be recalled that while answering the points raised during the Half-an-Hour discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 21st August, 2006, I had mentioned that any loss to NHPC would be made good and that we will find a way out and that there will be total transparency. Appropriate steps are being taken in this direction and we are addressing the Policy issues.

In this connection, I would like to inform the House that my Ministry is committed to the expeditious development of hydro capacity in the country. India has an estimated hydro-electric potential of about 1,50,000 MW, of which we have so far developed only about 33,500 MW. Most of the undeveloped hydro sites are located in the Himalayas—more particularly in the North-East. These sites are in remote areas and require massive resources, both financial and managerial, for development in a time-bound manner. In spite of creating a number of hydro CPSUs and also bringing NTPC into hydro development, it is evident that this task cannot be accomplished by CPSUs alone and there is a need to involve the private sector also. A new policy is being framed to facilitate time-bound development of hydro

potential in a transparent manner duly addressing the concerns of all the stakeholders, particularly of the Himalayan States.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we have 1,50,000 MW of hydro electric potential in the country. Out of that, Arunachal Pradesh itself has a potential of 65,000 MW. Only 15 per cent of that State's potential has been harnessed so far. Our question is not about the hydro-electric policy which was adopted in 1998. Ranking study was done in the subsequent year. Fifty projects were identified in 1998. Out of these 50 projects, there are a number of projects which have been identified in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

Brahmaputra Board was entrusted with the task of survey and investigation of hydro potential in the North-Eastern region. These two particular projects about which we have raised the question—Siang Lower and Siang Upper—were also given to Brahmaputra Board. They were entrusted with this survey and investigation because a request came from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh that these projects, along with other three or four projects, should be handed over to NHPC. When the Government of India took a decision to hand over these two projects to NHPC, the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh wrote a letter to the CMD of NHPC in which he stated:

"It was heartening to know that NHPC would be taking up construction of Subansiri and Siang projects in Arunachal Pradesh at an early date considering their high potential for hydro power generation and subsequent impact on development scenario of the North-Eastern region."

At no point of time had Arunachal Pradesh Government ever indicated that these two projects should be handed over to private developers. Survey and investigation by NHPC took more than two years. They had set up their office in Arunachal Pradesh.

They have already spent Rs. 51.12 crore for Siyom project and Rs. 31.61 crore for Siang Upper project for the preparation of DPR. While they were engaged in the preparation of DPR, a draft of MoU was also sent to the Arunachal Pradesh Government. They suggested certain changes. They also suggested for deployment of certain staff, local engineers for the execution of the projects. Discussions were continued for two years but suddenly the Arunachal Pradesh Government decided to handover these two projects to private developers. One project was

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

handed over to Jai Prakash Associates and the other to Reliance. I do not know as to what the reasons behind this decision. Why after prolonging for two to three years, suddenly the Arunachal Pradesh Government decided to handover these particular two projects? There had not been any consultations! NHPC was not even consulted. I do not know as to whether prior to taking such decisions, the Ministry of Power, Government of India was consulted or contacted. I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister when I came to know about this. NHPC was created to harness the hydel power potential of our country. If NHPC, to whom these two projects which were entrusted to NHPC, is not allowed to execute these projects, then, there will be problem and this organization would definitely face problem.

Hence, I wrote to the Prime Minister. Perhaps what he quoted here might have been taken from my letter because I raised this issue. NHPC has requested the Ministry of Power vide letter dated 24.04.2006 for an early intervention in the matter and to save the interests of NHPC in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not bring Arunachal Pradesh Government into it because they are not here to answer.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am not asking the Arunachal Pradesh Government, I am asking the Government of India.

MR. SPEAKER: It is within their jurisdiction.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I sought advice to pursue the matter through legal route. Would NHPC like to implement at least those projects for which DPRs have been prepared by it? The response of the Ministry of Power in this matter is still awaited. He has stated that NHPC has neither approached the Ministry nor does it require any permission from the Minister of Power. When NHPC has already approached, he can tell us that NHPC has not approached. Even after that, unilaterally, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh decided to handover these two power projects to private developers. After that, has NHPC approached the Ministry of Power or not? If NHPC has approached the Ministry of Power, can they pursue any legal route?

13.00 hrs.

If so, then why has the Government of India not told the NHPC, what can be done in this regard, whether any legal action or any other action can be taken in this regard or not?

He has also stated that the losses of the NHPC would be made good. It has been told by the hon. Minister of Power in the other House; it is not the question of loss; the hon. Power Minister of the Arunachal Pradesh Government has stated that he would ask the private developers to reimburse the expenditure incurred by the NHPC. It is not the question of reimbursement of the expenditure, but the question is why was it unilaterally decided by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh? Now, they have decided to hand over five other projects in the State of Arunachal Pradesh; where is the guarantee? When will the NHPC engage in the preparation of DPR? In that case, again they will spend about Rs. 100-200 crore for those two projects, about which the Arunachal Pradesh Government has decided that those five projects will be executed by NHPC. After preparation of the DPR and after spending Rs. 200-300 crore again, is there any guarantee that those five projects would not be given to the private developers?

So, the Government of India has a role to play because for these two projects, it was decided that they would be executed by the NHPC. He has stated that he held a number of meetings, etc. But there is no result. The only result was that the five projects have now been handed over to others - one to NHPC, one to NTPC and three to NEEPCO, but there is no guarantee.

When they are talking about 12 per cent free power, that free power will also be available even if the public sector power companies also execute and operate. It is because 12 per cent free power is available to the State and the project should be executed. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Power, whether he will seriously take it up with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and persuade the State Government to put on hold the decision to hand over those two projects to IPP.

We have the experience of IPP in our country. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, we know what their performance is, what their achievement is and what they are doing. We have the experience of Dabhol Power Corporation in our country. After spending Rs. 6,000 crore, they are deciding to sell it to Reliance. So, we have the

experience. With that experience, may I know whether the Government will seriously take it up with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, since prior to taking a decision on handing over those two projects, they did not consult and they did not think it fit to consult the Central Government? They themselves decided to hand over these two projects to NHPC. The Detailed Project Reports were prepared. Will the Government of India take up with Arunachal Pradesh Government to put on hold the decision to hand over these two projects?

Secondly, when the NHPC has already requested the Ministry of Power to allow NHPC to take some legal action—that was too done in the month of April—why the Government of India has not told NHPC what it has to do?

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Sir, it is a matter of serious concern for the people of Arunachal Pradesh and for the people of this country. Shri Basudeb Acharia has rightly mentioned that Arunachal Pradesh, having 65,000 MW capacity, could become the power house of this country. But what has happened in Arunachal Pradesh is of great concern for this country and for the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Hon. Minister in his reply has stated that only two power project sites have been given to the private parties. There are six project sites undertaken by the NHPC under the Prime Minister's Power Policy. In the year 2000 NHPC was asked to take over power generation in Arunachal Pradesh. They have rightly taken six projects, out of which four DPRs have been submitted to the Government of India; Subhansri lower, Debang multipurpose project, lower Siang and middle Siang. Four DPRs are lying in the Ministry of Power. In spite of completing all the formalities, in spite of clearing these DPRs, what kind of authority the Ministry of Power has given to the State Government, the Minister should reply. The State Government has violated the power Act of this Parliament, the law of this land. The Minister will have to reply to that. If I am wrong, it is subject to correction, the Power Policy, National Electricity Act and the National tariff Policy Act have been passed in 2005 and they came into being from 1st January 2006. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has signed the MoU with private companies on 22nd February 2006. Is it not the violation of the law of this land? I too want to make Arunachal Pradesh as the power house of this country. I do not want to see Arunachal Pradesh a land of *khushi-khushi* where gross violations have taken place. The hon. Minister of Power has not looked towards that and it is of great concern.

On behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and on behalf of the people of this country, I would say that we have no objection in private parties generating power in the Northeastern and Himalayan zone but the foundation should be laid in such a way that the law is not violated there.

One more major issue is that Arunachal Pradesh is a scheduled State as per the Constitution of this country and not even an inch of land can be transferred to a non-Arunachali. I have got all the details of this matter. The Government of India and the Minister of Power have been made part of the Memorandum of Agreements also. Is it not the violation again? You might have got all the details of the Memorandum of Agreement. In article 6, you have been made a party to the Memorandum of Agreement without your presence. Again, in clause 2.11, the mortgage has been authorized to the private companies. It is stated that they can mortgage the land and property which existed in Arunachal Pradesh where their project site is, to the third party. Is it not the violation of the law of this land? Therefore, I would like to have a reply to this.

I am from that very basin. I represent that part of upper Siang, middle Siang and the lower Siang. There are other six projects but I will confine to these two projects where Reliance and Jaypee Groups have been engaged. We are not against the private companies and we are not favouring NHPC also. But particularly for Siang Basin, namely, lower Siang, upper Siang and middle Siang, the NHPC has spent more than Rs. 200 crore for preparing the DPRs. In this context, it was supposed to be made through tariff based competitive bidding. The tariff based competitive bidding has not taken place while giving projects to all these private companies against the DPRs prepared by the NHPC. Will the Minister look into it seriously? Will the Minister hand over these two projects back to the NHPC? It is the concern of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and this country.

I would like to cite here what the hon. Minister had rightly mentioned in his statement in reply to an Starred Question asked by Shri Kiren Rijju and Shri Jual Oram on 24th of this month:

"No, Sir. According to the guidelines of the Government of India, projects up to 100 megawatt can be developed through Memorandum of Understanding and by and large the States have been resorting to this route for projects up to 100 megawatt."

[Shri Tapir Gao]

[Translation]

Capacities, upto 100 megawatt can be developed through the competitive bidding only.

[English]

The is the question of 1000 megawatt and 16000 megawatt. Is it not the violation of the established laws of this land?

MR. SPEAKER: Violation by whom?

SHRI TAPIR GAO: It is by the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot discuss that here.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, I have a concern for this. Therefore, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister a simple and basic question. Will he pursue the State Government to hand over these two projects back to the NHPC? In this regard, when I met the hon. Minister personally, he told me that there will be a middle path to resolve the issue involving the State Government and the NHPC. The MoU has been signed. It is of great concern to the people of that State. The NHPC has been given the projects in Twang District and the hon. Minister has signed the MoU and the NHPC people do not know where the project site lies. Not even a preliminary survey has been done against that. In lieu of the two mega-projects ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is far from the subject of the Motion.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, I am citing what I have seen. Against the two major projects, the Government has given the NHPC the projects, site of which has not yet been seen by the authorities of NHPC. Therefore, for the betterment of this country, for the future of the hydel projects in the State in particular and of the country in general, in keeping with the established law of the land, these two mega projects should be handed back to NHPC.

Sir, we have to welcome the private entrepreneurs also. We have got major rivers in the North-Eastern States. We would like to involve the participation of the private parties in the State of Arunachal Pradesh also but not at the cost of our self-interest and not at the cost of omissions and commissions. Therefore, I would

like to have a very clear answer from the hon. Minister whether he would take back these two mega projects from the private parties and hand them over to the NHPC.

Secondly, I would also like to request him to read the MoU signed by the private parties with the State Government..."

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow that. You cannot make allegations against the State Government.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, I am not making any allegation. I am speaking the truth.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a place for speaking the truth also.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to look into it make a statement in the House that these two projects would be taken back from the private entrepreneurs ... "

MR. SPEAKER: I would look into it. No allegation against the State Government should be permitted.

Hon. Members, I have got two more notices on this subject. Though the notices have come very late, yet I propose to give them an opportunity.

So far as matters of urgent public importance are concerned, that are taken up after the Question Hour everyday, but without creating any precedent, those would be taken up after the luncheon recess today. Matters under Rule 377 also would be taken up after the Luncheon recess.

Shri Kiren Rijju, you may now briefly make your submissions.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice has come only at one minute past 12 o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mr. Speaker Sir, my friend has dealt with the matter in detail. I need not elaborate on

*Not recorded.

this. I would only like to put forth two-three main issues before the Hon'ble Minister, Recently, Sonia Gandhiji visited Tawang along with the hon. Minister and the concerned officers. I was also present there. At that time I was told that Sonia Gandhiji would be laying the foundation stone for Tawang-I and Tawang-II projects. But later on I came to know that Sonia Gandhiji was laying the foundation stone for the office complex and not for the project. I said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are travelling much beyond the scope of the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU:*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am liberal. But there is a limit to being liberal. All these will be deleted.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: What is the situation today? I would like to apprise the House of the public reaction in this regard. After that I toured my constituency. I want to putforth here the public sentiments with regard to handing over the NHPC projects of the Sione river basin barring the Pasigaht project to a private party.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to see the proceedings. This is not the issue. The issue is very specific.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, the issue is on the situation arising out of handing over the projects.

[Translation]

I want the state the situation here that the reaction of the public is very negative.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are entitled to put one question. I am liberal because this relates to the North-Eastern State and is an important issue. But that does not mean that you shall cross the limits.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: *...who has ordered NHPC to do the survey. The DPR is prepared based on the agreement. The State Government had permitted before.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire work pertaining to Brahmaputra Board and NHPC and the DPR that has been prepared is done with the permission of the State Government and the question that arises today is who has given permission to NHPC.

[English]

This is a federal structure. We must respect each other on State and Central issues.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I want.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU:*I don't want to level any allegation. We do not have any objection if the project proposed to be launched is started by any private company or by the NHPC. We only want that the work should start as early as possible*

Sir, since the Hon'ble Minister has taken the charge of the Ministry of Power, he has taken very effective steps but he has not been expediting work which is required to be done. Therefore, I associate with my colleague and before I conclude I would like to say that since the detailed report has been prepared and the survey and investigation conducted by the NHPC, this project work should have been done by NHPC. There is no scarcity of water or river. There are many projects to be taken up by private parties and in joint ventures.....*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Somehow, I have ignored to see that you are not speaking from your seat.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I have sought permission, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Permission is given retrospectively!

[Translation]

Devendra Prasad Yadavji, you can ask one question if you want to ask anything.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to ask a direct question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri D.P. Yadav, are those questions given to you by Shri Acharia?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Basudeb Acharia has raised an important question

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

in this House through a Calling Attention Motion. To give stress on Hydro Electric Power Generation is the need of the hour. The approximate Hydro electric power potential is 1,50,000 megawatt but we have been able to develop a potential of only 33,000 Megawatt Hydro electricity. In Arunachal Pradesh alone the capacity of Hydro electric production is 65 Thousand Megawatt. This is a very important question. So I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister the number of Hydro electric power projects likely to be launched in a time bound manner and how many projects out of them will be handed over to the private sector and the latest position in this regard. Beside this I also want to know the estimated production capacity of the Hydro electricity to be developed in future.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question does not have any relevance with this motion.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am talking about Arunachal Pradesh and Hydro-electric power generation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Can anything related to hydel power be asked?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the number of Hydro electric power projects likely to be set up in Arunachal Pradesh during the 11th five year plan and the number of projects out of these to be allocated to the private sector alongwith the quantum of the generation capacity thereof. I am neither talking about the States nor want to raise any question about states. But in case of any violation of the guidelines of the Central Government the Centre has the power to monitor it. That precisely is my point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister may reply. Please do not involve Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I appreciate and I am thankful to the hon. Members who have contributed and given more information on the subject. The reason as to why I read out my statement was to clarify that water belongs to the States and it is a State subject.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: There cannot be two opinions on this and that was the only reason why I read out the statement. Now, since the question of legality was raised, I would like to read out the constitutional provision here. Entry 17 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of article 246 says:

"Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation, canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power subject to the provision of entry 56 of List-I."

Entry 56 of List-I says:

"Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest."

MR. SPEAKER: They are only asking you to exercise your good office.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: That is true. That is why the relations between the States and the Centre have to be harmonious. In this particular case, as Shri Basu Deb Acharia has mentioned, the Brahmaputra Board was established and it was doing some work in the North-Eastern States, particularly in Assam and nearby areas. Subsequently, this project was handed over. But it is not clear even now whether it was handed over or not. The NHPC, on its own initiative, was doing some survey. For doing survey or for the DPR in any State, the permission of the State is required and the MoU has to be signed by the State as well as the NHPC. In this case, neither the NHPC nor the State has signed any MoU. But when a draft MoU was sent to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh in 2003, no specific reply was received from the State. Then, in the month of July, 2005, the State Government wrote about withdrawing all the projects of NHPC. If there is a possibility of generating 65,000 megawatts of power there, neither the State nor the country can benefit from it, unless there is a cordial relation between each other. That is why, when this stagnation was there for about a year, when I took over Office and as I had some good relation with North-East, I requested a number of Ministers in the North-East to go through these hydel projects. I personally telephoned the Chief Minister. He came here and I asked him about the exact possibility. I asked him to hold on to these projects and he did hold on to these projects. We all

know that it is a remote area and it has a border. We all can understand what type of situation or circumstance was prevailing there. The DPR was done only in two cases. You yourself said that the potential is 65,000 megawatts. In the entire range of Himalayas 1,25,000 megawatts of hydro power potential is available and in the country 1,50,000 megawatts of hydro power potential is available. So, I personally intervened, called the Chief Minister and requested him over this and he had agreed to it. We went to Arunachal Pradesh. My officers signed the MoU. I invited both the Members of Parliament for the function.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go into too many details about another State Government.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: But to give confidence to the people of Arunachal Pradesh, we have laid the foundation of the office of NHPC and also for the college. It is because there is no college in Tawang. These are small States. Once upon a time, for four years, I was General Secretary in-charge of the entire North-East. I know about the backwardness there.

MR. SPEAKER: Give more and proper attention please. The Speaker was born at Tezpur.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: What else we want? In Tezpur another big project is going to come

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I must bring to your kind notice that considering the position of Arunachal Pradesh, when we signed the agreement for 15,000 megawatt of power, we have also signed that with each unit, the Arunachal Pradesh Government will get one paisa as a donation or as charges. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is in addition to 12 per cent ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Yes in addition to.

Sir, I must bring to your kind notice that the Budget of Arunachal Pradesh must be about Rs. 400 to 500 crore, but this one paisa itself will give more than Rs. 60 crore a year. So, this is one example and this shifting of new policy will continue with the Himalayan ranges now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: This means that it will take too much time to complete the project. So, it should be completed speedily. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: They should cooperate with us if they want that it should be completed fast.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be so pessimistic. You will have eternal youth.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: We have got the DPR done by the NHPC. They have spent money and the money will be recovered. I said it in this House also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You persuade the Arunachal Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Its enough.

[English]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, only the NHPC will not be able to do the entire work. Unless I involve....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No more. Do not respond to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I am addressing to the hon. Speaker and not to you.

Sir, they want transparency. So, I am bringing transparency by bringing a new policy on this.*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: He should give reply about the two projects *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I stated the position of the State and my Department ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The more you speak, they will go on putting questions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, it is their right to ask me a question. I can also reply. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: But subject to my permission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, with your kind permission, I can tell you that this entire area of North East is a difficult area. The hon. Prime Minister has kept in his mind that the growth rate must be increased from eight per cent to ten per cent. The power sector is the one sector in the country which can get more growth rate. I assure this House that whatever we are missing in the Tenth Plan, we will be able to do it in the Eleventh Plan. We will give it more than our capacity, whatever has been mentioned.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You are not replying.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I have replied.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied more than once.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All right

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about the answer to his question? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: What answer do you want. I had stated that we do not have any right over water in states and the Central Government can not do anything in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: They are doing without the knowledge of the Central Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be any question about the State Government's decision.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member please cooperate. You know my affection to you. Do not spoil that affection.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, it is a concern of a State. I cannot overrule it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am upholding that. I would not allow anything to be said about the State.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We forget about the Federal structure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, in the Revised List of Business for today, there is an item at number 20. It is about the Discussion under Rule 193. But in view of the certain discussions that have been held among the Leaders of the Parties as well as there is a request by the hon. mover, Dr. Chinta Mohan to suspend it for the day, I have decided to accept that request. The matter will not be taken up today.

I have already given you the assurance that it is not to be treated as a precedent. Today, we shall allow the urgent matters, which are normally taken up before the recess, after the Lunch recess.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We should take up as many issues as possible today.

MR. SPEAKER: It is only depending upon the Members present. That will be done in due course. Please cooperate with me. Thank you very much.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh, all the norms are being violated at the behest of the Union Government. ...(Interruptions) It is a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First of all, the Leader of the House will make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir Parliamentary system of democracy of the country is being attacked ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please start the Zero Hour now. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First the hon. Minister will speak and after that Zero Hour will be started.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I may kindly be given the first opportunity in Zero Hour because Mr. Speaker had given me an assurance in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't assure you about speaking first but I will definitely allow you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now the hon. Leader of the House will make a statement and then I will listen to you.

14.32 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Visit of President of China to India

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, President Hu Jintao of China paid a State visit to India from November 20-23, 2006. Both Governments attached great importance to this visit and made careful preparations. This was the first visit by a Chinese President to India since President Jiang Zemin's visit in November-December, 1996. The visit was seen as imparting even greater dynamism to the on-going high-level exchanges between the two countries.

President Hu had a productive and comprehensive exchange of views with our leaders on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common interest. The visit highlighted the resolve of both countries to work towards the further consolidation and diversification of India-China relations. Hon. Members would recall that during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India last year, we had decided to establish a strategic and cooperative partnership. President Hu's visit offered us the opportunity to add greater content and meaning to this partnership. This was reflected in the "ten-pronged strategy" embodied in the Joint Declaration that was issued on behalf of Prime Minister and the Chinese President during the visit. A copy of the Joint Declaration is placed on the Table of the House. A synopsis of thirteen agreements signed during the visit is also being placed on the Table of the House. The range of these agreements reflects the evolving multidimensional nature of our relationship with China.

During the interactions, leadership on both sides reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over the sustained positive momentum in the relationship. Both Prime Minister and

*Placed in Library. See No. LT—5058/2006

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

President Hu noted that India-China relations had transcended their bilateral dimension and acquired a global and strategic significance. President Hu characterized the present phase in the relationship as marking a "new historic beginning" and conveyed that his visit would send out a strong signal to the international community that India and China were willing to work hand in hand for long-term friendship and common development. He stressed that China had taken a "long-term and strategic view" of the relationship with India desiring to build a strong and cooperative relationship based on shared and common interests.

Prime Minister also highlighted that he would like India and China to work together as good neighbours and partners and to develop together in a mutually supportive manner while remaining sensitive to each other's concerns and aspirations. Both leaders agreed on the need for sustained efforts to exploit the full potential of strategic partnership and to resolve outstanding issues in a focused, sincere and problem-solving manner.

A number of initiatives were announced during the visit to consolidate institutional linkages between the two Governments, encourage comprehensive economic engagement, promote trans-border connectivity and cooperation, and enhance science and technology, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Both sides agreed to hold regular summit level meetings and decided to open new Consulates in Kolkata and Guangzhou. The two sides also decided to set up an expert-level mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on the provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues regarding trans-border rivers. Economic cooperation emerged as a major thrust area of the visit, with both sides keen to send out a clear message in this regard, reflected in the signing of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, fixing of trade target of US\$ 40 billion by 2010 and mandating the Joint Task Force already established by the two countries to complete its study on the feasibility and benefits of India-China Regional Trading Arrangement by October 2007. Important understandings were reached for continued expansion of border trade and greater facilitation of Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra. Both sides underlined the need to broad base the relationship through enhanced people-to-people contacts and cultural ties, taking initiatives such as launching of an "India-China Year of Friendship through Tourism" in 2007 and a five-year programme for exchange of youth delegations.

Prime Minister and the Chinese President exchanged views on the boundary question and expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the Special Representatives. Both leaders agreed that an early resolution of the boundary question would not only advance the basic interests of the two countries, but also invest our strategic partnership with further strength and dynamism, and should therefore be pursued as a strategic objective. They directed the Special Representatives to intensify their work to expeditiously explore the framework of a boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles signed in April last year. Both sides also expressed the commitment that pending the final settlement of the boundary question, they would maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas and expedite the work of clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control.

I am aware of the concerns expressed by hon. Members about remarks made by the Chinese envoy on the eve of the visit about the status of Arunachal Pradesh. As you are also aware, I unambiguously rejected the Chinese contention, stating that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. Let me also state that the matter was taken up immediately with the Chinese Government through our Ambassador in Beijing and our disappointment and concern over the Chinese statement clearly conveyed.

Prime Minister also had a useful exchange of views with President Hu on regional and multilateral issues. It was noted that as two most populous countries with rapidly developing economies, the development of India and China were important factors in the shaping of future global architecture. The two leaders noted that together India and China could make effective contributions in dealing with global issues of sustainable and equitable development, energy security, peace, and prosperity in Asia and in the world, environment protection and fight against terrorism and cross-border crimes. On the issue of the reform of the United Nations Security Council, President Hu Jintao reiterated the assurance given by the Chinese Premier to Prime Minister in April last year that China understands and supports India's aspirations to play a bigger role in the United Nations, including in the Security Council, and that China would be happy to see India succeed in its endeavour to become a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council.

The importance of high-level exchanges and personal involvement of leaders in the development of India-China

relations was clearly acknowledged during the visit. President Hu Jintao mentioned that this was his fifth meeting with Prime Minister in the last eighteen months. President Hu invited Prime Minister to visit China next year. Prime Minister has accepted the invitation. The exact timing of the visit will be decided through diplomatic channels.

On the whole, both sides are satisfied with the outcome of the Chinese President's visit to India, which is expected to give a significant boost to our joint efforts to seek an all round development of India-China relations while addressing the outstanding issues in a frank, purposive and proactive manner. The visit represented an important step forward in the process of developing a cooperative framework of engagement with China, notwithstanding outstanding issues. It highlighted the commitment of the two sides to add greater content to their strategic partnership and to develop an action-oriented template for the future development and diversification of India-China relations. It also offered an opportunity to send out a strong signal to the international community that as good neighbours and partners, there was enough space for India and China to develop together in a mutually supportive manner, while remaining sensitive to each other's concerns and aspirations. Let me conclude by saying that our policy towards China, which is an important component of our foreign policy, has been characterised by continuity and consensus. We are encouraged by the positive trends in India-China relations and remain hopeful that our continued engagement with China at the highest level will give further impetus to our bilateral relations and speed up the process of resolution of our outstanding differences. In this endeavour, we seek the full support and endorsement of this hon. Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir In Uttar Pradesh....*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mohan Singh ji please sit down, I have allowed Sumanji to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday we had submitted that the Governor of Uttar Pradesh is not discharging his duties

as per the Constitution. The moot point is that the Governors of various states are damaging the federal system of the country at the behest of the Union Government ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): He, not the Governor, is damaging the system. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singhji, please sit down and listen.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked him time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: In attacking democracy ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manvendra Singh ji, I have allowed Suman ji to speak. Please keep your cool.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, stop him ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manvendra Singh ji please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not right. If they behave like this, then no member of the Congress party will be able to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* you please be seated, Mr. Deputy Speaker has allow me to speak ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please stop them, they are interrupting ...*(Interruptions)* They are interrupting intentionally ...*(Interruptions)*. Governor of Uttar Pradesh is just acting at the behest of the Union Government ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Suman ji please conclude in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as order by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed him, let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to him. thereafter I will take special mentions.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if the allegations are made, then they have to be substantiated on the floor of the House. ...(Interruptions) The Governor is being alleged that he is acting at the behest of the Centre. They have to substantiate this with facts and figures. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the conduct of Governors has been discussed in the House earlier ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry ji please sit down and let me conduct the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: We are not accusing anybody. We are telling what the Governor did.. ...(Interruptions) Will the Governor do whatever he wants(Interruptions)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Governor has not done anything which deserves a mention here.. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to submit that all of us are aware that the office of the Governor is a constitutional one. The conduct of the Governor should be as per the dignity of his office. However, the Governor of Uttar Pradesh is not behaving in this manner. He is interfering in the routine administration of Uttar Pradesh and issuing statements in gross violation of the dignity of the office of the Governor. When riots broke out in Mau in Uttar Pradesh, the Governor visited the place of incident without taking the State Government into confidence. Similarly, he while addressing the police personnel, raised a question mark over the role of the police force. Such kind of incidents are taking place in Uttar Pradesh. Two ministers of the Uttar Pradesh were refused to administer the oath. It is

the prerogative of the Chief Minister as to whom he wants to appoint as minister. Two schemes—Kanya Dan Vidya Yojana to distribute the allowance to the unemployed, started by the Uttar Pradesh Government has also been banned. It seems that the Government of Uttar Pradesh is following the direction of the Union Government and interfering in the work of the State Government in such a manner ...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I respectfully heard the opinion of my dear friend and hon. Leader, Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Officially, on behalf of the Government, I would like to say that this is not correct. The Government of India never gives any kind of direction to interfere into the popular Government of any State, and the allegation is not correct. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up the matters of urgent public importance.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA—Not present.

Shri L. Rajagopal.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am taking up special mention now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Please listen to my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not yet started today's business.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in today's list of business matters under Rule 377 are listed at the item number 18. Therefore, you please take up listed business first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Speaker has given his ruling on it. I am calling the name of Shri Rajagopal.

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijaywada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget for the year 2005-06, had mentioned that the Government would take up restoration of at least one million water bodies in this country.

In fact, 14 States have been selected by the Government of India, of which Andhra Pradesh is one of them; and a lot of water bodies have been selected. About the Krishna district, though it is a prosperous district, there is a portion of it especially in my Parliamentary Constituency, with uplands and dry lands. Just because it is a prosperous district, the water bodies in my district and in my Parliamentary Constituency have not been selected. In fact, there are more than 350 water bodies available in my district and in my Parliamentary Constituency. In fact, most of them have been silted and they have also been filled up beads. Therefore, we need to bring it to the notice of the Government that the upland regions of Krishna district should also be considered. All these water bodies have to be repaired, renovated and restored to the full capacity so that in the upland areas, the poor people and the poor farmer are benefited because of these water bodies.

14.52 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: Demand for reduction of prices
in petroleum products**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, silence please. Let us hear Mr. Prabhunath Singh.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I have to make a submission.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, silence please. Let us hear Mr. Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir through you, I want to raise an important issue. Whether it was the government of N.D.A. or the present U.P.A. Government, the prices of petrol and diesel are constantly increasing. Every time the prices were raised, it was stated that the price rise was the

impact of rise in prices of crude oil in international market. The people of the country accepted it reluctantly. Its direct impact is being felt by the farmers and the poor people of the villages. The press has reported that the prices of crude oil are falling. many a time a rumour was in the air that the government is going to decrease the prices of oil but later on it came out that prices would not be decreased. People are in a state of confusion. It seems that this confusion was also noticed by the Government and it was stated on T.V. that the Minister of Petroleum may announce decrease in oil prices by tomorrow i.e. Wednesday. But the most important thing in this regard, as reported by the press, is that the petroleum companies are earning a profit of Rs. 4.71 per litre on diesel. Similarly, petroleum companies are earning around Rs. four per litre on petrol. While increasing the prices, profit is added after calculating the price of crude oil but when the price of crude oil is decreasing in international market, the price of domestic oil should also be decreased here. But then on television, it has said that only 25 paise per litre would be decreased which is a drop in the ocean. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that oil prices should be decreased here in the same proportion in which the prices of crude oil have decreased in the international market, so that farmers and the poor people of the villages may get its benefit.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I would like to associate myself with what Mr. Prabhunath Singh ji has submitted.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, Santosh Gangwar jee, Rupchand Pal jee, the names of all of three are also associated. The rest of the Members should send their slips, we will associate their name also.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, this is a very urgent matter of public importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The Government is playing hide and seek. The Minister is not to be seen in Parliament. It seems that the Minister of Petroleum is absconding.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Which Minister?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : It is the Minister for Petroleum.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: That is too much.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are from the ruling party. If you make noise. How can the proceedings of the House be run?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is very much lack of coordination.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The basic issue is that the international price is always linked with the domestic price. That is the claim of the Government. The international price was 78 dollars per barrel two months ago. Now it is 56 dollars per barrel, and there is every possibility that the international price of crude oil per barrel will go further down. This is going on for the last two months. The Government is not at all announcing, discussing or making public whether the price is going to be reduced. We have seen several times that whenever there is a small increase in the international price, immediately there is an increase in the domestic price. But now when there is an objective reason for reducing the price because of the declining international price, the Government is playing hide and seek.

Therefore, my point is this. I am just telling you the facts that in 1975, the price of one litre of petrol was Rs. 3.19. In 2006, it is more than Rs. 55. In 1975, the cost of one cylinder of gas was Rs. 23.91. Today, one cylinder of gas costs Rs. 288. In such an overwhelming inflationary situation, the Government must make clear whether they are going to reduce the price. If not, they must give the reason for it.

I demand that by tomorrow the Government must announce reduction by at least Rs. 4 of petroleum and Rs. 2 of diesel. Otherwise, it would be looked upon as an anti-people Government. I would take it as an anti-people State of the UPA Government. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): On behalf of my Party, I associate with this matter.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those Members who to associate with him, may send their slips.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice in this regard
...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Prices of petroleum products were increased during your regime.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: If we increased the prices we also decreased them ...(Interruptions) for a long time it is being said that the price of oil would be decreased. It is a matter of sorrow that as reported by the press, the Government are going to increase the prices of cooking gas. Decreasing the prices by twenty-five paise, speaks volumes about your concern for the poor.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: 25 paise is.....*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This word should be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: The Government must pay attention in this direction. If the Minister of Petroleum has to make an announcement, instead of doing it outside, he should do so in the Parliament while it is in session and state that he is going to do such and such thing so that the people of the country may get some respite
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rupchand Pal ji, you can also associate.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Please give me one minute. I am told that the international price of crude oil has declined. Now that the price has come down, they should review the price and justify the price. That is the mechanism. Why the Government of India is not coming forward? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I have also given a 193 notice on this.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): The international prices have now come down to the 2005 level from 78 dollars per barrel to 55-56 dollars per barrel. The prices of petroleum products, namely, diesel, petrol, LPG, had been hiked repeatedly.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, it is a heavy burden to the common people. It is causing great hardship and suffering. In view of the steep decline in the international prices of crude, the Government should immediately reduce the prices of all these petroleum products.

I have two points to add. The Ministry of Petroleum has made a proposal to the Ministry of Finance for reduction of the central excise, which has already been agreed to in respect of aviation fuel, ATF at 8 per cent. But there is no corresponding decline in respect of the other petroleum products. We have given a suggestion that to meet the exigencies of the international crude prices market and the volatility, there should be a stabilization fund. The Government of India has already collected about Rs. 7,500 crore in the form of a cess. Our proposal was that let this cess fund be used to set up a stabilization fund so that in the case of volatility and steep hike in the international prices, the common people can be protected.

I urge upon the Government that without any further delay the Government should immediately announce the reduction in the prices of petroleum products. ...*(Interruptions)* While we are discussing it, it should be done on the floor of the House at the earliest. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name has been associated

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, please allow me to speak instead of associating my name. I want to speak for just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, please allow the hon. Members to speak on this important issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.S. Gadhavi, Shri Subrata Bose, Shri Brajesh Pathak, Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, Shri G. Karunakara Reddy, Shri Ganesh Singh, Shri Virendra Kumar, Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar, Shri Sandeep Dikshit, Chaudhary Bijendra Sinigh, Dr. Arvind Sharma, Prof. Chander Kumar, Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam and Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba' have been allowed to associate on this matter.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Paighat): Sir, the hon. Minister is listening. He must respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not possible for me to compel him to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, you ask him to respond. ...*(Interruptions)* The Leader of the House should make a concerted statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel him. If he wants he can make a statement. I cannot compel him.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): This is an important matter ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not within the jurisdiction of the Chair to compel the Minister to read out his statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manvendra jee, you may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government is not agreeing to reduce the prices. Some body should take the responsibility.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahemdabad): The House is in session. The Hon. Minister should respond whether the price would be decreased or not.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we are walking out.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we are also walking out.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Since the government is not responding, we stage a walk out in protest.

15.05 hrs

(Shri Basu Deb Acharia: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav and some other hon. Members then left the House.)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: When the House is in session, the hon. Minister should not make a statement outside ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you believe that I can compels him?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot give the direction.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the common man is hit hard by the price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The Government is not responding and we stage a walk out in protest ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is not responding. It is taking anti people measures. We also stage a walk out in protest.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I also stage a walk out in protest.

15.07 hrs.

(Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Harin Pathak, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members then left the House.)

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to raise a very important issue in the House. A news item published in "Dainik Jagran" dated 24 November, 2006 under the caption, "Mathura Refinery Par Aatanki Khatare Ka Shak" is a very alarming and serious issue. Other newspapers have also reported in this regard that a person has said in Mathura Refinery that he had been given a few lakhs of Rupees to plant explosives in the refinery. He had informed the Police in this regard. Police said that it holds no water, no proof has been found. It has been reported that later on intelligence agencies got into action and smelt a rat. Thereafter, the Police and the administration were also put on alert. My main purpose to raise this issue in the House is to highlight the threat not only to Mathura refinery but also to all the refineries located in India, as Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had made statement in the House that refineries and other such places even Parliament House are under threat of terrorist attack.

Therefore, I want to say, through you, that the Government should disclose the steps being taken for the security of refineries and the Parliament House. This is a very important issue. If such incident happens in a refinery then it could cause devastation only to the refinery but also to the people living in surrounding areas upto 100 Kms. This matter concerns India as a whole. So, I urge this August House that the Ministry should improve security measures not only for this refinery but for every refinery and review the security aspect of refineries. Commuters to the township of refineries should be frisked from security point of view, otherwise, a major accident could take place in future due to spread of terrorism. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this discussion about farmers of the country is the most important discussion of the day. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here and you are also a farmer. We all are good cultivators. After independence, farmers piled up stocks of foodgrains post green revolution but due to wrong policies India had to import 50 Lakh tonnes of wheat from abroad for the first time. At present, sowing of wheat is going on in the whole country but DAP fertilizer is not available. Consequently, production of wheat will be affected by the unavailability of DAP fertilizers. The reason behind this is that the subsidy on DAP and its price has been

fixed by the Government. The price of input on DAP world over has increased by \$300-400 resultantly, the price of DAP has increased. Moreover, we are unable to import it and its prices here have increased and production has decreased. The Minister of Agriculture is present here. I would like him to give an assurance of restoring the subsidy given on DAP and the prices fixed under pressure of world bank and America should be rationalized.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not necessary that I ask him to give a statement right now. It is upto him whether he gives a statement right now or not.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have brought this issue to the notice of the Government through this House. If the Government does not act swiftly, then it will adversely effect the production of wheat.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiyarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to raise this issue a long ago but after six days today I have got an opportunity to raise this issue. As my friend has mentioned, just now, scarcity of fertilizers is being faced all over the country. This is the sowing time. Farmers go to shops with their tractor-trolley to purchase Urea and they have to come back empty handed after spending Rs. 50-100.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, if a meeting is very necessary, then you can go and talk outside.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Sir, the distress of farmers is evident from the fact that today itself a farmer has committed suicide in Punjab near Bhogpur. I want to raise this issue in this House that if farmers do not get fertilizers on time then it will result in bad crop and if crop is bad then as the whole nation is worried and farmer are committing suicide, it will lead to dearth of foodgrains and farmers will be forced to take such drastic steps. As per my information between the two minister. Therefore, my request is that attention should be paid in this direction and arrangements should be made for the availability of fertilizers to farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh Ji, should I associate your name with the issue raised by Shri Avinash Rai Khanna?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not associate myself at all. You are aware of the kind of trouble agricultural community is facing. It is a very sorry state of affairs. The Hon'ble Minister had imported wheat during the last procurement season and we had thought that this time the department will help out farmers and save them from trouble but just opposite has happened. You know the quantity of wheat produced in our state. Therefore, from our state a demand 75 thousand Metric ton DAP fertilizer and 2500 metric ton Phosphorus fertilizer has been made. The sowing season for wheat start between 26 October to 26 November. Thereafter late variety is sown. If late variety is sown then its yield will be very less. This will result in a serious crisis not only for farmers but for the country also. I want to say that when sowing season comes, the Government should atleast make arrangements for these things. I want to bring one more thing to the notice of the House that a file is pending with the Joint Secretary who deals with matter relating to Jammu and Kashmir. I request that this should be cleared ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly take your seat. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Smt. Sujatha.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Dr. Mishra, I will call you when it is your turn.

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a very important matter.

The crisis in the agricultural sector in the country is going on unabated and reports of farmers' suicides continue to pour in from different parts of the country. There are numerous reasons for the sad state of affairs in the agriculture sector. The inadequate availability of loans with low interest rates through nationalized banks and financial institutions is a major reason pushing farmers into debt traps. The absence of such institutions in rural areas and the low percentage of agricultural loan disbursement by the nationalized banks are being exploited by private money-lenders who lend out loans to the needy farmers at exorbitant interest rates.

In this situation, the Government have to evolve a comprehensive mechanism to reach financial relief to the

suffering farmers making available loans at low interest rates through public sector banks and financial institutions which will help in liberating the farmers from the clutches of greedy private money-lenders. The Government of Kerala recently introduced the 'Agricultural Debt Relief Bill' aiming to provide relief to the farmers who are affected by agrarian crisis and to provide relief to farmers who are unable to repay agricultural loans.

But the enactment of laws by the State alone cannot help the situation as the nationalized banks and financial institutions would be out of the ambit of such Acts. Hence, a comprehensive central legislation is imperative to have legal binding on these financial institutions for providing loans and financial relief to the farmers.

I urge upon the Government to take urgent measures to bring in a new legislation in this regard.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I associate myself with what she has stated.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Though Shri Prabhunath Singh ji's name was listed at S. No. 1 and after that I was to speak. That is why I thought that I would be the second speaker.

Not only Uttar Pradesh but the entire country is in the grip of cold wave and the mercury is dipping further. The poor, especially the agricultural labourers do not get employment in villages and they migrate to cities in search of jobs but they do not get any shelter there. I, therefore, urge upon, the Central Government to make separate arrangements for the same in all states so that the poor, who do not have clothes and blankets to cover themselves, do not fall victim to cold.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the Gujarat Mineral Industries Association, and the Probandar District Mine-owners and Manufactures Association have represented to declare chalk as a minor mineral instead of a major mineral. The proposal to consider chalk a minor mineral instead of a major mineral has been sent to the Government of India, Ministry of Mines, on 10th January, 2006 with a subsequent reminder on 31st May, 2006. I urge upon the Government of India to examine the matter and take early action.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I would like to raise a very serious issue. We all bitterly know how people belonging to a minority community had been butchered in the western part of country in the year 2002. Five thousand families were displaced and hundreds of people were killed. However, till today there has been no rehabilitation effort from the State Government. The Central Government sends money for their rehabilitation of Gujarat riot victims but the State Government of Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, that is totally wrong. He cannot raise the matter of Gujarat here. Everything is done by the Government of Gujarat.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: If that is so, why are those victims leaving the camps?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Do not mislead the House by every now and then raising this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only Shri Hannan Mollah's statement will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: A Parliamentary delegation is going on a visit to Gujarat tomorrow. The Government should take immediate steps to rehabilitate those people. That is my demand.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the agreement between Wal-mart and Bharti Enterprises is in effect a backdoor entry of FDI in retail trade. FDI in retail trade is not permissible under the existing policy of foreign investment in India. This agreement is an attempt to circumvent the existing policy regulation to gain a foothold in the Indian market. It will definitely displace the retailers on a massive scale. This will also squeeze the domestic manufacturers and farmers because of the massive buying power of those companies.

This will definitely displace the retailers and also result in unemployment, particularly when we have massive unemployment problem in our country. This is nothing but a big backdoor entry. Only one brand is allowed in retail trade but what has happened yesterday is, FDI is allowed in the retail market. This would adversely affect lakhs and lakhs of our retail traders. Hence, I demand that the Government should intervene and to see that there is no back door entry of FDI in retail trade.

*Not recorded.

Whatever has been done is to be prevented. I demand that the Government should take effective measures to prevent backdoor entry of FDI in the retail trade.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you means that you should end your statement.

[Translation]

Its an indication that you should conclude now.

[English]

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): It is a serious matter. On 20.11.2006 at 1820 hours, there was a bomb blast at Belakoba Railway Station in Halbadi-New Jalpaiguri Passenger Train which get connected from Darjeeling. Terrorists had a plan to explode the bomb at New Jalpaiguri Station. In these incidents, seven people died and 71 were badly injured and a large number of passengers were wounded, who were not admitted in the hospital. I would request the Railway Minister, through you, to give compensation of a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh and job security to a person from the affected family who lost the life and Rs. 50,000 for those who are injured. I further request to review the security of the trains that are running all over the country.

After the incident, vegetable growers of the Halbadi area has been restricted to transfer the vegetables at Siliguri and other markets from this train. Critical situation has arisen in this area for the growers. This may kindly be considered without any further delay for the betterment of the vegetable growers of those areas and arrange vendor coach attached with these trains.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I would like to place before the Government a very important issue with regard to the cooperative movement in Kerala. Cooperative movement in Kerala is very strong unlike in other States. They are taking a number of issues connected with the common people. The proposed Banking Regulatory Amendment Act really makes the present system of functioning in the cooperative movement difficult. As a result, now the cooperative societies, especially Agricultural Primary Cooperative Societies (APCSs), can carry out most of the banking businesses, though they are not considered as banks. But if the definition is strictly followed, then it would be difficult for the cooperative societies in Kerala to continue to do the work that they are doing. The cooperative societies in

Kerala are taking the responsibility of public distribution system, *nidhi* stores and many other functions in the medical and health areas. So, we request the Government to exclude the Kerala's cooperative sector in the proposed amendment Bill.

The second issue is that the Government has decided to collect income tax from the cooperative societies. The cooperative societies are really working with the assistance of the common people. It is unlike the other financial institutions. It is really the members of the cooperative societies who give deposits. As far as the State Cooperative Banks are concerned, the profit is really very meagre. It is true in the case of the district cooperative banks. But as far as the primary cooperatives are concerned, it is very meagre. It is an interesting thing that if the Government collects the amount, the total amount that the Government wants to collect will be higher than the amount that it gets. So, there is no reason and justification for imposing income tax from the profits of the cooperative societies because it is unlike the other financial institutions. So, this has to be taken into consideration and the cooperatives of Kerala should be excluded from the provisions of the proposed Bill.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): There is a widespread apprehension among the people of Kerala regarding some news item appeared in some national dailies in Kerala. It says that the Government of India is going to refuse clearance for the International Container Terminal at Cochin. As you all know, everything is ready for the setting up of a container terminal of an international standard in Cochin. A few weeks back only the Government refused clearance for another port in Vizhinjam in Trivandrum, due to security reasons. This news item also came in the newspapers that due to security reasons, the Cochin International Trans-shipment Container Terminal is also facing the same problem of security. So, the people of Kerala and the Government of Kerala have requested the Government of India to give clearance as early as possible and the Kerala Government has also invited hon. Prime Minister for the 'foundation stone laying ceremony', for the Container Terminal at Cochin. So, this is our request; the Government should give all clearances necessary for the Trans-shipment Container Terminal at Cochin. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is in the grip of major

power crisis. Load shedding for about four hours is a regular feature in the city. All industrialists and farmers are in a state of distress due to power cut. The crisis has also intensified due to some fault in the power station which is also hampering the supply of drinking water.

Sir, according to an agreement signed on 10.5.84, various hydel projects like Anandsahib hydel project, Mukeria Ghan hydel project, Then Dam hydel project, UBDC charan hydel project and Shahpur kandi hydel project were to be referred to the Supreme Court and Rajasthan should get its share of electricity. I, therefore, demand that the Central Government should ensure the power supply to Rajasthan from those States in which it has got its share so that the residents, industrialists and farmers of Rajasthan get relief.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, as has been pointed out by my colleague from Kerala, Shri Krishnadas, two very important international container trans-shipment terminal projects are in doldrums due to the objections raised by the National Security Agency. Sir, these two projects are not Kerala-specific projects. They are actually of vital importance to the nation. These two ports; Vallarpadam near Cochin and Vizhinjam near Trivandrum are located adjacent to the international shipping trunk route. Due to their vital locations, these are major projects which are vital to the country. Country expects that Vallarpadam will be the hub of the container trans-shipment work as far as the whole southern region is concerned. The hon. Prime Minister himself came and laid the foundation stone for the Vallarpadam Project. Nobody had raised any objection. Sir, these projects are being operated on BOT basis and the work has been taken up by Dubai Ports World Company. The same company operates in Visakhapatnam, Mundra and Chennai Ports. Container Trans-shipment terminals are there. All of a sudden, the National Security Agency has raised this particular aspect of security on the plea that Dubai Ports World Company has taken up work in Pakistan, Guddar Port in Baluchistan. It seems that that port was constructed by a Chinese company called.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Let me complete, Sir. I have been waiting here patiently from morning.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand? This is not the time to give a lecture. You should mention the point, you like to bring forth.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I have to complete it, Sir. Let me complete it. Give me one minute time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the proper way.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Is this not a proper way, Sir, to wait patiently for my turn?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not telling what you would like to mention.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Let me complete, Sir. If you do not allow me to complete, what can I do?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not a debate.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: The point I want to emphasise, Sir, is we feel this is not fair as far as these two particular projects are concerned.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not telling what you would like to mention.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: What I am requesting the Government is ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not given you time for discussion.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): This is to draw the attention of the Government and the

House on the plight of National Highway No. 9, which passes from Hyderabad to Vijayawada. Except in my district, four-laning has been done on the National Highway between Hyderabad and Vijayawada. This is the most important lane. In fact, it should have been made six-laner but not even four-laner has been made. Dozens of accidents are taking place every day. In one year, more than 300 people have died. It is almost one person a day. I would request the Government to immediately sanction the necessary grants to expand it to four lanes. Already the survey has been done but in the name of detailed Project Report it is being withheld. I would request that at the earliest the four-laning should be done.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Gujarat is the largest producer of polymers, which is used as raw material for plastic woven sack industry. The industry has developed woven sacks for packing of fertilizers, sugar, rice and other commodities. The gradual increase in compulsory use of jute bags is adversely affecting the plastic-woven sack industry. To protect the plastic polymer industry, the Government of Gujarat has requested a number of times to reduce the level of compulsory jute packing in food grains and sugar to a reasonable level of 50 per cent to 60 per cent.

In spite of the repeated requests, in the year 2005-06 ending on 30.6.2006 the Government of India has decided that hundred per cent of both food grains and sugar be packed in jute bags. It has been represented that due to the shortage prevailing in the domestic markets, the import of jute bags has been increased from the neighbouring States, that is Bangladesh and Nepal.

In spite of repeated requests from the State Government, various associations as well as the recommendation of 14th SAC, the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, *vide* its order dated 24.7.2006 continued hundred per cent use of jute packaging for supply or distribution of food grains and sugar in the year 2006-07.

Sir, I would request the Government of India to reconsider the decision and relax the 100 per cent compulsory provision for jute packaging as above to protect the interest of the plastic woven sack industry of Gujarat as well as of other States.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several schemes are formulated by the Government for the welfare of Beedi workers, but all these schemes that are being run by the Government have proved unsuccessful in checking the exploitation of Beedi workers. Even today, the Beedi workers are compelled to work on the decade old wages. Due to the monopoly of middlemen on the Beedi industry and the indifferent attitude of the officers of the department of labour, the benefits of schemes being run by the Government are not reaching to the workers. Even today, thousands of workers of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujrat are deprived of registration on one hand and on the other there is a lot of disparity in the wages in respect of per thousand Beedi manufacturing in all these states. The middlemen are not paying minimum wages in several. As a result thereof, the economic and social status of the Beedi workers remains the same and due to paucity of funds, they become the victims of several diseases and die an untimely death.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take meaningful steps to uplift the economic and social status of the beedi workers as also bring uniformity in the wages for per thousand manufacturing of beedies in all states and pay them minimum wages.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, this is for your kind attention and for seeking the intervention of the Ministry of External Affairs to direct our Embassy at Kuwait for the release and repatriation of Shri Asharaf and Shri Francis Kochavaran. These two Indian citizens holding Indian passports were working with M/s. Public Warehousing Company, Sulaibiya, Kuwait. This company is a US based one and Asharaf and four of his colleagues were supplying food materials to the US Army in Iraq. On 6th of this month, the above convoy was attacked by some strangers or extremists and kept under house arrest. Their passport and other emigration documents also were snatched away by these strangers. Mr. Asharat and his colleagues somehow escaped from their custody and approached the police authorities for help. The police arrested them and detained them in the Basva detention centre. They are not even being provided adequate food and they are ill-treated and are mentally tortured.

Mr. Asharaf belongs to my constituency and is a native of Alleppey. He belongs to a poor family. His family consists of his wife, three children and ailing mother. His family members are very eager and anxious of his return to home land. I, therefore, request that appropriate action may please be taken for the immediate release and repatriation of the individual from the Basva jail at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri P.C. Thomas to speak. You can raise only one matter.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: My demand from the Government is to start some special trains to Kerala during this winter for the Christmas vacation and for the new year because there is a lot of rush. The persons who go to book any train, they are not able to get the booking. The situation is same with Bangalore because a lot of people are working in Bangalore. Same is the case with Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and other important States.

Therefore, I would request the Railway Minister to order some special trains with all facilities with water and food to Kerala from different important places immediately.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramkripal Yadav: Not present.

[English]

Dr. Rajesh Mishra to speak. First, you go to your seat.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, permission may be granted to me to speak from here.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the incident that took place Yesterday in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, can be termed as 'the democracy's. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am not being allowed to speak truth.*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The statement was the same. When you were speaking.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: When you were speaking, we were listening. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Suman ji, you may recall that I had also allowed you to speak. It was also a state matter at that time.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the manner in which democracy was murdered by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in its capital, had never been done by any elected Government earlier. ...(Interruptions) Yesterday, the state President of the Congress Party, and the deputy-leader alongwith fifty thousand congressmen staged a demanstration in front of the Legislative Assembly. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Mishra, now your point has come.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh is allowed to associate with what Dr. Mishra has mentioned just now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. You may sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SEPAKER: The name of Chaudhary Bijender Singh may also be associated with him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, female foeticide is rampant in the country. The declining sex ratio would have serious repercussions in future, especially in the status of women. It would lead to increased sexual violence, trafficking and reduced mobility of women. How will India be able to hold its head high before other countries if this increasing crime against humanity is allowed to continue?

There is an urgent need for issue of guidelines for full and strict implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 to prevent female foeticide. As the law was not being implemented strictly, unscrupulous doctors were conducting sex determination tests indiscriminately, resulting in female foeticide. The State-wise figures of a recent survey shows a declining sex ratio. Female foeticide would cause irreversible damage to the society if remedial measures were not taken immediately.

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Archana Nayak]

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to issue strict guidelines to the States and the Union Territories to conduct surprise checks in nursing homes and give severe punishments to the doctors indulging in female foeticide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No doubt, the matter is very important.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, I want to say a few words. There is a report. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the National General Secretary of Jamat Ulema-a-Hindi and a Member of Rajya Sabha, Maulana Mehmud Medami, was taken into judicial custody and sent to Tihar Jail yesterday. His only fault is that four year back he had demanded reservation for Muslims at the residence of the Prime Minister. In retaliation, he was sent to jail on the charges of violation of section 144.

I would like to demand the Government, through you, that Maulana Mahmud Madni Sahab should be released immediately by bsolving him of the charges. Thanks.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is an agrarian country. Eighty percent peasants of our country live in villages. The price of cotton produced in our country including Rajasthan is Rs. 1800 per quintal ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your colleague is speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in 1990 the, price of cotton was Rs. 2500. But after 1990 and till date its price was fixed between Rs. 1800 and Rs. 2000. Nowadays farmers' produce is being sold at cheaper rates whereas diesel is dearer. Every produce of farmers is now being sold at cheaper rates. I would like to request the Government, through you, that the

*Not recorded.

price of cotton should be increased and farmers' produce which is being sold at the rates of Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2000, should be sold at Rs. 5000 per quintal. Apart from this, I associate myself with the previous members who spoke and I would like to say that there has been a crisis of fertilizers in Rajasthan. For this reason riots, hunger-strikes and strikes are taking place at Sriganganagar. I would like to request the Government, through you, that the Government should provide DAP and other fertilizers to the farmers at the earliest.

15.52 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I take up the Matters under Rule 377, there is a Paper to be laid on the Table. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table:

1. A copy of the Notification No. 46/2006-CE. (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th November, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce Central Excise duty on Heat set web offset rotary printing machines with a minimum speed of 70,000 copies per hour from 16 per cent to 8 per cent, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of Central Excise Act, 1944.

(Placed in Library. See No. L.T.—5057A/2006)

2. A copy of the Notification No. 114/2006-Cus., (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th November, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce basic Customs duty on Heat set web offset rotary printing machines with a minimum speed of 70,000 copies per hour from 12.5 per cent to 5 per cent, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

(Placed in Library. See No. L.T.—5057B/2006)

15.53 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Sajjan Kumar - not present.

Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana - not present.

Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba'

(I) Need to check deforestation between Kashipur and Ramnagar in Aampokhra Tarai, Uttaranchal

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards approximately 200 acres of natural forests lying on National Highway No. 121 at 14th K.M. stone between Kashipur and Ramnagar in Aampokhra Tarai West Region of Uttaranchal. The State Forest Department has cut down all the trees in this forest area perhaps under the pretext of treating these areas as degraded to grow herbal and medicinal plantation. Sir, it is indisputable that forests are integral and indispensable part of human life. Every Government endeavours to promote the forest wealth in order to preserve ecology and for sustainable development. In the circumstances, I would request the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that forests are not cut down by Forest Departments of any State in the guise of degraded forests. The feasibility of growing local trees to preserve the natural forest should also be explored in the said 200 acres of forest. Such an approach would not only avoid the destruction of natural habitat of hundreds of varieties of birds and animals but would also obviate the hindrance to the Tiger beats. In any eventuality, the decision to cut down trees should precede consultations with Project Tiger and other wild life experts and also the Forest Development Corporation.

(II) Need to take steps to check the spread of encephalitis in the eastern parts of the country

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the spread of encephalitis in the eastern part of India, particularly in the Gorakhpur division and the adjoining regions of Bihar.

Hundreds of deaths have been reported in the Press and there are reports that the people including children are not getting adequate medical care in the absence of doctors, nurses and medicines in the region.

The medical facilities at the hospitals are extremely poor and the common people have to go to private clinics for treatment having to sell their land and meager possessions. This situation has been continuing over the past six months and there is no relief for the affected people. The Minister for Health is requested to have this matter examined by a team of medical experts and suitable remedies be provided to the affected people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri L. Rajagopal - not present.

(III) Need for early clearance of the Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Gujarat State Legislature has passed a Bill entitled "The Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003" and the same has been forwarded to H.E. the President of India by H.E. the Governor of Gujarat on 1.4.2003. The Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* their letter dated 24.12.2003 had recommended deletion of certain clauses, namely, 14 and 16. The amended Bill has been passed by the State Legislative Assembly on 2.6.2004 and the same has been forwarded for the assent of H.E. the President of India on 19.6.2004. The State Government is awaiting the assent of H.E. the President of India. The Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003 is based on a similar Act passed by Government of Maharashtra, a neighbouring State. After Maharashtra Police was able to take action against some of the organised group of criminals, some of them have shifted to Gujarat. Unless and until we have statutory authority to deal with such criminals in the same manner as is possible for the Government of Maharashtra, the security situation in the State would remain under constant threat. Gujarat being the border State has all the more reasons to worry about the organised crime. Since the amended Bill is in accordance with the principles laid down by the hon. High Court at Bombay, Sir, I humbly request the Government of India to pursue the Bill which is pending with H.E. the President of India for his assent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava - not present.

- (iv) **Need to change the route of a few trains running between Delhi-Howrah via Jhansi-Jaunpur and Allahabad**

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is no direct train from Ural station in the district of Jalaun in my parliamentary constituency in U.P. for Delhi and for Allahabad. There is the High Court. Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad's office and Accountant General's office at Lucknow and people of Jalaun district have to go to these offices there but they are facing difficulties due to lack of any direct train.

So, I request the Union Government to divert two or three trains running between Delhi and Howrah via Jhansi, Kanpur and Allahabad so that people of my district may be benefited.

16.00 hrs.

- (v) **Need to clear pending projects under 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana' in Rajasthan**

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has announced Rajeev Gandhi Gramin Vidutikaran Yojna in April, 2005 under which the target was fixed for electrification of all the unelectrified villages and hamlets in the next five years and it includes provision of electrification facilities to the families living below the poverty line. It also includes issuance of free connection to all the families living below poverty line. There is a proposal of Providing 90 percent grant by the Union Government and 10 percent loan to State Government. Gramin Vidutikaran Nigam has been authorized for implementation of this project.

Under this project, 15 projects of Rajasthan are pending with Gramin Vidyutikaran Nigam under which electrification of 2,750 unelectrified villages, 2,285 hamlets and provision of domestic connection to 10,55,551 BPL families and 2,17,557 general families has been proposed. In spite of repeated requests these proposals are still pending.

In the absence of approval to these 15 projects, the domestic connections and BPL connections cannot be issued in the 15 districts of Rajasthan. This is disturbing the balance and pace of development in different districts. So, pending projects of Rajasthan under Rajeev Gandhi

Gramin Vidyutikaran Yijana should be cleared at the earliest.

- (vi) **Need to revise the rates of royalty on coal and other major minerals on ad-valorem basis**

[English]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Orissa is a mineral rich State, but it does not get non-tax revenue in the shape of royalty from such major minerals in the State to the desired extent as the rates of royalty are not being revised in time. The Planning Commission and the 12th Finance Commission have recommended that the rate of royalty should be revised on *ad valorem* basis. But the Government of India has not yet done it. In the past, the rate of royalty on coal and other minerals was revised on expiry of more than 5 to 7 years though the rules stipulate that there should be revision after expiry of 3 years. The delay in the revision of the rate of royalty on coal and other major minerals has caused a loss of Rs. 150.00 crore per annum. The State has suggested royalty on *ad valorem* basis. The rate of royalty on coal was revised with effect from 16.8.2002 and is due to be revised with effect from 16.8.2005. The 11th Finance Commission has also suggested that revision of royalty should take place every 3 years and in case such revision does not take place, the State should be fully compensated through grant-in-aid.

I earnestly appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in the matter and instruct the Ministry of Coal to take immediate measures in this regard.

- (vii) **Need to expedite the functioning of M.S. Swaminathan committee with a view to provide relief to the farmers affected due to debt trap in Kerala**

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): The State Government of Kerala had requested the Government of India to include five districts of Kerala i.e. Wyanad, Palakkad, Kasargode, Alappuzha and Idukki, where large number of farmers had committed suicide following debt trap, in the Vidharbha model package. Three districts had been included but the districts of Alappuzha and Idukki had been left out. Hon. Agriculture Minister had visited Kerala for an on-the-spot study of the situation and announced that a Committee, headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan would be constituted for the indepth study of the situation of farmers' crisis and to formulate the relief measures for the farmers. Three-four months had lapsed and the

Committee has not started functioning yet. So, I would urge upon the hon. Agriculture Minister to expedite the functioning of the Committee so that relief would be given to the farmers as early as possible.

- (viii) Need to ensure that fertilizers are made available to Uttar Pradesh as per the quota earmarked for it.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a shortage of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh in the Rabi season and farmers are facing difficulties due to this shortage. State Government is trying to provide fertilizers and high yield seeds to farmers but the problem is that Uttar Pradesh has got only 2.09 metric tonne DAP till date against the quota of 4.09 lakh metric tonne and quota of urea has also not been provided. In Uttar Pradesh production of fertilizers is not sufficient to meet the need. Hence, State Government has to buy Urea and DAP from Gujrat. But the Union Government is unable to provide railway rakes for its transportation. This is a very serious matter. Farmers of Uttar Pradesh are very angry for not getting the fertilizers. Uttar Pradesh is facing the crisis of fertilizers because the Union Government and the Railway Ministry in particular are not executing their duties.

It is my request to this House that supply of fertilizers according to the quota earmarked for U.P. should be ensured in time and Union Government should take positive initiative so that farmers may be saved from destruction.

- (ix) Need to declare Ballrajgarh in Madhubani district of Bihar as a National Tourist Spot.**

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a historical place called Ballrajgarh in the Babubarhi Block under the Madhubani district in Bihar. There is a legend that this is the place of great generous King Bali who was the grandson of Prahlad and son of Virochan. It was taken over by the Government in 1905 in view of its historical importance. Excavation work was carried out there by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1962-63 and Directorate of Archaeology and Museum Govt. of Bihar in 1972-73 and 1974-95. Remains ranging from Uttari-Krishna-Margit Terracotta period of 10th to 11th century (Pal period) were found in the excavation. Remains of ancient temple, human and animal terracotta, figurines, copper coins,

general terracotta and other things besides a defence wall built during the Shung Period in 2nd Century BC were found. This is the greatest historical place of Bihar. Relatively, lesser important places like Vaishali and Vikramshila have been developed as tourist places by the Government of India, but Ballrajgarh characterizing legends has not been sufficiently developed.

I would like the Government of India to send a high level team at the earliest for developing this rare legendary and historical heritage, Ballrajgarh as a national tourist place and take necessary positive steps to prepare a project to protect this national and historical heritage.

[English]

- (x) Need to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas in Vellore and Thiruvannamalai districts of Tamil Nadu**

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): In Tamil Nadu, right from the days of the Britishers, we find the functioning of established schools in certain districts including the present Vellore and Thiruvannamalai districts. But these districts do not have adequate number of such schools due to its backwardness caused by inadequate industrial growth and increased number of people living below poverty line. Quality education and well established higher secondary schools are not there in good number at a time when a new Thiruvalluvar University has been established in Vellore and reputed Technical Institutions have been established in Vellore and Thiruvannamalai. So there is a need to establish Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools there in and around Vellore and Thiruvannamalai that come under my constituency and home district. People from several parts of India live in historical and pilgrimage towns like Vellore and Thiruvannamalai. Considering the population mix and the educational needs, I urge upon the Union HRD Ministry to start new Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools in Vellore and Thiruvannamalai with the co-operation of the State Government. The Centre may initiate steps to establish KVS schools there from the beginning of the academic year 2007-2008.

- (xi) Need to allow State Government of Orissa to levy duty on power generated from the State**

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Orissa has a vast coal deposit. Orissa is a power surplus State and it exports power to other States. Since electricity duty can be charged on consumption only, the importing State benefits

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

while the exporting State has to bear the negative externality such as environmental degradation due to mining and depletion of mineral resources, etc. This tantamounts to transfer of the sources from the producers State without any compensation for the huge negative externality and depletion of its natural resources. If 1000 MW power is generated in Orissa and evacuated, the importing State gets electricity duty to the extent of Rs. 100 crore, while the State in which the power is produced does not get anything.

This situation has to be altered by either allowing the State to levy duty on generation or else mandate that a percentage of power generated should be given free of cost to the State by the Central Public Sector generating companies as is the case in Hydro Power generation. I would urge upon the Government to allow the State to levy duty on generation of power or else provide a percentage of power generated there free of cost to the State.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): It is most important. The Government should consider this.

(xii) Need to conduct classes in the recently set up Kendriya Vidyalaya in Maharajganj, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Maharajganj is the Sub-divisional headquarters under the Siwan District in Bihar. Sub-divisional police headquarters, Railway Station, Hospital, High School, College, a number of high quality commercial establishments, police station, Block headquarters are already there in Maharajganj. Thousand of Central and State Government employees and retired employees live in Maharajganj and its adjoining places. Maharajganj is a densely populated area, but there is not even one good quality school there. Employees have no other option but to send their children at other places to study and for it they have to bear unnecessary economic burden. Need of a good quality school has for long been felt in Maharajganj. Central Government has already given its approval to open a Central School in Maharajganj. Format of Maharajganj Central School have already been sent by the State Government and Collector, Siwan has also sent a report regarding availability of land as per the direction given by the Central Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. M. Ramadass—not present.

Shri Hemlal Murmu—not present.

(xiii) Need to reopen the closed Post Offices and restore the two time delivery services in Kovilpatti Town Post Office, Tamil Nadu

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): Indian Postal Service is an age old one. The service is very much relevant to the poor while so it is most unfortunate that this service has to undergo a change on account of the Government policy to either close down the post office and reduce the numbers.

To cite an illustration, a post office which is running in Kovilpatti Town in Tamil Nadu is now being closed. This kind of acts are reported throughout Tamil Nadu. In addition, many Post offices have reduced the service from two deliveries a day to one.

Under these circumstances, I request the Government to restore the service of two time delivery in Kovilpatti Town Post Office.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri L. Rajagopal, you should have been present when your name was called out earlier.

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Sir, I would like to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should feel sorry.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I feel sorry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you can speak.

(xiv) Need to ensure that arrest of persons in connection with political agitations may not be a ground for denial of passports.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Sir, there is a glaring discrimination in issuing/withholding passport to some of our citizens. Once application is submitted for passport, the Passport Officer sends it to the area police station for verification. But, according to the Passport Act, if a person has any criminal case pending against him, he will not be issued any passport. It is not proper, because if a political worker — or, any person for that matter — takes up or participates in *dharma/raasta roko* demonstration/hunger strike, he is booked under IPC. This

becomes a criminal offence and such people are denied passport. Nowadays, majority of the students are taking part in such activities to express their opinion against the policies of the Government. So, when police comes for enquiry, they mention it as criminal offence and passport is denied. Moreover, the Act does not say nor authorities act to cancel passport issued if, subsequently, some criminal charges are filed against the person after issuance of passport. The said provision is archaic and was relevant only to 19th Century. In those days, all Indians were fighting for Independence and the Britishers included this provision with an intention that Indians should not be allowed to go abroad which otherwise strengthen the Freedom Movement. So, the clause was primarily to prevent Indians from going abroad by the Britishers. This clause was also meant to act as a deterrent for all educated Indians taking part in the Freedom Struggle. Hence, it has no relevance in today's circumstances.

So, my plea for consideration of the Government of India is, while issuing passport, that only serious criminal offences such as theft, rape, dacoity, act of terrorism, instigating/perpetrating communal violence, waging a war against India, etc. should be taken into consideration and all others should be issued the passport.

16.16 hrs.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 19—further discussion on the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill. The time allotted for this Bill is three hours. One hour and six minutes had already been taken and the balance time available is one hour and 54 minutes.

Last time when the House was adjourned, Shri Mahatab was on his feet. He has already taken three minutes. Now, I request him to continue his speech.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I was deliberating on the Bill to amend the Essential Commodities Act. I had mentioned that 11 items are being removed which were already mentioned under Section 2(a) of the Essential Commodities Act but this Bill opts to retain seven categories of goods.

This extraordinary list includes commodities like raw jute and jute textiles, cotton hank yarn, foodstuffs, edible oilseeds and oils, fertilizers, drugs, petroleum products, seeds of vegetables, fruits, food and fodder crops and jute. I fail to understand why jute goods, cotton yarn and edible oils are specified in this new Schedule and deem it essential, and need to control and regulate their production, stocking, transportation and trade. I see no reason for including vegetables and fruits in this list. What is worse is that the Government retains the power to add more items to this Schedule. The power remains only with the Union Government. That may be a silver lining. The Government should spell out at this stage itself the logic for retaining many of the listed items in the new Schedule—and the logic of adding such a Schedule to the law.

It is worth recalling that a similar statute, meant to supplement the Essential Commodities Act is the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, and it still exists on the statute book. Also remaining in force are several Control Orders such as the Drug Price (Control) Order and the mandatory use of jute bags for packing food grains and sugar.

16.19 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG in the Chair]

We are aware that the Essential Commodities Act has undergone several amendments after it was first enacted in 1955. Most of the initial changes to the law aimed at making its provisions more stringent and hostile to trade.

It was long after the beginning of economic liberalization that the task was addressed for pruning the list of essential items and liberalizing some of the draconian provisions of the law enabling, notably the sweeping powers given to the enforcement agencies.

Many of the needless controls and curbs, and licensing requirements have also gradually been done away with, generating hopes that the law would some day be scrapped.

The proposed amendments have blighted these hopes. Indeed, considering the liberalization of the import-export regime and the growing competition in the domestic and global bazaar, measures like ECA are out of place and counter productive.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

I would suggest, revisit the issue and drastically reduce its scope. The much better scope would be to altogether scrap the ECA as well as its supplementary legislation Control Orders.

As this House is aware, the Essential Commodities Act, which allowed the Government to impose various controls, is a legacy of the Licence Permit Raj. Theoretically, such controls allowed the Government to control prices and obtain more equitable distribution of limited resources. In practice, they only served to perpetuate shortages and stifted growth and development.

Our experience with industrial licensing bears this out. Once, controls were eased in the early nineties, not only did shortages in cement, telephones and scooters disappeared, consumers also benefited from competition. It induced lower prices and quality.

Sir, the hon. Minister is also the Minister for Agriculture. The control on agricultural commodities were eased only in 2002. These controls made farm returns unattractive, discouraged investments in agri sector. But the context is vastly different today.

The country has come a long way from the food shortages of the Fifties. There is adequate local production of most commodities and if not, the country has sufficient foreign exchange to meet the shortages through imports.

I am of the opinion that the market must be allowed to function. This calls for reforms in Government procurement and easing of remaining controls by exhorting States to adopt the modal APMC Act.

The physical market has to improve. Please allow agricultural produce to move quickly from surplus to deficit regions. Trading system needs to be strengthened.

When the move to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was initiated, there was hope that it would lead to further liberalization of the restrictive provisions of the original Statute. But the Amendment Bill that the Government has got approved by the other House, the Upper House, that is, the Rajya Sabha seeks to achieve something else. It actually makes it easier for the Government to declare any commodity an essential item merely through a Notification. That the validity of such notifications will be limited to six months, is no comfort because an extension of this period is also permissible.

In today's context, the Essential Commodities Act needs to be viewed as wholly retrograde. What is vitally

needed is the removal of all unnecessary and redundant controls to permit the operation of market forces.

Sir, the previous NDA Government had deleted several categories. The UPA Government had been talking about further dilution of this law, till it was suddenly accosted by the demand from the Chief Ministers of Congress ruled States for more powers to tackle the menace of rising prices.

I fail to understand how the prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 has skipped the attention of these intelligent Chief Ministers, which exists in the Statute Book which is a draconian law. This law empowers the State Governments to detain any person on charges of unethical trade practices.

Such legal measures, besides being oppressive, leave ample scope for harassment and extortion.

Of course, unfair trade practices cannot, in any way, be disregarded but statutory measures, unfriendly to trade, are equally untenable. It would, therefore, be worthwhile to revisit, if not rescind, this dated law to make it more relevant.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily welcome the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006 brought in the Lok Sabha by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. This is a good Bill. It will remove obstacles in the movement of agricultural products produced by farmers and other essential commodities, it will get exemption from the objections raised by the State Governments and it will help a lot in making available to the consumers those things which are included in the Public Distribution System. There will be a number of things in it. Common people will get agricultural items and a number of other essential goods, as has been mentioned in the Statement of objects and Reasons.

[English]

"The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 provides for the control of the production, supply and distribution of essential commodities. Section 3 of the said Act empowers the Central Government to control production, supply and distribution of essential

commodities. It also empowers the Central Government under clause (b) of Section 5 of the said Act to delegate the powers to make orders or issue notifications under Section 3 to a State Government or an officer or authority subordinate to a State Government. Consequently, several control orders have been issued under the said Act."

[Translation]

It will be of a lot of help to it. What I have mentioned earlier and besides it will have Central Government's control also which is very much essential. I will say something more in this respect. You have noted it down on 21st May, 2001:

[English]

"The said Conference recommended for constitution of a Standing Committee consisting of Central Ministers-in-charge of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Finance, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Rural Development and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as also the Chief Ministers of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra."

[Translation]

I would like to request the hon. Minister that the states that have been left should also be included. I am from Mathura Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Rajasthan does not figure in the list and we have adjoining borders that touch Rajasthan. There is Haryana on one side of our border. I, therefore, strongly urge that all the states should be included in this list. This will result in smooth transportation of essential commodities and agricultural produce.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been discussed here time and again that the price-rise is continuously taking place up. This time, the forward trading of agricultural produce has brought about a considerable surge in the price-rise. Hon Minister of Agriculture should ponder over it. At the same time I would like to say that the permission for forward trading should not be granted unless the target of Government stock is completely met. I think that Hon. Minister has mentioned about it in his earlier statement. Today the common people are facing a slew of hardships due to the surge in the prices of rice, wheat and pulses.

The common people are in problems. It was earlier said that bread and butter was the last resort of survival and the prices of the same has also gone up and now their survival has become tough. A few days ago the price of chicken was low whereas the price of wheat was soaring high. So the permission for forward trading should not be granted unless the Government stock is fully accomplished. Then P.D.S. is not an unhealthy system.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the medicines have been accorded priority in the list of hon. Minister. Everybody needs medicines, whether they are from the rural background or urban background. Besides we also require to pay attention towards the quality of medicines. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the incident of the supply of substandard glucose which claimed the lives of a number of patients in the past when I and the hon. Minister were members of this House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the complaints of adulteration are coming from each and every corner of the country whether it is rice, sugar, spices, ghee or oil. This adulteration is causing various types of diseases in the country. The diseases of kidney, liver, brain hemorrhage, blood pressure, diabetes are rising in the human beings and the news of the same is being noticed daily in the newspaper. Diseases are constantly increasing due to the adulteration in the commodities. I have raised this issue time and again in the House. Milk is the most important part of our diet but even it is not free from adulteration. Today the adulteration of milk with urea has become the common complaint. What I would like to apprise the House and of which many of the hon. Members are already well-aware, is that adulterated milk can cause a number of dangerous disease among children. The poor who cannot afford to buy packaged milk have to purchase milk from the open market which is adulterated with urea. We all are aware that urea milk is being openly sold in the market. It is a slow poison for the society. Children are the future of this country. That's why I would like to urge you to pay heed towards it so that adulteration may be checked under the Essential Commodities Act.

Sir, India is predominantly an agricultural country and 80 percent of its population dependent on farming. Now-a-days the usage of fertilizers is increasing in farming. I am from Mathura. Shri Ramji Lal Suman from Uttar Pradesh has expressed his concern over the fact that entire Uttar Pradesh is suffering from the shortage of fertilizer. There has been sporadic processions in Mathura

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

since the last month. Of late, the Congress Party has launched "Jail Bharo Andolan" to protest the failure of UP Government in making fertilizer available in time. There is shortage of power and water there and at the same time it is sowing season. The farmers are up in arms in Uttar Pradesh. They are blocking roads and resorting to gherao of the district administration. Still the farmers are facing the shortage of fertilizers. I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Agriculture that if the state government could not pay attention to it or failed in this respect; you should have done something as you wrote.

[English]

Vide notification dated 25.10.1972, power to issue order under section 3 to provide for the prohibition of, or the imposition of the restrictions on, the storage of foodstuffs were also made exercisable by the State Government, subject to obtaining of prior concurrence of the Central Government.

[Translation]

We should have discussed the matter with the Central Government and the fertilizers should be made available to them through you. At the same time I would like to say to you that the entire country is in discontent due to the surging prices and even this House is concerned over the rising prices. The poor are suffering. Whether it is pulses, rice, sugar, vegetables or fruits, everything is getting dearer. Perhaps, rising prices might come down but at the same time it seems that the persons involved in this business are bringing artificial reduction in it. Although state Governments are authorized to take action against the hoarders, yet the onus also lies with the Central Government to conduct raids against them. The prices of commodities are soaring high. There is shortage of pulses and their prices are rising. Whether it is sugar, eatable commodities or vegetables everything is getting dearer. But the matter of surprise is that there is no control over market. The price of each and everything is rising day-by-day. So I would like to urge you for making a provision for intervention of Central Government in the Essential commodities Act. In case the state Governments fails in discharging their duties, the Central Government should conduct raids and take action against those businessmen and stockists who have stored consumer goods by unfair means and raised their prices by way of creating shortage thereof and impeded the flow of commodities to the market. For this purpose strict provision should be made in the Bill so that action may be taken against the hoarders.

At last, I would like to mention about the Public Distribution System especially in rural and urban areas where the poor are living below poverty line.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we provide foodgrains to the poor through public distribution system. But there are gross irregularities in it. The problems which are generally faced by the members of Parliament and the members of state legislative assemblies are the complaints regarding non-receipt of ration card by the poor. There is lacuna somewhere or the other in their details. I will urge you to constitute a district level committee comprising members of Parliament and state legislative assemblies to monitor the matter. There is no monitoring mechanism in the distribution of ration cards. That's why ration cards could not reach the poor. The foodgrains allocated to them are misused. I would like to conclude herewith a request to the hon'ble Minister that having taken all these things into account some amendments should certainly be brought in this Bill.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006 being introduced to bring amendments in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. I would like to congratulate hon'ble Member of Congress for admitting truthfully that inflation has been rising in the country. The Congress had given a slogan "Congress Ka Haath Garib ke Saath" but now the slogan has changed to "Congress ka haath meharaj ke saath and Congress ka haath aamiro ke saath". The prices are rising throughout the country. Just now the hon'ble Member was discussing about year 2002. I would like to thank the Government of NDA for efficient price management during the tenure when people had forgotten about their ration cards. He has rightly mentioned that a Standing Committee of representatives of various Ministries and Chief Ministers of 8-10 states was constituted while the NDA Government was in power and that Standing Committee had recommended that there should be free movement of foodgrains throughout the country. No licence, quota or permit would be required. This would benefit the farmers and all the items would be available in abundance throughout the country and this would check the price rise in a particular area because of shortage of a particular item. They were in power in many states at that time. They were also a part of that Standing Committee. Why did not they raise their objection at that point of time? Who has stopped them from doing so now, why do not they introduce the same system again?

Sir, just a few moments back, a speaker from that side stated that the Government of NDA has rendered us helpless and powerless because of which our Government has remained unable to take any action against the black marketeers. Therefore, this amendment Bill has been brought. I would like to say that who is stopping this Government from adopting the same system as was prevailing during the Government of NDA? It has been two years since they come to power, why have they failed to check the inflation? Pawar Sahib, please forgive me, but I would like to say that you are a very able, efficient and capable Minister, and are aware that there was nothing such as inflation during the period when Atal Bihari Ji was in power. People had forgotten completely as to what is a ration card was all about LPG and Kerosene were available in abundance. Anybody could get any amount of LPG or Kerosene but today, there is shortage of gas and Kerosene is being black marketed. The Government has no control over inflation. Ever since this Government has come to power, no efforts have been made to check inflation, which is why, people are forced to raise slogans like "Congress ka dekho khel, kha gayee shakkar, pee gayee tel."

Sir, who is responsible for inflation? Since the Congress party is representing the UPA Government, therefore, the blame for not being able to control inflation rests upon the Congress party. Hon'ble Sonia Ji is the Chairperson of UPA Government. She called a meeting of Chief Ministers but, it was held at her residence-10 Janpath. It would have been better if the conference was called at Shri Sharad Pawar Ji's office or in the office of Prime Minister, but the UPA Chairperson called the meeting at her residence, 10 Janpath. A lot of Congress Chief Ministers raised their concern over the price rise in the country and the idea to put a check on inflation was deliberated upon. Keeping that in view, this amendment Bill has been brought and efforts are being made for getting this Bill passed. This amendment has been proposed. What is this Amendment. Truth needs no evidence. Medicine is primary. Life saving drugs should be easily available.

Secondly, all fertilizers have been included in the Essential Commodities Act, be it carbonic, non-carbonic or mixed-fertilizers. Just now a Member from our party as well as a Member from Uttar Pradesh were mentioning about shortage of fertilizers. A group of representatives from our state Rajasthan had also met hon'ble Minister of Agriculture regarding shortage of fertilizers in the country. In view of good rains, sowing is taking place in

a number of states, but there is a shortage of fertilizers. Therefore, we have to import fertilizers from outside. Alongwith wheat, fertilizers are also being imported and the ships carrying wheat have reached the ports whereas the ships carrying fertilizers have got stranded in the sea itself. The ships carrying wheat would be unloaded first and then it would be carried in containers to various parts of the country and thereafter, fertilizer ships would be unloaded. This has generated a state of confusion all over the place.

Sir, it is being mentioned here that the farmers are being benefitted. Poor quality wheat in being imported from Australia at the rate of Rs. 1100 per quintal. This wheat is not consumable. Voice was also raised in the House regarding this. Recently, I visited villages in my constituency and I was told by the Co-operative shopkeepers there that the colour of wheat imported from Australia is very bad and the grain is very small. Chapatti's made of this wheat do not taste good. Whereas, the Government are purchasing wheat from Indian farmers at the rate of Rs. 700 to Rs. 800 per quintal. The Public Distribution system has collapsed because of high price rise.

Sir, the prices of foodgrains were reasonable and there was no price-rixe during the time of NDA Government. As a result of which, wheat was available at low prices in the open market and people had become indifferent towards Public Distribution System. People above poverty line had stopped buying grains from the Public Distribution System, infact the BPL people had also stopped. But when wheat and rice became costlier, they were forced to go back to shops under Public Distribution System.

Sir, recently a conference of Chief Ministers of Congress ruled states was held under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi Ji. It was decided in the conference that government should go for procurement of wheat to fill our godowns. But this Government has failed to do that also.

Sir, foreign companies as well as private companies of the country have purchased all the wheat from Haryana and Punjab and when the Government realized this and approached for purchase of the same nothing was left by that time. As a result, the Government godowns remained empty. Now the states are demanding wheat but there is no supply of wheat and rice. There is no wheat in the godowns to meet their demands. Therefore,

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

the Government has reduced the quota of wheat and are now giving 3 Kgs of wheat in place of five Kgs and four Kgs in place of Six Kgs. Besides, the Government have also raised the prices of foodgrains, due to which people above poverty line are disappointed and the BPL people are left only at the mercy of God. BPL category people are unable to get grains from the ration shops, as a result of which they have to face a lot of difficulties. Through you I would like to know as to who is responsible for all this mess and mismanagement? Wheat is being imported at high prices but this also has failed to check inflation and neither the farmers have got any relief nor have the people got foodgrains. Kerosene is not available to people and the Government are not reducing the prices of Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene. Whereas, petroleum prices have come down in the international market.

Sir, when the Government has enacted a law, it has the power to take action under that law, then, who is stopping the Government from taking any action. As per the figures given by the Government in respect of action taken so far, many raids have been conducted and a lot of people have been arrested, prosecuted and punished also. But this is not sufficient.

Therefore, through you, I would like to say that there is a fault in our mechanism itself which needs to be corrected. We also want that the Public Distribution System needs to be revamped so that foodgrains could be easily made available to the people of BPL category. Government is not giving any importance to mustard oil. They have imported it from Sri Lanka and Malaysia and other countries which has resulted in enclosure of ghani industry in our country. Mustard stocks in our country were left unused. Ghanis and oil Mills did not work, oil was not extracted and so it become costlier. Same is the case with pulses which are being imported. Therefore through you I would like to submit that the Congress Government should take it seriously. I am not seeing some of our colleagues today. The leftist parties which are supporting the Government are launching a movement against inflation. On the one hand, they have joined the Government and are shaking hands with them and on the other hand they are posing to be with the general public against inflation just to remain in the good books of the common man. Government is responsible for rise of prices and is unable to control inflation due to their own policies.

Through you, I would like to say that the Essential Commodities Act has been enacted and amendment has

also been made in this Act. This Act is required to be implemented strictly. Now the Government has got the right to decide which of the goods should be included and which should not be included. Previously there was a list of containing 8-10 items. It was deleted now a fresh list has been prepared. Now those things have been included. All the authorities be it the Union Government, State Governments, collectorate enforcement officers or the supply officers, all of them have got the powers. Then the Government should streamline the whole system and the whole mechanism so that all the things reach at desired places in the desired quantity.

Therefore, through you I would like to say that neither the composition nor the deeds of the Government are bad. I think that the Government under the leadership of Congress has wrong policies and bad intentions. That is why they are blaming the previous Government for doing this or that. It is two and a half years now that they have been occupying the treasury branches, what has been the result of their work in these two and a half years? After all what steps have you taken? 26 crore people of India are living below poverty line. There people living below poverty line are urging to reduce the prices and control the inflation. At least the items such as edible oil, bread, clothes, oil, pulses, wheat, rice and kerosene should reach to them, otherwise this inflation will ruin them. So I would seek your leave for a minute and would like to quote through you that the wrong policies of Government are responsible for inflation. The Union Government is working under the leadership of the Congress and thus the Government can not escape the responsibility of all this. The proposed movement of leftists also seems fake as they are supporting the Government of course the Essential Commodities Act was amended during the regime of the NDA Government. How the Congress have now suddenly work up to the fact after 4 years. Why did not they oppose it at the time of amendment. If the amendment was wrong why they have not brought further amendment to repeal the previous amendment. There is no opposing the fact that the future markets should be regulated and speculation in markets should be regulated, but people should get all the foodstuff. Therefore, Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act. That you have brought will certainly be passed. But we want that this hue and cry in the country inspite of the presence of able and expert person like Shri Sharad Pawar should be stopped and public distribution system be strengthened.

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

DR. ALAKESH DAS (Nabadwip): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill, which seeks to amend the Essential Commodities Act, was referred to the Standing Committee and it has now come back to the House with some suggestions from the Standing Committee. It had gone to the other House first and has now come to this House.

The Essential Commodities Act was framed in 1955. In the last 51 years, the term 'essential commodities' has remained in a generic term. No definition has been framed. Why is it essential? How does it become essential? There is no framing of a definition at all. I think, there should be some definition of 'essential commodity'.

Secondly, when it was referred to the Standing Committee, I was in the realization that the Government is thinking that our food security position has become very stable and that is why this amendment is very necessary. I would like to give some statistics that would reveal as to whether our food security is stable or not. It is unfortunate but it is true that the people are getting less food than they were getting 30 years back.

In 1972-73, the average calorie taking of the people was 2,266. In 1999-2000, it has come down to 2,149. When we have parameters and when the people are taking less than 2,400 calorie, then, they should be defined as 'below the poverty line people'. If it is so, in India, 70 per cent of the people are BPL.

According to a recent report of the United Nations, it has been revealed that in world India leave 30 per cent of the people who are in continuous hunger. Our women are not getting food and that is why they have become anemic. Seventy per cent women are in that condition. Same is the case with children. Forty-seven per cent of the children in our country are undernourished and suffering from malnutrition. About 48.5 per cent of our Indian citizens are below the standard weight. I am referring to this position so that in this respect, we can examine this Bill.

We know that Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister stated that black-marketeers should be hanged at every lamppost. I do not know how many black-marketeers were hanged. But I can certainly tell here that after this Bill is passed, there is every apprehension of price hike. There is every apprehension of price hike

and boosting the black-marketeers. It was enacted earlier in 1955. The motive was to control, production, supply, distribution, trade and commerce in certain commodities in the interests of the general public. I want to know as to why these interests are going far and far. It is a matter of astonishment that in 1989, the number of essential commodities was 70; in 2006, it has gone down to only 15. It has been mentioned in the Explanatory Note of the Bill that it was for the sake of free movement of agricultural produce, an umbrella legislation has been prescribed. I think that that cannot protect the interests of the general public from the heavy rain of black-marketeers.

In 2002-03, the NDA Government has a formulation for deletion of 11 essential commodities from the Essential Commodities List. Some remarks have come from the last speaker that we are speaking something and we are doing something else. '*Andar kuchh aur Bahar Kuchh*' We are not doing '*Andar kuchh aur Bahar Kuchh*'. I am quoting some statistics that was there during the NDA Government. At that time, in the public distribution system, in the ration shops, food grains price was hiked 80 times with the result in 2000, people received 1.25 crore tonnes from the ration shops, which was two crore tonnes a decade back.

17.00 hrs.

The reason was that the people were unable to buy foodgrains from the ration shops as the price was hiked 80 times. This was the character of the NDA Government. We can only tell that we want universalisation of the public distribution system. In the year 2004-05, Rs.25,800 crore was the subsidy in the public distribution system. Some say that it is huge. But we can say that our country gives less subsidy compared to other countries of the world, which is one per cent less of the GDP.

Another thing is that with liberalization of economy, opening up of market, encouragement of privatization of agriculture marketing system, when this Bill is given effect to, the power has been given to the Central Government only. That means, any time, the Government can add, modify or remove any commodity from the list of essential commodities. I am opposing this. The Central Government should use the discretion of adding or removing any commodity from the list of essential commodities in the interest of general public, only in situations like war, natural calamity and when there is scarcity or non-availability of that commodity which cannot be tackled through normal trade channels. That should also be done

[Dr. Alkesh Das]

with the consultation of the State Governments. I would emphasize on 'consultation with the State Governments' so that without the concurrence of the State Governments, the Central Government cannot delete or include essential commodities from the list. This is my opinion.

My specific suggestion is that smooth or free trade never reduces transaction cost of the producer or of the consumer. Instead of intermediaries, the lion's share of the prices of the produces will go to big marketeers. Some foolproof mechanism may be devised to prevent stocking or from taking undue advantage of artificial shortage; to declare a commodity as essential commodity, contingent upon the request from the State Government, there should be a coordination between the State Governments and the Central Government.

I specifically suggest that in page 2 of the Bill, in clause 2A (2), 'consultation with the State Government' should be added. In clause 3, in the same page, words 'for such period not exceeding six months' should be deleted; in the next clause again, words 'extend such period beyond the said six months', should be deleted. In clause 4, after 'The Central Government may exercise its powers', the words 'the State Governments' should be added. In the Schedule, after 7(iii), I want to add (iv) coal including coke, cotton and woolen materials, paper including newsprint.

I request the Government to consider these amendments before passing the Bill.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Thank you. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006 is an important amendment that is being proposed for the Essential Commodities Act of 1955.

While I agree that there is a necessity for this amendment, I would like to register my opinion on the criticism that the amendment is an extension of the so-called *license raj*.

17.05 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

A country like India with 107 crore population needs a powerful weapon like this Act, in their hands so that the necessary foodgrains, edible oils and other essential commodities can be supplied at reasonable prices to the

vast population of this country. Free market concept really looks good. It is true that sometimes competition in the market may reduce the prices but it depends on some important factors like, the supply should be enough or at least more than the demand. Food grains, edible oil and many such things would not be generally available more than the demand in our country.

Second thing is that the trade should be fair. Unfortunately, it is not fair in our country in the present context. Several important essential goods are not being produced according to the demand and necessity. It is true that India has become self-sufficient long back in food grains. In the recent periods because of the lack of proper procurement and because of several other problems including the loss of crop due to either drought, heavy rains, floods or other things, we are lagging behind the necessary stocks. This makes the situation worse.

In fact, in the last few decades, I believe the land cultivation of the production of food grains is getting reduced. Higher productivity in other fields is helping to some extent only. Edible oil production, of course, has grown but still the prices are going up. Huge stocks of essential goods, forward trade, creating artificial scarcity of some essential goods by traders syndicate is becoming normal in our country in recent periods.

Hence, there is the necessity of this type of amendment of the Essential Commodities Act, which will help the Government to curb this unhealthy trends from time to time. This amendment will give a right to the Government to add a commodity to the Schedule or to remove a commodity from the Schedule of the Essential Commodities. It will be in the Schedule for only six months. Now, there are certain other things, like fertilizers, cement, etc. which are also to be taken care of by the Government. The cement companies in the years 2004 and 2005 created an artificial scarcity in our country by reducing their production capacity so that the prices will go high. Naturally, the Government should have a right to add certain goods as essential goods and control the prices.

What I would like to ask from the Government, while supporting amendment, with this type of Act also why the prices of essential commodities are not coming down in our country. This Act is not being properly utilized. The Government is not waking up in time. The prices of vegetable, *dal*, other types of pulses, sugar, rice, *atta*, kerosene are higher and every month the prices are going

up by five to ten per cent and sometimes even 20 per cent. There is a very big difference of 100 to 150 points between the Whole Sale Price Index and CPI. Inflation is growing. This is worrying the people in a very big way. Last year's Government's procurement policy, particularly of wheat, was a grand fiasco. Government miserably failed in this context. The Government's wheat stocks in 2002 were 28 million and now it is only 2 million. It is a 90 per cent fall. Government is importing 3.5 million tonnes of wheat. I think only half of it has come now. There is a big problem now. There is a difference between the Minimum Support Price and the private traders' price. Still the possibility of procurement is there. There is a possibility to increase the price. Whatever the private traders are ready to offer, the Government should procure at that rate. As if this is the *Lakshmana Rekha*, the Government is not ready to give even a single pie more than the MSP. Several Indian traders are tying up with the international food grain traders. The affect of the international prices is coming very much on our country also. This year, the failure of the crops in Australia, USA, Canada, Argentina and Ukraine will have its affect on Indian wheat also. In these circumstances, I would like to appeal to the Minister that urgent necessity is there to control the prices. Your Government is becoming unpopular because of the increase in the prices of essential commodities including vegetables, edible oils, food grains and everything. We propose that the inflation should be controlled. You strengthen the Public Distribution System, raid the traders who are doing hoarding in a large scale and create an atmosphere that the Government is going to take very serious measures against this. Then there should be more procurement by paying more than what the MSP has suggested. You ban the forward trade of all the essential commodities. With this amendment Act and also with these steps, it may be possible to reduce the prices. By supplying large scale food grains through Public Distribution System, the prices can be controlled and that is the most immediate necessity in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, those of you who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House, can do so. It will be treated as part of the proceedings.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I rise to support the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006. In fact, I congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture for bringing this Bill which in my opinion is timely and relevant. I congratulate the Minister for several reasons

but I will restrict to a few of my arguments. First thing is that this Bill tries to amend an Act whose purpose no longer remains right now. This Bill was brought in 1955 when the conditions were different and when the country was facing acute scarcity of food grains, many essential commodities and those commodities were not available. They were not within the reach of the consumers. The Government had to assume the responsibility of providing these commodities through control. Therefore, the Essential Commodities Act was passed in 1955. But today what is the situation? Over the years, production of many commodities and their supply conditions have eased out. Therefore, there is no need for controlling these commodities. We have to release the forces of market in terms of demand and supply. Therefore, the Government thought why to restrict and control the operation of these commodities and let the market forces decide based on the demand and supply of these commodities.

As you know, after 1991, we have taken up the process of liberalization, privatization and globalization. When the entire non-agriculture sector especially the industrial sector has been liberated from the control ~~and~~ and the restriction regime, then why to keep these commodities alone in the statute book of the Essential Commodities Act? Therefore, this rationale perhaps made the Government to think and then delete a number of commodities. In the year 2004, the Government decontrolled or released 11 items from the list of essential commodities. In 2004, three more commodities were brought out of the statute book. Today, through this Amendment Bill, the Government would retain control only on seven commodities. Therefore, the first reason why I support this Bill is that it is relevant to day to the conditions of privatization, to the conditions of market forces that are operating in the country.

The second reason why I support this Bill is that while on the one hand the Government is taking away the commodities from the purview of the Act, on the other hand it is putting it in a Schedule. The advantage of keeping it in a Schedule is that it would provide flexibility to the Government to add or delete some commodities in keeping with the situation as prevailing in the market. If it remains in the Act, then the Government every time would have to approach the Parliament and then bring an amendment to the Act which is a time consuming process. Therefore, given the sensitiveness of the commodities and their prices, it should be enough if the Government keeps them in the form of a Schedule.

[Prof. Ramadass]

I should appreciate the legislative competence and dexterity of the Minister for his attempt to shift all these commodities from the Act to a Schedule. This will provide an opportunity for the Government to initiate whatever steps that it wants to in this regard. However, whenever the Government has to include a commodity, the Government will have to explain to the Parliament of this country. They cannot take any decision on their own. The Government would have come before Parliament and explain the position. One of the earlier speakers, my Marxist friend made a comment that the Government takes all the control in its hands. It is not at all so. If the Government is going to explain to Parliament the reasons as to why they propose to add or delete some commodities from the Schedule, then that would mean being accountable to the people for a decision being taken. It would provide accountability to the people of this country on the actions of the Government on these commodities. It would provide transparency and it would also provide some kind of openness. There is not going to be any kind of secrecy about any addition or deletion of commodities. That is why I support this Bill.

Sir, the third reason why I support this Bill is that the objectives of this Bill are many and varied. The provisions of this Bill would help us to get a number of advantages. For example, it would help us to achieve the objective of the liberalization policy; it would also protect the interest of both the producers and the consumers by making them free from a large number of restrictions from which they are suffering at present. For example, there are restrictions of registration; there are restrictions on storage movement of agricultural products, there is licensing of dealers; there is a limit on stocks control and movement. All these things, in a sense, tend to jeopardize the free market forces in the country. By removing all these, it would protect the interest of both the producers and the consumers.

Sir, the fourth objective that would be achieved is that with the removal of discriminatory restrictions on trade and commerce, agri exports and agro processing industries which have enormous potential for employment and income generation and also would find a boost resulting in more purchasing power of the people. Removal of restrictions will also help us to create a kind of common Indian market for agriculture which is the need of the hour today. For the last ten years we have been working for a common market for agricultural products. In the absence of a common market for

agricultural products the market forces are not able to operate and hence we have to accept the provisions of this Bill.

But at the same time I would like to caution the Government that the provisions of this Bill should be used sparingly and judiciously taking into account the needs of the society. The Government will have to add to the storage facilities more than what is available now. It is because lack of storage facilities is one of the reasons why there is a shooting up of prices. The Government would also have to build infrastructural facilities like godown centres, quality certification system, cold chain and direct markets. Clearing requires a more efficient markets to send the right kind of signals.

Lastly I would like to remind the hon. Minister that I have a feeling if this Bill would still have the dual characteristics that are found in various other Bills. For example, in case of foodstuff, there is the Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Parliament. As far as the objective of the foodstuff is concerned that would be taken care of by the provisions of this Bill. Then in regard to petroleum products we have the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Authority Bill which would perform similar functions that are supposed to be performed by this Bill.

There is the National Jute Board Bill, 2006 which will take care of raw jute and textiles. Therefore, what is still more lacking is a little more coordination between both these commodities and we hope that this Amendment Bill would create conditions congenial for stabilization of prices and protection of interests of both the consumers and the producers in the country.

I congratulate the Minister and I welcome this Amending Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir,.....* has been found guilty. I request the Government to apprise the House of the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is not aware of the situation.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I am bringing it to the notice of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice. Bring it to the notice in a proper way. You are a senior member.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: The Government should make the House aware of the fact. Why wrong things have been reported and if it is not so, then the House must be made aware of the fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice through due process. Hon. Speaker will see to that.

[English]

*SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshehra): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006 moved by Shri Sharad Pawar. I rise to support the Bill wholeheartedly.

The parent Bill was passed as far back as 1955. Since then more than 50 years have passed and much has changed during this period on the economic front as a result of the policy initiatives taken by various governments from time to time. Mid 50s was the time when for most of the commodities the demand was higher than the production. This resulted in a situation where people had to face shortages of several commodities. This also led to unpleasant practices like hoarding and profiteering by unscrupulous traders. That is the reason why the then government had to bring the Essential Commodities Act in order to control production, supply and distribution of these commodities. This was done to help the people to procure the commodities at reasonable rates.

As I said earlier the picture has undergone a great change since 1955. We have now entered an era of economic liberalization and globalization. Many of the commodities which at that time used to be in short supply are now available in plenty. Moreover, the demand and supply position has improved tremendously and people can get most of these commodities throughout the country without any hassles. In view of this State controls have become somewhat outdated and unnecessary.

The present Bill has been brought under these changed circumstances. The need to relax various controls was felt for a long time in connection with agricultural products and their interstate movement. Sir, I remember the time when people were not allowed to carry wheat and rice, etc. from one State to another but the traders indulged in clandestine trade in these products and moved various agricultural products from the surplus States to the deficit States. In order to address the relaxation of

controls on Agricultural products, a conference of the Chief Ministers was held in May 2001. In that conference it was decided to constitute a Standing Committee consisting of a number of Central Ministers in-charge of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Finance, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Rural Development, etc. The Standing Committee also included the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and Chief Ministers of a number of States in order to review the list of essential commodities and control orders to ensure free movement of agricultural produce. This committee recommended to remove all the restrictions on the movement of agricultural commodities but desired that the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 may continue till such time when controls and restrictions were possible to be totally eliminated.

Based on the recommendations of this Committee the present Government has introduced the Bill to relax controls on a number of commodities.

As a result of amendment in the Bill, commodities like coal, component parts and accessories of automobiles, cotton and woolen textiles, iron and steel including manufactured products of iron and steel, paper including newsprint, raw cotton, etc will be omitted from the list of Essential Commodities.

However, a new section 2A(1) is being inserted in the Bill which lays down that drugs, fertilizers, food stuffs including edible oil seeds and oils, petroleum and petroleum products, seeds of cattle fodder, etc shall remain as essential commodities for the purposes of this Act. Sir I agree with the Hon'ble Minister that these commodities should remain in the Essential Commodities list so that the Government can exercise appropriate control over their production, supply and distribution. The reason is that these commodities are very often adulterated thereby posing severe danger to the health of the people. Take just one, example of drugs and foodstuffs. Very often we read in the newspapers how they are adulterated and spurious brands are sold to innocent people. It is therefore highly essential that such commodities which are of common use by the people should remain within the ambit of this Bill.

Sir, with these words I support the Bill and thank you for the time you have given to me this august house for its attention.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): I support this Bill which has been introduced in this House today. It has been introduced at quite appropriate time. Mr. Chairman Sir, you also had been a member in the Standing Committee and you have studied it. It was sent to Rajya Sabha on 21.8.2006. It has been passed there with a few amendments and today it is being discussed in the Lok Sabha. The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is related to production, supply and distribution aspects of the common duties. I want to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture that Section (3) of the bill empowers the union Government and state Governments to simplify their distribution system by amending their prevailing Act and by formulating rules. Mr. Chairman Sir, section 5(B) of the Act provides the power of notification to the Union Government to include or exclude any essential Commodity by way of issue of notification. Section 2(A) defines as to which commodity is an essential commodity. In the year 2001, a conference of Chief Ministers of 12 states was held and they, taking stock of the situation in regard to Essential Commodities decided that there should be free movement of these Commodities. Previously when food zones were setup, then the wheat from Punjab could not be sent to Himachal Pradesh and rice could not go to other states from U.P. At that time, it was stated that whatever we produce whether they are food items, could be sent from one state to another without any hassle and exchange of commodities was kept under section(C) and the Union Government also issued orders from time to time to regulate it. All such orders in this regard were issued from time to time. In October 1972, restriction was put on section (3) to prevent excessive storage by anyone. The Government also stated that the State Government will have to seek permission from Centre if they want to enact this act. In this way, the powers were redelegated to the states on 13th March, 1973. They can amend the Act under this and they can run their programmes based on the essential commodities from time to time But in 2002-03 during the NDA regime the Union Government decided and withdraw 13 essential Commodities from the list and in 2004, 3 more essential commodities were withdrawn from the list. What was the impact of that? It stated that.

[English]

"The move by the previous NDA Government in 2002 to delete several categories of products from the essential items' list and nullify a large number of control orders issued under this law was based on wider political consensus that has been arrived at in the Standing Committee.

[Translation]

Hon. Professor from Bhartiya Janata Party had been saying that NDA Government excluded so many items from the list of essential commodities and made their transaction free. What happened at that time? The BJP while declaring its manifesto promised to do away with the inspector raj if returned to power. What was the impact of this? All the rules and orders framed under the Act were withdrawn by the Government whatever essential commodities were there in the market couldn't be distributed despite being in surplus supply. The prices kept on rising day-by-day. If we happen to go to market today to buy Urad or Massur or Chana, which is readily available in any quantity, We will have to pay Rs. 50-60 per Kg. There is no shortage of supply. Everything is available there. We should not resort to any provision that may stop its supply. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture for bringing Amendment Bill 2006 at appropriate time. If any State wants to bring any amendment into this Act then you may permit it immediately. States should frame their rules under this Act. Stern Action must be taken against hoarders and black marketeers and redundant law must be revised in a manner so that it does not create any problem for the poor people. Rising prices must be checked. With these words I thank you.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman Sir, there is nothing left out to say but I would certainly like to say that if and when the hon. Minister happens to ask his wife about the Kitchen she would certainly say that what to talk about other things it has become difficult for common man even to make his both ends meet during this regime.

Hon. Minister have brought this bill, perhaps out of compulsion. This is my sixth term in Lok Sabha. Hon. Minister had brought Employment Guarantee Bill and I opposed it in his presence also. Today it is very difficult to sustain livelihood. I will only say that the objective of this Bill is to make essential commodities such as wheat, rice, etc., available at cheaper rates. But it is not fulfilling this objective.

You have introduced this Bill with a view to monitor the prices of wheat, rice, gram, urad gram, mustard oil, vegetable oil, salt, tea, milk, flour, potato onion and groundnut oil. But I would like to say that the items like wheat, sugar and gram have become costlier. Price rise has further been reported in rice from Delhi, Bhopal.

Mumbai, Guwahati, Jaipur and Patna. Similarly, price rise in mustard Oil has been reported from Bhopal, Jaipur, Bhubneshwar, Guwahati and Kolkata. There have been rise in price of vegetable oil everywhere except at Patna. Tea have become costly at Delhi and Lucknow. There has been rise in price of milk at Delhi, Lucknow, Shimla and Mumbai. Potatoes have become costlier at Delhi, Lucknow, Shimla, Bhopal, Jaipur, Agartala and Kolkata. Salt have become costlier at Lucknow, Shimla, Guwahati and Hyderabad.

He has introduced this Bill, so that people must get cheaper foodgrains, ghee, milk, pulses and oil. If you control their prices, I would think that the Bill have been introduced with right intention. But today this intention has not come true and people are unhappy. Today the left parties have said that they will protest. They are supporting the Government. They want to spoil his image by holding a agitation outside and he should not get misguided. Outside they will raise slogans like 'Bharat Ma Ki Jay' and 'Inqalab Zindabad' and here they want to put all blame on you. So they should not agitate and even if they do it, its their will. The objectives of this Bill shows his good intention and he has tried to add fifteen more items in it. But he has excluded a number of items as well. It is a fact but a provision should be made in this Bill to reduce control of Union, State and UT Governments on certain essential commodities. The Government have imported wheat. It will be good if the Government provides relief properly. The objectives of this bill and the progress made in that direction has been explained in the reply. With regard to monitoring he has informed that a total of 3920 raids were conducted and 1617 persons were arrested and the number of persons charge-sheeted were 10097 and the number of persons found guilty was 35 and the value of goods seized was Rs. 679.1. This way 53 guilty persons were raided and this caused problem for the people. Instead of blaming the traders, the Government should provide relief to them, certainly they will co-operate with you, I am against calling the traders guilty. It would be better if you bring it properly otherwise the efforts you are putting in and the expenditure being incurred, will go down the drain. It is said that only 35 persons would be punished, this number is 3920 and 1617 raids were carried out, after all what were the objectives of this bill?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I can understand his helplessness. I am the fourth member from my party to speak so I would like to request you to redraft the bill. We want that the people should get the essential

commodities easily. I think even getting fresh air have become costly. People should get cheaper rice pulses, ghee, milk. In this regards BJP is with you but no purpose would be served by blaming the traders at. So traders should be provided relief. When you feel the need of essential commodities act, then you should introduce it. I would like to submit that this Bill should be redrafted and introduced here. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important bill. I have risen to speak in support of the bill. India is a country where certain goods are produced in certain places and not elsewhere. Earlier, there was a time when from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, certain goods were produced in one particular State and those goods could not reach other parts of the country. This bill, would facilitate unhindered movement of goods to any place in the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. I think that all the difficulties the consumers used to face earlier will be obviated.

Through this bill, the Government has taken the rights over essential commodities so as keep them with itself. They can be removed from this list from time to time and states have also been given such rights. We think that this was very much required. Just now, hon. Members were discussing in the house that during the last two and a half years the whole country has been concerned about rising prices. All the members, whether they are from the ruling party or from the opposition, have raised concern in this regard. I would like to mention here that a big difficulty is that major corporate houses of the country owning malls have started selling almost everything from vegetables to pulses. As a result of this, those people procured and stored all the essential commodities from the market before the Government could be able to procure these commodities. This resulted in price rise as soon as these commodities arrived in the markets and their prices kept rising. This is a fact and everyone is unanimous that price rise has increased the difficulties of the poor people. Today, the hon. Minister himself is very cautious about all these things. We would like to request him that the need of the hour is to fix the prices of essential commodities in the whole country. Secondly, essential commodities should go to the private sector only after procurements from the farmers by the Government. Only when, the Government's godowns and stocks are full as per the demand, the private sector and corporate houses should be allowed to buy the commodities. Thus, the Government will have more control

[Dr. Rajesh Mishra]

over the market. The Government can assess the quantum of demand in the whole country and accordingly have to fix their prices, and only after that the private sector should be allowed purchase these commodities. Thus, the Government will have automatic control over them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, next is the issue of black marketing. Just now, hon. Members were discussing the issue of black marketing, they were saying that raids are conducted on traders and they are not addressed properly. Nobody holds traders wrong, and not all traders are wrong. This cannot be said about all the traders. But, it has been noticed that some traders, who are directly connected to some political parties, have hoarded more and more commodities during the last two and a half or three years and as a result of that prices have risen. This is correct and it has been noticed in all the states. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to keep a vigil on them. When, this right is secured by the states, then the Government of India should also have this right and these rights should necessary be used in cases where some State Governments have relations with industrial houses and even today they are entering into this area for trade. If the Union Government also has this right with it ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude now. Mr. P.C. Thomas, you speak.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, one ... * has been convicted of murder and kidnaping by the Tis Hazari Court and has been sent to jail. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is governed by the rules. You cannot raise any question just any time. You can give notice; Mr. Speaker will look into that according to the rules.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Lastly, I would like to ask whether the Government will be able to control the rising prices. With these words, I conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can give notice as per rules.

[English]

Shri P.C. Thomas will speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri P.C. Thomas.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill which is intended for further strengthening the Essential Commodities Act by way of giving more powers to the Government to include essential commodities into the Schedule or delete some of them from it.

Sir, a lot of discussion has taken place in this House about the way in which the price rise is directly affecting the people due to lack of proper distribution of essential commodities. I am not going into the details of those things now because of the paucity of time. I would just directly mention only one or two aspects here.

Sir, LPG is something for which we all had the coupon system earlier. But of late, it was not felt necessary because it was abundantly available. Now, it has become very difficult to get LPG in some States like Kerala where it is not at all available because some of the distributors are indulging in hoarding it or they are distributing it to others who are not directly entitled to get it or it is not available due to lack of proper distribution and this is affecting the common people to a great extent. I think in many other States also this affects the common people very much.

Secondly, I would like to mention one or two aspects regarding my State where the use of Essential Commodities Act is very much needed because Kerala is a consumer State and where the statutory rationing is in vogue. Therefore, allocation of food grains becomes very important for a State like Kerala. When the Essential Commodities Act is being strengthened, I would urge upon the Government to look into the matter as to how the BPL families are defined in some States. In Kerala the position is that all the food grains have to come from other States. There is almost 85 per cent deficit and therefore the reduction in the allocation of food grains affects the people very much. For example, allocation of wheat to Kerala has been substantially reduced and the allocation from June, 2006 to March, 2007 has come down from about 46,000 metric tonnes to about 19,000 metric tonnes. So, this matter needs to be looked into by the hon. Minister. The Government of Kerala has been representing to the Central Government about this for quite long and Members of Parliament from Kerala also have been representing to the Central Government.

Then, kerosene is used by fishermen in a large way in many States. We have a long coast line which is a big treasure. But the fishermen are now finding it difficult

to get kerosene. They are using kerosene in their fishing boat engines and kerosene distribution is now very seriously affected. The allocation of kerosene to Kerala has been substantially reduced now.

Lastly, I would like to submit that when the Essential Commodities Act is being strengthened, it is important to look at the way in which all the essential commodities are made available for distribution. Though the distribution is directly done by State Governments, the essential commodities have to come from the Central Pool. For example, sometimes the availability of food grains in the Food Corporation of India is 'zero' and that affects further allocation because the allocation is done on the basis of past offtake.

I would like to conclude now due to paucity of time, but I urge upon the hon. Minister to look into these matters and take appropriate decisions.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention 3-4 points very briefly. Today, the way prices are rising and the Government has taken steps to curb this trend there are no two opinions about the fact that prices should come down after these steps. The Government should take all the steps required for this purpose. But my question is whether rising prices will be controlled by bringing this legislation. It would be better if the Government takes necessary steps because such a law has been in force in the country for many years. But even after that prices have been rising. Therefore, one should not think that prices will come down tomorrow by bringing in such a bill.

Secondly, we have been noticing that whenever our Government gives power to officials, it is misused; it increased the cases of bribing. It is not that only prices are rising even there is increase in incidence of bribery. The Government should think about taking such steps. We are noticing that people are facing a lot of difficulties in buying food items. The farmers sell their produce and that is their only source of income. Beside this, today farmers are committing suicide in the country because they are not getting proper prices for their produce. If the prices of their produce are increased, then, it will benefit the farmers. We have to keep this in mind.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my last point is that the Government will issue the notification for a period of six

months, then if the Government thinks that the notification is necessary then it will continue. I would like to say that if such a notification has to be continued, then the House needs to be taken into confidence.

[English]

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): I welcome the Amendment Bill. Although the Bill was passed by the Parliament a few years ago yet it needs some amendment: The prices fixed by the fair price shops are very low, and the poor people should be supplied grains free of cost. There are two types of prices, in the fair price shops namely (i) Rs. 3 per kg & (ii) Rs. 6 per kg. for very poor people. They should be supplied food grains at a very nominal price instead of supplying them free of cost.

The essential commodities like dal and oil are sold at higher rate. The quantity of rice and dal per ration card should be increased to a certain level and should be supplied at a very low price cost.

At least one person should be given work and nobody should be allowed to die without food and water. Further, he should be given the opportunity to work and lead a comfortable life in this poor country.

I wish everybody should lead a happy life in this poor country. Kerosene oil, food grains and sugar are not supplied by all the fair price shops in the country. The Government should see to it that all the fair price shops supply these commodities without fail.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad that the members from both the sides of this House have given their valuable suggestions on this important Bill. There is no hesitation in accepting the basic principle and idea behind it. It is true that several of our members have tried to look at the Bill from the political point of view. Several members have mentioned that it was NDA's mistake and several other members have pointed out that it is the mistake of the present Government. But amendments in this Bill have been made by consensus.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the all the States of the country was held in the year 2001 under the chairmanship of the former Prime Minister. The meeting was attended not only by the Chief Ministers of the states ruled by BJP but the Chief Ministers of the Congress ruled states also and the representatives of several Chief Ministers also attended. A selective decision was taken by consensus which has been brought before this House today. Not only a detailed discussion took place in the Chief Minister's conference but it remained inconclusive also. However, it was decided in the conference to appoint a standing committee in this regard consisting of the Ministers of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Finance, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Rural Development Ministries of the Government of India and the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. Besides, the

[English]

Chief Ministers of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra will also be members representing the State Governments.

[Translation]

Everyone had his own point of view in the meeting. After taking into consideration everybody's point of view it came out that today in India, the produce of the farmer is put on hold at various stages and the benefits of the market reforms also do not percolate to the farmers. There is a need to improve the condition of the farmers. There is a need to remove all restrictions in Inter-state movement. Secondly, it is true that the Essential Commodities Act was enacted in the year 1950. However, it came into existence during the Second World war during the British regime as a result of the shortage of several items in the country. The list included more than 200 items of both the State Government and the Government of India and there was an effort to control the same. A levy had been introduced in the Public Distribution System at one point of time and some restrictions had also been imposed. It needs to be amended. A consensus was reached at in the standing committee and it was decided to delete some items from the list of items. Which were those items? At one point of time, there was a need to keep cattle fodder under the Essential Commodities during drought; however, the situation no longer exists in the country. Coal including coke and other item are not required to be included. Components, parts and

accessories of the automobile would perhaps be required at same point of time. Today, India is perhaps emerging as the largest automobile manufacturing sector in the world. Several companies of the world are setting up their automobile plants in India and India is acquiring the potential of catering to not only the spare parts demand of India but the whole world as well. Earlier, there was a restriction on it under the Essential Commodities Act and there was a need to remove it from the list. Today, India has become an exporter of Iron and Steel. Hence, it was also not required to be included in the list. Newsprint was also not required. Raw cotton was also not required to be included. This year, the production of cotton in our country has been so high that we are facing problem as to how we should sell our produce in the international market so that the farmers are able to get the remunerative prices. Therefore, these items were required to be removed from the list of Essential Commodities and the same was done. Those items have been recommended to be retained in the list which are important for the common people and farming which include drugs, manure, foodstuff, edible oils, hankyam, petrol and petroleum products including LPG, kerosene, raw jute and jute textile, seeds of the food crops, seeds of the fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one hon. member raised a question here as to what is the need of keeping fruits and vegetables in the list. I would like to tell him that the fruits and vegetables have not been included rather the seeds of fruits and vegetables have been included. It includes the seeds for the cattle fodder and the seeds of jute also.

Sir, I have been asked a question in the House as to what the need of fertilizers in the list is.

[English]

Fertilizer is retained because of the price notified and controlled by the Government, and it involves huge subsidy to meet the gaps between actual production, import price and control price. It is pertinent that Fertilizer Control Order, 1957 had been issued under the Essential Commodities Act.

[Translation]

Presently, there is a problem of non-availability of fertilizers in the whole country. Today, this question has been raised in the House many a time. We are importing Urea and D.A.P. on a large scale. Nobody will be allowed to take advantage of the shortfalls that have arisen in

the production. This season has witnessed a good rainfall. Sowing operation has started on a large scale and similarly it is also being completed. If fertilizers are not made available in time in such a situation, it will badly affect the agricultural production. Therefore, there is a need to include the fertilizer in it.

17.57 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second problem was raised as to what the need of keeping Jute Textile under Essential Commodities

[*English*]

Raw jute and jute textiles are retained for the mandatory use of the jute bag and price fixation to protect jute workers and jute growers.

[*Translation*]

For several years there has been a persistent demand in the country not to make the Jute bag a compulsion. Jute is a major crop in Bihar, Assam and West Bengal and there are Jute-based industries which have engaged lakhs of people. If Jute bag is not made a compulsion, the country may have to face a problem of livelihood. Therefore, whether be it sugar or foodgrains, it was made compulsory to supply these items in jute packings by the orders of the Textile Minister and in order to continue the same, it needs to be included under the Essential Commodities Act.

[*English*]

Now, I come to seed of the food crop. This item is retained for licensing of the dealers, for the regulation of the quality seed and to ensure equitable distribution. The Minister of Agriculture is regularly monitoring with the State Governments to ensure the availability of seed to the farmers at the time of sowing.

[*Translation*]

As long as the State Governments are not given some right to control the seeds, farmers cannot get relief. The task of implementing the same could be done through the State Governments only. Therefore, the seeds have been included under the same.

[*English*]

Hank yarn, the wholly made from cotton, has been retained to facilitate the supply of hank yarn to the handloom sector.

[*Translation*]

Today, a large number of people are engaged in the handloom sector in this country and supplying yarn to them is becoming a serious problem day-by-day.

[*English*]

Sir, I think, you have to extend the time of the House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request that the time of the House may kindly be extended till the reply is over.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time till the reply of the Minister and this item is over?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended till this item is over.

Mr. Minister, you can continue your speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There are a number of weavers working in powerloom and handloom Sectors. Some steps are required to be taken to supply them yarn. All the spinning mills today have a compulsion under this law. A certain quantity of yarn should be reserved for the handloom sector.

18.00 hrs.

The textile Commissioner should allocate yarn for handloom sector. If it is not done, lakh, of people would not get job and cotton yarn. Domestic industries play an important role in this country. They may also be affected by this.

Sir, the mention regarding the rights of the State Governments has been made here. Besides, if we have to amend this, there is no provision of taking the State Government into confidence. This was the situation when we had introduced this proposal in the Rajya Sabha and I accept it. But the Rajya Sabha has made an amendment in section 2(A) which provides that it is the responsibility of the Government of India to consult the State Governments if any amendment, Change or deletion is required to be made in the list of essential commodities.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

[English]

With the consultation of the State, ultimately the decision will be taken.

[Translation]

The second point is that after delisting some items, the country faces their shortage due to which the common people are affected. The issues regarding wheat, pulses, sugar and edible oil have been raised. I will express my views on this when this issue will be discussed in the House in two or three days. If such a situation arises in the country and the society or the Government feels an item is in shortage and it is required to be added, then the Government should have a right to do so. The Government would give an explanation for adding any item in the list of essential commodities.

[English]

The Government has to provide reasons to the country that these are the reasons due to which we are adding such and such items. It would again be with the consultation of the State.

[Translation]

The rights provided in this Bill are vested in the Government of India. It has a provision to take the people in confidence and to consult the state-Government. Similarly, trade restrictions on many items have also been taken into account. Besides, it should also be taken into consideration that the common people may not suffer. Some steps are required to be taken if the situation becomes serious.

Sir, the issue of price rise of essential commodities has been raised in the House. I would like to say that the State Governments have been given a right to Check black marketing after the price rise of essential commodities. The State Governments have taken some steps in this regard. As per the information available with me, State Governments had conducted 85429 raids in the whole country and 4440 people had been arrested and out of them cases had been registered against 2444 persons and judgement with regard to some cases has come in which thirty persons have been punished. Till September 2006, 89194 premises had been raided in which 1302 persons had been arrested and cases were

registered against 2082 persons and 125 persons have been punished so far. Thus the State Governments are discharging their responsibility of curbing black-marketing properly.

Sir, the matter of shortage of wheat is being raised time and again in the House. It is a fact that the stock of wheat was not sufficient. The production of wheat was affected to some extent. According to trade report and the market report the production of wheat was 68 million tonne during the last year. As per the report sent by Production Commissioner and Agricultural Commissioner of the state to my Ministry, the production of wheat was 69.59 million tonne. The procurement of about 15 million tonne was required but it could be only about 9 lakh tonne. For the first time, there was no compulsion on the farmers to sell their production in grain market (mandis). Earlier under Agriculture Produce Market Act it was a binding on the farmers to sell their produce in the regulated market. All the people of the country have a right to sell their production in any part of the country but the farmers had been denied of this right. It had been decided in the meeting of Chief Ministers of all the states that APMC Act should be amended and the farmers should have a right to sell their produce wherever they get reasonable price for it. This decision was taken during the previous Government. When new Government came to power, a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of states was convened and the decision was reiterated and after that twenty two states of the country have amended, the APMC Act and the farmers were given a right to sell their produce anywhere in India. Earlier farmers of Punjab and Haryana are compelled to sell their wheat to the Food Corporation of India in the regulated market in mandis through Commission agent. But this year there was no such compulsion. Even though the Government fixed the price for wheat at Rs. 650 per quintal but our buyers paid them Rs. 660-670 per quintal and thus others also got some wheat.

It has also been suggested in the House that no other buyers should be allowed to purchase from farmers till the Food Corporation of India completes its procurement for Public Distribution System. I cannot ignore the responsibility of the Government with regard to the Public Distribution System. I can not compromise with that. The Government will have to owe this responsibility. There is no difference of opinion on this point that the Government shall have to import wheat if there is shortage of it in the country but this problem will have to be solved at all cost. But how far is it correct that the farmers

will not be allowed to sell their produce to their buyers till the Government completes its procurement for public distribution system and the farmers have to sell their produce on the price fixed by the Government whether it is in the interests of the farmers or not. The extent to which it should be binding on the farmers, we should think over it today. As Shri Prabhujii has said that the farmers of the country are committing suicide, people are committing suicide. When we made inquiry, We found that there are so many reasons of it and one of the reasons is that they do not get remunerative price for their produce. This is one of the problems and we cannot ignore it. One of my colleagues from Uttar Pradesh has raised the issue of wheat. Which states produce wheat. Punjab is the largest wheat producing state in the country. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat are respectively in second, third fourth, fifth and sixth place. Bihar Maharashtra and West Bengal also produce some wheat. But till date we have procured wheat from Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh only. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has always been complaining that they have not been getting adequate wheat. Last year, after Punjab the maximum wheat production was registered in Uttar Pradesh. A large area was covered under wheat production in Uttar Pradesh. Production was good but the responsibility of procurement was taken over by the Government and a total procurement to the tune of 50 thousand tonnes was made in the entire state. The total procurement by Madhya Pradesh was to the tune of two thousand tones. No procurement was made in Rajasthan. The rest of the states did not cooperate in this regard and the entire responsibility of the country was taken up by Punjab and Haryana only. If we do not offer proper prices to the farmers in these states and continue with the existing policy, then sooner or later the farmers of Punjab would ask us about this and we will have to answer. Therefore, there is a need to make some improvement in this and we will have to bring about those improvements.

The Union Government has talked about revising the minimum support price. We have to fill up the gap to the extent of the import done. If we had not filled up the gap generated due to less procurement, then what we would have done for public distribution? There was no other way out. They can not forget this thing.

A suggestion was given that if after the procurement enough stock was available in the market, then why did not they purchase it at a higher price. Why did they import from outside? It is true that we could purchase it.

If we had purchased that fifty lakh tones, then the current open market price would have gone up further as there is a huge problem of availability. Why has this situation arisen? Our buffer stock norm which was only two million earlier has now become four million. This has resulted in hike in the market rates, the farmers got an opportunity to sell their crops and they took benefit of the same to some extent also and we can not ignore that even in such a situation, the farmers of Punjab and Haryana made nine million tones wheat available to the Government as well as the nation for procurement. This is a sacrifice made by the farmers of Punjab and Haryana. Therefore, there is a need to bring about some improvement in the policy that we are following today. We will have to offer appropriate price to the farmers. We will also have to consider that the central issue prices in public distribution system are still the same as they were in the year 2000. The selling prices fixed six years back have still not been revised. How long will this continue?

It is true that the Government has to accept the responsibility to resolve the problems of the common poor people and the Government must take this responsibility. But if the price of wheat, which is distributed amongst people, is not revised by even a single rupee in six years, then it will certainly effect the prices fixed for the farmers. Whenever a question of subsidy amounting to rupees twenty five thousand crores is raised, then it is always suggested that procurement prices should be reduced, otherwise subsidy figure would go up. Therefore, we need to create a balance here. The interests of the farmers are also to be safeguarded and alongwith this the interests of the poorest of the poor and BPL sections are also required to be safeguarded. But, if we continue providing wheat to the above poverty line people at the same rates and adopt such policy, then, I think this will have an adverse effect on the overall production of the country. Therefore, what is required is that we should think over it seriously.

Today, whatever suggestions have been given and whatever issues have been raised in the House, these issues have not been included therein. Therefore, I have availed an opportunity to say something in this regard.

I would like to thank all the Members of the House because all of them have accepted the principle and the logic behind the amendments that are required to be made in the Essential Commodities Act. We will take care that people do not take undue advantage of it. We

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

do not want to accuse the traders all the time but there is a need to take stringent steps against those people who are found involved in black marketing and hoarding and this Bill provides that power. I think it would not be justified to say that the entire traders community is going in this direction. But if something is wrong, then we must call it wrong. There should be a check on people committing wrong acts and the State Governments should be delegated the powers to deal with all this. These powers are not required for all the commodities, but it is required to delegate powers to them for the commodities essentially needed by the common man. The amendment has been brought before the House after keeping this limited objective in view. I believe that the House would accept it.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I must thank the hon. Minister that he has replied to most of the questions which were raised by the hon. Members, but one question is left out and that is about the provision that the commodity has to be notified for a short period not exceeding six months. Why is it 'six months'? The period of notification is mentioned as only for six months. Why should such limitation not be deleted?

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, in fact, this is a correct provision because if you want to exceed it beyond six months, the shortage of essential commodity will be there permanently, and if you have got to believe that, then there will be a problem. We must believe that the shortage of essential commodities is temporary and that is why, temporary measures are required. If we think that there is a permanent shortage and that can be solved by a measure like this, then we are actually partially addressing the problem. Therefore, I think, this should be there.

Then, I come to the second point which I had raised. I hope, the Minister will respond. If you are extending it beyond six months, then you must take the House into confidence because actually you cannot abrogate the power of the Legislature to legislate, without getting Legislature's sanction.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Here, the reply has been given by Shri Suresh Prabhu only. If the situation is such and there is a shortage and if the loot of the common people is there, then there is no choice for the

Government but to include a particular item. This is obligatory on the part of the Government to give explanation as to why we are including this.

Secondly, we have kept this period of six months. If the situation does not change and if the situation so requires, there is power also with the Government to extend this period. So, I do not think that there will be any problem. Simultaneously, it is our desire to see that it should not be the permanent situation. Today or tomorrow, we have to resolve that issue, we have to become self-sufficient, if possible, and we want to remove this type of provisions where unnecessarily too much powers have been given to some local level officials as sometimes, it gets misused also.

Regarding the second issue which has been raised by Shri Prabhu regarding why the Parliament's sanction is not necessary, I would say that when the question comes of including or excluding any item, the important thing is the State Government. Ultimately, the State Government is directly dealing the Public Distribution System. That agency or that authority is directly handling this type of issues with masses. That is why, consultation with the State Government has been included. Originally, the provision was not there, but this amendment came from the Opposition side and it was accepted by the Government. We do not want to take unilateral powers with the Government of India. We want to take powers after prior consultation with the State Government. It is an obligation on the Government of India to give explanation as to why we are doing this. If I have to go to the Parliament every time and if there is a crisis, then it will be difficult to go to the Parliament every time. Therefore, whatever provision is there, that is enough.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: I am not saying this, but you must inform the Parliament as soon as it is done. I am only saying that you should inform the Parliament about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 29th November, 2006 at 11 a.m.

18.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, November 29, 2006/Agrahayana 8, 1928 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

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