

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 16, 2007/Phalgun 25, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have already given a notice to raise an issue. ...*(Interruptions)*
Nearly 50 police personnel were killed in Chhattisgarh.
...*(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Q. 261, Shri Sajjan Kumar—not present.

Shri M. Aaron Rashid

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Q. 262, Adv. (Shrimati) P. Sathodevi.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, those personnel who are to maintain law and order are being killed in the State of Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Those who are to maintain law and order in the State of Chhattisgarh are being killed. ...*(Interruptions)* The BJP Government in Chhattisgarh has no moral right to stay in power.
...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Special Counter for Senior Citizens in Banks

*261. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite a specific stipulation that a special counter should be set up for senior citizens for banking transactions in Nationalized banks and Private banks, many of the banks have not made any arrangements in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to issue instructions to the banks in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no specific guidelines have been issued to set up a special counter for the senior citizens banking transactions in public sector banks or private banks. RBI has also reported that Indian Banks' Association (IBA) had examined this issue in the past and had observed that a number of practical problems like proof of age, sufficient number of such customers, requirement of additional space, cost of additional staff/furniture, availability of staff etc., will arise for providing this specific service. In view of these reasons, IBA decided that banks be advised to consider providing 'no queue' facility to senior citizens, offering assistance in filling up forms etc., wherever practicable and especially at Personal Banking Service or Savings Bank branches. Further, banks have been advised to take adequate care in providing efficient counter services to the senior citizens, especially while disbursing pensions.

(c) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Strengthening of Power Transmission and Distribution System

*262. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restrengthen the power transmission and distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private agencies are likely to be involved in power transmission and distribution in the country; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Strengthening of transmission and distribution system is an ongoing process. Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) the Central Transmission Utility of the country, has been entrusted with the responsibility of development of inter-State and inter-regional transmission system for transfer of power from various Central Sector generation projects as well as for strengthening of the grid. Accordingly, Extra High Voltage (EHV) transmission system has been developed by PGCIL for transfer of allocated power to different beneficiaries. In line with the above, a National Grid having an inter-regional power transfer capacity of 11,500 MW has already been developed and it is envisaged to be enhanced to 18,400 MW in 2007 and more than 37,000 MW by the end of 11th Plan. The Details of inter-State transmission schemes completed during the 10th Plan are given in the enclosed Statement-I

The responsibility of development of intra-State Transmission system and distribution system rests with the State Transmission Utilities and distribution licensees concerned.

For improvement in Sub-Transmission and Distribution system the Government of India has launched two schemes namely Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system in urban areas and Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna (RGGVY) for electrification of all unelectrified villages by 2009. Under APDRP a total of 571 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 17033.58 crores. The amount released to the States as on 31-12-2006 was Rs. 6574.89 crores and the amount utilised is Rs. 10139.24 crores including counterpart funding. Under the RGGVY 33,374 villages have been electrified till 9-3-2007.

(c) and (d) The Power Grid Corporation of India has taken action/initiated action for implementation of transmission systems through JV as well as 100% private participation route. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Besides, the Government of India has issued guidelines for encouraging competition in the development of transmission projects. Guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding for transmission services have also been issued by the Government of India. An Empowered Committee, constituted as per the provisions of these guidelines have identified 14 transmission projects for private participation. For encouraging private sector participation in Intra-State Transmission System, the responsibility rests with State Governments and State Transmission Utilities.

Under the Electricity Act, 2003, transmission and distribution of electricity are licensed activities and the license for these activities are given by the Appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission. 16 private distribution companies are presently functioning in various parts of the country. The details of the Distribution companies are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

One of the conditionalities for implementation of RGGVY in a State is the appointment of Franchisees for improving commercial viability of distribution. Franchisees have been appointed in over 39,000 villages so far.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Scheme/Transmission works	Date of Closure (Rs. Crores)
Inter-Regional		
1.	Talcher-II Transmission System—Inter-regional + SR	2982
1.	Talcher-Kolar HVDC bi-pole 2000 MW	

Sl. No.	Scheme/Transmission works	Date of Closure (Rs. Crores)
	2. Associated 400 kV system in SR	
2.	Inter-regional link between ER-WR for synchronous connection	218
3.	Enhancing capacity and stability of ER-WR connection	128
	1. Series comp and TCSC on Rourkela-Raipur 400 kV D/C	
4.	ER-NR asynchronous inter-regional transmission system	593
	1. HDVC back-to-back substation at Sasaram (new)	
	2. Biharsarif-Sasaram 400 kV D/C	
	3. Sasaram-Allahabad 400 kV D/C including LILO at Samath	
	4. LILO of Dehri-Karmnasa 132 kV S/C line at Sasaram	
5.	Increasing ER-SR inter-regional capacity	665
	1. Second 500 MW HVDC back-to-back module at Gazuwaka	
	2. Vijaywada-Gazuwaka 400 kV D/C	
	3. Series comp in 400 kV ER lines to wards Gazuwaka	
6.	Tala Transmission System (PG 872 crores+JV 1612 crores) ** ** (Scheme is completed except Maharani Bagh 400 kV S/S with LILO of Dadri-Ballabgarh 400 kV line, which is under construction)	2484
	1. Tala-Siliguri 400 kV 2 x D/C	
	2. Siliguri-Purnea-Muzaffarpur 400 kV D/C quad	
	3. Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur 400 kV D/C quad with TCSC	
	4. Gorakhpur-Lucknow 400 kV D/C	
	5. Bareilly-Mandola 400 kV D/C	
	6. 400 kV Substations at Muzaffarpur, Gorakhpur and Lucknow	
	7. Gorakhpur (PG)-Gorakhpur (UP) 400 kV D/C	
	8. Lucknow-Unnao 400 kV D/C	
North Eastern Region		
1.	Additional Transformer at Salakati	5
2.	Transmission System for Arunachal Pradesh	27
	1. Ranganadi-Ziro 132 kV S/C	
	2. Ziro 132/33 kV S/S	

Sl. No.	Scheme/Transmission works	Date of Closure (Rs. Crores)
Eastern Region		
1.	Additional transmission works ER	914
1.	LILIO of 400 kV Boingaon-Malda at Purnea	
2.	LILIO of 400 kV Boingaon-Malda at Siliguri	
3.	Jeypore-Meramundali 400 kV S/C	
4.	Bihar Transmission System Strengthening	
5.	Indravati 2nd ICT	
6.	Jeypore 2nd ICT	
7.	LILIO of Purnea-Dalkhola 132 kV S/C at Purnea (New)	
8.	Kahalgaon-Biharsarif 400 kV D/C	
9.	Series Capacitor at Raipur-Rourkela 400 kV D/C	
10.	LILIO of 132 kV S/C Rangit-Siliguri at Gangtok and Melli	
11.	LILIO of Kolaghat-Rangali 400 kV S/C line at Baripada	
12.	Talcher-Meramundali 400 kV D/C	
13.	Jamshedpur-Rourkela 400 kV S/C	
Northern Region		
1.	ATS for Chamera-II HEP (400 MW)	46
1.	Chamera I-Chamera II 400 kV S/C	
2.	Chamera II-Kishanpur 400 kV S/C	
2.	ATS for Tehri HEP stage-I (4 x 250 MW)	914
1.	Tehri-Meerut 765 kV 2 x S/C (initially operated at 400 kV) (all works except connection of second line completed)	
2.	Meerut-Mandaula 400 kV D/C	
3.	Meerut-Muzaffarnagar 400 kV S/C	
4.	Meerut 400/220 kV 3 x 315 MVA S/S	
5.	Muzaffarnagar 400/220 kV 2 x 315 MVA S/S	
3.	ATS for Dhauliganga HEP (4 x 70 MW)	186
1.	Dhauliganga-Bareilly (UPPCL) 400 kV D/C (initially op. at 220 kV)	

Sl. No.	Scheme/Transmission works	Date of Closure (Rs. Crores)
4.	ATS for Dulhasti HEP (3 x 130 MW)	465
1.	Dulhasti-Kishenpur 400 kV 2 x S/C	
2.	Kishenpur-Wagoora 400 kV D/C	
3.	Kishenpur 400/200 kV S/S (aug.)	
5.	ATS for Rihand STPS-II (2 x 500 MW)	896
1.	Allahabad-Mainpuri-Ballabgarh 400 kV D/C	
2.	Rihand-Allahabad 400 kV D/C	
3.	Dadri-Panipat 400 kV S/C 2nd ckt.	
4.	Patiala-Malerkotla 400 kV S/C	
5.	LILO of one ckt. Nalagarh-Hissar 400 kV D/C at Kaithal-D/C	
6.	LILO one ckt. 400 kV Nalagarh-Hissar D/C at Patiala-D/C	
7.	Mainpuri 400/220 kV 630 MVA S/S	
8.	Kaithal 400/220 kV 630 MVA S/S	
9.	Patiala 400/220 kV 630 MVA S/S	
10.	Abdullahpur 400/220 kV 315 MVA S/S (aug.)	
6.	ATS for Nathpha Jhakri HEP (6 x 250 MW)	1453
1.	N. Jhakri-Abdullahpur D/C	
2.	Abdullahpur-Bawana D/C	
3.	Bawana-Bhiwani D/C	
4.	N. Jhakri-Nalagarh D/C	
5.	Nalagarh-Hissar D/C	
6.	Hissar-Jaipur S/C	
7.	Hissar (PG)-Hissar (BBMB) D/C	
8.	Hissar S/S	
9.	Abdullahpur S/S	
10.	Bawana S/S (Aug.)	
11.	Nalagarh S/S	
12.	Jalandhar-Dasuya D/C	

Sl. No.	Scheme/Transmission works	Date of Closure (Rs. Crores)
13.	LILO of Chamera-Moga D/C at Jalandhar	
14.	Jalandhar S/S	
7.	Various System strengthening in NR	264
1.	Allahabad S/S and LILO of Singrauli-Kanpur at Allahabad	
2.	Ballabgarh 4th ICT	
3.	Series capacitor for Kanpur-Ballabgarh	
4.	Series capacitor for Kanpur-Ballabgarh-R and D	
5.	Bhiwadi S/S and LILO of Ballabgarh-Jaipur at Bhiwadi	
6.	Series capacitor for Panki-Muradnagar	
7.	Agra (PG)-Agra (UPPCL)	
8.	220 kV System Improvement scheme in UP (UPPCL)	
Western Region		
1.	Tarapur Extn. Nuclear (2 x 500 MW)	237
1.	TAPP (Extn.)-Padghe 400 kV D/C	
2.	TAPP (Extn.)-Boisar 400 kV D/C	
3.	LILLO Gandhar-Padghe S/C line at Vapi (PG) 400 kV D/C	
4.	LILLO Vapi (PG)-Padghe S/C line at Boisar 400 kV D/C	
5.	TAPP (Extn.)-Boisar 220 kV S/C (For start up power)	
6.	Boisar 400/200 kV 2 x 315 MVA S/S	
7.	Vapi (PG) 400/220 kV 2 x 315 MVA S/S	
2.	Establishment of Khandwa Sub-Station	110
1.	LILLO of both ckt of Itarsi-Dhule 400 kV D/C line at Khandwa 2 x D/C	
2.	Khandwa 400/200 kV 2 x 315 MVA S/S	
3.	Kolhapur-Mapusa 400 kV D/C	129
1.	Kolhapur-Mapusa 400 kV D/C	
4.	WR strengthening for import from ER	249
1.	Raipur-Chandrapur 400 kV D/C line (3rd and 4th ckt)	

Sl. No.	Scheme/Transmission works	Date of Closure (Rs. Crores)
5.	1. Bhadrawati-Chandrapur 400 kV D/C (3rd and 4th ckt)	33
Southern Region		
1.	Talcher STPP Stage-II 4 x 500 MW	2982
	1. Kolar-Hoody 400 kV D/C line	
	2. Kolar-Madras 400 kV S/C line	
	3. Kolar-Hosur-Salem 400 kV S/C line	
	4. Salem-Udumalpet, 400 kV S/C line	
	5. LILO of Cuddapah-Somanhalli at Kolar, 400 kV, D/C	
	6. Hosur 400/220 kV S/S 630 MVA	
	7. Salem, Hoody, Udumalpet and Madras 400/220 kV S/S extns	
	8. Kolar-Hosur 400 kV line Section to be made as D/C	
2.	Ramagundam STPS Stage-III 500 MW	295
	1. Ramagundam-Hyderabad 400 kV D/C line	
	2. Hyderabad-Kurnool-Gooty 400 kV S/C line	
	3. Gooty-Neelamangla 400 kV S/C line	
	4. Khammam-Nagarjunsagar 400 kV S/C line	
	5. 400 kV bay extns. at Hyderabad, Gooty, Khammam, Nagarjunsagar, Kurnool and Neelamangla	
3.	Neyveli Ext (420 MW) ATS	12
	1. LILO of one ckt of NLC-Trichy 400 kV D/C line at Power Station	
4.	Kaiga (Unit # 3) Transmission System-First Phase (&^+61 crores)	137
	1. Kaiga-Devangiri, D/C (upgradation to 400 kV operation)	
	2. Kaiga-Narendra 400 kV, D/C	
	3. Narendra 400/220 kV S/S, 2 x 315 MVA	
5.	System Strengthening Scheme-I in SR	347
	1. Vijayawada-Nellore 400 kV D/C line	
	2. Nellore-SB Budur 400 kV D/C line	
6.	Series Compensation on 400 kV lines in SR (Fixed Compensation)	56
	1. 40% Sr. comp at Cuddapah end on both ckts. of Nagarjunsagar-Cuddapah 400 kV D/C line	

Sl. No.	Scheme/Transmission works	Date of Closure (Rs. Crores)
2.	40% Sr. comp at Gooty end on 2XS/C 400 kV Gooty-Neelamangla line	
7.	Transmission System for Second feed to Kerala	260
1.	Madurai-Thiruvananthapuram 400 kV D/C line	
8.	System Strengthening-II in SR	45
1.	LILO of Davengere-Hoody 400 kV D/C line at Hiriyr	
2.	Hiriyr 400/220 kV S/S	
9.	System Strengthening in SR—Neelamangla-Mysore	153
1.	Neelamangla-Mysore 400 kV D/C line	
Total Completed Schemes		17285

Statement-II

Details of transmission projects implemented/proposed to be implemented through private participation

A. Projects through Joint Venture route

- I. Transmission Lines associated with Tala HEP, East-North Interconnector and Northern Region Transmission System.
- II. Transmission Lines associated with Parbati-II (800 MW) HEP and Koldam (800 MW) HEP.
- III. Transmission system associated with generation project at Sugan near Surat.
- IV. Transmission system associated with 1000 MW Karcham-Wangtoo HEP.
- V. Transmission system associated with Teesta Basin Project in Sikkim.
- VI. Transmission system associated with 1500 MW Power Project at Hazira.

B. Projects through 100% Private Participation

Western Region System Strengthening Scheme-II (WRSSS-II) (Set B and C)

Statement-III

List of Private Distribution Companies Presently Functioning

Sl. No.	Name of distribution company	Name of State
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad Electricity Co. Ltd.	Gujarat
2.	Surat Electricity Co. Ltd.	Gujarat
3.	Calcutta Electricity Supply Co.	West Bengal
4.	Dishergarh Power Co. Ltd.	West Bengal
5.	Noida Power Co. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh
6.	North Delhi Power Ltd.	Delhi
7.	BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd.	Delhi
8.	BSES Yamuna Power Ltd.	Delhi
9.	Reliance Energy Ltd. (erstwhile BSES Ltd.)	Maharashtra
10.	Tata Power Co. Ltd. (TPC)	Maharashtra
11.	Torrent Power Ltd.	Maharashtra #

1	2	3
12. Southern Electricity Supply Company		Orissa
13. Western Electricity Supply Company		Orissa
14. North Eastern Electricity Supply Company		Orissa
15. Central Electricity Supply Company		Orissa
16. Tata Tea Ltd.		Kerala

Operating as a franchisee of State owned distribution utility.

[Translation]

Development of New and Renewable Energy

*263. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) the target fixed and achieved in regard to power generation under the New and Renewable Energy Programme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has finalized a plan for "transitioning to renewable energy future";

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote and distribute the power generating equipments in the

country to generate energy from the renewable energy sources, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government is providing encouragement to various NGOs for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Plan and Annual targets are fixed at the national level in respect of most programmes/schemes of this Ministry. State-wise achievements in respect of grid-interactive renewable power capacity addition during the last three years, i.e., 2003-04 to 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) New and renewable is supplementing conventional energy. Against the 10th Plan target for grid-interactive renewable power capacity addition of 3075 MW, the actual achievement is likely to exceed 6500 MW. Likewise, the share of grid-interactive renewable power in the capacity added from all sources during the 10th Plan is likely to be 20 per cent, against an initial aim of 10 per cent. The trend is likely to continue and in this regard a renewable power capacity addition of 14,000 MW has been proposed for the 11th Plan. In addition, other renewable energy systems/devices are supplementing fossil-fuel energy.

(d) As grid-interactive renewable power is mainly private investment driven, Government's role is essentially limited to creating conditions for its growth. In this respect, financial and fiscal incentives are being provided that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and income-tax holiday. In addition, preferential tariff is being given to renewable power in most potential states.

(e) and (f) NGOs can also avail financial and fiscal incentives referred to in reply to part (d) above.

Statement

State-wise achievements in respect of Grid-Interactive renewable power capacity addition during the last three years, i.e., 2003-04 to 2005-06

Sl.No.	State/UT	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Biomass Power (MW)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23.20	28.50	119.20

Sl.No.	State/UT	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Biomass Power (MW)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.93	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.11	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	5.50	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	10.00	0.00	16.50
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	165.06	0.00
8.	Haryana	14.40	0.00	2.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	38.84	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.50	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	140.75	460.18	115.10
13.	Kerala	12.60	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2.20	17.65	1.00
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	588.50	11.50
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.20	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	15.15	0.00	6.00
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	278.84	15.30
23.	Sikkim	3.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1.30	1904.28	67.00
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3.60	0.00	75.00
27.	Uttaranchal	10.85	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	6.02	0.00	0.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00

Sl.No.	State/UT	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Biomass Power (MW)
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		307.15	3443.00	428.60

Pending Proposals under SGRY

*264. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from certain States under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) the present status of each proposal indicating the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be approved; and

(d) the details of the expenditure incurred under this yojana during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is an allocation based programme. Specific proposals are not required to be projected to the Centre for funding under SGRY. This programme is being implemented through the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The resources under SGRY are shared among the Village Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and District Panchayats in the ratio of 50:30:20. Each level of Panchayats are required to independently prepare and approve, before the beginning of the each financial year, an Annual Action Plan for taking up the works under SGRY. The Gram Sabha in respect of Village Panchayats and the General Bodies in respect of District Panchayats/

District Rural Development Agencies and Intermediate Panchayats approve the Annual Action Plan. The consolidated Annual Action Plan consisting of Annual Action Plans of all three levels of Panchayats is required to be prepared at the level of District Panchayat/District Rural Development Agency and make available to each of the Intermediate Panchayats. No work can be taken up unless it forms part of the Annual Action Plan.

(d) The expenditure incurred and quantity of food-grains utilised by the States and UTs under SGRY during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (as per the information available upto 13th March, 2007) were as under:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)	Quantity of food- grains utilised (in MTs)
2003-04	595774.74	4193092
2004-05	608012.87	4788675
2005-06	705228.91	3476824
2006-07*	272105.62	900990

*Note: In 2006-07, 388 districts are currently covered under SGRY since SGRY programme in 200 districts has been subsumed into NREGA.

Statewise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement
Performance of SGRY during 2003-04 to 2006-07

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07*	
		Expenditure in cash (Rs. in lakh)	Quantity of foodgrains utilised (in MTs)	Expenditure in cash (Rs. in lakh)	Quantity of foodgrains utilised (in MTs)	Expenditure in cash (Rs. in lakh)	Quantity of foodgrains utilised (in MTs)	Expenditure in cash (Rs. in lakh)	Quantity of foodgrains utilised (in MTs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33965.38	267189	31922.74	271656	37705.06	205743	7823.92	21151
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1257.74	0	685.09	0	675.52		817.25	
3.	Assam	41422.14	311581	39533.75	428074	46499.28	197639	33672.91	171102
4.	Bihar	48593.41	246106	63479.62	416287	73195.24	360283	16788.48	62797
5.	Chhattisgarh	16805.85	140036	17757.39	209305	22093.18	125086	5120.51	14469
6.	Goa	78.92	0	282.73	0	319.55		246.11	
7.	Gujarat	13596.10	158519	14856.35	170873	16887.56	69487	7408.36	22214
8.	Haryana	7442.93	53859	6794.28	60917	9531.74	52846	4785.65	24961
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3256.44	27902	3683.45	26676	3587.90	23340	1912.00	7496
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4195.30	32644	4197.50	31147	4570.88	24222	2317.04	8721
11.	Jharkhand	40280.58	37882	39485.11	119713	52866.14		2828.65	
12.	Karnataka	24748.91	301220	26682.09	272479	30855.62	168126	11366.81	50330
13.	Kerala	10065.14	60275	13565.39	97003	15532.67	81996	6912.52	3394
14.	Madhya Pradesh	38744.86	274779	40023.35	428611	45496.35	313150	17261.59	73329
15.	Maharashtra	47411.11	318947	49000.74	371540	53360.78	329788	24365.18	113842
16.	Manipur	1071.19	11437	2387.20		966.20	5202	0.00	

17. Meghalaya	2716.95	7903	3199.36	18016	3503.10	29585	1999.38	8525
18. Mizoram	801.68	7809	557.19	3283	988.29	4848	374.98	1738
19. Nagaland	1170.55	31333	1433.70	13135	1989.25	14580	495.87	
20. Orissa	38608.74	314781	36291.37	296486	35694.05	221354	8300.98	41838
21. Punjab	6055.59	46079	6215.06	65882	6246.18	40838	4504.53	13986
22. Rajasthan	22075.62	226323	20437.32	175961	23423.21	119730	14608.59	55678
23. Sikkim	760.00	6221	771.95	6935	1076.58	5411	430.16	1978
24. Tamil Nadu	33602.53	256038	30960.67	259706	35587.77	196369	20143.74	75837
25. Tripura	5959.21	58743	5891.08	44260	6155.50	32769	2873.07	13604
26. Uttaranchal	7492.65	62418	8502.94	67759	9358.23	56889	4386.17	15500
27. Uttar Pradesh	111863.13	665226	106468.40	712497	128965.23	466522	55969.47	27292
28. West Bengal	31604.04	266470	32836.27	220069	27779.37	330453	14248.15	71119
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	23.77	351	65.35	309	88.03	0	14.06	0
30. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
31. Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
32. Lakshadweep	2.59	0	11.37	0	44.20	0	13.20	0
33. Pondicherry	101.69	1020	34.06	97	186.24	568	116.31	110
Total	595774.74	4193092	608012.87	4788675	705228.91	3476824	272105.62	900990

Note: 1. On the request of the State Government due to its specific problems, only cash allocation was provided to Arunachal Pradesh upto 2005-06.

2. State of Goa and UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep were given only cash allocation as the request of the respective State Government and UT administration due to their specific problems.

* In 2006-07, 388 districts are currently covered under SGRY since SGRY programme in 200 districts has been subsumed into NREGA.

[English]

Regularisation of Services of Daily Wagers

*265. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Bank employees, including Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees, have been working for over 12 years on daily wage basis;

(b) if so, the number of them who have been working for over three years and over five years as on January 1, 2007;

(c) the reasons for not regularising their services; and

(d) the norms for regularisation and after what length of satisfactory services as daily wage workers they are to be considered for regularisation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have temporary/part-time employees including SC/ST, who have been on their rolls for long period of time.

(b) and (c) This information has to be collected from all PSBs. It is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) As per Government of India norms, which are applicable, *mutatis-mutandis*, to PSBs also, a daily wage/casual labourer who has put in two years continuous service (including broken period of service) of 240 days each during the two years of his/her service, may be considered for regularization.

National Land Records Development Mission

*266. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any decision regarding setting up of a National Land Records Development Mission (NLRDM);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) No decision has so far been taken for setting up of a National Land Records Development Mission (NLRDM). Accordingly, no time frame can be given.

Dwelling Units during Eleventh Plan

*267. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dwelling units, the Eleventh Plan aims to provide every year;

(b) the details of the schemes proposed in this regard in physical and financial terms; and

(c) the action taken to provide more living space and amenities to people of the Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR)?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) As per estimates made by the Working Group on Urban Housing for Eleventh Plan, there is a shortage of 24.71 million Dwelling Units (DUs) of which as much as 21.78 million pertain to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and 2.89 million is the requirement of housing for Low Income Group (LIG) at the start of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Housing is a State subject and the target and achievement in creation of housing stock will depend on the efforts made by the State Governments. The Central Government has launched Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), to address the issue of Urban infrastructure and housing. The Sub-Mission on Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) are aimed inter alia to provide houses for the urban poor. The physical and financial achievement under these programmes will depend on the efforts made by the State Governments.

(c) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has informed that its constituent States viz. Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh promote construction of dwelling units, both by plotted and flatted residential development, in the public and private sectors. Development of shelter and amenities in National Capital

Territory of Delhi is governed by the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD).

The MPD 2021, was notified by the Central Government on 7th February, 2007, with the perspective for the year 2021 and envisages development of shelter, physical and social infrastructure in a planned manner. As per the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2021, the estimated population of Delhi would be in the range of 220 to 230 lakh in the year 2021, and an additional 24 lakh dwelling units (DUs) would be needed to meet the housing requirement. This includes 20 lakh DUs for additional population and backlog of about four lakh units comprising of one lakh net shortage and the rest for replacement of dilapidated and kutcha structures. The housing for urban poor constitute 50-55% of the total projected housing requirement in the form of two rooms or less. Master Plan for Delhi 2021 envisages the development of the different types of houses through Public, Co-operative and Private sectors. About 40% of the housing need can potentially be satisfied through redevelopment/up-gradation of existing areas of Delhi and the remaining 60% can be met in new areas to be developed as urban extension. About 75,000 DUs per annum in different categories would have to be developed in the Urban Extensions. The MPD 2021 also proposes the involvement of private sector in land assembly and housing development in order to promote housing activities.

Implementation of NREGS by States

*268. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that States are making their own National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) guidelines and diluting some of the key provisions of the relevant Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Under Section 4(l) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 every State Government has to make a Scheme in consonance with the provisions of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

State Schemes so made are under scrutiny by the Ministry to ensure their conformity with the Act.

Schedule I of the Act has been recently amended to provide that every such state scheme shall be named National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme followed by the name of the state concerned.

National Capital Region Planning Board

*269. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Capital Region Planning Board has achieved its objectives;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the areas of weakness; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The National Capital Region (NCR) Planning Board was constituted under the NCR Planning Board Act, 1985 for preparation of a Plan for the development of the National Capital Region and for co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of such Plan and for evolving harmonized policies for the control of land uses and development of infrastructure in the NCR. Since its inception the Board has prepared two Regional Plans for development of the National Capital Region. The Regional Plan—2001 was notified on 17-1-1989 and the Regional Plan—2021 was notified on 17-9-2005.

Regional planning is continuous process. The Regional Plans prepared by the Board have articulated policies and strategies intended to contribute to reduction of in-migration into NCT of Delhi and development of the rest of the NCR. Key initiatives relating to development of Mass Rapid Transit Systems, peripheral expressways and accelerated development of metro centres in the region have followed the policies contained in the Regional Plan. The NCR Planning Board has also been providing loan assistance for infrastructure projects relating to land

development, water supply, sewerage, drainage and solid waste management, power transmission and distribution, development of transport systems, and socio-economic infrastructure in the region. The Board has approved infrastructure projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 6870.89 crore and released loans amounting to Rs. 2319 crore till January, 2007.

The decadal rate of growth of population in the National Capital has fallen from 51.45% in 1981-91 to 47.02% in 1991-2001. The rate of migration to Delhi from Uttar Pradesh including Uttarakhand has also declined from 48.25% in 1981-91 to 45.00% in 1991-2001. The rate of in-migration from Haryana to National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has reduced from 11.51% in 1981-91 to 7.87% in 1991-2001. The rate of in-migration from Rajasthan to NCT of Delhi has also reduced from 6.00% in 1981-91 to 4.06% in 1991-2001.

The foregoing analysis bears testimony to the fact that the NCRPB has played a significant role in achievement of its objectives.

[Translation]

Enhancement of Funds under ARWSP

*270. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to allocate more funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) during the year 2007-08; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. Drinking water supply is an important component of the Government's flagship Bharat Nirman programme. Hence, the total allocation of funds proposed for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) has been increased by 25% from an outlay of Rs. 5200 crores in 2006-07 to Rs. 6500 crores in 2007-08.

(b) On approval of the Budget by Parliament, the State-wise allocation, as per the inter-state allocation criteria, will be made and intimated to the States.

[English]

Functioning of Co-operative Banks

*271. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Co-operative Banks that incurred losses during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether most of the Co-operative Banks functioning at present in the country are in a weak position;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the performance of Co-operative Banks in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning and strengthening the position of Co-operative Banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Seven out of 31 State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and 131 out of 366 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) have not been complying with the minimum capital requirement of Rs. one lakh prescribed under Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS). As regards Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in the year 2006, 716 UCBs are categorised as sound Banks having no supervisory concerns, 460 UCBs are categorised as Grade-II, 407 UCBs as Grade-III and 270 UCBs as Grade-IV. Banks in Grades-III and IV broadly correspond to weak and sick category. The State-wise number of DCCBs and UCBs that incurred losses during the last three years and two years respectively is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Based on the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee, a revival package for Short Term Co-operative Credit Structure (STCCS) has been approved in consultation with the State Governments and sent to them for acceptance for implementation. The approved revival package, inter-alia, includes the wiping out of accumulated losses subject to certain legal and institutional reforms to be initiated by State Governments.

15 States and one Union Territory (U.T.) have so far conveyed their consent to implement the package. Work of special audit of the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) is in progress in ten States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa which have executed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABARD and Government of India for implementing the Package. States of Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and U.T. of Dadra and Nagar Haveli have given their consent to the package.

As regards UCBs, it has been RBI's endeavour to develop the Sector on sound lines. RBI in its Annual Policy Statement for the year 2004-05, stipulates that in order to make this sector strong, healthy and stable, fresh licences are to be issued only after a comprehensive policy on UCBs, including an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the sector, is put in place.

To ensure regulatory coordination and cooperation

under the existing legal framework, RBI has been entering into MoU with State Governments. So far, MoUs have been signed with eight State Governments viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Goa. A Task Force for Urban co-operative Banks (TAFUCB) has been set up in each of these States for identification of and drawing up of a time bound action plan for revival of potentially viable UCBs and for non disruptive exit for non-viable UCBs.

In view of the regulatory co-ordination brought about through signing of MoU's with State Governments and based on the positive experience of the TAFUCBs, it was stated in the Mid-term Review of Annual Policy Statement for the year 2006-07, to allow financially sound UCBs—registered in States that have signed MoU with the Reserve Bank of India and those registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002—certain relaxation in the matter of licensing of branches.

Statement

No. of Cooperative Banks which incurred losses during the last three years

Total No. of DCCBs incurred losses	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	12	5	1
Bihar	13	11	7
Chhattisgarh	7	1	—
Gujarat	4	3	4
Haryana	2	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	3	3	3
Jharkhand	6	5	3
Karnataka	10	7	7
Kerala	2	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	14	14	14

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	8	10	10
Orissa	4	1	1
Rajasthan	3	2	1
Tamil Nadu	12	12	—
Uttar Pradesh	21	24	25
Uttaranchal	—	—	1
West Bengal	1	1	1

State Cooperative Banks of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland and Tripura were in losses in all the three years of 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. Besides, Manipur SCB was in loss during 2002-03 and 2004-05 also and Chhattisgarh SCB incurred losses in 2004-05.

Total No. of UCBs incurred losses	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	23	27
Assam and other NE States	6	5
Bihar/Jharkhand	0	0
Gujarat	91	68
Jammu and Kashmir	0	1
Karnataka	78	60
Kerala	9	12
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	5	7
New Delhi	2	1
Maharashtra and Goa	116	121

1	2	3
Orissa	1	4
Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh	3	2
Rajasthan	1	2
Tamil Nadu	8	17
Uttar Pradesh and Uttrakhand	8	8
West Bengal	10	7

Performance of NBCC

*272. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the performance of National Buildings Construction Corporation during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed and the achievements made by NBCC therein;

(c) the details of the projects completed by NBCC in various States particularly Orissa and likely to be completed in the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on each project?

(b)

Year: 2005-06 (Rs. in crore)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

Based on the performance evaluation, NBCC has been awarded 'Excellent' MoU Rating for the year 2005-2006 and has been selected amongst Top Ten CPSEs for the MoU Excellence Award for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Further, NBCC has also won "SCOPE Award for Excellence and Outstanding Contribution to the Public Sector Management—Special Institutional (Turnaround) Category 2005-06".

Parameter	Target	Achievement
Turnover	720.00	1235.70
Order Booking	1800.00	2143.00
Gross Margin	16.60	52.05
Net Profit	4.62	28.03

(c) and (d) The details of projects completed (State-wise particularly Orissa) and likely to be completed during the year 2006-07 by NBCC along with expenditure incurred, is given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited
List of Major (Above Rs. 5 crore) Projects Completed in 2006-07

Sl. No.	Description of Work	Expenditure incurred till date (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3
Orissa		
1.	Multi-Storied Shopping Complex, Cuttack	1008.00
Nagaland		
1.	Construction of Sainik School at Pungliwa, Nagaland	1223.89
Manipur		
1.	Flyover at Imphal (Maharani Bridge)	2074.98
Tripura		
1.	Construction of Shopping Complex at Ranir Bazar, Tripura	537.22
Mizoram		
1.	Construction of Administrative Training Institute at Aizwal, Mizoram	675.42
2.	Construction of Bus Terminus at Aizwal, Mizoram	1471.94

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu		
1.	Married Accommodation Project (MAP), Sullur	1960.00
2.	EPFO Tirunelveli	1250.00
Maharashtra		
1.	Patent Office, Mumbai	1250.00
2.	ONGC, Dharavi, Mumbai	2858.00
Rajasthan		
1.	MAP, Nasirabad (Army)	3022.00
2.	MAP Jodhpur (Air Force)	4315.00
3.	Solid Waste Management Project (SWMP), Jodhpur	1632.00
Haryana		
1.	SWMP, Sirsa, Haryana	886.00

Statement-II

*National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited
List of Projects Likely to be Completed in 2006-07*

Sl. No.	Description of Work	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3
Orissa		
1.	Central Tool Rooms and Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar	273.46
2.	ESIC Annual Repair and Maintenance (Bhubaneswar, Chowdahar, Barrang, Barbil, Kongswal, Rourkella, Brojanagar, Hirakund, Rajgangpur, J.K. Pur and Bardal)	81.77
3.	ESIC Special Repair, Bhubaneswar	5.83
4.	EPF Special Repair, Bhubaneswar and Rourkella	4.97
Sikkim		
1.	Construction of Parking cum Shopping Complex at Balwakhani, Sikkim	1489.00

1	2	3
	2. Construction of Footpath from White House to Ranipool, Sikkim	1248.48
Tripura		
	1. Construction of Shopping Complex for evicted hawkers near New Motor stand at Sonamura Nagar Panchayat	708.56
	2. Construction of Bamboo and Cane Development Institute at Agartala	657.81
West Bengal		
	1. ESIC, Kolkata	550.00
	2. Falta	270.00
	3. Bose Institute, Kolkata	100.00
	4. CTTC, Kolkata	50.00
Jharkhand		
	1. JAP, Garwa	840.00
	2. JPHC, Phase-II	1433.00
Uttar Pradesh		
	1. Rihand Civil works	5813.30
	2. Unchahar Chimney	642.66
Bihar		
	1. Barh Site Levelling works	12100.00
Madhya Pradesh		
	1. Vindhanchal Chimney works	978.75
Andhra Pradesh		
	1. APGENCO Cooling Tower, Mudnoor	1940.00
Maharashtra		
	1. Parti Chimney works	1064.00

Promotion of Bio-Technology

*273. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan for promotion of bio-technology in the field of agriculture, health care, industry and human resource development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made so far and further steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology established in 1986, has the mandate to promote biotechnology applications in agriculture, health care, animal husbandry, environmental and biodiversity protection and biotech industry. Besides, the Department of Science and Technology, Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Council for Scientific Industrial Research and Indian Council for Medical Research also supplement the efforts. To promote biotechnology, various schemes/projects have been launched for human resource development; establishment of centers of excellence and sophisticated biotech facilities; support to research and development projects; and technology development, validation, transfer and commercialization. Public-private partnership for strengthening academia-industry linkages, promotion of biotech industrial R and D have also been undertaken.

The achievements of the various programmes and projects are available in detail in the Annual Reports of the Department of Biotechnology posted at the website: www.dbtindia.nic.in. The biotechnology industry is growing about 35-40% per annum for last five years. The biotechnology sector is also developing at a satisfactory rate in terms of skilled human resource, infrastructure, patents, publications and product development. Some significant products/technologies developed include: vaccines and diagnostics for communicable diseases, biopharmaceuticals, genetically modified crops, biopesticides, biofertilisers, large scale tissue culture production technologies of spices, tree and woody species; bioremediation for removal of environmental pollutants; gene-banks and repositories for conservation of biodiversity and technologies for production of elite clones of animals. Human resource development is a main thrust of this department with a support to post-graduate training and education at 74 universities/institutions, fellowships for M.Sc, Ph.D and post doctoral students, national overseas short-term/long-term fellowships as well as awards for career development. International research and development have been forged with 20 countries apart

from Multilateral Collaborations with ASEAN, SAARC and G-15 countries. In order to fully realize the potential of biotechnology in India and to be competitive globally, recently, a National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been formulated in consultation with all the concerned stakeholders, ministries/departments for major expansion in human resource development, industrial promotion and development, sectoral R and D for technology development, establishment of new institutes in cutting edge areas of biotechnology and streamlining of regulatory system. Efforts have already been made to implement several programmes envisaged in the strategy.

Incentives for Research

*274. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incentives extended to pharma and other industries for in-house Research and Development;

(b) the details of financial assistance extended in terms of income tax exemptions provided to different industries for their R and D efforts during each of the last five years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the incentive policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The following incentives have been extended to pharma and other industries for in-house research and development:—

- (i) In terms of the provisions of section 35(2AB) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 inserted w.e.f. 1-4-1998, incentive for in-house research and development in the form of a weighted deduction of a sum equal to 150% of the expenditure (not being expenditure in the nature of cost of any land or building) incurred by a company on scientific research on in-house research and development facility approved by the prescribed authority is allowed if the company is engaged in the business of biotechnology or in the business of manufacture or production of any

drugs, pharmaceuticals, electronic equipment, computers, telecommunication equipment, chemicals or any other article or thing notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes. The following articles or things have been notified:

- (a) Manufacture or production of a helicopter or aircraft (Notification No. 11112, dated 27-10-1999);
- (b) Manufacture or production of computer software (Notification No. SO 452 (E), dated 8-2-2000); and
- (c) Manufacture or production of automobiles, including automobile components (Notification No. SO 1021(E), dated 21-9-2004).

The Explanation to section 35(2AB) clarifies that "expenditure on scientific research" in relation to drugs and pharmaceuticals includes:—

- (a) Expenditure incurred on clinical drug trial;
 - (b) obtaining approval from any regulatory authority under any Central, State or Provincial Act; and
 - (c) filing an application for a patent under the Patents Act, 1970.
- (ii) Under clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 35, any expenditure (not being in the nature of capital expenditure) laid out or expended on scientific research related to the business is allowed as deduction in the computation of business income of the assessee.
- (iii) Under clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35, weighted deduction of 125% of the sum paid by any taxpayer to a scientific research association (which has as its object the undertaking of scientific research) or to a university, college or other institution (to be used for scientific research), is allowed as deduction in the case of the donor in computing his business income, provided the donee scientific research association or university or college or other

institution is approved, in accordance with the guidelines, in the manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed and such association, university, college or other institution is specified as such by notification in the Official Gazette, by the Central Government.

- (iv) Under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 35, a deduction of 125% of the sum paid to a university, college or other institution to be used for research in social science or statistical research, is allowed as deduction in the case of the donor in computing his business income, provided the donee university or college or other institution is approved, in accordance with the guidelines, in the manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed and such university, college or other institution is specified as such by notification in the Official Gazette, by the Central Government.
- (v) Under clause (iv) of sub-section (1) of section 35, any expenditure of a capital nature on scientific research related to the business carried on by the assessee (not being expenditure on acquisition of land) is allowed as deduction in computing his business income.
- (vi) Under sub-section (2AA) of section 35, 125% of any sum paid by an assessee is allowed as deduction in computing business income where the sum is paid to a National Laboratory or a University or an Indian Institute of Technology or a specified person with a specific direction that the said sum shall be used for scientific research undertaken under a programme approved by the prescribed authority.
- (vii) Under section 80GGA, any sum paid by an assessee to a scientific research association (which has as its object the undertaking scientific research) or to a university, college or other institution (to be used for scientific research) is allowed as deduction in the computation of income of the assessee if his gross total income does not include income under the head "Profits and gains of business or profession".

- (viii) Under Rule 5(2) of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, on satisfaction of prescribed conditions, depreciation is allowed at a higher percentage of 40% of the written down value of any new machinery or plant installed (on or after 1-4-1987) for the purposes of business of manufacture or production of any article or thing if such article or thing:—
- (a) is manufactured or produced by using any technology (including any process) or other know-how developed in, or
 - (b) is an article or thing invented in,

a laboratory owned or financed by the Government or a laboratory owned by a public sector company or a university or an institution recognised in this behalf by the Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India.
- (ix) Under section 10(21) of the Income-tax Act, any income of a scientific research association approved for the purposes of the provisions of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 is exempt from payment of income-tax subject to fulfillment of certain conditions regarding application of income of such association and forms and modes of investment.
- (x) Under section 80-IB(8A), 100% of the profits and gains is allowed as deduction in the case of a company carrying on scientific research and development. The deduction is allowable for a period of ten consecutive assessment years, beginning from the initial assessment year, if the company:—
- (a) is registered in India;
 - (b) has the main object of scientific and industrial research and development;
 - (c) is for the time being approved by the prescribed authority at any time after the 31st day of March, 2000 but before the 1st day of April, 2007;
 - (d) fulfills such other conditions as may be prescribed.
- (xi) Entities carrying on research can also claim exemption of their income under section 10(23C) and sections 11 and 12 on satisfaction of conditions listed therein, if their activities are for charitable purposes.
- (xii) In the area of **Indirect Taxes**, Government has provided concessional rate of 5%/nil customs duty on specified R and D equipment for pharma and bio-technology sectors, for importers/manufacturers having research and development wing registered with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in the Ministry of Science and Technology. Full exemption from basic customs duty is available on 101 items and concessional rate of 5% customs duty has been allowed on 24 items (Notification No. 21/2002-Customs, dated the 1st March, 2002, Lists 27A and 28).
- In addition, concessional customs duty of 5%, with full exemption from additional duty has been extended to import of specified equipment, apparatus, accessories, parts, consumables, prototypes, etc. by all research institutions, including those in pharma sector, registered with Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, subject to specified conditions (Notification No. 51/96-Customs, dated the 23rd July, 1996). Full exemption from excise duty is also available on supply of specified goods to such research institutions (Notification No. 10/97-Central Excise, dated the 1st March, 1997).
- (xiii) Exemption from service tax has been provided with effect from 1-4-2007 to all taxable services provided by:—
- (a) a Technology Business Incubator (TBI)/ Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Park (STEP).
 - (b) incubatees who are located within the premises of TBI/STEP and whose annual

business turnover does not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs in a financial year, for a period of three years.

Exemption from service tax has been provided with effect from 1-3-2007 to Clinical Research Organizations in relation to testing and analysis of newly developed drugs on human participants.

(b) The details of financial assistance extended in terms of income-tax exemptions provided to different industries for their R and D efforts are as under:—

In the Budget for 2006-07 and 2007-08, the revenue foregone on account of weighted deduction under section 35(2AB) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 as detailed in the 'Receipts Budget' has been worked as under:—

Financial Year	Revenue Foregone (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	2318
2005-06	2839
2006-07	4107

The revenue foregone has not been worked out in respect of incentives allowed under other provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(c) and (d) The provisions regarding incentives for research and development were reviewed during the budgetary exercise for 2007 particularly in regard to deduction under section 35(2AB) which is available only in respect of expenditure incurred up to 31-3-2007. The Finance Bill, 2007 proposes to extend this deduction in respect of expenditure incurred up to 31-3-2012.

Loan to SSIs

*275. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to increase loan facilities to small and medium scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed for giving loans to small and medium scale industries and the amount of loans disbursed during the year 2006-07, State-wise, bank-wise;

(d) whether Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions provide loan to sick Small Scale Industries (SSIs);

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the amount of loan outstanding against such industries, as on date, State-wise; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such industries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) For stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Government of India had announced a Policy Package in Parliament on August 10, 2005 advising all Scheduled Commercial Banks including Public Sector Banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20% year-on-year growth in credit to the SME sector. The present data collection system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate State-wise information in respect of loans given by Public Sector Banks to SME sector. The Bank-wise position of amount outstanding in the books of Public Sector Banks as on 31st March, 2006 and 31st December, 2006 in respect of loans given to SME sector is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) to (g) RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks, from time to time, to detect sickness at an early stage and take remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. The State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC) has been set up in each State under the convenorship of RBI to deal with the problems of co-ordination for rehabilitation of sick SSI units. Banks have been advised to ensure restructuring of debt of all eligible small and medium enterprises. Sick SSI units that cannot be rehabilitate are encouraged to have one time settlement of their dues with the banks failing which action as per law is taken for recovery of dues. The State-wise position of amount outstanding in the books of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on 31st March, 2006 in respect of sick Small Scale Industries is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

**Bank-wise position of amount outstanding in the books of Public Sector Banks as on 31-03-2006
and 31-12-2006 in respect of loans given to SME sector**

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Bank	Amount outstanding	
	as on 31-03-2006	as on 31-12-2006
1	2	3
Allahabad Bank	2765.44	3207.06
Andhra Bank	2439.00	2835.00
Bank of Baroda	6854.00	8012.00
Bank of India	15777.00	18221.00
Bank of Maharashtra	1533.20	1845.66
Canara Bank	11619.00	13300.00
Central Bank of India	5408.00	6299.00
Corporation Bank	2608.88	3030.16
Dena Bank	2388.17	2958.63
Indian Bank	4358.33	5150.00
Indian Overseas Bank	4677.00	5239.00
Oriental Bank of Commerce	4178.29	4811.99
Punjab National Bank	11689.00	13410.00
Punjab and Sind Bank	1564.11	1711.09
Syndicate Bank	3053.00	3721.00
Union Bank of India	6540.00	7811.09
UCO Bank	2887.00	4007.25
United Bank of India	1562.24	1920.00
Vijaya Bank	1439.33	1627.47
State Bank of India	42236.00	45797.00

1	2	3
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	2398.11	2890.59
State Bank of Hyderabad	3611.24	4250.31
State Bank of Indore	1350.33	1537.45
State Bank of Mysore	1036.85	1217.31
State Bank of Patiala	1746.00	2146.00
State Bank of Saurashtra	1489.65	1794.50
State Bank of Travancore	2431.46	3272.30
IDBI Bank	939.29	1437.07
Total	150579.92	173459.93

Statement-II

State-wise position of amount outstanding in the books of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on 31-03-2006 in respect of sick Small Scale Industries

(Rs. in crore)

State	Amount outstanding
1	2
Haryana	45.08
Himachal Pradesh	11.19
Jammu and Kashmir	21.60
Punjab	144.44
Rajasthan	69.68
Chandigarh	9.25
Chhattisgarh	123.12
Delhi	321.39
Assam	50.58

1	2
Manipur	2.23
Meghalaya	2.75
Nagaland	2.33
Tripura	2.84
Arunachal Pradesh	0.05
Mizoram	0.36
Sikkim	0.88
Bihar	74.47
Jharkhand	46.68
Orissa	346.46
West Bengal	377.28
Andaman and Nicobar	0.50
Madhya Pradesh	175.47
Uttar Pradesh	416.80
Uttaranchal	42.03

1	2
Gujarat	420.37
Maharashtra	630.63
Daman and Diu	0.77
Goa	8.06
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.22
Andhra Pradesh	213.77
Karnataka	252.91
Kerala	282.66
Tamil Nadu	875.30
Pondicherry	6.98
Total	4981.13

Foreign Banks in India

*276. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some of the foreign banks functioning in India are not adhering to the terms and conditions prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken against those erring banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) All banks, including foreign banks, are supervised through a process of on-site and off-site supervision and monitored by a follow-up mechanism by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure adherence to the various regulations prescribed by it. The management of each bank is required to ensure compliance with RBI regulations.

All banks, including foreign banks, have been complying with the regulatory norms prescribed by RBI.

Where cases of non-compliance come to the notice of RBI, immediate remedial action is taken by it against the defaulting bank. In two such instances that have come to the notice of RBI since 1st January, 2006, RBI has imposed penalties of Rs. 5 lakhs each on two foreign banks i.e. Citi Bank and Standard Chartered Bank for violation of RBI guidelines/directives/instructions relating to monitoring of suspicious transactions, adherence to 'KYC norms' under Section 47A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Safeguards for Small Investors

*277. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved any safeguards for the investments made by the small investors against a number of risks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the small investors to save them from being cheated by unscrupulous persons?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Government has enacted the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to establish SEBI with the primary mandate to protect the interests of investors, including small investors, in securities. It has empowered SEBI to register and regulate all kinds of intermediaries and participants as well as prescribe the standards and systems for safe transactions in the market. In pursuance to this, SEBI has taken various measures to safeguard the interests of the investors. It has framed regulations to register market intermediaries and regulate their conduct and operations. It has framed regulations relating to insider trading, fraudulent and unfair practices, substantial acquisition of shares and takeovers etc. to prevent any kind of market manipulation. It has also framed regulations to provide for establishment of office of Ombudsman to redress the grievances of investors in securities. It operates an investor grievance redressal mechanism. It takes appropriate enforcement actions against entities/individuals found to have violated securities laws.

It has been endeavour of the authorities to make all relevant information available to investors and encourage them to use these information to make informed investment decisions. SEBI and market participants are undertaking a massive awareness programme to educate investors about the precautions they need to take while dealing in securities and how to seek redressal of their grievances. The authorities are continuously reviewing market design, practices and systems to make the market safer. Some of the key measures taken in this regard include screen based trading system, dematerialization of securities, T+2 rolling settlement, settlement through clearing corporations, high corporate governance standards, advanced risk management mechanism, disclosure of relevant information etc.

[Translation]

Foreign Banks

*278. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign banks operating in the country at present;

(b) whether the foreign banks are making huge profits

in comparison to the Indian banks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the comparative details of losses and profits made by foreign as well as Indian banks during the last three years; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Presently, 29 Foreign Banks are operating in the country.

(b) to (e) Foreign banks reported net profit of Rs. 3,069 crore during the year 2005-06, as against Rs. 21,524 crore reported by Indian banks for the same period. However, while foreign banks registered a return on assets (ROA) of 1.52% for the year ended March 2006, the ROA of new private sector banks and public sector banks was at 0.97% and 0.82% respectively for the year ended March 2006. Foreign banks made better profits on account of higher interest spread, relatively larger share of non-interest income in total income and lower operating expenses.

Details of net profits earned by public sector banks, private sector banks and foreign banks during the last three years are given below:—

(Rs. in crore)

	Net Profit		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Public Sector Banks*	16,546	15,442	16,539
Private Sector Banks	3,481	3,534	4,985
Sub-Total	20,027	18,976	21,524
Foreign Banks	2,243	1,982	3,069

*includes IDBI Ltd.

Review of Rural Electrification Programme

***279. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:**
SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the programme implemented under the Rural Electrification Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made by the Government in this regard during the last three years, scheme-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the details of the Government and non-Government companies engaged in the implementation of the rural electrification programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India from time to time had launched the following programmes for electrification of rural areas in the country:

- (i) Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) in 1974-75.
- (ii) Kutir Jyoti in 1988-89 to give electricity connections to rural households below poverty line.
- (iii) Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) in 2000-01.
- (iv) Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP) in 2003-04.
- (v) Accelerated Electrification of One lakh villages and One crore households in 2004-05.

The Government reviewed these schemes and found that:

- (a) The states were finding it difficult to implement the schemes which were having either 100% loan component or were providing only one component of electricity distribution.
- (b) The states were reluctant to take up rural electrification work as they were not recovering

the cost of power under the schemes, calling for increase in grant/assistance in the rural electrification programme.

(c) A comprehensive rural electrification programme was required to take care of:

- Development of rural electrification infrastructure in rural areas.
- Improving the viability of rural electricity infrastructure.
- Coverage of all BPL families.
- New definition of village electrification.

(vi) Accordingly, a new scheme has been introduced in April, 2005, namely, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana which provides for 90% capital subsidy of the project cost for the first time and 10% as soft loan from Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

(c) In the year 2004-05, Accelerated Electrification of One lakh villages and One crore households was launched which provided capital subsidy of 40% and loan of 60%. The scheme was being implemented initially in four States. However, the scheme was merged with RGGVY which is a more comprehensive scheme launched in 2005-06. In 2004-05, under Kutir Jyoti Programme, approximately 11 lakh connections were released to rural households below poverty line. The progress under rural electrification during the last two years under RGGVY is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Works under RGGVY are implemented entirely on turnkey basis, except in Andhra Pradesh, where the same are executed on partial turnkey basis. Thirteen State Governments have decided to avail project management expertise and services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) POWERGRID, NTPC Ltd., National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) by assigning implementation of RGGVY in 139 districts in their States. The state power utilities and CPSUs, based on the domestic competitive bidding, have awarded contracts to various contractors.

Statement

State-wise Rural Electrification under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (cumulative achievements since April, 2005 till 9-3-2007)

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of villages electrified	No. of rural households electrified	Of which BPL
1.	Uttar Pradesh	21685	195699	195354
2.	Bi har	8169	11055	3211
3.	West Bengal	1854	29218	21416
4.	Rajasthan	848	3669	1623
5.	Uttarakhand	771	19696	19696
6.	Karnataka	47	158851	119315
7.	Gujarat	0	9302	9302
8.	Andhra Pradesh	0	226654	226654
Total		33374	654144	596571

[English]

**Foreign Institutional Investment
through Participatory Notes**

*280. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any plan to ban investments by Foreign Institutional Investors investments through participatory notes (PN route) to address the issue of misuse of stock markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIs) have been allowed to participate in the Indian stock market. Government, the Reserve Bank of India and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have framed a policy for such participation and have put adequate safeguards in place to guard against any possible misuse of this avenue of investment. The policy is reviewed continuously taking into account inputs/concerns received from various sources. At present, Government has no plan to ban investments by Foreign Institutional Investors through participatory notes (PN route).

**Granting Infrastructure Status to
Gas Pipelines**

2510. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation for granting "Infrastructure status" to gas pipelines at par with Railways and roads; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) The Finance Bill, 2007 proposes to provide a ten year tax benefit to an undertaking carrying on the business of laying and operating a cross-country natural gas distribution network, including pipelines and storage facilities being an integral part of such network, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

[Translation]

Cities under JNNURM

2511. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the urban population of the country was 28% as per 2001 census which is estimated to increase upto 40% by 2030;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide facilities to cities in a planned manner;

(c) whether the cities which are important historically, religiously and also in view of tourism purposes have been selected under JNNURM; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per 2001 population census 285.35 million people reside in urban areas. It constitutes 27.8% of the total population of the country which may increase to 40% of total population by 2021.

(b) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched by Government of India which has two Sub-Missions i.e. Sub-Mission for Urban Infrastructure and Governance and Sub-Mission for Basic Services to the Urban Poor. The Mission's aim is to encourage reforms and fast track planned development of identified cities with focus on efficiency in urban infrastructure/ services delivery mechanisms, community participation and accountability of urban local bodies towards citizens.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some of the cities having historic, religious and touristic importance have been selected under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(d) Does not arise.

Mega Cities and Facilities

2512. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to declare Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat cities as mega cities for providing all matching facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Government of India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in select 63 cities with emphasis on provision of basic services to the urban poor including housing water supply, sanitation, road network, urban transport, development of inner (old) city areas etc. Ahmedabad is placed in the category of Mega City/Urban Agglomeration (UAs) as per 2001 census. Vadodara and Surat fall in the category of Million plus cities/UAs as per 2001 census.

Study on Impact of Global Warming

2513. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohanlal Ganj): Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out a study about the likely impact of Global Warming in the country in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of said study?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**NRI Status to Indian Workers
Aboard Indian Ships**

2514. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has rejected the Shipping Industry's demand to treat Indian workers aboard Indian Ships at par with those on foreign ships and give them non-resident status under the Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reconsider the matter and resolve the issue amicably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Representations received from the Shipping Industry to treat Indian seafarers on board Indian flag vessels at par with those on foreign flag vessels in respect of eligibility for non-resident status under the Income Tax Act were considered during budgetary exercise, 2007.

In terms of section 6 of the Income tax Act, 1961, Indian workers aboard Indian ships already have an advantage as compared to those on foreign ships as they can remain in India for a longer period and still be eligible for non-resident status. Accordingly, the demand of the Shipping Industry was not found to merit further consideration.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

IT Refund Cases of Pensioners

2515. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income Tax refund cases of pensioners lying pending with the Income Tax Authorities in Delhi and Haryana for the Assessment Years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) the reasons for the pendency of these cases; and

(c) the time by which the refunds would be made to the assesseees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No separate data in respect of pending refund cases of pensioners are maintained by the Income Tax Department.

(b) Some delay is caused due to shortage of manpower. In some cases verification of taxes paid or deducted is required to be made, causing delay in issuing of refund till verification process is over.

(c) Normally, returns are processed within four months of filing return and refunds are issued. The statutory time limit to process returns received in financial year 2005-06 and 2006-07 is 31-03-2007 and 31-03-2008 respectively.

[Translation]

Loan for Purchase of Tractors

2516. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans provided by the nationalised banks to farmers for buying tractors during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount of recovery made by these banks;

(c) whether the banks have given loans to farmers for purchasing tractors on the basis of the guarantee of Rabi and Kharif crops sown by farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) do not maintain data in the manner asked for.

(c) and (d) Nationalised Banks provide tractor loans to the farmers keeping in view the size of land holding, quality of soil, irrigation facilities available on the farm and the repaying capacity of the farmers adjudged on the basis of his/her expected annual income stream. The

security for tractor loan is the assets created out of bank loan, viz. tractor, trolley, other farm equipments, etc. These loans are not secured by creating charge on the crops grown by the farmers during rabi and kharif season.

Construction of Ponds under NREGS

2517. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any scheme in Jharkhand to construct ponds under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this purpose so far;

(c) the likely benefit to the farmers as a result thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make this scheme successful; and

(e) the success achieved in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Water conservation and water harvesting have highest priority under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and as such construction of ponds is a permissible activity under NREGA. However, no funds are allocated by the Central Government for any specific project. The district is released funds keeping in view the requirement as per demand for work and utilization of available resources. The works to be taken up are decided at the local level, in accordance with the Act and operational guidelines.

(e) As per the reports available from the state of Jharkhand 5405 works relating to water conservation and water harvesting have been completed and 10986 are in progress in 2006-07.

Unclaimed Deposits

2518. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has sent a proposal to the Government to utilize the unclaimed

amounts lying in various banks in public interests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make amendments in Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Empanelment of Film Makers

2519. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has advertised for empanelment of film makers in 2006; and

(b) if so, the number of applicants selected from each State with their names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development had advertised for empanelment of producers for various categories of audio and video production in 2006.

(b) Selection is under process.

FDI Proposals

2520. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals cleared by Union Government during 2006-07.

(b) the details of FDI proposals cleared by Union Government for investment in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is pending before the Foreign Investment Promotion Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, particularly from the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Union Government has cleared 185 Foreign Direct Investment proposals involving a total amount of Rs. 35,844.26 crore during the year 2006-07 (upto February 2007).

(b) The details of FDI proposals cleared by Union Government in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 45 FDI proposals upto 9-03-2007 are pending before Foreign Investment Promotion

Board (FIPB). Out of these 2 proposals pertain to the State of Andhra Pradesh, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of FDI proposals approved by the Government in the State of Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Year	No. of FDI proposals	Amount involved (Rupees in crores)
1.	2004-05	34	193.86
2.	2005-06	25	371.82
3.	2006-07 (upto February, 2007)	9	502.49

Statement-II

Details of pending proposals pertaining to the State of Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Registration No. and date	Name of applicant	Activity of the company
1.	37/FC/2007 dated 14-02-2007	M/s. GVK Power and infrastructure Ltd., Secunderabad	Business of operation and maintenance of power project and providing infrastructure facilities.
2.	51/FC/2007 dated 22-02-2007	M/s. GVK Power and infrastructure Ltd., Secunderabad	Business of operation and maintenance of power project and providing infrastructure facilities.

World Bank Assistance for Tamil Nadu

2521. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing any assistance for road works and construction of flyovers in Chennai city, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details alongwith present status thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to extend the work to other parts of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) In so far as World Bank assisted projects in Road and Urban Sectors are concerned, the following two projects are under implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(I) 3rd Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project

The agreement with the World Bank for the loan of US\$ 300 million was signed on 14-09-2005 for the project. The closing date of the project is 31-3-2011. The cumulative disbursement upto 31-1-2007 is US\$ 34.162 million under the project. The project consists of the following components:

- Institutional Development
- Urban Investment

The Urban Investment component includes funding for Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority for traffic and transport sub-projects.

(II) Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project

The agreement with the World Bank for the loan of US\$ 348 million was signed on 28-8-2003 for the project. The closing date of the project is 31-3-2009. The cumulative disbursement upto 31-1-2007 is US\$ 97.4 million under the project. The project aims to improve the quality and sustainability of the State's core road network. It consists of the following components:—

- Road Upgrading component for 750 km of State Highways.

- Road Maintenance and Safety Works Component for 2000 km of State roads.
- Institutional Strengthening and Policy development.

Institutions on Oceanography

2522. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of institutions/colleges on oceanography functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the length of coastal line of West Bengal;

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish such an institute in West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) At present there are several institutions/colleges where oceanographic research is supported that are functioning in the country. A detailed though not exhaustive list of such institutions that are working in the different States is as furnished below:—

Institute/University/Organisation	State
Centre for Ocean and Marine Biology, Pondicherry University, Port Blair	Andaman and Nicobar
National Institute of Ocean Technology, Port Blair	
Andhra University, Visakhapatnam*	Andhra Pradesh
National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad	
Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad#	
National Institute of Oceanography, Visakhapatnam	
Geological Survey of India, Visakhapatnam	

Institute/University/Organisation	State
Punjab University, Chandigarh	Chandigarh
	Chhattisgarh
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
	Daman and Diu
Delhi University, New Delhi	Delhi
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	
India Meteorological Department, Delhi#	
Earthquake Risk and Evaluation Centre, Delhi#	
National Institute of Oceanography, Goa	Goa
Goa University, Goa*	
National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa#	
S. Gujarat University, Surat	Gujarat
Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara	
Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj	
Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar	
Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar*	
	Haryana
	Himachal Pradesh
	Jammu and Kashmir
	Jharkhand
Karnataka University, Dharwad	Karnataka
Mangalore University, Mangalore*	
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mangalore	
Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Mangalore	
S.D.M. College of Engg and Technology, Dharwad	
Geological Survey of India, Mangalore	

(b) West Bengal has a coastline that is 157.5 line kilometres long.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Support is already being extended for oceanographic research to institutions such as Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vidyapeeth, Mohanpur, Kolkata; Bose Institute, University of Calcutta, Kolkata; Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur; Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; University of Calcutta, Kolkata and the Sea Explorers Institute, Kolkata. A dedicated Ocean and Atmospheric Science and Technology Cell has been functioning at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur since 1997.

The ministry proposes to establish an extension centre of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai at Kolkata in XI Five Year Plan.

Setting Up of District Laboratories

2523. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for opening up ten district laboratories recognised by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Mega City Project for Bangalore

2524. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Government proposes to fulfil its commitment to release funds for the Mega City Project for Bangalore during the Eighth and Ninth Plan period;

(b) whether the Government proposes to bear the additional escalation cost due to delay in release of funds to the mega cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) During the Eighth and Ninth Plan period, the commitments to release funds for the Mega City Project for Bangalore are fully met by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Bank Strike

2525. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various bank unions in the country have served notices for a nation-wide strike shortly;

(b) if so, the details alongwith their demands thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment on the fall-out of the proposed strike and the extent to which the general public would suffer as a result of the same; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Banks' Association has reported that it has received a notice from the United Forum of Bank Unions about their intention to go on a nation-wide strike from 28th March 2007 to 30th March 2007 and indefinite strike w.e.f. 3rd May 2007 in support of their demands of (i) second option for pension, (ii) restoration of compassionate scheme and (iii) to stop outsourcing of banking services.

(c) No, Sir. It is not possible to estimate the inconvenience, loss and erosion of market to the Public Sector Banks due to strikes.

(d) Apart from the negotiating fora at banks and IBA level, a statutory body viz. Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in Government is also there to negotiate with the employees.

[Translation]

**Setting Up of Hydro Power Project on
Chambal River**

2526. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a hydro power project on Chambal River in Morena District, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As informed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), there is no proposal to set up a hydro power project on Chambal River in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Norms of Financial Assistance

2527. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar/municipal corporation have sent a proposal for construction of houses to the Union Government/HUDCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One proposal has been received from Muzaffarpur District for Kanti town involving a project cost of Rs. 3.20 crore, under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

(c) Central share of Rs. 2.56 crore for this project has been cleared by the Central Sanctioning Committee.

[English]

**Possession of Land Vested into
Gram Sabha**

2528. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ. Nos. 3828, 177 and 6594 dated 24-08-2005, 1-03-2005 and 10-05-2005 respectively regarding execution of warrant of possessions and agricultural land vested into Gram Sabha and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken to take over the possession of the land vested into Gram Sabha;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Further clarifications/details have been called for in respect of the information received from Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD).

Bio-Tech Management Centre

2529. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Bio-tech Management Centre and Biotechnology Industry in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Department of Biotechnology has no proposal to set up "Biotech Management Centre and Biotechnology Industry". However, the department has proposed in the projections for 11th Five Year Plan, proposals to establish the following:

(i) **Establishment of National Technology Management Center in Biotechnology** which would act as a nodal agency for Technology Transfer (TT) and network with Universities and National Research Institutions in the country. Its activities will include processing and evaluation of technologies; IPR facilitation and protection; marketing of technologies; capacity building programmes in Technology Transfer; and translating innovative capacity of Indian R and D organisations and Universities involved in biotech research for further technological and economic development in the country.

(ii) **Establishment of Biotechnology Industry Research and Development Assistance Council (BIRAC)** which would help in assisting Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) to meet the new challenges they face in developing technology validation and manufacturing processes and services. BIRAC would offer a range of services specially designed to help SME's access key resources, new technologies, testing and validation facilities and financial assistance at the right time.

The above two activities shall be implemented during 2007-2012 depending upon the approval of 11th Plan proposals.

Economy in Expenditure

2530. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has recently issued a Circular to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India regarding economy in expenditure;

(b) if so, whether a number of Ministries/Departments have not taken any action on item G of para 1 of Circular;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a number of representations have been received in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for implementing the economy measures in all the Government Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Finance has from time to time been emphasizing the need to observe utmost economy in Government expenditure. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to contain the growth of non-Plan expenditure, while meeting the inescapable commitments of debt servicing, external and internal security, subsidies to the needy, salaries and pensions etc. This is done with a view to increase the availability of resources for developmental programmes. Representations received for relaxation in individual cases are dealt with on the merits of each case. The reference to "item G of para 1" is not clear.

Melting of Coins

2531. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of coin melting are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any study to find out the reasons for such trend;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to replace such coins whose value of metals is exceeding the currency value;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government; and

(g) the time by which the Government proposes to replace such coins in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Some incidence of melting of coins have been reported in newspapers and have come to notice of various law enforcement agencies. The reason for melting of coins is due to steep increase in metal price during the last two years.

(d) Yes, Sir. Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 Cupro-Nickel coins are being replaced by issue of Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 Ferritic Stainless Steel coins.

(e) to (g) Fresh production of Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 Cupro-Nickel coins, the cost of which has increased from its face value, have since been stopped during 2006-2007. The same are being replaced by issue of Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 Ferritic Stainless Steel coin. Rs. 2 Ferritic Stainless Steel coin is now already in circulation. Rs. 5 Ferritic Stainless Steel Coin is expected to be in circulation during 2007-08.

Grading System for IPOs

2532. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning to adopt a grading system for the Initial Public Offerings (IPOs).

(b) if so, whether any appraisal body has been set up for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which this system would be put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) A grading system for IPOs, on an optional basis, has been introduced by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

(b) No Sir. The grading would be done by credit rating agencies registered with SEBI under the SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulation, 1999.

(c) and (d) SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines were modified on April 24, 2006 to provide for disclosure of IPO grades, where the issuer company has opted for IPO grading.

Payment for Natural Gas

2533. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) has paid more amount to Reliance Industries, 'Bay of Bengal Gas Field' for buying natural gas for its power plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) NTPC invited International Competitive Bids for supply of LNG/Natural Gas for its power plants' expansion at Kawas and Gandhar. In the process, Reliance Industries Ltd., (RIL) was evaluated to be the lowest techno-commercially acceptable bidder.

NTPC had issued a Letter Of Intent (LOI) to Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for supply of gas for its Power Plants' expansion at Kawas and Gandhar, which was duly accepted by them. However, RIL has not signed Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement as yet. The matter is subjudice and pending before Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai.

Tax Deducted at Source

2534. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any penalty has been specified on employers which fail to collect Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) from the salaries of the employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there are employers who are not collecting and depositing TDS from the salaries of their employees;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Under section 201 of the Income Tax Act (the Act), read with section 221 of the Act, a penalty not exceeding the amount of tax not deducted by the employer is chargeable. Moreover, a penalty equal to the amount of tax, which the employer failed to deduct, is also chargeable under the provisions of section 271C of the Act.

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

(d) and (e) Instances of failure to deduct tax at source or to deposit the tax deducted to the Government account are detected and investigated at the level of the field units. Details relating to such cases are not centrally maintained and obtaining them from field units spread all over the country would involve substantial time and effort, which may not be commensurate to the objective sought to be achieved.

(f) The Income Tax Department is taking necessary steps to educate the employers about the provisions of tax deduction at source and is also charging interest and penalty in suitable cases so as to ensure proper compliance of the provisions of law.

Overdues of Credit Institutions

2535. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been reports of huge overdues among all the credit institutions like Regional Rural Banks and Commercial Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take in order to recover these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the gross overdues viz. gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of Regional Rural Banks and scheduled Commercial Banks for the last four years are as under:

Regional Rural Banks

(Rs. in crore)		
Period ended	Gross NPAs	Gross NPAs to Gross Advance (%)
March, 2003	3199.75	14.44
March, 2004	3298.66	12.63
March, 2005	2804.35	8.53
March, 2006	2890.47	7.28

Scheduled Commercial Banks

(Rs. in crore)		
Period ended	Gross NPAs	Gross NPAs to Gross Advance (%)
March, 2003	68717	8.8
March, 2004	64785	7.2
March, 2005	59373	5.2
March, 2006	51815	3.3

(c) (i) It is proposed to extend the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securitisation of Interest (SARFAESI) Act to loans advanced by RRBs.

(ii) All Scheduled Commercial Banks (including RRBs and Local Areas Banks) are advised to provide a simplified mechanism for one-time settlement of loans where the principal amount is equal to or less than Rs. 25000 and which have become doubtful or loss assets as on 30-9-2005.

(iii) In case of loans granted under Government sponsored schemes, banks may frame separate guidelines following a state-specific approach to be evolved by State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC).

Creation of Second House of Legislature in Assam

2536. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted any proposal for creation of a second house of Legislature in Assam to protect the identity of various ethnic groups; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The State of Assam proposed for creation of Legislative Council in its Legislature vide resolution passed in the Legislative Assembly of Assam dated 29th November, 2005. The Government of Assam was requested on 27th October, 2006 to furnish its views in the matter and the particulars of local bodies which would be the constituents of the proposed Legislative Council. The Central Government has not received any reply from the Government of Assam so far. As such, it is not possible to indicate any time-frame in this regard.

Maintenance of Minors Account

2537. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Depository Limited has directed the Depository Participants to maintain minor's account in single name only;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) National Securities Depository Limited has informed that it has advised its Depository Participants (DPs) to open a minor's account under the guardianship of one of the natural guardians or a court appointed guardian. It has advised DPs not to open joint accounts (guardian with a

third person, as a joint holder) on behalf of minors. It had done so keeping in view the fiduciary relationship between the guardian and the minor as laid down in the Guardians and Wards Act and the associated difficulties in operating the account if it is opened otherwise.

Disinvestment in Public Sector Insurance Companies

2538. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disinvestment in public sector insurance companies is being planned;

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

(c) whether an alternative plan to merge these companies is also on the cards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which disinvestment in insurance companies is likely to be made?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

International Fund for Agriculture Development

2539. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Fund for Agriculture Development has given assistance to Orissa Development Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons benefited so far by such projects in the State; and

(d) the terms and conditions of such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to

(c) Yes, Sir. "Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme" has been signed with International Fund for Agricultural Development on 18th December, 2002 for an assistance of US\$ 20 million. The programme focuses on building the capacity of poor people and their institutions so that vulnerable groups can plan and manage their own development and negotiate improved entitlements. Approximately 75,000 households are likely to be benefitted by the end of the programme.

(d) IFAD loan is repayable over 40 years including a grace period of 10 years. A service charge of 0.75% p.a. is levied on the outstanding loan.

World Bank Report on Water Supply and Sanitation

2540. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has released a draft report on "India's Water Supply and Sanitation" in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The World bank has published a report "India—Water Supply and Sanitation—Bridging the Gap Between Infrastructure and Service".

(b) The recommendations relate to improving reliability, achieving financial and environmental stability, improving affordability of water and sanitation services and building capacity among the key stakeholders.

(c) Drinking water supply and sanitation are State subjects. The Government of India assists the States financially and technically through its Centrally Sponsored

Schemes of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP). Rural drinking water is also one of the components of Bharat Nirman, which envisages providing safe drinking water facilities to all rural habitations. Sectoral allocations to rural drinking water and sanitation have been enhanced by the Center during the last three years for improving the accessibility and delivery of the services.

Rural Roads under RIDF

2541. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate window for rural roads under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) has been opened in the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details of the amount allocated and utilised thereunder during 2006-07 and the achievements made in regard to rural roads, State-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated for rural roads under RIDF for the year 2007-08 and the achievements proposed to be made in development of rural roads, State-wise?

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

(b) Rs. 4000 crore has been sanctioned by NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for financing rural roads under Bharat Nirman. However, funds can be drawn against this sanction order only after the Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2006, which has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 18-12-2006, is passed and made effective.

(c) During 2007-08, Rs. 4500 crore will be available under RIDF for construction of rural roads under Bharat Nirman. A Statement indicating State-wise targets under Bharat Nirman for 2007-08 is enclosed.

Statement*Bharat Nirman targets for the year 2007-08*

Sl. No.	State	New Connectivity		Upgradation of road works (length in kms)
		Length (in kms) to be constructed	Habitations (in nos.) to be constructed	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	2258.652
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	646.875	67	0
3.	Assam	3889.845	2701	2269.808
4.	Bihar	6121.425	3214	3510.638
5.	Chhattisgarh	6450.644	2007	3240.418
6.	Goa	0	0	190.114
7.	Gujarat	438.675	251	1557.971
8.	Haryana	0	0	1146.789
9.	Himachal Pradesh	638.542	166	1694.268
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1781.869	593	920.91
11.	Jharkhand	1812.298	901	2123.494
12.	Karnataka	0	0	2573.529
13.	Kerala	0	0	524.109
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8326.848	2399	6614.379
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	4334.365
16.	Manipur	464.286	48	0
17.	Meghalaya	140.091	31	587.583
18.	Mizoram	277.884	39	257.998
19.	Nagaland	109.507	10	246.914
20.	Orissa	2524.021	1087	4663.144

1	2	3	4	5
21. Punjab		0	0	1483.051
22. Rajasthan		3554.217	1225	4653.74
23. Sikkim		108.043	31	137.795
24. Tamil Nadu		0	0	2824.427
25. Tripura		354.701	248	383.838
26. Uttar Pradesh		2059.213	1323	6956.031
27. Uttaranchal		1025.641	257	1283.354
28. West Bengal		3265.307	3473	2878.965
Total		43989.932	20071	59316.284

[Translation]

**Utilisation of MPLADS Funds for
Swajaldhara**

2542. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given its permission for the use of the funds out of the MPLADS funds for Swajaldhara being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, so as to solve the drinking water problem in rural areas; and

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

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

(b) The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) guidelines as well as Swajaldhara Scheme guidelines prohibit the use of MPLADS funds as community contribution for any Central/ State Scheme.

[English]

Debt Burden of Punjab

2543. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the debt burden alongwith interest payable by Punjab to the Union Government as on March 31, 2006; and

(b) the total debt swapped and relief awarded under the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Outstanding debt of Punjab Government on Ministry of Finance as on 31-3-2006 is Rs. 9381 crore which includes Rs. 3772 crore as deferred special term loans of Militancy period and Rs. 2339 crore of interest thereon.

(b) Relief to Punjab under TFC recommendations is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

(i) Lesser Re-payment of Principal 351.48

(ii) Interest Relief	532.18
Total	874.66

In addition to above, State will also get the benefit of Debt write-off amounting to Rs. 766.95 crore subject to State's bringing down revenue deficit to zero and Fiscal Deficit/Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio to 3% by 2008-09. Beside this, Govt has also approved the waiver of special term loans of Rs. 3772 crore and the accrued interest thereon to Government of Punjab for combating terrorist during the period of Militancy.

Technical Staff of Delhi Metro Railway

2544. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of technical staff of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) are leaving their jobs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it will have any adverse impact on the operation of Metro Rail in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to overcome the situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. has reported that the rate of attrition in technical categories is normal.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Interviews given by Accused TV Channels

2545. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has ruled that trial courts could consider as evidence interviews given by an accused to TV channels; and

(b) if so, the manner by which the matter to be dealt in case the accused changes his version in the court during court proceedings?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) In the *Sajidbeg Asifbeg Mirza Vs. State*

of Gujarat, SLP (Crl.) 130/2007 the Supreme Court in its Order dated 22nd January, 2007 observed that the relevance and admissibility of the statement, if any, given by the accused before the media persons shall be considered at the appropriate stage in the trial.

(b) The matter is under examination.

Financial Assistance under Viability Gap Funding Scheme

2546. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested for grant of financial assistance under the Viability Gap Funding Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes Sir, Government of Gujarat through Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB)/Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) had requested for grant of financial assistance under the Viability Gap Funding Scheme.

(b) Four proposals were received from GIDB for four laning of (i) Halol-Godhra-Shamlaji Road (ii) Rajkot-Jamnagar-Vadinar Road (iii) Ahmedabad-Viramgam-Maliya Road and Development of Ro-Ro Ferry services in Gulf of Cambay.

One proposal was received from AUDA for four laning of Sardar Patel Ring Road around Ahmedabad city.

(c) All the five proposals were considered by the Empowered Institution and "In Principle" approval were granted to the projects of four laning of (i) Halol-Godhra-Shamlaji Road (ii) Rajkot-Jamnagar-Vadinar Road and (iii) Ahmedabad-Viramgam-Maliya Road. The projects of

Ro-Ro Ferry services in Gulf of Cambay and four laning of Sardar Patel Ring Road around Ahmedabad city were not found eligible under the scheme.

[Translation]

**World Bank Assistance for
Potable Water Projects**

2547. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have sanctioned any financial assistance for drinking water supply projects in urban and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State/U.T.-wise;

(c) whether these funds/assistance have been fully utilized;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any mechanism to monitor

utilization of such assistance and the progress of the projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details of the projects sanctioned with assistance from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) for drinking water supply projects in urban and rural areas of the country during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) Utilization of the sanctioned foreign assistance for any project is a continuous process spread over its implementation period. As a result, there would be some unutilized amount at any point of time; these amounts will be utilized as the project implementation progresses. Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects in the budgets of State and Central Government, streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation of the flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, strengthening of Project Monitoring Units in some States and Central Ministries, appointment of Nodal Officers for the States and regular review of projects etc.

Statement

(Figures in US\$ million)

Development Partner	Project	Date of agreement	Total loan amount involved	Cumulative disbursements (till 31st January, 2007)
1	2	3	4	5
World Bank	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	30-09-2003	181.0	102.981
World Bank	Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	16-10-2006	120.0	0.00
World Bank	Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	26-02-2007	154.0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
World Bank	Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project	18-02-2005	39.50	18.980
World Bank	Karnataka Municipal Reforms Project	02-05-2006	216	10.540
World Bank	3rd Tamil Nadu Urban Dev. Project	14-09-2005	300	34.162
ADB	Urban Water Supply and Environmental Improvement in Madhya Pradesh	9-3-2005	181.00	2.860
ADB	Multi-sector Project for Infrastructure Rehabilitation in Jammu and Kashmir	17-3-2005	250.00	9.480
ADB	Tsunami Emergency Assistance (Sector) Project	12-5-2005	200	22.23
ADB	Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project	8-12-2006	221.2	0.00

Taxes/Duties Outstanding Against Airlines*[English]***2548. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:****SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of duties taxes collected by the Government from each Airlines Company during each of the last three years;

(b) whether certain duties/taxes are outstanding against the Airlines Companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the break-up of dues outstanding against each of them during each of the last three years;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover these duties/taxes; and

(e) the success achieved by the Government thereon?

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

Empowered Committee on Power Sector**2549. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an Empowered Committee to look into various issues in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) A Conference of Chief Ministers is proposed for discussing measures to meet the challenges in the power sector.

Employment under NREGS**2550. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Minorities, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) who are employed under National Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme since its inception, State-wise and gender-wise;

(b) the details of amount received as minimum wage by each individual belonging to the said groups;

(c) whether the Government has evolved any method to generate awareness among the rural population regarding the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Data on minorities and OBCs is not monitored by the Ministry. A Statement containing the number of

persondays availed by Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and women under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is enclosed.

(b) Payment of wages is made by implementing agencies in the districts. Individual wise wage data is not maintained by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) The Government is making concerted efforts to disseminate information about the scheme in the rural areas by the way of audio-visual and printed material based publicity campaigns. States have been advised to hold special Gram Sabhas. As a result thereof the awareness of NREGA among rural population is gathering momentum.

Statement

Sl. No.	States	Employment Generated in Lakhs Persondays (Cumulative for the year upto reporting month)					Days Worked by women
		SC's	ST's	Others	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	154.78	63.2	285.34	503.32	264.45	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	4.53	0	4.53	1.36	
3.	Assam	32.1	199.48	170.22	401.8	116.17	
4.	Bihar	138.86	4.61	153.76	297.24	50.54	
5.	Chhattisgarh	47.92	233.19	186.79	467.9	172.31	
6.	Gujarat	5.02	39.63	23.23	67.89	35.33	
7.	Haryana	10.45	0	6.9	17.35	4.91	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.17	4.14	8.03	17.34	1.76	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.63	1.59	7.42	9.65	0.01	
10.	Jharkhand	74.17	124.32	109.65	308.14	106.83	
11.	Karnataka	54.28	34.23	74.9	163.41	84.28	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Kerala	1.03	0.79	5.58	7.41	3.92
13.	Madhya Pradesh	266.66	769.92	554.15	1590.73	688.04
14.	Maharashtra	53.67	102.54	72.88	229.09	137.79
15.	Manipur	0	8.26	0	8.26	3.31
16.	Meghalaya	0	1.62	0	1.62	NR
17.	Mizoram	0	2.37	0	2.37	0.78
18.	Nagaland	0	11.82	0	11.82	3.54
19.	Orissa	122.51	248.03	136.1	506.64	166.58
20.	Punjab	8.15	0	2.93	11.08	3.82
21.	Rajasthan	121.84	522.39	161.98	806.21	516.87
22.	Sikkim	0.02	1.96	0.03	2.01	0.36
23.	Tamil Nadu	66.41	2.4	60.32	129.13	62.26
24.	Tripura	7.76	27.81	10.01	45.58	34.34
25.	Uttar Pradesh	351.21	20.37	246.06	617.64	98.67
26.	Uttaranchal	6.55	0.39	19.52	26.46	7.47
27.	West Bengal	86.86	38.1	156.02	280.98	45.04
Total		1616.07	2467.69	2451.82	6535.6	2610.74

Note: Statement prepared on the basis of report received from the State Government upto January 2007.

Projects under JNNURM in Kerala

2551. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the Government of Kerala for development of major cities in the State under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost of the projects; and

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government

to Government of Kerala for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Two major cities of Kerala namely, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have submitted 8 projects under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) so far. Out of these, two projects have been sanctioned for Rs. 28929 lakhs with an admissible Central Share of Rs. 14464.58 lakhs by Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC). Details of the projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	City	Sector	Project Name	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Kerala	Cochin	Water Supply	Water Supply System to Kochi Part I	28100.00
2.	Kerala	Cochin	Solid Waste Management	Solid Waste Management for Kochi	16600.00
3.	Kerala	Cochin	Drainage/Storm Water Drains	Upgrading Surface Water Drainage System of Central area of Kochi	1145.00
4.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Water Supply	Improvement of Water Supply	8955.00
5.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Sewerage	Improvement of Sewerage schemes for Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation	43500.00
6.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Solid Waste	Storm Water Solid Waste Management	2626.99
7.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Drainage/Storm Water Drains	Drainage flood control inland water transport Environment Phase I	7189.25
8.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Urban Renewal	Modernisation of Wholesale Fish Market at Pangode	685.00
Total:					108801.24

Rural Electrification

2552. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:

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

(a) whether a number of proposals have been received by the Union Government from the State Governments for electrification of tribal villages and

villages located in inaccessible areas including forest areas through non-conventional energy sources during the year 2006-07;

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

(c) the number of such proposals accorded sanction and the number out of them still pending for approval, State-wise;

(d) the total funds released by the Union Government for the purpose during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) Under the Remote Village Electrification (RVE) Programme, proposals are received from the State Governments, for financial support for electrification through non-conventional energy sources of duly identified remote un-electrified census villages and un-electrified hamlets of electrified census villages which may include tribal villages as well as villages located in the forest areas. Proposals are sanctioned once they are complete in all respects and are in conformity with the provisions of the RVE Programme, subject to budget provisions. The State-wise details of such proposals received and sanctioned during 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement-I. No eligible proposal is currently pending with the Ministry for approval.

(d) State-wise details of funds released under the RVE Programme during 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise details of proposals received and sanctioned for electrification of villages/hamlets during the year 2006-07

Sl. No.	State	Proposals received (no. of villages/hamlets)	Proposals sanctioned (no. of villages/hamlets)
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	429	429
2.	Chhattisgarh	43	43
3.	Haryana	149	149
4.	Jharkhand	108	108
5.	Madhya Pradesh	100	100

1	2	3	4
6.	Maharashtra	94	94
7.	Manipur	14	14
8.	Meghalaya	70	70
9.	Nagaland	3	3
10.	Orissa	197	197
11.	Rajasthan	73	73
12.	Uttaranchal	119	119

Statement-II

State-wise details of funds released under the RVE Programme during the year 2006-07 (as on 12-3-2007)

Sl. No.	States	Funds Released (Rs.)
1.	Assam	1,45,43,500
2.	Manipur	5,35,59,290
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,56,28,700
4.	Meghalaya	85,72,166
5.	Tripura	3,52,07,326
6.	West Bengal	13,66,26,057
7.	Haryana	64,09,770
8.	Uttaranchal	3,46,63,655
9.	Kerala	1,61,000
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1,27,21,650
11.	Maharashtra	1,26,86,400
12.	Nagaland	17,34,000
13.	Orissa	4,46,27,000
14.	Chhattisgarh	3,63,00,000
15.	Jharkhand	2,62,00,000

Bus Rapid Transport Project

2553. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) Project is under implementation in Pune Municipal Corporation as a pilot project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether widespread protest from citizens of Pune against the said project has come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, whether any changes and amendments would be made before implementing the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) is being implemented as a pilot Project with a sanctioned amount of Rs. 62.32 crore under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). It is a stretch of 13.6 km connecting three main bus terminals 'Katraj-Swargate-Hadapsar'

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Science and Research Programme with European Union

2554. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union has invited India to participate in a science and research programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether European Union has handed over any draft of said science and research programme to the Indian Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The European Union has launched its Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7 2007-2013) with a budget of Euros 53.2 Billion. India as an agreement country is one of the non-EU partner countries from where individual research entities can be identified, chosen and included as project partner by European scientists.

The New Delhi Communique issued after the deliberations in the India-EU Ministerial Science Conference held at Delhi on 7-8 February, 2007 underlines the potential benefits of joint or coordinated calls for proposals in strategically important research fields of mutual interest involving the co-investment of resources equally open to research communities in India and EU on a partnership model for balanced mutual benefits for both sides.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Bellary Thermal Power Project

2555. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to give Mega Power Project status to Bellary Thermal Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka had requested Union Government to accord Mega Power Project Status to Bellary Thermal Power Station in the State of Karnataka. As per the existing policy of Government of India, the Mega Power Project status is currently available to the new thermal power projects having capacity of 1000 MW and above. Bellary Thermal

Power Station was being executed for 500 MW capacity in Stage-I and there was a proposal to expand it by another 500 MW capacity in Stage-II. Since Bellary Thermal Power Project does not fulfill the criteria laid down for according Mega Power status, it was not accorded Mega Power Status.

[Translation]

Tax Evasion by Hotels and Resorts

2556. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gross irregularities are being committed by five star hotels and resorts in the country in paying luxury taxes and service taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against them; and

(d) the number of cases relating to luxury taxes filed in various Tax Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Luxury Tax is levied by the State Governments by virtue of Entry 62 of List-II (State List) of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Luxury Tax, being a State subject, is administered by the State Governments. If irregularities are committed by the hotels and resorts in paying luxury tax, action is required to be taken by the concerned State Governments. In so far as evasion of Service Tax is concerned, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment to LIC Policy Holders on Maturity

2557. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of policy holders of Life Insurance Corporation of India to whom payments have not been made after the maturity of policy;

(b) the details of policy and the amount deposits in the account laying inoperative for more than five years, area-wise;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to use the unclaimed amount for the welfare of poor people and their developmental programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per information provided by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), number of policies outstanding in respect of maturity claims as on 31-3-2006 were 11746.

(b) LIC has reported that the cumulative figure of outstanding maturity claims for five years holds no significance as the claims which are outstanding at the end of the financial year are either paid in the next year or written back or remain outstanding.

(c) Vigorous follow up is made by LIC for settling the outstanding claims by way of correspondence and through field personnel etc.

(d) and (e) As per Section 24 of the LIC Act, 1956, the Corporation maintains a single fund and any unclaimed amount is part of the fund, 95% of such surplus fund is allocated to or reserved for the LIC's policyholders and the remainder is paid to the Central Government after meeting the liabilities of the Corporation.

[English]

Houses for Economically Weaker Sections

2558. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the prices of houses have gone beyond the reach of common man;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide houses to the common man and Government employees at affordable prices;

(c) whether the Union Government has requested the State Governments to review their proposals of construction houses for the economically weaker sections

under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission keeping in mind to fix lower prices for allotment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Government is concerned with the rise in prices of houses. To address this issue, the Government is going to introduce National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2007 with the aim to provide Housing facility to Economically Weaker Section/ Low Income Group and other Section of the Society. This Policy will bridge the gap between need and supply of housing and infrastructure.

(c) to (e) The Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3-12-2005 to provide Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) for 63 Cities and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme for non-Mission cities. Central Assistance is provided based on preparation of City Development Plan, Detailed Project Reports and undertaking to reforms. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is demand driven, as such no targets can be fixed for construction of houses. It depends on release of State share/local bodies' share and beneficiary contribution and progress of reforms.

[Translation]

Service Tax from Telecom Companies

2559. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some telecom companies are evading service tax;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the growth in service tax collection from

the telecom sector has been quite sluggish inspite of the overall growth in the sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to plug the loopholes in the existing system of law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Information is being collected. The compiled information will be laid, at the earliest, on the Table of the House.

[English]

Micro-Finance

2560. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various types of Banks involved in micro-finance in the country;

(b) the total amount of micro credit disbursed during the last three years;

(c) the percentage of repayment; and

(d) the steps taken/assistance provided by the Government for improvement in the recovery of micro credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India has not prescribed any specific model for micro-finance lending by banks in the country. Though there are different models adopted by banks for micro-finance, the Self Help Group (SHG)—Bank Linkage Programme has emerged as the major micro-finance programme in the country. This model has been adopted for implementation by Commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks.

(b) Under SHG Bank Linkage Programme as at March 31, 2006, over 22.38 lakh SHGs have been linked to banks involving a total credit flow of Rs. 11,397.50 crore. The cumulative bank loans under the programme for the last three years are as under:

Year	Cumulative total of SHGs financed by banks (figures in lakhs)	Cumulative amount of bank loan disbursed (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	10.79	3,904
2004-05	16.18	6,898
2005-06	22.39	11,398

(c) and (d) The SHGs recover loans from their members and repay to banks. The recovery rate of bank loan to SHGs is reported to be satisfactory due to peer pressure of the groups.

Stadium for Commonwealth Games

2561. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Public Works Department has recently unveiled the blueprint to give facelift to Delhi's main stadium for the Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be increased thereon; and

(c) the physical targets fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The CPWD has prepared a facelift plan for the J.L.N. Stadium in New Delhi.

(b) The estimated expenditure likely to be increased thereon cannot be assessed at this stage.

(c) The work will be completed before the games are held.

[Translation]

Proposals for Construction of Houses under IAY

2562. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States have requested the Union Government for construction of dwelling units for weaker sections during the last three years and current year;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is an ongoing programme under which financial assistance is provided to the rural BPL households throughout the country (except Delhi and Chandigarh), for construction of a dwelling unit. Funds are allocated to the States/UTs in accordance with a pre-determined criteria giving due weightage to housing shortage and poverty ratio. No specific request in this regard, is required from any State. A Statement showing the State-wise funds allocated and the houses constructed under IAY during the last three years and the current year, is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Central Allocation made and Number of Houses constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana during last three years and current year i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UT's	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07 (Provisional)		
		Central Allocation	Number of Houses Constructed	Central Allocation	Number of Houses Constructed	Central Allocation	Number of Houses Constructed	Central Allocation	Number of Houses Constructed	Central Allocation	Number of Houses Constructed	(Rs. in lakh)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13669.37	105295	17981.83	126039	24399.42	132521	25939.14	84192				
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	627.75	6646	825.98	4162	949.43	5327	1018.68	3399				
3.	Assam	14124.59	78752	18584.99	129495	20994.23	104353	22525.46	77490				
4.	Bihar	37131.83	183792	48846.34	252026	72020.72	331651	76565.57	256182				
5.	Chhattisgarh	2337.51	18302	3074.96	20134	3773.17	26578	4011.28	2466				
6.	Goa	88.32	233	116.18	428	150.28	615	159.77	818				
7.	Gujarat	3928.46	31189	5167.82	33654	11966.03	65602	12721.14	30970				
8.	Haryana	1328.34	9175	1747.40	8845	1680.04	9743	1786.06	3326				
9.	Himachal Pradesh	587.66	3841	773.06	4749	592.56	3031	629.95	1038				
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	702.96	8412	924.74	7252	1840.52	8231	1956.67	6029				
11.	Jharkhand	10909.67	60290	14351.50	66081	8423.93	75403	6829.31	37171				
12.	Karnataka	7070.71	49833	9301.41	50707	9400.43	56944	9993.64	36128				
13.	Kerala	4381.56	39825	5763.87	39831	5227.51	36413	5557.39	16679				
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8157.24	65768	10730.71	75365	7504.14	59420	7977.69	25390				

15. Maharashtra	12545.56	103135	16503.47	105449	14714.56	94274	15643.12	35433
16. Manipur	748.47	1666	984.83	5820	824.15	4962	884.26	0
17. Meghalaya	994.44	6465	1308.47	4665	1435.38	6678	1540.07	1475
18. Mizoram	238.73	2202	314.12	2052	305.89	2182	328.20	1175
19. Nagaland	641.95	5966	844.67	5099	949.84	7949	1019.11	6046
20. Orissa	11004.35	154205	14476.04	89891	14149.75	87070	15042.66	36655
21. Punjab	879.95	6050	1157.56	4460	2077.71	7868	2208.83	4095
22. Rajasthan	3706.70	41888	4876.10	31070	6013.11	38471	6392.56	8606
23. Sikkim	172.10	2041	226.45	1584	181.66	1296	194.91	911
24. Tamil Nadu	6864.39	57069	9030.00	58687	9768.97	66434	10385.44	2275
25. Tripura	1451.97	15003	1910.49	12132	1849.42	11902	1984.31	3456
26. Uttar Pradesh	25028.00	190950	32923.88	199096	32348.75	185541	34390.12	120905
27. Uttaranchal	2599.55	21666	3419.68	26376	1621.77	21722	1724.11	11359
28. West Bengal	14752.84	90601	19407.12	155598	19518.40	99259	20750.10	87164
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	166.27	671	218.73	337	309.46	90	328.99	50
30. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	87.26	14	114.78	108	51.56	101	54.82	44
31. Daman and Diu	36.12	7	47.51	9	23.07	6	24.52	1
32. Lakshadweep	2.83	14	3.72	16	20.00	48	21.26	77
33. Pondicherry	82.55	264	108.59	88	154.14	238	163.86	214
Total	187050.00	1361230	246067.00	1521305	273240.00	1551923	290753.00	901219

Information Regarding It Evasion

2563. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of information received regarding income tax evasion during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any award/incentive is being given to the informers of income tax evasion in collusion with departmental employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of income-tax officials involved in IT evasion; and

(e) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Income-tax Department receives information about tax evasion from various sources. The Government does not maintain a central database of details of such information.

(b) and (c) The Government grants reward to informers in appropriate cases in accordance with the Reward Guidelines framed for the purpose. The Guidelines specify the basis for grant of such reward, which includes the additional revenue generated, relating to the specific information furnished by the informant. The decision to grant such reward is taken by Committees consisting of senior officers of the Government. The question of collusion of informers with departmental employees in such decision-making does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government does not maintain a central data base regarding tax evasion detected in respect of any category or class of persons. Whenever any instance of tax evasion comes to the notice of the Government, appropriate action under the law is taken.

[English]

Disinvestment in Public Sector Power Companies

2564. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to disinvest its shares in the Rural Electrification Corporation, Power Grid Corporation and National Hydro Electrical Power Corporation;

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

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Limited propose to make public offerings of equity equal to 10% each of their pre-issue paid-up equity capital. Government has decided on 8th February, 2007 to piggy-back with an 'Offer for Sale' of 10%, 5% and 5%, respectively, out of its shareholding. The proceeds from disinvestment of Government's equity in these three PSUs would be channelised into the National Investment Fund (NIF). 75% of the income from the Fund will be used to finance selected social sector schemes, which promote education, health and employment. The residual 25% of the income of NIF will be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable PSUs.

Education Loan

2565. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of education loan disbursed by public sector banks during the last three years, State-wise, bank-wise;

(b) the number of defaulters of education loan, bank-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted for sanctioning of education loan by public sector and private sector banks;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a Skill Development Bank/Education Bank to provide loans to students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the guidelines issue in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) State-wise data on education loan is not available separately for the Public Sector Banks. However, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, total education loan outstanding under Priority Sector for last three years by the Scheduled Commercial Banks is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Bank-wise outstanding education loan by the Public Sector

Banks for last three years, as available is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) As the recoveries of vast portion of education loans have not yet become due for repayment, the defaulters' position cannot be assessed.

(c) The Model Education Loan Scheme, 2004 circulated by Indian Banks' Association (IBA) provides broad guidelines to the Banks for sanctioning education loans. The scheme is available on website of IBA, i.e. www.iba.org.in.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise outstanding Education Loan by Scheduled Commercial Banks under priority sector

(Rs. 000's)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	790875	1205843	2113724
2.	Himachal Pradesh	147294	254752	484087
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	142178	224534	405444
4.	Punjab	1016059	1699436	2789284
5.	Rajasthan	895560	1279185	2248852
6.	Chandigarh	236626	436805	785807
7.	Delhi	2121913	3382972	4603495
8.	Assam	166670	243790	465220
9.	Manipur	9307	23690	63000
10.	Meghalaya	25557	36065	53392
11.	Nagaland	491	5930	9860
12.	Tripura	10726	37707	34049

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	10157	2618	5971
14.	Mizoram	8006	10659	21106
15.	Sikkim	4928	39441	25423
16.	Bihar	695009	931302	1722950
17.	Jharkhand	400933	735264	1404471
18.	Orissa	647104	1180071	2396694
19.	West Bengal	1390760	2081355	3742342
20.	Andaman and Nicobar	4091	6476	16999
21.	Madhya Pradesh	1592994	2385941	4553364
22.	Chhattisgarh	321204	365084	743886
23.	Uttar Pradesh	2632056	3326970	6116626
24.	Uttaranchal	323792	535292	986830
25.	Gujarat	1424956	3696349	4008291
26.	Maharashtra	4385413	5763658	10352276
27.	Daman and Diu	677	2364	4420
28.	Goa	109147	189445	290093
29.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	1478	7315
30.	Andhra Pradesh	8807087	13523213	20142524
31.	Karnataka	4030333	5518371	8894022
32.	Kerala	4694537	7570622	13716568
33.	Tamil Nadu	6770263	10014120	18589892
34.	Pondicherry	109458	232358	394927
35.	Lakshadweep	7205	163	649
Total		43933966	66943323	112193853

Statement-II**Bank-wise Total Outstanding Educational Loan by Public Sector Banks**

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Total Outstanding Educational Loan		
		31-03-2004	31-03-2005	31-03-2006
1	2	3	4	5
1.	State Bank of India	1062.63	1594.09	2356.00
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	28.65	48.54	74.22
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	155.33	223.92	270.01
4.	State Bank of Mysore	49.98	78.87	123.67
5.	State Bank of Indore	30.86	45.10	54.57
6.	State Bank of Patiala	39.90	55.86	92.89
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	22.13	34.29	51.50
8.	State Bank of Travancore	199.59	336.27	540.57
9.	Allahabad Bank	80.63	111.05	208.35
10.	Andhra Bank	390.92	510.81	677.44
11.	Bank of India	172.00	291.23	467.00
12.	Bank of Baroda	201.83	280.64	436.06
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	56.52	67.51	105.46
14.	Canara Bank	554.53	719.42	955.00
15.	Central Bank of India	111.97	181.28	257.10
16.	Corporation Bank	58.86	101.17	156.93
17.	Dena Bank	30.99	56.63	104.93
18.	Indian Bank	83.39	161.66	375.86
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	249.25	317.88	417.01
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	154.21	209.48	286.94

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab National Bank	369.72	483.49	676.27
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	30.49	47.46	69.79
23.	Syndicate Bank	141.07	261.12	399.89
24.	UCO Bank	42.74	98.47	156.00
25.	Union Bank of India	144.73	230.95	346.17
26.	United Bank of India	27.40	77.88	152.46
27.	Vijaya Bank	59.74	88.09	139.40
Total		4550.06	6713.16	9951.49

**World Bank Loan for Natural Disaster
and Rehabilitation**

2566. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India is the biggest receiver of World Bank loan/assistance for natural disaster and rehabilitation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the loans received during the said period; and

(c) the details of the works completed within the above loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India is not the biggest receiver of World Bank loan/assistance for natural disaster and rehabilitation during the last three years. Pakistan was given World Bank assistance amounting to US\$ 870 million for earthquake relief and rehabilitation in October-December 2005. India received US\$ 528.5 million from the World Bank for Tsunami Rehabilitation in May 2005.

(c) The works undertaken with the World Bank assistance include reconstruction and repair of damaged houses, repairing of cyclone shelters, amenities like street lights, internal roads, drainages etc.

Waste Management in Cities

2567. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that waste management in cities has become a major problem;

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

(c) whether a national policy in respect of waste management is being planned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Waste management including Municipal Solid Waste Management is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government/Urban Local Bodies to provide adequate waste management facilities in urban areas of the country. However, considering the pathetic situation of solid waste management practices being adopted by urban local bodies in the country and to provide technical and financial assistance to the urban local bodies for management of municipal solid waste in a scientific and hygienic manner, Government of India have initiated various steps listed at the Statement enclosed.

Statement

- The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, has notified the 'Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000' which has specific directives to the urban local bodies, District Administrations and the Urban Development Department of the State Governments for proper and scientific management of municipal solid waste.
- The Ministry of Urban Development has published a Manual on Municipal Solid Waste Management in May, 2000 to assist ULBs in management of municipal solid waste. The Manual provides detailed guidelines/methodology for planning, designing, executing and operation and maintenance of solid waste management schemes. It also provides comprehensive guidelines for processing, treatment and disposal and resource recovery (compost/energy) from municipal waste.
- Pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Solid Waste Management for Class-I cities constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Government of India, Ministry of Urban Development constituted a Technology Advisory Group on Solid Waste Management in August, 1999 for a period of five years and later reconstituted the Committee in January, 2002. The Committee finalized its report and the Ministry has published the same in May, 2005.
- Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Ministry of Urban Development had set up a Task Force in March, 2003 to prepare policy, strategy and action plan for promoting "Integrated Plant Nutrient Management" using City Compost along with chemical fertilizers in the area of agriculture, horticulture, plantation crops, forestry, and create market demand and supply mechanism for city compost within 50 km radius of all urban local bodies and their compost plants. The report has been finalized by the Committee and accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in September, 2006 with a direction to follow the recommendations of the Committee.
- The Ministry has formulated a Scheme on "Municipal Solid Waste Management in all 423 Class-I cities and other State Capitals" as per 2001 census seeking grant from 12th Finance Commission. The 12th Finance Commission has devolved Rs. 2500 crores during 2005-06 for providing appropriate Solid Waste Management system in all Class I cities in the country which will be implemented over a period of 5 years starting from 1st April, 2005 to 31st March, 2010.
- The Ministry has also launched two programmes i.e. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) with a view to provide infrastructure facilities in all the urban areas of the country including solid waste management projects with a reform oriented agenda.

Suggestions from State under NREGS

2568. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any feedback and suggestions from States after implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in the first phase;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) States have made following main suggestions:

(i) Enhancement of administrative expenses.

(ii) Reduction in the number of persons available to start new work.

(iii) Expand the list of permissible works.

(c) (i) The Cabinet has approved enhancement of administrative expenses from 2% to 4% of the total cost.

- (ii) The minimum number of persons available to start a new work has been reduced from 50 to 10.
- (iii) The Act provides for the notification of 'other works' as permissible works. The Ministry's priority is on water conservation, land development, afforestation to strengthen the natural resources base of rural livelihood.

Mejia Thermal Power Project

2569. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mejia Thermal Power Station in West Bengal has offered maintenance contract for Coal

Handling Projects (CHP) to Calcutta Industrial Supply Corporation and ESSAR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is tendered three times more valuation than that of the previous year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has placed order for Maintenance of Coal Handling Plants (CHP) plus additional works to M/s CISC-ESSAR Engineering—consortium for Mejia Thermal Power Station.

(b) The scope of the present work awarded to M/s CISE-ESSAR vis-a-vis the earlier contract is given below:

Scope of Work	Description of the job	Earlier contract	Existing contract
Part-A	(i) Liaison with railways and collieries.	Not Included	Included
	(ii) Supervision of loading of coal at loading points and Railway sidings.	Not Included	Included
	(iii) Unloading of coal rakes at MTPS end.	Included (with one stream operation)	Included (with two stream operation)
Part-B	Mandatory jobs for CHP		
	(a) Mechanical maintenance	Included (with one stream operation)	Included (with two stream operation)
	(b) Electrical maintenance including (C and I) systems	Included (with one stream operation)	Included (with two stream operation)
	(c) O and M of stacker-cum-reclaimers with its auxiliary systems including railway tracks, paddle feeders, tripper cars and upkeepment at RH-I	Included (with one stream operation)	Included (with two stream operation)
	Mandatory extra jobs		
	(i) Replacing conveyor belts	Included	Included
	(ii) Unloading of oil rakes	Included	Included

Apart from the above differences in the scope of work between the two contracts, the demurrage burden of railways due to delayed unloading has also been offloaded on the contractor's account in the present contract unlike previous contract.

Further, unloading of rakes and AMC of coal handling plant with additional coverage of double stream operation and stand by system with deployment of additional manpower to handle about 4.0 Lac MT/month to be covered by approximately 120 rakes per month against receipt of 85 rakes per month on an average in the earlier contract.

(c) and (d) The present value of the contract is approximately 2.6 times more than the previous contract value but the value of two contracts are not comparable due to additional scope of works as detailed in reply (b) above.

[Translation]

Loan from World Bank and IDA

2570. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The position of India among the countries taking loans from the World Bank and International Development Agency (IDA);

(b) the amount of loan that the Government has

taken from the World Bank and IDA during each of the last two years; and

(c) the terms and conditions thereto and rate of interest payable to World Bank and IDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) India is at third position among borrowers from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and at first position among borrowers from International Development Association (IDA). These are the two windows of assistance from World Bank.

(b) The commitment by IBRD and IDA during the last two years is as follows:

(in US \$ Million)

Financial Year	IBRD Commitment	IDA Commitment
2005-06	1241.00	645.00
2006-07 (upto 28-2-07)	885.00	1565.80

(c) The standard terms and conditions of IBRD and IDA assistance and rate of interest payable is as follows:

	IBRD	IDA
Repayment period	20 years inclusive of 5 years grace period	35 years inclusive of 10 years grace period
Interest Rate	It is based on 6 months LIBOR plus a variable spread	Nil. Service charge of 0.75%

[English]

Target for Non-Life Insurance Companies

2571. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any targets for non-life insurance companies to generate premium

from the rural areas under the norms set for rural social obligation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of premium generated by non-life insurance companies both public and private from the rural areas during the last three years;

(d) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) have reviewed the performance of non-life insurance companies with regard to achievement of rural premium targets;

(e) if so, the number of companies both public and private that have achieved the targets;

(f) the action taken/proposes to be taken against the companies that have failed to achieve the targets; and

(g) The details of the companies that have covered the shortfall of the commitment for rural areas in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that in terms of IRDA (Obligations of the insurers towards the rural and social sectors) Regulations, 2002 non-life insurance companies are required to comply with the obligations towards the rural areas which are as under:

- (i) two per cent in the first financial year;
- (ii) three per cent in the second financial year; and
- (iii) five per cent thereafter,

of the total gross premium income written direct in that year and for public sector insurers, the quantum of business to be underwritten should not be less than that underwritten in year 2001-02.

(c) IRDA has reported that it does not monitor the premium generated by the insurance companies. Only data on percentage of premium from the rural areas is collected by IRDA.

(d) Yes, Sir. The review of premium under rural obligations is done on monthly basis by IRDA.

(e) IRDA has reported that all non-life insurers have complied with their respective rural sector obligations in the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and have achieved the targets.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Closure of IIBI Kolkata

2572. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to wind up Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI), Kolkata; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI) has accumulated losses which have eroded the capital and resources of the company. Reserve Bank of India has advised that the only option for IIBI appears to be winding up. As a result, it is not possible for IIBI to continue its operations.

[Translation]

Progress in Earth Sciences

2573. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the field of earth sciences during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government is satisfied with the achievements;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Earth Sciences is a new Ministry established by Government of India recently in July 2006. With the formation of new Ministry, Indian Meteorological Department, National Centre for Medium Range and Weather Forecasting, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, and Earth Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) were merged with the then Ministry of Ocean Development with a view to deal with Atmospheric Sciences, Ocean Science and Technology and

Seismology in an integrated manner. Presently, the exercise of restructuring the Ministry is underway.

Bench of Allahabad High Court

2574. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations to bring some districts like Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Pilibhit and Badaun under the jurisdiction of Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court for convenience of litigants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Proposal for change in the jurisdiction of the Benches of the High Courts are considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.

Companies Listed in Stock Exchanges

2575. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether records of companies listed in stock exchanges are being maintained;

(b) if so, the details of top 20 such companies alongwith profit made by them during the last one year;

(c) the details of companies disappeared after listed with or without taking deposit during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Relevant records, as submitted by listed companies under the listing agreement, are maintained by the Exchanges.

(b) The details of top 20 companies, in terms of their market capitalisation, on the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd., with their net profits, are as follows:

(Rs. crore)

Rank	Name of the Company	Market Capitalisation as on Dec. 29, 2006	Net Profit for the Quarter Ended on			
			March 31, 2006	June 30, 2006	Sept. 30, 2006	Dec. 31, 2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Oil and Natural Gas Corpn. Limited	186360	3086	4119	4174	4668
2.	Reliance Industries Limited	176996	2502	2547	2709	2799
3.	Infosys Technologies Limited	124596	664	805	896	958
4.	Tata Consultancy Services Limited	119586	750	797	931	951
5.	Bharti Airtel Limited	119422	511	814	888	1044
6.	NTPC Limited	112551	1566	1553	1474	2103
7.	Reliance Communications Limited	96434	15	9	497	771
8.	Wipro Limited	87141	658	619	665	739

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	ICICI Bank Limited	79702	790	620	755	910
10.	ITC Limited	66201	568	652	680	717
11.	State Bank of India	65556	853	799	1185	1065
12.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	56279	868	237	360	668
13.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	52572	4031	1781	3050	1059
14.	Hindustan Lever Limited	47755	443	381	521	511
15.	Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited	40681	427	297	368	356
16.	Larsen and Toubro Limited	40567	467	157	201	344
17.	Suzlon Energy Limited	37548	360	194	254	176
18.	Unitech Limited	37354	35	74	100	452
19.	Steel Authority of India Limited	36781	1103	1386	1443	1471
20.	Hindustan Zinc Limited*	34918	—	—	—	1335

*Hindustan Zinc Limited is a company listed on the Exchange w.e.f. November 21, 2006.

(c) Both the Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd. and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. have informed that all the companies listed during the last three years are being traded on the exchanges and filing their compliances.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Private Banks

2576. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain private sector banks have increased their loan interest rates recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mechanism is available to control the functioning of private banks in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) details of the Benchmark Prime Lending Rates (BPLR) of some private sector banks are as under:—

Name of the Bank	BPLR		Effective date
	Previous	Current	
1	2	3	4
Federal bank Ltd.	12.50	13.25	20-02-2007

1	2	3	4
ICICI Bank Ltd.	13.75	14.75	09-02-2007
HDFC Bank Ltd.	13.00	14.00	10-02-2007
Kotak Mahindra Bank	15.00	16.00	07-02-2007
UTI Bank Ltd.	13.50	14.00	06-02-2007
Centurion Bank of Punjab	13.50	14.50	01-03-2007

(c) and (d) The banks, including private sector banks, are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. To ensure smooth and efficient functioning of banking sector, RBI has prescribed measures/guidelines for strengthening of prudential supervision viz. provisioning and classification norms for non-performing assets (NPAs), capital adequacy norms, guidelines to improve customer service, establishment of Banking Ombudsmen as also Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI), guidelines on transparency in Banks' charges, etc. Management of each bank is required to ensure compliance with RBI regulations. Further, the private sector banks are supervised through a process of on-site and off-site supervision and monitored to ensure adherence to the various regulations prescribed by RBI, besides a follow up mechanism subsequent to on-site inspections.

[Translation]

Parthasarthy Committee on Water Crisis

2577. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report of Parthasarthy Committee on water crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main recommendations made therein;

(d) whether it is possible to overcome the water crisis with the help of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) as per the report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of the recommendations in toto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Parthasarthy Committee on watershed programmes has submitted its report to the Ministry on 31-3-2006. The main recommendations of the Committee are listed in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The Committee has suggested for an increased investment of Rs. 10,000 crore per annum in the unified National Watershed Programme to complete the treatment of rainfed/degraded areas in a time frame of 15 years. Since, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) also primarily includes watershed related activities of soil and water conservation, the Committee has suggested that 50 per cent of the total annual investment need should be met from NREGS budget as additionality.

(f) The recommendations of Parthasarthy Committee have been analyzed in depth by the Ministry. The Government has set up a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) for policy support to the watershed programme. An initiative is underway to develop a common set of guidelines for watershed development programmes interalia keeping the recommendations of the Committee in view.

Statement

- (i) An increased thrust to rainfed areas through greater emphasis on a reformed, more intensive and improved watershed development programme for meeting the food and water security in future.
- (ii) Increased investment in watershed programme and convergence with National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- (iii) Setting up a National Authority for Sustainable Development of rainfed Areas (NASDORA) as a quasi-independent authority to manage the entire primarily Central Government funded watershed programmes under one umbrella with a view to implementing them on a Mission Mode.
- (iv) In line Institutional Structures to NASDORA at State, district and block levels to ensure complete coordination in effective delivery of programme, and at village level Watershed programme may be executed and implemented by the Village Watershed Committee (VWC) as a standing committee of the Gram Panchayat (GP).
- (v) The project period may be increased from 5 years to 8 years and divided into three phases—preparatory phase of 2-years, second phase of resource augmentation and institution building of 4 years, and the third phase of sustainable Livelihoods and productivity enhancement of 2-years.
- (vi) The per-year per hectare norm of Rs. 1500.
- (vii) A separate monitoring agency under NASDORA for social, physical and financial audit of the programme.
- (viii) Ensuring social and economic equity and benefits from public land to landless and dalits, having them organized in Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federations for effective marketing of produce.
- (ix) Clear prioritization of objectives—drinking water and protective irrigation, along with fodder and fuel must come first.
- (x) A package of sustainable dry land agriculture practices must be mandatorily incorporated into the watershed programme for reducing demand and regulating end-uses.
- (xi) Livestock management, animal husbandry, dairying fisheries and other land-based activities must be integrated in watershed development programmes.

*[English]***Value Added Tax**

2578. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied on tobacco and its products;

(b) if so, details of VAT rates levied on each category;

(c) whether the Union Government has implemented any tax related welfare measures in the last three years for the benefit of farmers and workers involved in the tobacco and other allied industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Tobacco and its products are presently subject to levy of Additional Excise Duty (AED) in lieu of Sales Tax, under the provisions of the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957. The Constitution (Distribution of Revenues) No. 5 Order, 2005, which regulates the devolution of central taxes to the States under Article 270 of the Constitution of India, contains a proviso that if any State levies any tax or duty on sale or purchase of AED Goods in a year, no share shall be payable to that State in that year from the proceeds of the central taxes. In view of this, the States generally do not levy VAT on Tobacco and its products, although they have the powers to levy such tax under Entry 54 of the State List of the Constitution of India.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Labour and Employment levies Cess on manufactured beedis and the proceeds

thereof are used for taking measures for the welfare of workers engaged in beedi establishments. The welfare measures include providing assistance of Rs. 40,000 for construction of house by a beedi worker, running of 4 hospitals and reimbursement of expenses in case of major ailments like heart disease, surgery, kidney transplantation, cancer, etc., providing scholarship to children of beedi workers, assistance for marriage of daughters of beedi workers, etc.

[Translation]

Increase in Desert Area of Madhya Pradesh

2579. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to tackle the problem of increasing desert area in 16 districts of West Madhya Pradesh on the basis of information collected from satellite picture and integrated them on the model of Geographical Information System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Saving-cum-Lending Scheme for SHGs

2580. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has launched a Saving-cum-Lending Scheme for Self Help Groups (SHGs) in collaboration with the Postal Department in some districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any timeframe has been fixed to extend this scheme to other districts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NABARD had sanctioned Revolving Fund Assistance (RFA) of Rs. 34 lakh to Post Master General, Tamil Nadu Circle for providing credit to 200 SHGs in Kancheepuram and Pudukottai districts through selected post offices in Tamil Nadu in 2003. While the loans to SHGs are to be given at an interest rate of 9% per annum, the post office would be allowed to retain an interest margin of 3% out of the interest collected. Accordingly, the amount of actual interest collected from the SHGs would be shared between NABARD and Post Office in the ratio of 2:1.

The identified Post Offices at field level would arrange to open savings accounts in the name of the SHGs promoted by the identified NGOs. The savings of the SHG should not be withheld by the post office as part of security towards the loan sanctioned.

The SHGs having savings account with the post office and which are 6 months old from the date of their first meeting after formation of SHG and commencement of savings are eligible to apply for loan.

The post offices are to provide only term loans to the SHGs with a repayment period of two years.

(c) and (d) The project is being implemented on a pilot basis in a few selected districts of Tamil Nadu. The project is to close by March 2010 and based on the experience further course of action/replication in other parts of the country is to be devised.

Tax Evasion under DTAT

2581. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of tax evasion by violation of Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties (DTAT) that came to the notice of the Union Government in the last two years;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance proposes to tighten the norms around those who have been using DTAT to avoid paying tax;

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

(d) whether the Ministry of Finance also proposes to plug loopholes in DTAT; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Instances of attempts to take advantage of the provisions of Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties (DTAT) have come to the notice of the Union Government involving issues such as existence of Permanent Establishment, characterisation of income etc.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Finance, through the office of Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation), is constantly investigating and assessing such cases and suitable action is being taken as per the provisions of the domestic law read with the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties (DTAT).

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Finance reviews and undertakes revision of existing tax treaties wherever considered necessary in consultation with the other Contracting State.

Unhealthy Tax Breaks and Fiscal Incentives

2582. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are indulging in unhealthy practice of providing unsustainable tax breaks and fiscal incentives to industrial projects in their bid for faster growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such practices by State Governments are in contrary to the ideals sought to be achieved under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) The reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is

no information regarding some State Governments indulging in unhealthy practice of providing unsustainable tax breaks. In fact, the Standing Committee of State Finance Ministers had decided in its meeting held on 20th December, 1999 that no new sales tax related incentives should be given for any industry after 1st January, 2000 and that the incentives existing at that time could be continued for the period of their eligibility. Further, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC), which has finalised the design of State VAT, also decided that no fresh VAT related industrial incentives should be given and that the earlier incentive schemes may be continued by the States after ensuring that the VAT chain is not affected. These decisions of the Standing Committee/Empowered Committee are being generally followed by the State Governments and these are duly incorporated in the VAT Laws of the concerned States.

(b) to (e) The question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Maintenance Charges from Buyers

2583. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has fixed norms for percentage of super area (of carpet area) related to commercial buildings constructed on plots allotted by DDA to builders;

(b) if so, minimum and maximum limits;

(c) whether super area can be more than hundred per cent of the actual carpet area;

(d) whether DDA has any control over excessive billings by builders as maintenance charges from buyers of shops and offices built on the plots; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b)/Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported

that it prescribes only the total built up area in plots made available for commercial use. This includes area under circulation, walls, services like—toilets and useable area. No limits for minimum and maximum super area are fixed.

(c) DDA has further informed that the percentage of super area and actual carpet area depends upon the area under circulation and other services. If very wide corridors and other public areas are provided, super area increases.

(d) and (e) DDA has reported that the internal maintenance of the plot auctioned by DDA is an internal arrangement between the buyer of shops and the auction purchaser of the plot.

[Translation]

**Non-release of Funds to States for
Rural Development Schemes**

2584. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has yet to release certain amount of funds to various States under different rural development schemes;

(b) if so, whether funds have not been released for the same even after repeated requests made by the States;

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

(d) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation and creation of infrastructure in rural areas in the country. Funds are released to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in accordance with the guidelines of respective schemes.

[English]

Construction of Court Buildings

2585. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for financial assistance from the Government of Karnataka for construction of buildings of district and Sessions Courts during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A ten year perspective plan for construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judges/judicial officers was received from the High Court of Karnataka during the year 2005.

(b) During the years i.e. 2004-05 and 2005-06, no funds were released to the States under centrally sponsored scheme for construction of court buildings and residential accommodations of judges/judicial officers, because the plan scheme of the Department of Justice was re-prioritized. During the current financial year 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 2.00 crore has been released to Government of Karnataka under the scheme.

[Translation]

**Allocation of Funds under ARWSP for
Additional Works**

2586. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of districts in certain States are badly affected due to poor rainfall;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide funds to such States for the construction of new sources and to undertake additional works under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP); and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Water is a state subject and as such state governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water to the rural habitations. This Department supplements the efforts of the state governments in this direction by giving financial assistance and technical support to the State governments through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). State governments are, however, competent to plan, sanction and implement rural water supply schemes. Further, 5% of the total ARWSP funds are kept aside for meeting contingencies arising out of natural calamities like excessive drought, floods, etc. This amount is released to the affected States/UTs on the basis of ARWSP guidelines.

[English]

Gender Budgeting

2587. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gender budgeting cells have been established in the departments of Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated;

(c) whether some errors relating to gender budgeting have been pointed out;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the efforts made by the Union Government to remove such errors;

(f) whether any mechanism to monitor gender budgeting is in place;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to

(g) Gender budgeting cells have been set up in 50 Central Ministries/Departments as per details given in the enclosed Statement. The budget provisions of schemes that are substantially meant for the benefit of women as identified by the various Ministries/Departments are detailed in Statement No. 20 of Expenditure Budget Volume 1, 2007-08.

Gender budgeting is an evolving area where, with better understanding of the requirements, programmes/schemes are being continuously reviewed to make a more realistic assessment of the flow of budgetary resources and their potential to impact and address the development needs of women. The Statement on Gender Budgeting, reported in Budget documents for the year 2007-08, is a result of these efforts.

Setting up of Gender Budgeting Cells is a step towards providing an institutional mechanism to monitor gender budgeting and strengthen the capacity of line ministries/departments in the formulation of gender sensitive programmes/schemes, their proper implementation and impact analysis.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	GB Cells set-up by Ministries/Departments
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
2.	Department of Biotechnology
3.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals
4.	Department of Civil Aviation
5.	Department of Coal
6.	Department of Commerce
7.	Ministry of Culture
8.	Department of Consumers Affairs
9.	Department of Development of North-Eastern Region
10.	Department of Drinking Water Supply

Sl. No.	GB Cells set-up by Ministries/Departments
11.	Ministry of External Affairs
12.	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy
13.	Ministry of Environment and Forests
14.	Department of Family Welfare
15.	Department of Fertilizers
16.	Department of Food and Public Distribution
17.	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
18.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
19.	Ministry of Information Technology
20.	Department of Heavy Industry
21.	Department of Health
22.	Ministry of Home Affairs
23.	Ministry of Labour and Employment
24.	Department of Legal Affairs
25.	Legislative Department
26.	Department of Mines
27.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources
28.	Department of Ocean Development
29.	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
30.	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
31.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
32.	Department of Posts
33.	Ministry of Power
34.	Ministry of Rural Development
35.	Department of Science and Technology
36.	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education

Sl. No.	GB Cells set-up by Ministries/Departments
37.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries
38.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
39.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
40.	Department of Shipping
41.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
42.	Department of Telecommunications
43.	Ministry of Textiles
44.	Ministry of Tourism
45.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
46.	Department of Urban Development
47.	Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation
48.	Ministry of Women and Child Development
49.	Ministry of Water Resources
50.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Coal Based Power Projects

2588. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Global Environment Facility has announced a grant to co-finance the launch of the first of its kind coal fired generation rehabilitation power project in India;

(b) if so, the details along with the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make investments in some other coal based power projects in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to take-up rehabilitation of coal-fired plants in India with a blend of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan of US \$ 136 million from the World Bank and a grant of US \$ 60 million from Global Environment Facility (GEF). Under this project the following coal fired generation units have been proposed for rehabilitation.

- (i) Panki Power Station in UP (2 x 110 MW).
- (ii) Durgapur Power Station of DVC (1 x 210 MW).
- (iii) Patratu in Jharkhand (2 x 110 MW).
- (iv) Durgapur Projects Ltd., West Bengal (1 x 110 MW).

(c) and (d) Central and State Public Sector Undertakings and Private Sector players are setting up coal based projects.

Women Beneficiaries under NREGS

2589. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women employed under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken any measure to ensure adequate participation of women under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the equal wages to women against their male counterpart?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) A Statement containing the number of person days availed by women under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Section 6 of schedule II of the Act provides that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at

least one-third of beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under this Act. Para 34 of Schedule II of the Act provides that in case of every employment under the Scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (25 of 1976), shall be complied with. The number of person days availed by women (upto January, 2007) are 2610.74 lakhs. States have been advised to undertake work time and motion studies.

Statement

Employment Generation under NREGA during the year 2006-07

Sl.No.	States	No. of days Worked by women (in lakh Persondays)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	264.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.36
3.	Assam	116.17
4.	Bihar	50.54
5.	Chhattisgarh	172.31
6.	Gujarat	35.33
7.	Haryana	4.91
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.76
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.01
10.	Jharkhand	106.83
11.	Karnataka	84.28
12.	Kerala	3.92
13.	Madhya Pradesh	688.04
14.	Maharashtra	137.79

1	2	3
15.	Manipur	3.31
16.	Meghalaya	NR
17.	Mizoram	0.78
18.	Nagaland	3.54
19.	Orissa	166.58
20.	Punjab	3.82
21.	Rajasthan	516.87
22.	Sikkim	0.36
23.	Tamil Nadu	62.26
24.	Tripura	34.34
25.	Uttar Pradesh	98.67
26.	Uttaranchal	7.47
27.	West Bengal	45.04
Total		2610.74

Note: Statement prepared on the basis of report received from the State Government upto January, 2007.

Hindu Marriage Act

2590. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make amendments in Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

[Translation]

Legal Assistance to Poor

2591. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

DR. K.S. MANOJ:

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

(a) the amount provided by the Government for providing free legal aid to the poor and under-trial prisoners during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether all these States have utilized the amount properly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to amend the norms fixed for this scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide free legal assistance effectively to the poor and under-trial prisoners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) In terms of section 14 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 funds are allocated by the Central Government to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and it further allocates funds to State Legal Services authorities under section 4 of the said Act, for being utilized for implementation of various Legal Aid Programmes/ Schemes including free legal aid to the poor and under-trial prisoners.

A Statement showing the amount allocated by the National Legal Services Authority during each of the last three Financial Years, viz. 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06 State-wise is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under Section 4(c) and 4 (i) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, utilization of funds and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of Legal Aid Programmes are the functions of Central Authority (National Legal Services Authority) which has informed that the states have utilized the funds properly.

(d) and (e) Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, persons belonging to weaker sections such as, a member of scheduled caste or scheduled tribe, a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution, a women, child, a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person, and industrial workman, etc. are entitled to free legal aid and assistance. As regards other categories of persons, initially every person whose annual income was not exceeding Rs. 9,000 had been eligible for free legal aid in cases coming before High Courts and Courts subordinate thereto. In cases before the Supreme Court, the limit was fixed at Rs. 12,000 earlier and now the income ceiling has been raised by the Central Government to Rs. 50,000. In regard to cases before the High Court and Courts subordinate thereto, a decision has been taken at the fourth Annual Meet of the State

Legal Services Authorities held under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on 29-02-2004 and 01-03-2004 at Kolkata to raise the income ceiling in terms of Section 12(h) of the Legal Services Act, 1987 (as amended) to Rs. 50,000.

(f) NALSA has initiated Legal Aid Counsel Scheme to provide assistance to under trial prisoners, who feel handicapped in their defence on account of lack of resources or other disabilities and cannot engage a counsel to defend them. Now, legal aid counsels have been attached to each Magisterial court who provide assistance and defend any person who is not able to engage a counsel, right from the stage he/she is produced in the court by the police.

Statement

The details of the amount allocated by National Legal Services Authority during the last three financial Years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

Sl. No.	Name of the State Legal Services Authority	2003-04 (Rs.)	2004-05 (Rs.)	2005-06 (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2609633	2500000	2500000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	747244	400000
3.	Assam	2094216	1000000	1500000
4.	Bihar	494924	Nil	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	1429987	Nil	1500000
6.	Goa	Nil	655000	Nil
7.	Gujarat	3000000	1500000	3000000
8.	Haryana	528500	500000	1750000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	600000	1216199	1000000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	600000
11.	Jharkhand	546148	Nil	1500000
12.	Karnataka	Nil	1285361	1500000

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	3700000	5584000	6500000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	499900	800000
15.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	2750000
16.	Manipur	Nil	150000	300000
17.	Meghalaya	Nil	237522	Nil
18.	Mizoram	500000	350000	562000
19.	Nagaland	Nil	200000	665000
20.	Orissa	1300000	700000	1500000
21.	Punjab	1528500	1500000	1300000
22.	Rajasthan	5200000	2000000	1500000
23.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	246215
24.	Tamil Nadu	426842	1000000	2000000
25.	Tripura	1200000	1215000	2200000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	500000	1417000	3735000
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	2166990
28.	West Bengal	4261855	2700000	3850000
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	U.T. Chandigarh	528500	500000	Nil
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	200000
32.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Delhi	660000	Nil	Nil
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	1000000	500000	500000
Total		32109105	27957226	46025205

Power from Paddy Straw

2592. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for generating power from paddy straw in paddy producing belts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any incentives are being provided by the Government to those States which are generating power from paddy straw;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of such plants set up by the Government in the country so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) There is no exclusive action plan for generating power from paddy straw in paddy producing belts of the country. However, Biomass power projects are set up utilizing different types of biomass materials namely paddy straw, rice husk, coconut husk, groundnut shells, cotton stalk, saw dust, mustard stalk, prosopis juliflora, bagasse, and combinations thereof. A target for setting up of 700 MW grid connected biomass based power generation projects including from paddy straw and bagasse cogeneration was fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan period in the country. A cumulative capacity of 1101 MW has so far been installed for generation of power from biomass including in paddy producing belts. A target for adding 1700 MW installed capacity, consisting of 500 MW of biomass power projects and 1200 MW of bagasse cogeneration projects has been proposed for the 11th Plan period.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing incentives for setting up of power generation projects from biomass including paddy straw in the form of subsidy and fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, relief from taxes and duties, term Loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), and other Financial Institutions. This apart, policies have been introduced in potential states for wheeling, banking and buy-back of

electricity generated from commercial biomass power projects.

(e) State-wise information on the number of such projects and installed capacity is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of biomass power projects and installed capacity (as on 31-12-2006)

Sl. No.	State	No. of projects	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52	301.25
2.	Chhattisgarh	11	88.50
3.	Gujarat	1	0.50
4.	Haryana	2	6.00
5.	Karnataka	27	254.28
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1.00
7.	Maharashtra	14	62.00
8.	Punjab	4	28.00
9.	Rajasthan	3	23.30
10.	Tamil Nadu	22	215.50
11.	Uttar Pradesh	13	121.50
Total		150	1101.83

Urban Employment

2593. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects relating to urban employment pending with the Union Government, State-wise;

(b) the date since when these projects are pending; and

(c) the present status of the projects alongwith the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Under employment oriented urban poverty alleviation Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), which is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation on all India basis through States/Union Territory (UT) Governments, Central funds are released to the States/UTs for implementation of the Scheme. SJSRY strives to provide self-employment to the urban poor living below the poverty line by setting up of micro-enterprises and also through provision of wage-employment by utilizing the labour of urban poor in construction of useful public assets. Under SJSRY, at the beginning of the financial year, the Central funds are tentatively allocated to the States/UTs in proportion to the incidence of urban poverty in the States/UTs and thereafter these funds are released to the States/UTs, in instalments, on the basis of receipt of Utilization Certificates for the past Central releases and also the contribution of matching State shares for the past releases. Additional funds, over and above the tentative allocations, are also released to the States/UTs on their request keeping in view the physical and financial progress of the Scheme in the State/UT and also the availability of funds. Under SJSRY, proposals for urban employment, as such, are not received from the States/UTs and only demands for additional funds, if required, are received, hence the question of pendency of projects relating to urban employment does not arise.

[English]

Losses due to SEZ

2594. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of misuse of duty concession provided to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have come up during the last five years;

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

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether any mechanism for ensuring absence/reduction of such misuse is in place;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIS.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, misuse of customs duty concession have been detected by the Government. The details for the past five years are as under:

Year	No. of cases	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	12	7.66
2003-04	28	117.17
2004-05	23	14.67
2005-06	9	4.16
2006-07 (upto February, 2007)	8	0.28

(c) The detection of misuse is followed up by investigation after which quasi judicial process of issue of show cause notice/adjudication of case is undertaken. An amount of Rs. 1.50 crores has so far been recovered in the above cases.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) SEZ units function under close supervision of Ministry of Commerce officials headed by a Development Commissioner, who monitor the utilization of goods imported or procured from DTA and check performance of the Units in the SEZs.

Customs officers maintain control over movement of goods into/out of SEZ. They also check valuation/classification of goods and concessions availed in SEZs. In addition to the above, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence also supplements the efforts to detect any misuse on specific information/intelligence. Further, a system of regular audit by Central Receipts Audit is in

place. There is also a mechanism for joint monitoring of the Units in SEZs by Development Commissioner and Customs to detect the occurrence of such misuse.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

**Loan from Asian Development Bank for
Projects under JNNURM**

2595. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized the cities where the infrastructure upgradation will be done under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

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

(c) total amount allocated for the same, city-wise;

(d) whether the Government is taking loan from Asian Development Bank for Implementation of projects under JNNURM; and

(e) if so, the details of the loan taken from ADB alongwith conditionalities thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched on 3-12-05 to provide reforms linked central assistance for infrastructure upgradation improved service delivery and governance in select 63 cities. List of the cities is given in the enclosed Statement. Another scheme known as the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) was also launched simultaneously, which also aims at improvement in urban infrastructure, improved service delivery including services to urban poor and improved urban governance in all other towns and cities covered under sub-mission on Urban Infrastructure and Governance.

(c) JNNURM is a demand driven Scheme. No city-wise allocation of funds has been made.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Name of State	Name of City
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
	Vijayawada
	Visakhapatnam
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
Assam	Guwahati
Bihar	Bodh Gaya
	Patna
Chandigarh (UT)	Chandigarh
Chhattisgarh	Raipur
Delhi	Delhi
Goa	Panaji
Gujarat	Ahmedabad
	Rajkot
	Surat
	Vadodara
Haryana	Faridabad
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
	Srinagar
	Dhanbad
Jharkhand	Jamshedpur
	Ranchi
	Bangalore
Karnataka	Mysore
Kerala	Kochi
	Thiruvananthapuram

Name of State	Name of City
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
	Indore
	Jabalpur
	Ujjain
Maharashtra	Greater Mumbai
	Nagpur
	Nanded
	Nashik
	Pune
Manipur	Imphal
Meghalaya	Shillong
Mizoram	Aizawal
Nagaland	Kohima
Orissa	Bhubaneswar
	Puri
Pondicherry	Pondicherry
Punjab	Amritsar
	Ludhiana
Rajasthan	Ajmer-Pushkar
	Jaipur
Sikkim	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	Chennai
	Coimbatore
	Madurai
Tripura	Agartala
Uttar Pradesh	Agra
	Allahabad

Name of State	Name of City
	Kanpur
	Lucknow
	Mathura
	Meerut
	Varanasi
Uttaranchal	Dehradun
	Hardwar
	Nainital
West Bengal	Asansol
	Kolkata

Mashelkar Committee

2596. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up creches in all major institutions of higher learning and research to mitigate the problems of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee headed by Shri R.A. Mashelkar has submitted its Report in this regard;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has schemes to provide creches or day care centres for children between the age of 90 days and 10 years under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Government has also set up a Task

Force for Women in Science which is considering the feasibility of providing creche and day-care facilities in institutions where women scientists are employed.

(c) No Committee headed by Shri R.A. Mashelkar was constituted by the Government to set up creches in all major institutions of higher learning and research to mitigate the problems of women.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Bio-Diesel Plants

2597. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bio-Diesel plants have been developed by the JSS Academy of Technology (JSS Engineering College, Bangalore) in association with some private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these plants are being set up in Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to set up such Bio-Diesel plants in other States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The JSS Academy of Technical Education, Bangalore has informed that JSS Academy of Technical Education and M/s Malnad Extraction Industries, Shimoga have developed a bio-diesel plant under a project sponsored by the Deptt. of Science and Technology, Government of India. The capacity of the bio-diesel plant is 1 tonne oil seeds per day and 250 liters of bio-diesel per day.

(c) to (f) The JSS Academy of Technical Education has further informed that based on the successful completion of the technology demonstration project, Department of Science and Technology have sponsored setting up of four such plants in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka.

National Law University at Manesar

2598. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any approval to set up a National Law University at Manesar (Gurgaon);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) However, a proposal for establishment of National Law University in pursuance of recommendations of a Special Subject Group on the Administration and Legal Simplification constituted by the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry on 19-09-1998 is under consideration.

Ex-Gratia Payments to Families of Deceased Employees

2599. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has invited applications from families of deceased employees for ex-gratia payment in lieu of compassionate appointment;

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

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State Bank of India has reported that the Scheme for payment for ex-gratia lumpsum amount in lieu of compassionate appointment was introduced in the bank w.e.f. 4th August 2005. The families of those deceased employees, whose applications for compassionate appointment were pending as on 4th August 2005 were advised to apply under the new scheme.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sanitation Scheme

2600. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for providing basic sanitation facilities for the people of urban areas during Eleventh Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched in Dec., 2005 to address the issue of infrastructure development including water and sanitation and basic services to the urban poor. The Sub-Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) covers 63 identified cities. The Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) covers housing and slum upgradation in non-Mission cities. The fund sharing pattern between Centre and States is as per the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Category of cities	BSUP Projects		IHSDP projects	
	Grant Central Share	State/ULB/Parastals/beneficiaries	Grant Central Share	State/ULB/Parastals/beneficiaries
Cities with million plus population and above	50%	50%	—	—
Cities/towns in North Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir/ Special category states	90%	10%	90%	10%
Other cities	80%	20%	80%	20%

Service Taxes

2601. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of services taxed by the Union Government as also each of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Parliament has exclusive power to make laws to levy tax on services under Entry 97 of the Union List of the Constitution of India. At present, service tax is leviable on ninety nine services specified in section 65(105) of the Finance Act, 1994.

State Finance Corporations

2602. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Financial Corporations (SFCs) are running in losses;

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

(c) the reasons for incurring losses;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the number of SFCs restructured as per G.P. Gupta Committee report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per the data available with SIDBI, the State Financial Corporations (SFCs) in the States of Assam (Rs. 1789 lakh), Himachal Pradesh (Rs. 460 lakh), Jammu and Kashmir (Rs. 172 lakh), Kerala (Rs. 193 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 514 lakh), Maharashtra (Rs. 613 lakh) and Punjab (Rs. 669 lakh) have incurred losses, during the Financial Year 2005-06. Annual reports of Bihar and Gujarat SFCs for the year are not available.

(c) Competition from banks/financial institutions, frequent changes in top management, lack of second line of management, over staffing, poor recovery, poor capital adequacy, increasing NPAs, high cost of funds, etc. are the main reasons for incurring losses by the SFCs.

(d) and (e) SIDBI has entered into tripartite MoU with 11 SFCs, involving the respective State Governments, in order to help to improve the overall health and functioning of the SFCs. SIDBI is extending assistance at concessional rates of interest and need based restructuring/relief packages to these SFCs apart from permitting them to prepay their high cost bearing refinance. Since RBI and Government of India are not shareholders of SFCs, it is not possible for Government of India to infuse funds into SFCs as recommended by the G.P. Gupta Committee.

Insurance Scheme for Rural Landless People

2603. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Insurance Scheme for rural landless households;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme prepared in this regard for the benefit of rural households;

(c) whether the Government advised general insurance companies to promote non-insured products in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new insurance scheme called "Aam Admi Bima Yojana" is proposed to be implemented in the year 2007-08, in consultation with State Governments, to extend death and disability insurance cover to rural landless households. Under the Scheme, the Head of the family or one earning member in the family will be insured on payment of premium of Rs. 200 per year per person. The Central Government has proposed to bear 50% of the premium.

(c) and (d) A re-designed Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS) was introduced by Government in 2004-05 for BPL families at a premium of Rs. 365, Rs 548 and Rs. 730 with an increased subsidy of Rs. 200, Rs. 300 and Rs. 400 for an individual, for a family of 5 members and family of 7 members, respectively. The policy provides for hospitalization benefits upto Rs. 30,000 on floater basis to BPL families. The earning head of the family is also covered for death due to accident risks of Rs. 25,000. Besides, compensation at the rate of Rs. 50 per day for the period of hospitalization subject to a maximum of 15 days is also payable to the earning head of the family.

In addition, insurance companies are free to devise specific health insurance policies with lower sum insured (minimum of Rs. 5000 and maximum of Rs. 30,000) targetting low income groups subject to Micro Insurance Regulations, 2005, issued by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).

(e) The progress made in the last three years under UHS is as under:—

Year	No. of families covered	No. of persons covered
2004-05	65,718	1,82,641
2005-06	76,605	2,47,801
2006-07 (upto Jan., 07)	83,950	4,01,099

Study Centre in Karnataka

2604. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish an urban Study Centre in Karnataka with a view to improve urban infrastructure;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal for initiating an "Urban Fund" for above project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) There is no such proposal with Government of India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expenses on Collection of Taxes

2605. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative expenditure incurred on collection on taxes during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether expenditure on collection of taxes is gradually going up;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to reduce the cost of collection of taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The comparative expenditure incurred on collection of taxes during the last three years is as under:

Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)	
	Direct taxes	Indirect taxes
2003-04	1050.26	1201.04
2004-05	1138.05	1272.27
2005-06	1193.95	1360.71

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The expenditure on collection of taxes has been going up on account of increase in payment towards salaries, etc., and effect of inflation on other expenditure components. It has also gone up due to increase in expenditure on advertising and information technology.

(d) Though the expenditure in respect of collection of taxes has been going up, the cost of collection defined as percentage of expenditure has consistently been coming down.

[Translation]

Implementation of Basel-II Standard

2606. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has put off the implementation of BASEL-II standards in foreign banks operating within the country and Indian banks operating abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the international standards are likely to be implemented in the Indian banking sector so as to ensure better protection of the interests of the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India is committed to the adoption of Basel II by the banks and had indicated 31st March, 2007 as the intended date for adoption by all. Taking into account the state of preparedness of the banking system, however, it has been decided to provide banks some more time to put in place appropriate systems so as to ensure full compliance with Basel II. Foreign banks operating in India and Indian banks having presence outside India are to migrate to the standardized approach for credit risk and the basic indicator approach for operational risk under Basel II with effect from 31st March 2008. All other scheduled commercial banks are encouraged to migrate to these approaches under Basel II not later than 31st March, 2009.

**Functioning of Public Sector Banks
in NE Region**

2607. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the study report of the Reserve bank of India, there are several shortcomings in the functioning of the public sector banks operating in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these banks have fixed different rates of interest on loans being advanced for setting up of small scale industries in this region;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has issued any guidelines or formulated any scheme to improve the functioning of the branches of public sector banks operating in North-Eastern region and to bring uniformity in the interest rates; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In order to achieve greater financial inclusion and enhancement of financial services in the North Eastern Region (NER) of the country and also to prepare a monitorable action plan for the region, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up a Committee on Financial Sector Plan (CFSP) for the North Eastern Region.

The Committee had observed that the main factors that impede banking and financial development are topography of the region, sparse settlements of population, infrastructural bottlenecks such as transport, communication and power, low level of commercialization, lack of entrepreneurship, law and order conditions in some parts of the NER, land tenure system especially in hilly areas, development strategy based on grants rather than loans, low network of branches, lack of simple customized and flexible financial products to suit the needs of the local population and poor loan recovery experience, etc.

(c) and (d) RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakh with effect from October 18, 1994. Interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards subject to Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and spread guidelines. In order to enhance transparency in pricing of their loan products, banks have been advised by the RBI to fix their BPLR after taking into account (i) actual cost of funds, (ii) operating expenses and (iii) a minimum margin to cover regulatory requirement of provisioning/capital charge and profit margin and ensure that the BPLR truly reflects the actual cost. Individual banks, therefore, determine interest rates to be charged from a particular borrower subject to their BPLR and spread guidelines. However, loans up to Rs. 2 lakh carry the prescription of not exceeding the BPLR. Individual banks determine interest rates to be charged to a particular borrower subject to their BPLR and spread guidelines and, therefore, the rates of interest may differ from bank to bank.

(e) and (f) The Committee on Financial Sector Plan (CFSP) for NER had also stressed upon the need for improving the infrastructure, creating a favourable investment climate, focusing on a few sectors of strategic advantage for development and encouraging a favourable credit culture.

The recommendations of the Committee for banks have mainly focused on increasing their outreach and use of information technology for greater financial inclusion.

The Committee had further suggested opening bank branches and currency chests in underserved regions in the NER where the potential is available and conducting widespread awareness campaigns for increased financial inclusion.

**Employment and Poverty Alleviation
in Rural Areas**

2608. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the benefits of the growth are not reaching to all the citizens;

(b) whether poverty and unemployment in the country has not reduced as per target of the Government;

(c) whether growth in rural employment has reached stagnation point;

(d) whether per capita consumption of foodgrain has decreased due to this;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether according to the report of National Sample Survey Organisation 25 crore citizens in the country subsist on Rs. 12 per day only;

(g) if so, the present position in this regard; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing sufficient employment in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (g) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). On the basis of consumer expenditure data of 61st Round of the National Sample Survey as reported in the Approach to the Eleventh Plan, the poverty ratio in 2004-05 at the national level has been estimated as 27.8 per cent using Uniform Recall Period and this is incomparable to the poverty estimates of 36 per cent estimated for 1993-94. Growth in employment on Current Daily Status basis in rural areas has been estimated at 2.01% per annum during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. As regard to employment opportunities in rural areas of the country, it had increased from 251.15 million in 1999-2000 to 277.46 million in 2004-05. As per the National Sample Survey 61st round, the per capita consumption expenditure of 29.13% of the rural population and 7.13% of the urban population in the country is less than Rs. 12.00 per day.

(h) For creation of wage employment, the Ministry is implementing the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and with effect from 2nd February, 2006, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 200 selected districts of the country which aims to enhance the livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial

year to every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. From the financial year 2007-08, this Act is to be extended to another 130 districts of the country and the SGRY in these districts will be subsumed into National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a self-employment programme where the main approach is to organize the rural poor in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and encourage them to take up the economic activity by providing them assistance through a mix of credit and subsidy. Besides these, the other programmes of the Ministry like Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) also create rural employment indirectly. For the year 2007-08, an enhanced Central Budget provision of Rs. 41060 crore including Rs. 4500 crore EIBR for PMGSY has been proposed against budget provision of Rs. 31443.62 crore for the year 2006-07 for the Ministry of Rural Development i.e. an increase of 30.6% over previous year for implementation of rural development programmes in the country.

[English]

Enhancement of Funds for Desert Areas

2609. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being spent every year on Rural Development in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds for the desert districts;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be increased; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Department of Land Resource, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three Area Development

Programmes, namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programmes (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) on Watershed basis. DPAP and DDP programmes are being implemented in areas identified by Hanumantha Rao Committee in 1994 whereas IWDP Programme is generally implemented in non DPAP and DDP areas. Accordingly, the state of Maharashtra is not covered under DDP programme.

(b) to (d) IWDP and DPAP being demand driven programmes, no state-wise allocation of funds are made. Details of year-wise total no. of projects sanctioned and Central Share of funds released to Maharashtra states during the last 3 years under IWDP and DPAP programmes are given below:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Released (Rs. in Crores)
DPAP Programmes			
1.	2003-04	296	14.84
2.	2004-05	303	34.86
3.	2005-06	310	44.49
4.	2006-07	436	36.83
IWDP Programmes			
1.	2003-04	9	9.49
2.	2004-05	10	16.60
3.	2005-06	14	20.52
4.	2006-07	31	20.10

Computerisation of Nationalised Banks

2610. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether computerization and internet services have not been provided in all the branches of the nationalised and rural banks in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided in all the branches;

(d) whether any target has been fixed by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Computerisation of business has been completed in all the nationalised banks based on a Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) directive to computerize 100% business of the Public Sector Banks. Internet based services (i.e. internet banking) is a facility offered by banks based on the requirements of its clientele and depending on their business strategy. While the Public Sector Banks are making sincere efforts to complete the computerization process in their branches, lack of infrastructure facilities, like stable power supply, non-availability of service providers for leased lines and other mode of connectivity in many semi-urban and rural places have been major impediments in the faster implementation of Core Banking Solutions (CBS). However, all the banks have indicated their plans to complete the migration to CBS in phases in the next one to four years.

Wakf Properties in Delhi

2611. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Sachhar Committee report, Delhi Development Authority is in unauthorized possession of 133 wakf properties in Delhi;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to hand over these properties to Wakf Board;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) Delhi Wakf Board has informed that the Sachhar

Committee in its report has indicated 114 wakf properties reportedly under unauthorized occupation of Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

DDA has reported that many of these properties were taken over by it from erstwhile Delhi Improvement Trust (DIT). DDA has taken up survey/field inquiry in respect of these properties. Further action would depend on outcome of the survey reports/verification of claims.

Research Contracts

2612. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of research contract awarded to consultants, Non-Governmental Organisations, Academic and Research Organisations etc;

(b) whether information about such research contracts are posted on the website of the Ministry are not posted;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) criteria adopted for deciding the topics of these research contracts; and

(e) the procedure followed in awarding research contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Value Added Tax

2613. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue collected through VAT since its implementation, State-wise; and

(b) the details of compensation disbursed to each such State in connection with implementation of VAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per the provisional figures furnished by the States/UTs, the gross tax revenue of VAT implementing States during 2005-06

and 2006-07 (April-December) was as shown in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Upto 12th March, 2007, total amount of Rs. 5,702.28 crores has been released to 8 States as compensation for revenue loss on account of implementation of VAT. The State-wise position is as follows:

Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 404.06 crores),

Bihar (Rs. 272.98 crores),

Karnataka (Rs. 1,664.28 crores),

Kerala (Rs. 692.70 crores),

Maharashtra (Rs. 2,374.61 crores),

Sikkim (Rs. 5.87 crores),

Tripura (Rs. 8.93 crores) and

West Bengal (Rs. 278.85 crores).

Statement

Tax Revenue of VAT implementing States

Sl. No.	State/UT	Tax Revenue	
		2005-06	2006-07 (April-December)
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh		12569.91	10969.75
2. Arunachal Pradesh		34.50	31.78
3. Assam		1823.02	1393.39
4. Bihar		2387.49	1755.53
5. Chandigarh		401.60	345.87
6. Chhattisgarh		—	1387.20
7. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		121.76	97.86
8. Daman and Diu		116.85	75.69

1	2	3	4
9. Delhi	5686.02	4804.11	
10. Goa	669.83	567.43	
11. Gujarat	—	8251.95	
12. Haryana	4400.85	3957.37	
13. Himachal Pradesh	646.10	608.89	
14. Jammu and Kashmir	740.19	635.79	
15. Jharkhand	—	1289.21	
16. Karnataka	8078.93	7368.07	
17. Kerala	6937.24	5956.87	
18. Madhya Pradesh	—	3117.38	
19. Maharashtra	18669.55	16525.45	
20. Manipur	51.35	39.05	
21. Meghalaya	145.43	114.13	
22. Mizoram	41.16	31.75	
23. Nagaland	82.08	47.79	
24. Orissa	2541.09	1997.09	
25. Punjab	4281.28	3692.46	
26. Rajasthan	—	4407.44	
27. Sikkim	48.33	29.00	
28. Tripura	196.61	146.06	
29. Uttaranchal	916.35	876.62	
30. West Bengal	5406.35	4184.22	
31. Tamil Nadu	—	11857.56	
Total	76993.87	96562.76	

Notes: 1. During 2005-06, 25 States/UT had implemented VAT. Hence, the data is for 25 States/UTs.

2. During 2006-07, 6 more States have implemented VAT. Hence, the data is for 31 States/UTs.

Global Warming on Antarctica

2614. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether lakes of water has been found beneath the 2300 feet of compressed snow in Antarctica;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any study in regard to global warming on the Antarctica and its impact on world at large;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Till date more than 145 sub glacial lakes have been identified beneath the Antarctic ice sheet by scientists of various countries working in Antarctica. Most of these lakes lie below 3000-4000 meter thick ice sheet. The largest sub glacial Lake Vostok occupies an area of about 14,000 km², lying below about 4000 meter thick ice sheet.

(c) and (d) Global warming and climate change forms an important component of the scientific studies being carried out by Indian scientists in Antarctica under the broad category of Atmospheric Sciences. Considering the importance of green house gases in global warming, scientists from the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), Delhi have been monitoring levels of Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Carbon Monoxide and Water Vapour in Antarctica at the Indian research base Maitri, since 2001. While studies on Ozone layer have also been carried out since mid 1990. Scientists of Geological Survey of India (GSI) have been monitoring continental ice margin in Western Schirmacher range near Maitri since 1983. Studies indicate that in last two decades ice has receded at a rate of about 7 m per decade. Recently National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa

has established an ice core research laboratory to carry out research on past climate change using shallow ice cores obtained from Antarctica. These studies along with other deep ice core studies carried by other countries in Antarctica, are helping scientists to understand the past climatic changes on earth and data obtained is being used for future climatic projections.

(e) The long term research on atmospheric sciences including those related to climate change in Antarctica will be continued by the Indian scientists. We are also planning to initiate research in Arctic region along with other countries to complement research being carried out in Antarctica. India is also participating in International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-08, which is a large scale global scientific collaborative effort, addressing various critical issues, including climate change. During IPY mass awareness programme are also planned to highlight relevance of polar science and issues related to global climate change.

Climatic Changes in North Pole

2615. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start their research on climatic changes in North Pole;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on such research; and

(d) the details of cooperation agreement signed with Norway in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Earth Sciences through National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa, an autonomous institute under this Ministry has proposed a research programme for the Arctic region during the XI Five Year Plan starting in 2007, coinciding with International Polar Year (IPY). Scientific research is proposed in the fields of Atmospheric Sciences, Space, Weather, Glaciology including Sea Ice

and Marine Sciences. There will be a focus on study of global climatic change process and related fields.

(c) Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed a new research scheme 'Expenditure to Arctic' during the XI Five Year Plan, for which a token amount of Rs. 1.00 crore has been provided for the next financial year.

(d) Modalities are being worked out with the Norwegian Polar Research Institute, for Indian Scientists to carry out research in Svalbard region, where an international research facility exists in Ny-Alesund.

Diabetes and Cancer Medicine

2616. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists have developed a diabetes-cancer medicine from mangrove plant found in Andaman and Nicobar coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government provides assistance for such research work; and

(d) if so, the details of funds so far allocated and actually spent on developing the said medicine?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scientists involved in harnessing the bio-active compounds of marine organisms (flora and fauna) collected from Indian waters including Andaman and Nicobar coast, are exploring the possibilities of developing drugs for various diseases. In this process, potential anti-diabetics from mangrove plant have been found in Andaman and Nicobar coasts. One compound (CDR-134-D123) has reached the product development stage. The phase-I Clinical Trial of this compound involves **Single-dose** and **Multi-dose** studies. The Single-dose of Phase-I Clinical trial, through oral route has been completed in 31 volunteers successfully. All the volunteers have tolerated the drug very well and no side effect has been observed. The commencement of multi-dose trial of this compound is in progress. In addition, two more compounds [(i) CDR-134-F194 and (ii) CDR-267-F018] having dual properties of anti-hyperglycemic and anti-

hyper-lipidemic are in advanced stages of drug development. Their efficacy and safety in animals (Rodents and monkeys) has been evaluated and filing of the Investigational New Drugs (IND) to seek the permission of Drugs Controller General of India so as to commence Clinical Trial is in progress.

Recently, the Ministry initiated action for expansion of the programme activities and inducted Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer, Mumbai one of the New participating Centres for developing anti-cancer drugs from marine organisms.

(c) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Earth Sciences provides financial assistance to various research organizations to carryout studies in developing therapeutic principles/drugs from the marine organisms from Indian waters under **"Development of potential drugs from the sea"** programme.

(d) At present the Ministry has been implementing this programme under the leadership of Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow with active participation of 7 reputed laboratories including Universities, namely, (i) Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar; (ii) National Institute of Oceanography, Goa; (iii) National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, (iv) Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad; (v) Andhra University, Visakhapatnam; (vi) Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar and (vii) Calcutta University, Kolkata. Since 1996-97, the Ministry has spent a sum of Rs. 29.70 crore against an allocation of Rs. 30.90 crore through the participating organizations towards the drugs for sea programme.

[Translation]

Property Prices in Delhi and Nearby Areas

2617. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether property prices in Delhi and nearby areas have gone beyond the reach of middle class;

(b) if so, whether this is due to artificial scarcity created by unscrupulous elements, cartels and speculators; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) It is reported that the land prices in Delhi and nearby areas have risen during the last two years due to various factors including growth in economy, supply and demand, easy availability of housing loan, easy financing of housing projects, change from leasehold into freehold, infrastructure improvements such as better connectivity through Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, ensuing, Commonwealth Games etc. The Central Government do not regulate/control prices of land in Delhi/other areas. The property prices are generally determined by the market forces.

[English]

Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary

2618. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for providing funds for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary in a State;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide more funds to the States for this purpose during the Eleventh Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Central assistance to the State Governments for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme (50:50 fund sharing between the Central Government and the States). A state-wise allocation of a year's budget provision for the implementation of the scheme is done on the basis of a formula laid down by the Planning Commission having reference to the population of the State and the number of courts within that State. Release

of funds in any year to a State is subject to its furnishing a utilization certificate in respect of the previous year's assistance to that State.

(b) and (c) The Department of Justice has proposed the continued implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with higher outlay in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. An amount of Rs. 1500.00 crore as central assistance has been proposed to the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Hydro-Electric Projects

2619. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the clearance given by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), some hydro-electric projects are lying pending with the Union Government for approval;

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

(c) the steps taken or being taken to clear these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The details of the hydro-electric projects cleared by Central Electricity Authority and pending with the Union Government for investment approval with reasons for delay and steps taken to clear these projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Hydro Electric Projects under Central Sector cleared by Central Electricity Authority and Awaiting Investment Approval of the Union Government

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crs.)/ Price Level	Date of CEA Clearance	Reasons
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kishanganga, Jammu and Kashmir	330	2,624.36 6/2005	31-8-2005	Investment sanction process is in progress.
2.	Pakal Dul, Jammu and Kashmir	1,000	5,088.88 7/2005	3-10-2006	Environment and forest clearance awaited. The de-reservation of forest land falling in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park is the main constraint.
3.	Lata Tapovan, Uttarakhand	171	792.00 10/2005	8-2-2006	Forest clearance awaited. Clearance to be accorded by the Board of NTPC.
4.	Vishnugad Pipalkoti, Uttarakhand	444	2,091.45 3/2006	21-9-2006	Environment and forest clearance awaited.
5.	Kotlibhel Stage-1A, Uttarakhand	195	1,095.77 12/2005	3-10-2006	Environment and forest clearance awaited.
6.	Kotlibhel Stage-1B, Uttarakhand	320	1,806.43	31-10-2006	Environment and forest clearance awaited.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Kotlibhel Stage-II, Uttarakhand	530	2,535.86 3/2006	30-11-2006	Environment and forest clearance awaited.
8.	Tuivai, Mizoram	210	1,258.84 (Completion cost with debt: equity ratio as 70:30 with interest rate of 1.3% from JBIC loan)	28-5-2004	The project was commercially unviable. State Government did not agree to forego its share of 12% free power or to restructure the free power distribution scheduled over a period of 35 years. On the request of the Government of Mizoram, the project is being transferred to State Sector for development.
9.	Tipaimukh, Manipur	1,500	5,163.86 12/2002	2-7-2003	Environment and forest clearance awaited.
10.	Loktak D/S, Manipur	66	866.77 10/2006	15-11-2006	Environment and forest clearance awaited. To be developed through a Joint Venture to be formed between NHPC and Government of Manipur.

**Research and Development in
Science and Technology**

2620. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDARAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) the details of the Government schemes for research and development and upgradation of existing facilities in science and technology in the country;

(b) whether these schemes have achieved the desired results;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of funds allocated for the above schemes during each of the last three years;

(e) whether the science and technology institutes have not been utilising the full budgetary allocations;

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

(g) whether the Government has any plan to set up a Committee to draft document of an integrated programme for science and technology development; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (f) Sir, during the year 2000 Government of India through the Department of Science and Technology has initiated a new scheme "Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions (FIST)" for upgrading of infrastructure and facilities for research in science and technology in departments of universities and related academic institutions. Under this programme, so far more than 950 science, engineering and technology departments have been supported in about 250 universities and academic institutions with a yearly investment of Rs. 75 crores per year in the last three years. The Scheme has

enabled increased research efforts attracting fresh talent in the various departments. The overall utilisation of funds by the science and technology departments in universities and academic institutions is more than 95 per cent for augmentation of research and development facilities under the scheme.

(g) and (h) No Sir. Government has no such plan at present.

[English]

Indian Science Congress

2621. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the main issues discussed in the 94th Indian Science Congress; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to raise the standard of research and development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Sir, the main issues discussed at the Indian Science Congress, 94th Session are as under:

- (i) Energy Security
- (ii) Water Resources
- (iii) Earth-Ocean-Atmosphere interaction, Climate Change, Monsoon forecast.
- (iv) Ocean Resources
- (v) Natural Hazards
- (vi) Anthropogenic Hazard; Waste Management and Environmental issues
- (vii) Education and Science
- (viii) Synergy of Science and Industry
- (ix) Space Applications for Planet Earth
- (x) Nano Technology
- (xi) Agriculture

- (xii) Conflict Management in Natural resources
- (xiii) Medical Science: Role of free radicals and antioxidants in disease
- (xiv) Nutrition and Health
- (xv) Mysteries of Planet Earth
- (xvi) Geosciences in the 21st Century (Discussion Session)
- (xvii) Earth Science Education of India: Opportunities and Challenges (Discussion Session)
- (xviii) International Year of Planet Earth: Indian Initiatives (Discussion Session)
- (xix) International Collaborations in Science and Technology (Discussion Session).

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

LIC in Health Insurance

2622. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has entered in the health insurance business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the entering of foreign companies in the field of insurance sector in India as affected the business of the Life Insurance Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has not so far entered into health insurance business.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) LIC has denied that there has been any adverse effect on its business after opening of the life insurance business to private players. To substantiate its claim, it has reported that prior to the entry of private players it was growing at an average rate of 8.32% in policies and 22.07% in First Year Premium Income whereas, after the opening of the sector, its average growth rate in policies is 11.43%, and in First Year Premium Income, it is 41.07%.

Development of Slum Areas in Delhi

2623. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to involve private builders in the development of slum areas in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) As per the policy followed by Government on NCT of Delhi, relocation of slum/jhuggi dwellers in Delhi is primarily done by Slum and JJ wing of Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been

relocating slum/jhuggi dwellers from its land as per this policy as and when the land is required for any public project.

The Master Plan for Delhi 2021 envisages that resettlement, whether in the form of in-situ up gradation or relocation, should be based mainly on built up accommodation of around 25 sqm. with common areas and facilities. The concept of land as a resource should be adopted to develop such accommodation with private sector participation and investment, to the extent possible.

Outstanding Dues Against State Government Entities

2624. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dues of the nationalised banks are outstanding against certain defaulting State Government entities which had borrowed on the State Government guarantees;

(b) if so, the total amount outstanding against them, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the dues from the defaulting entities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Nationalised banks invest in State Government securities and State Government guaranteed bonds issued by the State Government entities, and lend to the public undertakings/corporate bodies/autonomous entities, with or without the guarantee of State Governments. Some nationalised banks have brought to the notice of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) about non payment of interest and/or principal, unilateral restructuring of terms and conditions by the State Government entities. RBI, in its capacity as debt manager of State Governments, takes up such issues with the concerned State Governments by drawing their attention to the adverse impact of such actions on the credibility of their market borrowing programmes.

(c) Banks have taken steps for recovery of their dues from the defaulting entities of the State Governments in accordance with their recovery policies and RBI guidelines

which provide for restructuring of loans, One time Settlement of dues, filing of cases in Courts/Debts Recovery Tribunals, etc.

**Private Sector in Power Transmission
and Distribution**

2625. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up special purpose vehicles to standardise detailed project reports on different power transmission projects and to award transmission projects through tariff based competitive bidding to private developers to remove private sector apprehensions and to attract higher private capital investment into the sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage private investment in power transmission and distribution sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Government of India has issued Guidelines for Encouraging Competition in the Development of Transmission Projects and Guidelines for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding for Transmission Services. An Empowered Committee, constituted as per the provisions of these guidelines has identified 14 inter-state transmission projects for Tariff based Bidding. Following is the list of these 14 inter-state Projects, which have been identified by the Government of India.

Sl.No.	Name of Transmission Project
1.	Evacuation System for North Karanpura (1980 MW)
2.	Talcher Augmentation System
3.	Evacuation System for Maithon RB (1000 MW)
4.	Scheme for enabling import of NER/ER surplus by NR
5.	SR-WR Synchronous Inter-Connector
6.	Kawas-Navsari 400 kV D/C

Sl.No.	Name of Transmission Project
7.	Navsari-Mumbai New location 400 kV D/C
8.	Evacuation System for Barh-II (1320 MW)
9.	Evacuation System for Nabinagar (1000 MW)
10.	Evacuation System for Daripally integrated Project (3200 MW), 800 MW in 11th Plan
11.	Evacuation System for Koderma 500 MW
12.	Evacuation System for Mejia ext. 1000 MW
13.	Evacuation System for Lara Integrated Project (4000 MW) 800 MW in 11th Plan
14.	Evacuation System for Simhadri Ext. (1000 MW)

Following are details of four projects out of these 14 projects, which are being taken up by Special Purpose Vehicles incorporated by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

Project through PFC:

1. Evacuation System for Maithon RB (1000 MW), Koderma (1000 MW) and Bokaro Ext. (500 MW).
2. Scheme for enabling import of North Eastern Region (NER)/ER surplus by Northern Region (NR).

Project through REC:

1. Evacuation System for North Karanpura (1980 MW)
2. Talcher Augmentation System.

The responsibility for encouraging private sector participation in the intra-state Transmission-System and distribution rests with the State Governments/State Utilities as per the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003.

[Translation]

Complaints Against CPWD Officials

2626. V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has not been maintaining the Government quarters property;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received against the CPWD officials during the last one year; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from all field offices all over India and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vanished Non-Banking Finance Companies

2627. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the non-banking finance companies registered and in operation in the country;

(b) the number of companies which have disappeared after taking deposits of public money; and

(c) the number of companies which have been located and the number of people who have got their money back during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of Non-Banking Finance Companies registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as on February 28, 2007 is as under:

Companies authorised to accept public deposits:	405
Non-deposit accepting companies:	12629
Total:	13034

(b) 442 companies have been reported to have disappeared after taking deposits from public.

(c) Whenever a company is identified as vanishing, the case is referred to Economic Offences Wing of the concerned State Government. The state police machinery investigates the case and takes legal action as deemed appropriate including penal action as per Indian Penal Code/Criminal Procedure Code. Hence, the management information system of RBI does not generate the information asked for.

[English]

Benefits to SCs/STs under IAY

2628. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guideline with regard to Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) which stipulates that a certain minimum proportion of funds be utilised for the benefit of families belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) under the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the separate proportion of SCs and STs among the total beneficiaries of IAY during 2005-06 and thereafter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) guidelines provide, inter alia, that at least 60% of the total IAY allocation during a financial year should be utilized for construction/upgradation of dwelling units for SC/ST BPL households.

(c) A Statement showing the funds utilized and houses constructed for SCs and STs separately, during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07, is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Utilisation of funds and Number of Houses constructed for SC and ST during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the Indra Awaas Yojana

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	2005-06						2006-07						(Rs. in lakh)
		Funds Utilised on			No. of Houses Constructed for			Funds Utilised on			No. of Houses Constructed for			
		Scheduled		Total	Scheduled		Total	Scheduled		Total	Scheduled		Total	
		Caste	Tribe		Caste	Tribe		Caste	Tribe		Caste	Tribe		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13641.63	4774.43	18416.06	56536	19239	75775	7259.49	2680.23	9939.72	36253	16402	52855	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	1189.94	1189.94	0	5327	5327	0.00	812.22	812.22	0	3399	3399	
3.	Assam	5141.89	8537.69	13679.58	23324	36722	60046	5995.15	9318.27	15313.42	17272	27715	44987	
4.	Bihar	47048.84	2065.54	49114.38	178659	8043	186702	45365.70	2979.49	48345.19	141287	10814	152101	
5.	Chhattisgarh	1035.85	2260.25	3296.10	5162	12568	17730	602.08	1165.69	1767.77	570	1019	1589	
6.	Goa	3.42	23.61	27.03	10	50	60	3.68	20.95	24.63	37	186	223	
7.	Gujarat	3443.56	6275.63	9719.19	13302	28469	41771	1789.95	3637.39	5427.34	5501	13883	19384	
8.	Haryana	1537.81	0.00	1537.81	6090	0	6090	741.68	0.00	741.68	2012	0	2012	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	402.29	58.00	460.29	1523	224	1747	259.01	35.00	294.01	455	96	551	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	3370.23	5588.05	8958.28	18619	33805	52424	2093.09	3959.38	6052.47	8887	17493	26380
12.	Karnataka	5404.22	2200.67	7604.89	24621	9158	33779	3783.14	1569.08	5352.22	14473	6073	20546
13.	Kerala	3954.30	385.24	4339.54	18817	1981	20798	2335.52	184.56	2520.08	8997	677	9674
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3278.24	4317.62	7595.86	17727	22522	40249	2549.29	3135.63	5684.92	6973	9980	16953
15.	Maharashtra	8061.82	6104.72	14166.54	31793	25880	57673	4643.91	3615.69	8259.60	10292	11797	22089
16.	Manipur	14.27	980.54	994.81	60	4429	4489	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	42.88	1497.12	1540.00	222	6305	6527	0.00	524.81	524.81	0	1475	1475
18.	Mizoram	0.00	482.43	482.43	0	2182	2182	0.00	260.74	260.74	0	1175	1175
19.	Nagaland	0.00	1188.07	1188.07	0	7949	7949	0.00	1024.78	1024.78	0	6046	6046
20.	Orissa	8377.00	5460.61	13837.61	32083	21770	53853	3558.50	3042.05	6600.55	12687	11081	23768
21.	Punjab	1456.11	0.00	1456.11	6730	0	6730	1077.99	0.00	1077.99	3300	0	3300
22.	Rajasthan	4021.30	1683.66	5684.96	17609	7733	25342	1850.54	909.81	2760.15	3160	2563	5723
23.	Sikkim	50.31	79.25	129.56	230	388	618	54.19	79.15	133.34	174	291	465
24.	Tamil Nadu	10629.01	512.09	11141.10	39032	1384	40416	5171.73	154.78	5326.51	1420	52	1472
25.	Tripura	560.09	1100.09	1660.18	2392	5183	7575	299.76	591.05	890.81	711	1590	2301
26.	Uttar Pradesh	26898.10	76.12	26975.22	112072	452	112524	19505.90	82.12	19588.02	72968	346	73314

27. Uttaranchal	1291.54	298.10	1589.64	6931	1875	8806	630.68	158.91	789.59	3112	783	3895
28. West Bengal	10089.57	3100.95	13190.52	47277	14852	62129	9364.63	2855.41	12220.04	41407	13186	54593
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	61.85	61.85	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
30. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	9.01	9.01	0	101	101	0.00	7.27	7.27	0	44	44
31. Daman and Diu	0.00	0.47	0.47	0	5	5	0.01	0.04	0.05	0	0	0
32. Lakshadweep	0.00	18.55	18.55	0	48	48	0.00	24.96	24.96	0	77	77
33. Pondicherry	21.61	0.00	21.61	78	0	76	11.27	0.00	11.27	57	0	57
Total	159776.89	60310.30	220087.19	660897	278644	939541	118946.89	42829.26	161776.15	392005	158243	550248

Habitat Centre at Thiruvananthapuram

2629. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Habitat Centre proposed to be constructed at Thiruvananthapuram; and

(b) the reasons for delay in taking up the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Approval has now been given for equal equity participation by Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) and Kerala State Housing Board (KSHB), in the new Joint Venture Company for execution of Thiruvananthapuram Habitat Centre.

Export of Fly Ash

2630. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for floating fly ash (liquid ash) of coal emanating from National Thermal Power Stations for export;

(b) if so, whether some power plants of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are exporting the fly ash;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the funds mobilized by each of them during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the total quantity of fly ash exported by each of them and the details of the organizations/institutions to which the fly ash has been exported during the period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) A few agencies have been engaging themselves in collection of floating fly ash (liquid ash). However, there is no direct demand of floating fly ash from NTPC power stations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply at (a) and (b).

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Power Sector

2631. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foreign investment made in the power sector during each of the last three years, State-wise and project-wise; and

(b) the details of foreign companies which have made investment in the power sector during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per information available with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), which maintains the data on FDI, State-wise details of foreign investment made in power sector during the period April, 2003 to December, 2006 is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Since 100% FDI is now permissible on the automatic RBI route, the inflows are not available project-wise.

(b) As per details available with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the details of foreign companies which have made investment in the power sector during the aforesaid period is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Foreign Investment made in Power Sector from April 2003 to December 2006

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	States	2003-04 Apr.-Mar.	2004-05 Apr.-Mar.	2005-06 Apr.-Mar.	2006-07 Apr.-Dec.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.47	1.40	100.56	223.53	325.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Gujarat	0.00	100.00	3.41	0.03	103.44
3.	Karnataka	1.35	75.21	21.32	23.17	121.05
4.	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	0.00	8.23	0.00	0.00	8.23
5.	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	0.08	24.76	31.24	22.40	78.48
6.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.20	37.20
7.	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	56.45	1.00	0.62	3.57	61.64
8.	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	20.18	0.00	20.18
9.	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh	0.00	4.81	2.69	0.00	7.50
10.	Delhi, Part of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana	9.37	0.30	125.08	269.97	404.71
11.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
12.	State not indicated*	74.31	25.01	46.97	29.98	176.27
Grand Total		142.01	240.71	352.08	609.86	1,344.66

Notes: (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.

Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, SIA (FDI Data Cell).

Statement-II

Details of Foreign Companies which have made Investment in the Power Sector from April 2003 to December 2006

(Amount in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Foreign Collaborator	Country/Route	Name of Indian Company
1	2	3	4
1.	Jeyom Segaram	Australia	U.S.G. Energy P. Ltd.

1	2	3	4
2.	Jeyon Segaram	Australia	U.S.G. Energy P. Ltd.
3.	Entec Environment	Austria	Asia Bio Energy India Ltd.
4.	Elin Motoren GMBH	Austria	Sulzon Generators Pvt. Ltd.
5.	Elin EBG Motoren GMBH	Austria	Sulzon Generators P. Ltd.
6.	Miss Tarun Channa	Canada	Canasia Power Services P. Ltd.
7.	Canasia Power Corpn., Canada	Canada	Canasia Power Services P. Ltd.
8.	Ashok Dhillon	Canada	Canasia Power Services P. Ltd.
9.	Canasia Power Corpn.	Canada	Canasia Power Services P. Ltd.
10.	Shri Ashok Dhillon	Canada	Canasia Power Services P. Ltd.
11.	Tarun Channa	Canada	Canasia Power Services P. Ltd.
12.	Zhang Xue Xjang	China	Photon Energy Systems Ltd.
13.	C.K.D. Blansko Strojirny	Czech Republic	C.K.D. Hydro Power P. Ltd.
14.	San APS	Denmark	Indan Energy P. Ltd.
15.	San APS	Denmark	India Energy Pvt Ltd.
16.	Industrialistion Countries	Denmark	India Energy Pvt Ltd.
17.	Alstom Power Converssion Holding	France	Alstom Power Conversion India P. Ltd.
18.	Alstom Power Converssion	France	Alstom Power Conversion India P. Ltd.
19.	Blitzstorm GMBH	Germany	M/s Titan Energy Systems Ltd.
20.	Deg-Deutsche Investetions UNDN ENTWICKL	Germany	Lanco Amarkantak Power P. Ltd.
21.	VHH Asian Auslands Betelli	Germany	Voith Siemens Hydro Pvt. Ltd.
22.	Enercon GMBH	Germany	Enercon Wind Farms (Rajasthan) Pvt. Ltd.
23.	Deg-Deutsche Investitions UNDNENTW MBH	Germany	Lanco Amarkantak Power P. Ltd.
24.	Siemensag	Germany	Torrent Power Services Pvt. Ltd.
25.	Lombardini Sri a Sociao Unico	Italy	Lombrdini (I) Pvt. Ltd.
26.		Japan	Bharat EPDC Energy Pvt. Ltd.
27.		Japan	Bharat EPDC Energy Pvt. Ltd.

1	2	3	4
28.	Sumitomo Electric Hardmetal Corporation	Japan	Motherson Techno Tools Pvt. Ltd.
29.	Mr David Scof	Japan	Intelli Power System Pvt. Ltd.
30.	Hundai Engg. and Construction South Korea	Korea (South)	Hundai Unitech Electrical Trans. Ltd.
31.		Mauritius	Madurai Power Corp. P. Ltd.
32.	Brompton Investments Ltd.	Mauritius	Auro Energy Ltd.
33.	Covanta Four Ltd.	Mauritius	Operational Energy Group India Pvt. Ltd.
34.	Brompton Investments Ltd.	Mauritius	Supreme Renewable Energy Ltd.
35.	IEMCEE Infra (Mauritius) Ltd.	Mauritius	M/s Gautam Power Ltd.
36.	M/s Liquidity Ltd.	Mauritius	Himalayan Green Pvt. Ltd.
37.	M/s Energy Holding Ltd.	Mauritius	Himalayan Green Pvt. Ltd.
38.	Indian Clean Energy	Mauritius	Ambuthirtha Power Pvt. Ltd.
39.		Mauritius	Aban Power Co.
40.	Synergies Hydro Asia	Mauritius	Synergies Hydo India Pvt. Ltd.
41.	Silver Steel Ltd.	Mauritius	JSW Powers Ltd.
42.	Indian Clean Energy Ltd.	Mauritius	Ambuthirtha Power Pvt. Ltd.
43.	Stamplast Ltd.	Mauritius	Kolta Hydropower Ltd.
44.	Hexagram Investment Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	JSW Powers Ltd.
45.	Stanplast Ltd.	Mauritius	Kolta Hydropower Ltd.
46.	LB India Holdings Mauritius Ltd.	Mauritius	KSK Electricity Financing India Pvt. Ltd.
47.		Mauritius	Mangalore Power Company
48.	Tangent Holdings Ltd.	Mauritius	Atria Hydel Power Ltd.
49.	Duferco Coke Investments Ltd.	Mauritius	Euro Coke and Energy (P) Ltd.
50.	Twinstar INFL Ltd.	Mauritius	Agaral Galvanishing Pvt. Ltd.
51.		Mauritius	Aban Power Co. Ltd., Janpriya Crest, IIS3P
52.	IEMCEE Infra (Mauritius) Ltd.	Mauritius	M/s Gautami Power Ltd.
53.	3 I Power Projects (Mauritius) Ltd.	Mauritius	M/s Vijai Electricals Ltd.

1	2	3	4
54.	Various F.I.IS	Mauritius	GVK Power and Infrastructure Ltd.
55.	Dodson Lindblom Hydropower	Mauritius	Dodson Lindblom Hydropower Pvt. Ltd.
56.	Nucon Energy Group	Mauritius	Hassan Biomass Power Company P. Ltd.
57.	IEMCEE Infra (Mauritius) Ltd.	Mauritius	Gautami Power Limited Pvt. Ltd.
58.	Strategic Ventures Fund (Mauritius) Ltd.	Mauritius	Alfa Transformers Ltd.
59.	Covanta Five Ltd.	Mauritius	Covanta Madurai Operating P. Ltd.
60.	Ras Ltd.	Mauritius	Gati Infrastructure Ltd.
61.	Dodson Lindblom Hydropower	Mauritius	Dodson Lindblom Hydropower Pvt. Ltd.
62.	Gold Stone Solutions Ltd.	Mauritius	Lanco Hydro Power Ventures P. Ltd.
63.	Covanta One Ltd.	Mauritius	Covanta Madurai Operating P. Ltd.
64.	China Light (Mauritius) Ltd.	Mauritius	Mangalore Power Company
65.	Stanplast Ltd.	Mauritius	Kotla Hydropower Ltd.
66.	Pine Ridge Investment Ltd.	Mauritius	Aryan Coal Beneficiations P. Ltd.
67.	India Clean Energy Ltd.	Mauritius	Ambuthirtha Power Pvt. Ltd.
68.	Caterpillar Power Ventures Int.	Mauritius	Suryachackra Power Corpn. Ltd.
69.	India Clean Energy Ltd.	Mauritius	Ambuthirtha Power Pvt. Ltd.
70.	Third Millinium Investment Ltd.	Mauritius	Lanco Amarkan Tak Powder P. Ltd.
71.	Third Millinium Investment Ltd.	Mauritius	Lanco Amarkan Tak Powder P. Ltd.
72.	Century Investments Ltd.	Mauritius	Lanco Amarkan Tak Powder P. Ltd.
73.	M/s IEMCEE IFRA (Mauritius) Ltd.	Mauritius	M/s Gautami Power Ltd.
74.	Transocoanic Projects	Mauritius	GVK Power and Infrastructure Ltd.
75.	Nucon Energy Group	Mauritius	Hassan Biomass Power Company P. Ltd.
76.	IEMCEE Infra (Mauritius) Ltd.	Mauritius	Gautami Power Ltd.
77.	LB (I) Holdings Mauritius II Ltd.	Mauritius	Marudhar Power P. Ltd.
78.	LB (I) Holdings Mauritius II Ltd.	Mauritius	Marudhar Power P. Ltd.
79.	India Clean Energy Ltd.	Mauritius	Ambuthirtha Power Pvt. Ltd.
80.	Duferco Coke Investments Ltd.	Mauritius	Euro Coke and Energy Pvt. Ltd.

1	2	3	4
81.	Island Power Ventures Ltd.	Mauritius	Lanco Amarkantak Power Pvt. Ltd.
82.	Amitava Roy	Singapore	Pushpit Steel Pvt. Ltd.
83.	H and H Global Selection India Pte. Ltd.	Singapore	Universal Power Transformer (P) Ltd.
84.	Vibro Power Corp. Ltd.	Singapore	Vibro Power Generators (I) P Ltd.
85.	Jurong Engineering Ltd.	Singapore	Jeevitha Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
86.	Instalaciones Inabensa	Spain	Inabensa Bharat Pvt. Ltd.
87.	Instalaciones Inabensa	Spain	Inabensa Bharat Pvt. Ltd.
88.	Goran Fajerson	Sweden	Photon Energy Systems Ltd.
89.	Dasa AG	Switzerland	Netpro Renewable Energy (India) Pvt. Ltd.
90.		Switzerland	Chambal Powers Ltd.
91.	Infomile Intl. FZC	U.A.E.	KVK Bio Energy Pvt. Ltd.
92.	Aameena Begum	U.A.E.	OPG Energy Pvt. Ltd.
93.	Image Securities (FZC)	U.A.E.	Patikari Power P. Ltd.
94.	Paryank Shah	U.A.E.	Vinergy Intl. P. Ltd.
95.	Mr. Paryank Shah	U.A.E.	Vinergy International Pvt. Ltd.
96.	Kosi Mathew	U.A.E.	Pushpit Steel Pvt. Ltd.
97.	Differents NRI	U.K.	Suzlon Energy Ltd.
98.	Mr. Richard J. Maddison	U.K.	Goa Ind. Energy Pvt. Ltd.
99.	Ms. Catherine Maddison	U.K.	Goa Ind. Energy Pvt. Ltd.
100.	Bibby Transmission Ltd.	U.K.	Rathi Turbroflex Pvt. Ltd.
101.	Avonddeal Holdings Pvt. Ltd.	U.K.	VV Servotech Pvt. Ltd.
102.	Dennis Wilson	U.K.	Wilson Power and Distribution Tech. P.L.
103.	Colin Wilson	U.K.	Wilson Power and Distribution Tech. P.L.
104.	Simon Wilson	U.K.	Wilson Power and Distribution Tech. P.L.
105.	Erika Wilson	U.K.	Wilson Power and Distribution Tech. P.L.
106.	T. Satyasai Kiran	U.K.	PI Energy Consultants P. Ltd.
107.	B. Srivani	U.K.	Sardambika Power Plant P. Ltd.

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108.	P. Srikanta	U.K.	Sardambika Power Plant P. Ltd.
109.	Aryeh Glickman	U.S.A.	SEP Energy Pvt. Ltd.
110.	Gary Sigel	U.S.A.	SEP Energy Pvt. Ltd.
111.	Mahinder Kumar Malhotra	U.S.A.	Hayat Communications Pvt. Ltd.
112.	Citicaorp Intl. Finance Corpn.	U.S.A.	Sulzon Energy Ltd.
113.		U.S.A.	Ascent Hydro Projects Ltd.
114.	Citicrop Intl. Finance Corporat	U.S.A.	Monnet Power Ltd.
115.	Indukuri Lakshmi Narasimha Raj	U.S.A.	Koppal Green Power Ltd.
116.	Indukuri Lakshmi Narasimha Raj	U.S.A.	Koppal Green Power Ltd.
117.	Anthony D Dinapoli	U.S.A.	Hemavathy Power and Light Pvt. Ltd.
118.	Firblog Holdings Co.	U.S.A.	Datagen Power Systems Pvt. Ltd.
119.	Ashok S Damre and Maya A Damre	U.S.A.	Hassan Biomass Power Company
120.	Sloar Development Foundation	U.S.A.	Phocos India Solar Pvt. Ltd.
121.	Pazhani Sundram	U.S.A.	Vector Power Ltd.
122.	Kodali Praveen and Mrs. Shalini Potluri	U.S.A.	Y.S. Rao Engineers P. Ltd.
123.	Mr. Rajeshwar Chopra	U.S.A.	Shyam Indus Power Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
124.	Mr. Anthony, D. Dinapoli	U.S.A.	Hemavathy Power and Light Pvt. Ltd.
125.	Netlinx Inc.	U.S.A.	Sai Spurthi Power Pvt. Ltd.
126.	Vikram Sunka Valli	U.S.A.	Swati Power Engineering Ltd.
127.	Naresh Nagpal	U.S.A.	M Power Energy India Pvt. Ltd.
128.	Sh. Rajeshwar Chopra	U.S.A.	Shyam Indus Power Solutions P. Ltd.
129.	N.R.IS	U.S.A.	GVK Power and Infrastructure Ltd.
130.	Dr. Jayaram Chigurupati	U.S.A.	Credence Power Projects Ltd.
131.	Jagadish Ganti	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
132.	Dr. Jatyaram Chigurupati	U.S.A.	Credence Power Projects Ltd.
133.	Teckman Inc.	U.S.A.	Sai Spurthi Power Pvt. Ltd.
134.	Phanga Investment Ltd.	U.S.A.	Bhadva Shree Steel and Power Ltd.

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135.	Mr. George, P. Sakellais	U.S.A.	International Power Corporation Ltd.
136.	Lloyd Spencer	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
137.	Yoland Gawler	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
138.	Sanjeev Balliwar	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
139.	Srinivas Repala	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
140.	Swaminathan Konduru	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
141.	Adinarayana Malla	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
142.	Quaizer Vohra and Anisa M. Rangwala	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
143.	Veera Bhadram Danturthi and Vijaya B. Perve	U.S.A.	Varam Bioenergy P. Ltd.
144.	Umba Corp.	Seychelles	Ambuthirtha Power Pvt. Ltd.
145.	Power Technics Int'l Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Switchgear Control Technics Pvt. Ltd.
146.	GPC Mauritius LLC	Route—Acquisition of Share	HEG Ltd.
147.	Odean Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	GMR Power Corporation
148.	Ranhill Dheeru (Malaysia) SON BHD	Route—Acquisition of Share	Dheeru Power Green Pvt. Ltd.
149.	Kodak Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Kodak India Ltd.
150.	Generacion Ellica International SL	Route—Acquisition of Share	Generacion Poica India Pvt. Ltd.
151.	Clarke Energy UK Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Clarke Energy (I) P. Ltd.
152.	Covanta One Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Covanta Madurai Operating Pvt. Ltd.
153.	Rain Commodities (USA) Inc.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Rain Calcining Ltd.
154.	Kodak Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Kodak India Ltd.

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155.	Odeon Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	GMR Infrastructure Ltd.
156.	Kodak Ltd. UNK	Route—Acquisition of Share	Kodak India Ltd.
157.	Param Technologies	Route—Acquisition of Share	Webel-SL-Energy Systems Ltd.
158.	AVT-SEG Holding Beteiligungs GMBH	Route—Acquisition of Share	AVK-SEG (India) Power Ltd.
159.	Geetanjali Ramesh Shivdasani	Route—Acquisition of Share	Sun N Sand Hotel P. Ltd.
160.	Vebro Power Pte. Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Vibro Power Generators I P. Ltd.
161.	Dodsal Mauritius Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Dodsal Pvt. Ltd.
162.	SMEC International Pty Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	TT Energy Pvt. Ltd.
163.	Kodak Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Kodak India Ltd.
164.	2725 NRIS	Route—Acquisition of Share	National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd.
165.	Areva T and Holdings SA	Route—Acquisition of Share	Alstom Projects (I) Ltd.
166.	Kodak Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Kodak India Ltd.
167.	Hans Otto Udo Beyer as a Nominee of	Route—Acquisition of Share	MTU Detroit Diesel India Pvt. Ltd.
168.	Kodak Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Kodak India Ltd.
169.	Vaith Siemens Hydro Kraft S. GMBH and Co.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Vaith Siemens Hydro Pvt. Ltd.
170.	SMEC Operations Pty. Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Himalayan Green Energy P. Ltd.
171.	Kodak Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Kodak India Ltd.

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172.	SMEC International Pty. Ltd.	Route—Acquisition of Share	IT Energy Pvt. Ltd.
173.	Areva T and D S.A.	Route—Acquisition of Share	Alstom Ltd.
174.	492 NRI	Route—Acquisition of Share	Jaiprakash Hydro Power Ltd.
175.	Acciona Energy	Route—Acquisition of Share	Accion Wind Energy P. Ltd.

Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, SIA (FDI Data Cell)

[English]

**Offering of Commercial Sites at
Delhi Metro Station**

2632. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has offered commercial sites at various Metro Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for allotment of such sites; and

(d) the details of revenue generated by DMRC from such commercial sites since their allotments?

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

(b) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that commercial spaces within Metro stations are licensed out to vendors for commuter related items at most Metro stations.

(c) The spaces are normally licensed out through competitive bids after advertising in news papers. Where large number of spaces are available, but the demand is less, such as at Pulbangash station, the rent is fixed based on prevailing rates received in neighbouring stations and allotment is made on "walk-in" basis.

(d) Total revenue generated by DMRC from commercial sites at various Metro stations since allotment is Rs. 107.38 crore.

**Development of Rural Areas through
Panchayati Raj Institutions**

2633. SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of fund spent separately on development of rural roads, construction of houses and for supply of drinking water through Panchayati Raj Institutions so far under Bharat Nirman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): According to the reports available from the States/UTs, the details of funds spent on the three components of Bharat Nirman being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development i.e. Rural Roads, Rural Houses and Drinking Water Supply during 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto Feb., 2007) are as under:

Rural Roads	Rs. 9447.25 crore
Rural Housing	Rs. 6330.97 crore
Drinking Water Supply	Rs. 10535.38 crore

The expenditure incurred on Rural Housing and

Drinking Water Supply includes the States share also whereas Rural Roads is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Though the funds under these programmes are spent/utilized through different programme implementing agencies, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are actively involved in preparation of projects/plans of above three components of Bharat Nirman as specified in the guidelines of the respective programmes such as for allotment of a house, BPL family is selected by the Gram Sabha, for preparation of Plan for rural roads PRIs are actively involved. Similarly under the programme of Rural Drinking Water Supply, the Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees have been assigned the role of selection of location for drinking water source, its operation and maintenance etc.

[Translation]

Atomic Power Generation by NTPC

2634. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. has decided to start atomic power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the sites selected for establishment of plants for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) NTPC Ltd. is planning to foray into nuclear power generation. NTPC Ltd.'s Corporate Plan for the period 2002-2017 envisages taking up 2000 MW of nuclear capacity in joint venture during the 12th Plan period. Government has also conveyed its approval to amend the object clause of the Memorandum of Association of Company for taking up nuclear power projects.

At present, selection of optimal technology option and identification of potential site(s) for setting up of first nuclear project is in process.

[English]

Cash Reserve Ratio of RBI

2635. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a decision to increase Cash Reserve Ratio (C.R.R.) in order to check inflation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this measure is likely to check inflation;

(d) if so, the manner in which it is likely to check inflation; and

(e) whether there is any divergence between the policies of RBI and the Government of India on controlling inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) To contain inflationary expectations and in the light of current liquidity conditions, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to increase the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), scheduled co-operative banks and scheduled primary (urban) co-operative banks by 0.50% of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in two stages, effective from the fortnights beginning 17th February, 2007 and 3rd March, 2007 from 5.50% to 5.75% and 6.00% respectively. As a result of the above increases in CRR, an amount of around Rs. 14,000 crore of resources of banks was expected to be absorbed. This measure is likely to contain the inflationary pressure to the extent that it is attributable to monetary conditions.

(e) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Complaints against District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees

2636. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint from certain public representatives against the

functioning of district vigilance and monitoring committees during the last three years and thereafter;

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

(c) the action taken/to be taken by the Government on each such complaint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Many complaints have been received from the Members of Parliament from different parts of the country, mainly from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal etc. regarding the functioning of District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (V and MCs). The main issues raised in these complaints are—non-convening of meetings of District level V and MCs, delay in convening meetings despite reminders, absence of District Collector from the meeting, holding the meeting of V and MC in their absence, fixing dates of the meeting without consulting M.Ps, non-supply of information about rural development programmes before fixing date of V and MC meeting, not postponing the meeting despite their request, holding meeting without sufficient notice, lack of follow up action on the decisions taken in the meeting and not providing vehicle for attending meetings or for making field visits etc. The District Authorities have also been complaining about their problems and also bringing some of those for directions of the Government of India.

The Ministry has been pursuing wide range of complaints with the State Governments and the District Administration to ensure that the meetings of these District level V and MCs are organized regularly and most of these are brought into the notice of District Authorities for immediate compliance. In most of case, such complaints are promptly attended by them. However, in some cases guidance, clarification and approvals are required from the Ministry of Rural Development and these are examined in the Ministry.

As a measure to ensure that these meetings are held regularly, the release of 2nd installment of funds for various rural development programmes have been linked with holding at least one meeting of the State and District

level V and MC during a year. The Guidelines of the V and MCs have also been amended to organize Special Meetings to facilitate and ensure that during a year at least one meeting of the District level V and MC is organized.

Prosecution of FERA Cases

2637. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases related to Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) violation registered, prosecuted, convicted and pending during each of the last three years till February, 2007;

(b) the details of cases pending for one year, three years and more than three years;

(c) whether review of cases has been done;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) During the last 3 years, no fresh case of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) violation was registered or prosecuted. The number of cases resulting into conviction during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	u/s 56	u/s 57	Total
2004	33	51	84
2005	31	39	70
2006	24	16	40
upto 28-2-07	7	5	12
Total	95	111	206

There is no prosecution case pending for one year or three years. However, 4469 prosecution cases are pending for more than three years. Details of the 4469 pending prosecution cases for the years 2004 to 28-2-07 are as under:

Year	u/s 56	u/s 57	Total
2004	2082	2832	4914
2005	2046	2660	4706
2006	1993	2532	4525
2007 (upto 28-2-2007)	1984	2485	4469

(c) and (d) Progress of cases is regularly monitored.

(e) In view of (c) and (d) above, question does not arise.

(f) Steps like briefing of Government Advocates, monitoring of progress of cases, timely production of documents and witnesses etc., are taken regularly for expeditious disposal of cases.

Generation of Electricity by Nano-Tube

2638. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists in Bangalore have found that electricity is produced by pouring water on nano-tube;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether commercial power production is possible through this technique;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the government proposes for R and D on this technique; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Scientists of the Indian Institute of Science and Raman Research Institute in Bangalore have discovered that the flow of a liquid like water on single walled carbon nanotube bundles induces an electrical signal (voltage/current) in the sample along the direction of the flow. The electrical signal is found to be logarithmic in the flow speed over a wide range. The magnitude of the flow induced electrical signal depends on the ionic conductivity and polar nature of the liquid.

(c) and (d) The invention reported so far only establishes the existence of this new effect.

(e) and (f) The scientists at Bangalore are pursuing further studies on this new effect.

[English]

Nirmal Gram Puraskar

2639. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the slow progress of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) alongwith non-utilisation of funds thereunder in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the details of funds availability and utility of Nirmal Gram Puraskar scheme during the last two years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Drinking Water and Sanitation are state subjects and as such State Governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water and sanitation to the rural habitations. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this direction, financial assistance and technical support is rendered to the State Governments through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation and Total Sanitation

Campaign (TSC) under Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP).

Allocation of fund under ARWSP is made on the basis of certain guidelines approved by the central government. Total Sanitation Campaign is a demand driven project based programme and there is no state-wise allocation.

For ensuring steady progress of the schemes, regular monitoring is done by obtaining monthly progress

reports and holding periodic review meetings with the stage officers.

(d) To add vigour to the implementation of the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Nirmal Gram Puraskar scheme has been introduced to incentivise the efforts of Panchayati Raj and other institutions in the rural areas. State-wise details of award money given in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement. No award money has been given in 2006-07 so far.

Statement

State-wise details of Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year 2004-05 No.			Year 2005-06 No.		
		GP	BP	Amount	GP	BP	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh				10	—	22.00
2.	Assam				1	—	4.00
3.	Bihar				4	—	16.00
4.	Gujarat	1		2.00	4	—	8.00
5.	Kerala	1		4.00	6	—	24.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh				1	—	2.00
7.	Maharashtra	13		26.00	380	1	770.00
8.	Orissa				8	—	26.00
9.	Tamil Nadu	12	1	48.00	119	—	294.00
10.	Tripura	1		2.00	36	—	76.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh				40	—	86.00
12.	West Bengal	10	1	48.00	126	8	600.00
13.	Chhattisgarh				12	—	26.00
14.	Uttarakhand				13	—	26.00
15.	Other institutions (4)	38	2	130.00	760	9	1,982.00

GP = Gram Panchayat

BP = Block Panchayat

[Translation]

**Registrar of Company's Office at
Jodhpur**

2640. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up office of Registrar of Companies in Jodhpur city of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has implemented an e-Governance programme called MCA21, under which the companies and the professionals can file all the documents on-line using the MCA21 portal from their offices or homes at any time, and from anywhere as per their convenience. As such, the geographical distances do not pose any problem for transacting businesses with the Registrars of Companies. Notwithstanding this, there is a full-fledged office of Registrar of Companies at Jaipur for the State of Rajasthan, and in order to facilitate transition from manual mode of operations to e-Governance mode, a Facilitation Centre (RFO) has been set-up under MCA21 e-Governance Project at Jodhpur, which provides facilities of e-filing of documents to the stakeholders without any charge. This RFO would remain operational for a period of three years. Over and above this, a total of 27 Certified Filing Centres (CFCs), managed and operated by professionals, have also been approved for the State of Rajasthan. On an average, about 80% of the documents are being filed by the stakeholders nationwide directly using the MCA21 portal, without availing any assistance from the Facilitation Centres or CFCs. As such, there is no need for setting up any new office of Registrar of Companies in Jodhpur city.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to Andhra Pradesh

2641. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the local bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Andhra Pradesh as per the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission;

(b) the total amount released to local bodies and PRIs in Andhra Pradesh till February, 2007;

(c) whether the 12th Finance Commission has submitted its recommendations with regard to grants to be provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken thereon; and

(f) the conditions attached for release of the grants recommended by the 12th Finance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended grants of Rs. 924.90 crore for the period 2000-05 for Local Bodies in Andhra Pradesh, of which Rs. 760.24 crore pertain to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Rs. 164.66 crore pertain to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). During the EFC award period 2000-05, Government of India had released local bodies grants of Rs. 848.88 crore to Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 684.22 crore for PRIs and Rs. 164.66 crore for ULBs), subject to the fulfilment of conditionalities attached to the release of grants and taking into consideration the pace of utilisation upto the prescribed period.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has submitted its recommendations for the award period 2005-10, which have been accepted by the Government of India. The TFC has recommended Local Bodies Grants of Rs. 1961.00 crore for Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 1587.00 crore for PRIs and Rs. 374.00 crore for ULBs) for the period 2005-10. So far, Andhra Pradesh has been released Local Bodies Grants of Rs. 354.80 crore (Rs. 317.40 crore for PRIs and Rs. 37.40 crore for ULBs) in 2005-06 and Rs. 233.50 crore (Rs. 158.70 crore for PRIs and Rs. 74.80 crore for ULBs) during 2006-07, subject to the receipt/fulfilment of information/conditions indicated in the Government of India guidelines on Local Bodies grants as given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Main features of Guidelines issued by Government of India on release and utilisation of Local Bodies grants recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission

1. The best practices listed in para 8.19 of the report of the Twelfth Finance Commission may be considered for adoption by States to improve the resources of the panchayats.
2. The PRIs should be encouraged to take over the assets relating to water supply and sanitation and utilize the grants for repairs/rejuvenation as also the O and M costs. The PRIs should, however, recover at least 50 per cent of the recurring costs in the form of user charges.
3. Of the grants allocated for Panchayats, priority should be given to expenditure on the O and M costs of water supply and sanitation. This will facilitate Panchayats to take over the schemes and operate them.
4. At least 50 per cent of the grants-in-aid provided to each State for the urban local bodies should be earmarked for the scheme of solid waste management through public-private partnership. The Municipalities should concentrate on collection, segregation and transportation of solid waste. The cost of these activities whether carried out in house or out sourced could be met from the grants.
5. Most States do not have credible information on the finances of their local bodies. Local bodies would continue to need funding support for building data base and maintenance of accounts. States may assess the requirement of each local body in this regard and earmark funds accordingly out of the total allocation recommended by Finance Commission.
6. Panchayats as defined in the Constitution can exist only when they are constituted as per the mandatory provisions of Articles 243B and 243C. Hence, grants will not be provided to a State (which is covered under Part IX of the

Constitution) where elections for constituting these Panchayats have not been held for the period for which there were no elected Panchayats as per the provisions of the Constitution.

7. Two sets of details, one on allocation of funds and another on release of funds, will be reported by the State Government for the purpose prior to the release of each instalment by the Government of India. However, the first six monthly instalment for 2005-06 shall be released to a State after receiving only the details of the allocation of these funds to the PRIs and ULBs in that State. All subsequent instalments shall be released after receiving both sets of details—the certificate of the release of funds to the PRIs and ULBs for the previous instalment and the information about allocation of funds for the subsequent instalment. For the first instalment for 2005-06, information on allocation up to district level alone need to be sent by the State. For the subsequent releases, the breakup of the allocation to each PRI and ULB at the three levels should be provided.
8. State Finance Secretary would be required to provide a certificate within 15 days of the release of each instalment by Government of India under his signature certifying the dates and amounts of local bodies grants received by the State from the Government of India, and the dates and amounts of grants released to the PRIs and ULBs.
9. State Finance Secretary would be required to provide a certificate every year of the percentage of grants spent by the ULBs on schemes of solid waste management and percentage of grants spent on schemes of water supply and sanitation by the PRIs. States would also be required to provide details of recurring O and M cost recoverable by the PRIs on schemes of water supply.
10. In case of delayed transfer to PRIs/ULBs beyond the specified period of 15 days, the State

Government shall transfer to PR/ULB amount of interest at the rate equal to the RBI Bank rate alongwith such delayed transfer of grants.

11. Government of India will withhold the amount short spent on schemes of water supply and sanitation by the PRIs. The withheld amount will be subsequently reimbursed upon confirmation that the short spending has been compensated in the subsequent period.
12. Comptroller and Auditor General of India would be expected to audit the release and use of the local bodies grants.

Whistle Blower against Corruption

2642. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission in its 179th Report recommended for a law to protect the whistle blowers against corruption; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission in its 179th report has recommended for enactment of "The Public Interest Disclosure (Protection of Informers) Bill".

(b) The Bill is presently under consideration of the Group of Ministers. The Government has, however issued Whistle Blower (Public Interest Disclosure) Resolution, 2004.

Revenue Collection

2643. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target vis-a-vis collection of both direct and indirect taxes from each State during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is any shortfall in collection under

any head from any State particularly the State of Karnataka;

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

(d) whether any case of litigation is pending in any high court or Supreme Court in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The jurisdictional unit for allocation of targets for collection of direct and indirect taxes is the Chief Commissionerates and not the States. Accordingly, it is not feasible to provide information relating to the target vis-a-vis collection of both direct and indirect taxes from each State during each of the last three years and any shortfall in collection under any head from any State particularly the State of Karnataka.

(d) to (f) Appeals before the Supreme Court and High Courts are recommended/filed by the Chief Commissioners of Income-tax, Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax whose territorial jurisdictions are not congruous with States. Hence, State-wise statistics of litigation pending before various courts in respect of direct and indirect taxes is not maintained.

[Translation]

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

2644. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the limit of twenty thousand population based on 1991 census to fifty thousand under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to

(c) No, Sir. AUWSP has been subsumed in Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) launched by the Government of India in December, 2005 with a view to improving urban infrastructure including water supply in 5098 small and medium town and cities (as per census 2001). Under UIDSSMT all urban towns upto population of 10 lakhs except the towns covered under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) are eligible for financial assistance as per guidelines of the scheme.

[English]

Fake Currency

2645. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has recently stumbled a fake currency operation;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the origin of the fake Indian currency is in Sri Lanka and in Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check fake currency in circulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has booked several cases of smuggling of fake Indian currency notes, including fake notes smuggled into India from Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

(b) to (d) The details of the cases booked by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the last 3 years are enclosed as Statement.

(e) All Customs field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent and thwart attempts to smuggle and circulate Fake Currency in the country.

Statement

Year	No. of cases	Value Fake Currency (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of persons Arrested	Origin of Fake Currency
2004-2005	3	47.22	7	Rs. 1.24 lakhs of Bangladesh Origin and Rs. 45.98 lakhs of Pakistan origin
2005-2006	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2006-2007 (upto Feb. 07)	9	156.93	18	Rs. 85.70 lakhs Dubai origin Rs. 40.15 lakhs of Sri Lanka origin Rs. 1.09 lakhs of Bangladesh Origin Rs. 29.99 lakhs of Pakistan origin

Chemical Pesticides

2646. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government agencies, research institutes and scientific and academic institutions associated with the projects to develop technologies for biodegradable alternatives to chemical pesticides; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for promotion and production of environment friendly biodegradable alternatives to chemical pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Various Government agencies, research institutes and other organizations are actively engaged in

the development and production of biodegradable alternatives to chemical pesticides and list of the same is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Government of India through its various departments has made concerted efforts towards the promotion and production of environment friendly biodegradable alternatives to chemical pesticides. National Biocontrol R and D network programme was initiated in 1989 to study the control of pest diseases through biodegradable pesticides. More than 200 R and D projects have been implemented for the production, better formulation and commercially viable degradable efficient bioagents. A number of technologies have been developed and transferred to the industries for commercialization. Intensive promotion programme was also launched for adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)—Integrated Nutrient Management techniques, training programmes and various extension activities for farmers and extension functionaries have been organized throughout the country in order to create awareness among the farmers. Several centres have been identified for imparting training and various extension activities are being regularly conducted to popularize the technology among the farming community as well as the extension functionaries. With these efforts, substantial success has been achieved in terms of (1) development of standardized, cost effective and commercially viable mass production technologies of various candidate bioagents; (2) demonstrating the field efficacy of biocontrol agents/biopesticides under different ecosystem in various economically important crops; (3) realizing the economic benefits in IPM trials by working out the cost benefit ratio in terms of (a) monetary gain; (b) yield increase; (c) reduction in pesticide consumption; (4) Creating a general awareness about the biocontrol base IPM technology among the farming community and the end users. Successful demonstration trials have culminated as a recommendation by the State Dept. of Agriculture in various states.

Statement

I. Government Agencies:

- (i) Ministries of Agriculture,
- (ii) Department of Biotechnology, Government of India,

- (iii) Department of Science and Technology, Government of India,
- (iv) Council of Scientific Industrial Research, New Delhi,
- (v) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi,
- (vi) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay,
- (vii) M.P. Council of S and T, Bhopal-462004 (M.P.) etc.

II. Scientific Institutes: Major Scientific Institutes actively engaged in the development and production of biodegradable agents are as:

1. Nagarjuna Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Plot No. 61, 2nd Floor, Nagarjuna Hills Panjagutta, Hyderabad-500081.
2. The Energy and Resources Institute, Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003
3. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110012
4. National Institute of Immunology, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067
5. Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Habsiguda, Uppal oad, Hyderabad-500007
6. Madurai Agriculture College and Research Institute, Madurai-625104
7. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hessaraghatta Lake Post, Bangalore-560089
8. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Regional Station, Kayangulam, Krishnapuram-690533 (Kerala)
9. National Botanical Research Institute, 1, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow-226 001
10. Institute of Agricultural Sciences Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005
11. The Energy and Resources Institute, Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

12. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh-202 002
 13. Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Post Box No. 6, Palampur-176061, Himachal Pradesh
 14. Indian Institute of Spice Research, P. Box. 1701 Marikunnu, Calicut—673012 (Kerala)
 15. Central Institute for Cotton Research P.O. No. 2, Shankar Nagar, Nagpur-440 010
 16. Allahabad Agricultural Institute (Deemed University) Allahabad—211007
 17. Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, 1, Gandhinagar, Naria, P.O. Box no. 5002, P.O. BHU, Varanasi-221005
 18. Forest Research Institute, P.O. New Forest, Dehradun-248006
 19. Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajah-mundri-533105
 20. Indian Institute of Pulses and Research, Kanpur-208024
 21. National Institute of Virology, 20-A Ambedkar Road, Post Box No. 11, Pune-411 001
 22. Indian Cardamom Research Institute Spices Board (M/o Commerce and Industry), Myladumpara, Kailasanadu P.O., Idukki Dist.-685553 (Kerala)
 23. Sugarcane Breeding Institute Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)-641 007
 24. National Chemical Laboratory, Homi Bhabha Road, Pune-411008
 25. Regional Research Laboratory Jorhat-785006 (Assam)
 26. Bioved Research Communication Centre, 103/42, Moti Lal Nehru Road, Near Prayag Station) Allahabad-211002 (Uttar Pradesh)
 27. National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Micro-organisms, Vill-Kusmaur, P.B. No. 6, Kaithauli, Mau Nath Bhanjan, Distt. Mau-275101 (Uttar Pradesh)
 28. Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad-500007
 29. Regional Research Laboratory, Canal Road, Jammu Tawi-180001
 30. Project Directorate of Biological Control, P.B. No. 2491, H.A. Farm Post, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024, Karnataka.
 31. Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology Jagathy, Thiruvananthapuram-695014 (Kerala)
 32. International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, PO Box 10504, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067
 33. Insect Biopesticide Research Centre, 30, Prakash Nagar, Model Town, Jalandhar-144003 (Punjab)
 34. National Remote Sensing Agency, Balanagar. Hyderabad-500037
 35. Vitthal Malaya Scientific Research Foundation, P.B. No. 406, K.R. Road, Bangalore-560004
 36. Asthagiri Herbal Research Foundation, 14/1, II Main Road, Jaya Nagar, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai-600047
 37. University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysore-570006, Karnataka
 38. Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)-641 007
 39. National Research Centre for Weed Sciences, 215 Ravindra Nagar Adhartal, Jabalpur-482004 (Madhya Pradesh)
- III. **Academic Institute etc.:** Major Academic Institutes actively engaged in the development and production of biodegradable agents are as:
1. North Maharashtra University, P.B. No. 80, Umavinagar, Jalagaon-425001

2. College of Basic Sciences and Humanities, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141004 (Punjab)
3. Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030 (Andhra Pradesh)
4. Marathwada Agriculture University, Parbhani-431 402 (Maharashtra)
5. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar-263145 (Uttarakhand)
6. Rani Durgawati University, Jabalpur-482 001 (Madhya Pradesh)
7. Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur-313001 (Rajasthan)
8. University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore-560 065 (Karnataka)
9. Regional Agricultural Research Station, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, LAM, Guntur-522034 (Andhra Pradesh)
10. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141004 (Punjab)
11. University of Agricultural Science, Krishnagar, Dharwad-580005 (Karnataka)
12. Orissa University of Agricultural and Technology, Bhubaneswar-751003 (Orissa)
13. University of Pune, Ganeshkhind, Pune-411007 (M.S.)
14. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-641003 (Tamil Nadu)
15. SPIC Bioprocess Laboratory, Anna University, Taramani, Chennai-600113 (Tamil Nadu)
16. University College of Sciences, Osmania University, Hyderabad-500007 (Andhra Pradesh)
17. Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidhya Nagar-388120 (Gujarat)
18. Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat-785013 (Assam)
19. St. Xavier's College, Palayankottai-627002 (Tamil Nadu)
20. Pondicherry University, Kalapet, Pondicherry-605014
21. Lucknow University, Lucknow-226007 (Uttar Pradesh)
22. University of Madras Guindy Campus, Chennai-600025 (Tamil Nadu)
23. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Nadia-761252, West Bengal (Kolkata)
24. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur-273009 (Uttar Pradesh)
25. University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad-500 046 (Andhra Pradesh)
26. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri-413722 Distt. Ahmednagar (MS)
27. University of Kerala, Kariavattom-695581 Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
28. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvidyalaya, Palampur-176062 (Himachal Pradesh)
29. Manipur University, Imphal-795003
30. Loyola College, Chennai-600034 (Tamil Nadu)
31. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola-444104, Nagpur (M.S.)
32. Kerala Agricultural University, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur-680656 (Kerala)

Power Projects of NTPC

2647. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has initiated any power generation and distribution project in the remote villages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the States where such projects are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether such projects are proposed to be set up in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the fund released by the Government for initiating such projects?

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

Corporation (NTPC) has initiated pilot projects of Decentralized Generation and Distribution Management (DGDM) in the vicinity of its generating stations.

(b) Six DGDM projects have been commissioned so far as per details given below:

Distributed Generation (DG) project at village	Capacity and Technology	State
Jamara	10 KW Biomass (woody)	Chhattisgarh
Jaraha-Chetwa	10 KW Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV)	Uttar Pradesh
Bhaogarh	10 KW Biomass	Rajasthan
Bagdara	20 KW Biomass (woody)	Chhattisgarh
Khirti	20 KW Biomass (woody)	Chhattisgarh
Uchlenga	20 KW Biomass (woody)	Chhattisgarh

(c) to (e) The projects approved and commissioned so far were pilot projects. There are no other projects including those in Orissa under consideration in Ministry of Power.

Hike in Pension in SBI

2648. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has hiked recently the pension of its pensioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not hiking family pension in respect of families who have lost their bread winners; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per the agreement reached between the Management of State Bank of India (SBI) and officers/employees Federations on 9-4-2006 the pension of the employees/officers of SBI who retire or retired on or after 1st May 2005, would be determined with reference to the pay scales effective from 1-11-2002 as under:

(i) 50% of the average pay of last 12 months for employees/officers having pensionable pay upto Rs. 21,040 + Professional Qualification Pay (PQP), if any;

(ii) 40% of the average, pay of last 12 months, subject to a minimum of Rs. 10,520 + half of PQP, if any, for employees/officers having pensionable pay exceeding (i) above.

The pension of the retirees for the period 1-11-2002 to 30-4-2005 will also be revised, w.e.f., 1-5-2005 on the basis as stated above, but no arrears of pension and commuted value of pension are payable on account of such re-fixation of pension.

(c) and (d) This was not a part of the agreement.

Study on Solid Waste Management

2649. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has conducted a survey on solid waste management recently;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government on the findings of the study;

(d) the details of cities where the door to door waste collection system is in operation;

(e) the reasons for which all the cities have not such a system; and

(f) the further action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Training for Skill Development under SGSY

2650. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that training imparted for skill development by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is not up to the mark;

(b) if so, the deficiencies observed in the training; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the training programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) lays emphasis on skill development of Swarozgaries through well-designed training courses. Ordinarily 10% of the allocation under SGSY should be spent on training of Swarozgaries. The Ministry of Rural Development regularly conducts evaluation studies and monitors the physical and financial progress under SGSY through various

monitoring mechanisms. Some of the evaluation studies have reported deficiencies in the training programmes under SGSY such as the need to redesign the training modules to impart social skills that include communication, leadership, decision-making, conflict resolution, gender and social issues etc. Whenever such deficiencies are noticed, immediate remedial action is taken by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to issue necessary instructions to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) to undertake skill upgradation training under the training component of SGSY. The objective of this training should be skill upgradation with view to ensure self-employment in the activities identified by the DRDAs as potential areas in the district. Revised Training Modules have been prepared to impart proper skill upgradation of the Swarozgaries.

Islamic Bank

2651. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish Islamic Bank in the country on the lines of Malaysia and Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been formed to explore the possibility of such bank;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Reserve Bank of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) There is no proposal for introduction of Islamic banking in India. The Government has not constituted any Committee in this regard. However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking at the enabling requirements, if overseas branches/subsidiaries of Indian banks have to offer Islamic banking products to meet the emerging competition in this area.

Rural Women Technology Parks

2652. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has set up task force for Women in the field of Science and Technology to ensure that the interests of women practitioners in science are protected;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up Rural Women Technology Parks to provide training for income generation activities based on local resources;

(c) if so, the names of the States where such rural women technology parks have been established;

(d) the benefits accrued therefrom by the rural women;

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up such parks in all the States; and

(f) if so, the time by which these are likely to be set up?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Women Technology Parks exclusively for rural women have been set up in different agro-climatic regions of the country such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal to provide training programmes for income generation activities based on local resources in both farm and non-farm sectors. Main objective of the women technology park is to serve as a common platform to document, develop and transfer proven technologies as per the needs of women in the region. Women technology parks facilitate increased participation of women technology innovators and allow women to use resources appropriately to develop them

as individual/group entrepreneurs. Some technology areas in which training has been given to women are post harvest technology, bio-mass utilization, women's health and sanitation, animal husbandry and fodder management. S and T based livelihood generation etc.

(e) and (f) The intention is to set up at least one such women technology park in each of the agro-climatic regions of the country as a model. However, efforts are being made to set up such parks in all states in future.

Utilisation of Funds under SGRY

2653. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments have not properly utilized the funds sanctioned by the Union Government for Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the last three years and current year and the complaints regarding misuse of funds have also been received by the Union Government;

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

(c) whether cooperation from NGOs is also being taken for implementation of yojana;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to utilize the funds properly under the yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Since States/UTs are primarily responsible for proper implementation of the SGRY as per provisions of the SGRY Guidelines, complaints received under the SGRY are not compiled at the Centre. As and when any complaint of misutilisation/irregularity of funds and foodgrains under the programme come to the notice of the Ministry of Rural Development, the State Governments concerned is advised to investigate and take appropriate action under the law.

(c) and (d) SGRY is being implemented through the Panchayati Raj Institutions. District and Intermediate Panchayats can engage well reputed NGOs for execution

of works approved in their Annual Action Plan. No such details are maintained at the Centre.

(e) To ensure transparency, accountability and people's participation, constitution of Monitoring Committee of villagers for each work under the programme has been made mandatory. To monitor the progress and quality of work undertaken, such Committee is required to be formed with five to nine members who would be nominated from amongst the social workers, retired civil, defence or private sector officers, other retired employees like teachers, well-educated persons and an SC/ST and a women's representative. The final report of the committee is required to be attached along with the completion certificate of the work and placed in the meeting of the Gram Sabha for consideration. Besides, the National Level Monitor (NLM) engaged by the Ministry, is given task to enquire into the complaint received and submit a detailed report of findings. Thereafter, the State government concerned is advised to initiate appropriate action as per the report of NLM.

[Translation]

Advance Taxes

2654. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The total amount of advance taxes received by the Central Board of Direct Taxes from builders/developers/construction companies involved in construction of residential and commercial complexes in the National Capital Region during the current year;

(b) the total tax deposited by these companies/firms during each of the last three years;

(c) whether such companies have committed irregularities in payment of taxes during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the house.

[English]

New Pension System

2655. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed guidelines and modalities of the new pension scheme;

(b) whether employees on ad hoc/leave vacancies who have been regularized after 2004 get pay benefits from previous date of their appointment whereas they are denied other benefits available to regular employees from that date;

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

(d) the criteria followed for such employees in the matter of choice of pension scheme; and

(e) the steps taken to remove the anomalies in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The new restructured defined contributory pension scheme is mandatory for all new Central Government recruits (except armed forces, in the first stage) with effect from 01-01-2004. The New Pension System (NPS) will be available, on a voluntary basis, to all persons including self-employed professionals and others in the unorganized sector.

The employees on ad-hoc/leave vacancies who have been regularized after 2004 will come under the purview of NPS.

However all the employees who entered into Central Government Service on or before 31-12-2003 and were governed by old pension scheme under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 will continue to be governed by the same pension scheme and the same rules, if such employees submit technical resignation on or after 01-01-2004, to take up new appointment, in another Ministry or Department of the Central Government.

A High Level Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) to frame rules for personnel related issues such as qualifying service for pension etc.

Dwelling Units in the Country

2656. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the position of dwelling units in the country particularly in the cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Working Group on Urban Housing and Poverty Alleviation for 11th Five Year Plan appointed a technical group to estimate the housing shortage. Based on the report of this technical group on housing shortage as on 2007 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*Housing Shortage as on 2007*

(million)

State/UTs	Housing Shortage
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1.95
Arunachal Pradesh	0.02
Assam	0.31
Bihar	0.59
Chhattisgarh	0.36
Goa	0.07
Gujarat	1.66
Haryana	0.52
Himachal Pradesh	0.06
Jammu and Kashmir	0.18

1	2
Jharkhand	0.47
Karnataka	1.63
Kerala	0.76
Madhya Pradesh	1.29
Maharashtra	3.72
Manipur	0.05
Meghalaya	0.04
Mizoram	0.04
Nagaland	0.03
Orissa	0.50
Punjab	0.69
Rajasthan	1.00
Sikkim	0.01
Tamil Nadu	2.82
Tripura	0.06
Uttaranchal	0.18
Uttar Pradesh	2.38
West Bengal	2.04
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.01
Chandigarh	0.08
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.01
Daman and Diu	0.01
Delhi	1.13
Lakshadweep	0.00
Pondicherry	0.06
All India	24.71

[Translation]

Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme

2657. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides funds to the State Governments under the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme;

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided to the State Governments/Union Territories during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(c) the number of towns/cities converted so far, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the number of sanitation units constructed under the scheme during the said period, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Subsidy released under the scheme during the last 3 years is as follows:

2003-04	—	Rs. 4.80 crores
2004-05	—	Rs. 20.00 crores
2005-06	—	Rs. 2.00 crores

(c) and (d) As per the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Name of State/ UT	No. of Sanction Units constructed under the scheme during last 3 years	No. of Towns/ cities covered so far
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	133167	115
Maharashtra	7254	181
Madhya Pradesh	31445	289

1	2	3
Manipur	1126	12
Orissa	9	63
Rajasthan	118563	159
Tamil Nadu	613	89
Tripura	5776	12
Uttar Pradesh	63300	74
West Bengal	32024	114
Chhattisgarh	9430	72
Uttaranchal	3654	52

Power Consumption

2658. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita power consumption in the country as on date and how does it compare with the other developed and developing countries;

(b) whether it is much less in comparison to the other countries; and

(c) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase per capita availability of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The average annual per capita consumption of electricity in India for the year 2004-05 was 612.5 Kwh. The annual per capita consumption of electricity of some of the developed and developing countries during the year 2004 is given below:

Name of the country	Per Capita Consumption of Electricity (in kWh)
Australia	11126
France	7689
Germany	7030
Japan	8076
Russia	5642
United Kindgom	6206
United States of America	13338
Brazil	1955
Argentina	2301
Mexico	1804
Malaysia	3166
Pakistan	425
Philippines	597
Sri Lanka	345
Thailand	1865

Source: Key World Energy Statistics (2006) published by International Energy Agency.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to step up availability of power inter alia include:—

Short-term:

- (i) Rigorous monitoring of production, transportation

and stocking of coal at all major coal plants of the country to ensure adequate availability of fuel to meet the improved PLF of coal stations. Import of coal to bridge constraints in production of domestic coal.

- (ii) Tapping of surplus power from captive power plants.
- (iii) Utilization of unutilized capacity of gas based stations on liquid fuel.
- (iv) Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission system in State under Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) losses.
- (v) Optimum utilization of available power by strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity.
- (vi) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.
- (vii) Promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.
- (viii) "Partnership in Excellence" Programme starting with adoption of better operation and maintenance (O and M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations through tie-up with well performing power utilities as a precursor to renovation and modernization.
- (ix) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation under "Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme" (AG and SP).

Long-term:

- (i) Creation of a National Grid for optimum utilization of generation capacity and inter-regional transfer of power.

- (ii) 50,000 MW hydro initiative has been launched for coordination development of hydro sector.
- (iii) Identification of sites for thermal capacity over 1,00,000 MW.
- (iv) Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation have mobilized themselves to see that good generation projects are not hampered due to lack of funds.
- (v) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.
- (vi) Advance planning of generation capacity addition projects for the 11th Five Year Plan.
- (vii) Implementation of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to achieve benefit of economy of scale.

In addition, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana has been introduced in April 2005 with the aim of electrifying all villages in the entire country by 2009.

[English]

Acquisition of Shares

2659. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the proposed acquisition by the Government of the controlling stake of RBI in the State Bank of India, National Housing Bank and the NABARD, is likely to affect the market value of the respective shares, viability and smooth functioning of the respective Banks;

(b) the rate of interest at which the stakes are to be acquired by the Government; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to ensure smooth functioning of those Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) On the recommendations of the Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee II) and as proposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Government has decided to transfer RBI shareholding in State Bank of

India (SBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Housing Bank (NHB) to Government of India. The transfer of RBI shareholding in these entities to the Government is not likely to have any adverse effect on the value of the shares, viability and functioning of these entities.

(b) As RBI shareholding is to be transferred to the Government against cash payment, the question of rate of interest does not arise.

(c) To ensure smooth and efficient functioning of banking sector in general and public sector banks (PSBs)/ financial institutions (FIs) in particular, RBI has prescribed measures/guidelines for strengthening of prudential supervision viz. provisioning and classification norms for non-performing assets (NPAs), capital adequacy norms, guidelines to improve customer service, establishment of Banking Ombudsmen as also Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI), guidelines on transparency in banks' charges, etc. Further, Government announced an Autonomy Package on 22-02-2005 for the PSBs to enable them take quick and efficient decisions, and to provide bank boards sufficient managerial autonomy to be able to compete internationally. Government has also put in place a mechanism to monitor the performance of PSBs on the basis of the 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals' submitted by them on various performance parameters. Government has enacted *Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (DRT) Act, 1993* and *The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002* to enable the banks recover their dues expeditiously. Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005 has been enacted to help banks/FIs improve their asset quality and to arrest fresh accretion of NPAs.

Poppy Cultivation

2660. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open opium processing to private players;

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

(c) whether the Government has reduced the area of poppy cultivation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

The reasons to allow the manufacture of opium alkaloids/active pharmaceutical ingredients in private sector are:

- (i) to increase the domestic licit consumption of raw opium and thereby liquidate/reduce the large stocks of opium lying in the Government Opium

and Alkaloid Works, Neemuch and Ghazipur;

- (ii) to increase the indigenous manufacture of codeine phosphate/opium alkaloids/and active pharmaceutical ingredients so as to meet the present shortfall and the growing future demand for these ingredients;
- (iii) to gradually reduce the need for imports of codeine phosphate and other alkaloids undertaken by the Chief Controller of Factories;
- (iv) to open avenues for export of opium alkaloids/active pharmaceutical ingredients;
- (v) to protect the livelihood of opium cultivators by way of continued traditional cultivation of opium; and
- (vi) to improve the socio-economic condition of our opium cultivators through more remunerative price for their produce.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of the area (harvested in hectares) of poppy cultivation undertaken by licensed cultivators under the supervision of Central Bureau of Narcotics, in the tracts notified by the Central Government in the last three crop years in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are as under:

State	Crop year 2003-04	Crop Year 2004-05	Crop Year 2005-06 (Provisional)
Madhya Pradesh	8565	3876	3500
Rajasthan	8461	3918	3411
Uttar Pradesh	1565	39	65
Total	18,591	7,833	6,976

[Translation]

Disproportionate Assets

2661. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government keeps a vigil on the accumulation of disproportionate assets from their known sources of income by the officers of Income Tax and Excise departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of alleged corruption and evasion of income tax registered against such officers during each of the last three years;

(d) the action taken against the officials found guilty; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to check corruption in these departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIS.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The vigil on accumulation of disproportionate assets from their known sources of income against the officers of Income Tax and Excise Departments are mainly done by the CBI who are empowered to conduct such investigations. These Departments also keep vigil on the assets of their officers through scrutiny of IPRs (Immovable Property Returns) filed by them. In case of violation of Conduct Rules, 1964, action is taken by the Departments. However, the suspected cases of accumulation of disproportionate assets are referred to CBI for investigation. Further action against the officers is taken on the basis of CBI's report.

(c) (i) The number of cases of alleged corruption registered in the Excise Department during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of cases
2003-04	153
2004-05	117
2005-06	98

(ii) The number of cases of alleged corruption registered in the Income Tax Department during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of cases
2004	45
2005	70
2006	62

Details of cases of alleged evasion of Income Tax registered against such officers are being collected and will be provided later.

(d) The action against the officials found guilty is taken on the basis of CBI's report. Action taken include (i) Prosecution of the officer concerned under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in a Court of Law on the basis of sanction for prosecution given by the Competent Authority of the Department or (ii) Regular Departmental Action by issuance of charge memo to the officer concerned under CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965. The advice of CVC is also taken into consideration while initiating action as indicated above.

(e) In order to reduce corruption, several steps have been taken by the Departments like reducing interface between the public and the officials, computerization and transparency in the system, simplification of rules and procedures, not posting the officers of doubtful integrity to sensitive posts etc.

Unauthorised Affluent Colonies

2662. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mathur Committee on unauthorised affluent colonies in Delhi has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) The Committee has made various recommendations regarding desirability/feasibility of regularization of unauthorized colonies inhabited by affluent sections along with suggestions relating to criteria, terms and conditions and modalities in respect thereof. Suggestions and observations have also been made by the Committee for checking unauthorized developments.

(c) Inter-departmental consultations on the recomme-

ndations have been started and no final view has been taken.

[English]

High Court Bench of Thiruvananthapuram

2663. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for setting up of a High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Proposal for setting up of a Bench of the High Court is considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. Though the Government of Kerala has requested for setting up a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, it has not sent a complete proposal in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court or given any assurance with regard to providing the necessary infrastructural facilities.

Unexplored Minerals in Sea

2664. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unexplored seabed south of Kanyakumari in the Central Indian Ocean has been spotted containing rich minerals as reported in "The Times of India" dated December 16, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to explore this area;

(d) if so, the likely expenditure involved and the benefits expected; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be explored?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. An unexplored seabed, south of Kanyakumari in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) was spotted in early 1980s. Recognizing the exploratory efforts, India was accorded the status of first pioneer investor on 17th August, 1987 and was allocated an area of 150000 sq. km for carrying out exploration and developmental activities for polymetallic nodules lying at seabed. Upon detailed exploratory surveys, India has retained an area of 75,000 sq. km in CIOB.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. As a registered pioneer investor, the Government is pursuing various developmental activities in the Area. They are surveys and exploration, Environmental Impact Assessment study, development of mining activities and development of process technology for extraction of metals from nodules.

This Ministry has collected 250 tonnes of nodules from the Indian ocean site over a period of time for extraction of metals (copper, nickel, cobalt and manganese). The deep seabed mining is not yet found economical at this stage. There is no plan to have commercial mining of deep seabed minerals as of now. However, technology development for mining the nodules are under progress in phases.

As a first phase of development, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, a technical arm of the Ministry has designed and developed a prototype shallow bed mining system capable of working up to a depth of 500 m. The system has been demonstrated successfully at a depth of 451 meters in the Arabian Sea off Goa during 2006. Development of integrated mining module with collector and crusher is under progress. A Remotely Operated Submersible (ROSUB-6000) capable of operating up to a water depth of 6 km is being developed jointly by NIOT and Experimental Design Bureau of Oceanological Engineering (EDBOE). ROSUB-6000 is undergoing field trials in the sea in phase-wise manner.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Land Records

2665. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH

DEO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has computerised the land records in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds provided for the purpose during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time limit and target for computerisation of land records in all the districts of the country;

(d) if so, the State-wise details of districts in which the computerisation has been completed so far; and

(e) the time by which the remaining districts will be computerised, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Centrally sponsored scheme

for Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) was started in the year 1988-89 with 100% financial support from the Government of India. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 32 States/Union Territories covering 582 districts in the country. Statement-I showing funds provided to States/Union Territories during each of the last three years and current year is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The progress of the Scheme is being reviewed in the conferences of Revenue Ministers/Revenue Secretaries organised by this Ministry from time-to-time, wherein States/UTs are requested to give high priority to the implementation of the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records so that the work could be completed in all the districts at the earliest.

As mentioned above, the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) is being implemented in 582 out of 593 districts of the country. The remaining State of Meghalaya (7 districts) and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (2 districts), Diu and Lakshadweep (one district each) have been requested to update their land records with the use of modern technology and start the scheme of CLR. Statement-II showing districts/tehsils covered and achievement made under the scheme is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise funds released under Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) during the last three years and current year

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh		531.50	506.45	844.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh				
3.	Assam			542.50	
4.	Bihar		100.00	264.46	
5.	Gujarat	372.50	495.00		556.00
6.	Goa				
7.	Haryana			843.76	

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	81.40	438.00	326.00	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir				1542.00
10.	Karnataka	389.50	497.40		920.10
11.	Kerala			305.90	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	542.50	286.30	388.00	
13.	Maharashtra	826.54	296.00	787.60	
14.	Manipur			88.35	
15.	Meghalaya				
16.	Mizoram	20.00		127.00	
17.	Nagaland		15.00	20.00	
18.	Orissa	277.00	230.00	599.40	93.22
19.	Punjab				
20.	Rajasthan			1332.20	414.00
21.	Sikkim	82.70		10.00	
22.	Tamil Nadu	406.50	605.20	200.21	666.65
23.	Tripura		148.00		118.70
24.	Uttar Pradesh			1561.99	
25.	West Bengal		355.00	870.20	
26.	Chhattisgarh		164.00	459.60	
27.	Jharkhand	547.20			656.00
28.	Uttaranchal		400.60	653.44	820.51
29.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli				
30.	Delhi				
31.	Pondicherry	31.35		37.00	
32.	Chandigarh				25.00
33.	Daman and Diu				
Total		3577.19	4562.00	9924.06	6656.18

Statement-II**Districts, Tehsils and Subdivisions Sanctioned and work completed under Programme**

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Total No. of Districts	Districts covered	Districts data Centre	Monitoring Cell at State Head Quarters	Total number of Sub-division	Number of sub-division covered	Total number of Tehsils/ Talukas Blocks	Number of Tehsils/ Talukas Blocks sanctioned	Number of Tehsils/ Talukas Blocks where computer centre set up	Tehsil centres fully operational (in terms of on demand distribution of RoR)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	23	23	1	79	79	308 Tehsils	308	308	308
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	14	14				149 Circles			
3.	Assam	23	23	23	1		12	155 Circles	83		
4.	Bihar	37	37			101		515 Anchals			
5.	Gujarat	25	25	25	1	54	35	226 Taluks	226	226	226
6.	Goa	1	1	1				11 Taluks	11	11	11
7.	Haryana	19	19	19	1	47	47	112 Tehsils	115	67	7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	12	1	51	51	110 Tehsils	110	107	76
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	14					59 Tehsils	59	59	
10.	Jharkhand	22	22					210 Anchals	210	210	
11.	Karnataka	27	27	27	1	52	52	177 Taluks	177	177	177
12.	Kerala	14	14					63 Taluks	63	63	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	45	45	45	1	185	182	273 Tehsils	273	257	257
14.	Maharashtra	35	35	35	1	109	109	358 Taluks	358	358	358
15.	Manipur	9	8			38	5	78 Circles	5		

[English]

FDI through Mauritius

2666. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amount of Foreign Direct Investment coming through Mauritius since Government of India entered into Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with that country;

(b) whether there is revenue losses due to the India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Joint Working Group (JWG) on India-Mauritius DTAC has deliberated on the issue;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard to avoid further losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between India and Mauritius was notified on 06-12-1983. The details of Foreign Direct Investments coming through Mauritius are available from the period August, 1991 to December, 2006. The year-wise amount of Foreign Direct Investment coming through Mauritius since August, 1991 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Foreign Direct Investment (Amount in Rupees crores)
1	2	3
1.	1991-92 (Aug.-Mar.)	0.00
2.	1992-93	0.00

1	2	3
3.	1993-94	48.75
4.	1994-95	617.68
5.	1995-96	1,697.06
6.	1996-97	2,990.93
7.	1997-98	3,289.42
8.	1998-99	2,257.94
9.	1999-00	2,370.39
10.	2000-01	4,111.30
11.	2001-02	10,062.82
12.	2002-03	3,765.74
13.	2003-04	2,608.68
14.	2004-05	5,141.36
15.	2005-06	11,441.07
16.	2006-07 (Apr.-Dec.)	19,250.19

(b) and (c) The exact amount of revenue loss due to the India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) cannot be quantified.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Four meetings of the JWG have been held as under:

(i) 5th and 6th October, 2006

(ii) 8th to 11th November, 2006

(iii) 28th to 29th December, 2006

(iv) 11th or 12th January, 2007

In all the discussions of the JWG, Indian side has again and again expressed its deep concern on the issue of misuse of the treaty between the two countries.

(f) Efforts are being made through the JWG to find a mutually acceptable solution for addressing India's

concerns. Various options are being considered and are under discussion with the Government of Mauritius.

(g) Since the final decision cannot be taken without the agreement of the Mauritian Government, it is not possible to give a definite time frame.

Pending Projects under CAPART

2667. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes under which Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) provides assistance;

(b) the details of the projects received and sanctioned by CAPART during 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for non clearance of all the projects received by CAPART during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) is presently providing assistance under the following schemes:

- (i) Public Cooperation (PC)
- (ii) Organisation of Beneficiaries (OB)
- (iii) Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTS)
- (iv) Disability

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) A total number of 5811 project proposals have been received by CAPART Headquarters and its 9 regional offices at Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Dharwad, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow and Patna during these two years. 461 projects have been sanctioned and 2997 projects have been rejected due to non-adherence to prescribed parameters, faulty

documentation and non-viable projects. The remaining 2353 project proposals are under various stages of process viz., scrutiny, pre-funding appraisal and awaiting required documents.

Statement

State-wise total number of projects received and sanctioned during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07

Year: 2005-06

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Projects received	Projects Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	381	21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	—
3.	Assam	47	6
4.	Bihar	110	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	5
6.	Chandigarh	1	—
7.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	—	—
8.	Daman and Diu	—	—
9.	Delhi	13	—
10.	Goa	—	—
11.	Gujarat	92	18
12.	Haryana	111	7
13.	Himachal Pradesh	36	1
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	33	3
15.	Jharkhand	26	1
16.	Karnataka	86	17
17.	Kerala	92	15
18.	Lakshadweep	—	—

1	2	3	4
19. Madhya Pradesh	83	3	
20. Maharashtra	69	6	
21. Manipur	146	3	
22. Meghalaya	7	—	
23. Mizoram	5	1	
24. Nagaland	51	3	
25. Orissa	70	3	
26. Rajasthan	109	12	
27. Punjab	20	2	
28. Pondicherry	—	—	
29. Tamil Nadu	215	2	
30. Tripura	57	5	
31. Sikkim	2	1	
32. Uttar Pradesh	415	12	
33. Uttaranchal	63	10	
34. West Bengal	77	2	
Total	2433	165	

2006-07 (till 13-3-2007)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Projects received	Projects sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	506	33
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	—
3.	Assam	91	3
4.	Bihar	357	5

1	2	3	4
5. Chhattisgarh	32	15	
6. Chandigarh	—	—	
7. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	—	—	
8. Daman and Diu	—	—	
9. Delhi	11	—	
10. Goa	—	—	
11. Gujarat	79	13	
12. Haryana	164	7	
13. Himachal Pradesh	36	4	
14. Jammu and Kashmir	28	2	
15. Jharkhand	81	31	
16. Karnataka	207	37	
17. Kerala	99	1	
18. Lakshadweep	—	—	
19. Madhya Pradesh	85	5	
20. Maharashtra	82	39	
21. Manipur	118	2	
22. Meghalaya	4	—	
23. Mizoram	4	—	
24. Nagaland	24	4	
25. Orissa	211	36	
26. Rajasthan	140	23	
27. Punjab	33	1	
28. Pondicherry	1	1	
29. Tamil Nadu	101	13	
30. Tripura	5	—	

1	2	3	4
31. Sikkim		5	3
32. Uttar Pradesh		560	7
33. Uttaranchal		66	4
34. West Bengal		244	7
Total		3378	296

[Translation]

Illegal Constructions in Delhi

2668. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal constructions is increasing in Delhi at a faster pace in total disregard to the norms related to health, water, power supply and building by-laws; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the situation for improving the living conditions in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has denied that illegal constructions are increasing at a faster pace in Delhi. MCD has reported that as and when any illegal construction comes to notice, action is initiated as per the law.

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has also reported that regular action is taken against illegal construction in the areas under its jurisdiction.

(b) In view of the growing demand for residential and commercial space, Master Plan of Delhi 2021 provides liberal norms for residential development and also provides for notification of commercial streets and mixed use streets subject to payment of necessary charges. The amount

so collected shall be utilized for augmentation of infrastructure in the area. Provisions have also been made for redevelopment of both planned and un-planned areas with adequate social and physical infrastructure.

[English]

Integrated Sanitation Scheme

2669. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposal to revise guidelines of the integrated low cost sanitations scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of targets of the Government to make India as slum-free cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) To make the scheme more responsive, the guidelines of Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme are being revised.

(c) Since slum is a State subject, no specific target are fixed by Government of India.

Digital Mapping of Immovable Properties

2670. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the comprehensive plan prepared by the Government for modernisation/computerisation of land records in the country;

(b) whether the Government is also going to use digital mapping of immovable properties;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the proposed scheme is going to replace the existing schemes of Computerisation of Land Records and Strengthening of Revenue Administration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The schemes of Computerization of Land Records (CLR) and Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA and ULTR) are being implemented across the country by the Government of India since the late 1980's. Under the scheme of CLR, 100% Central assistance is provided to the States and UTs for computerization of land records and digitization of maps. Under the scheme of SRA and ULTR, 50% Central assistance to the States and 100% Central assistance to UTs is provided for strengthening of their revenue administration and survey and settlement organizations, carrying out survey operations, updating of land records, purchase of modern survey equipment, training of revenue functionaries, etc.

Significant progress has been made under these schemes, and several States, e.g., Karnataka, Gujarat, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, etc. have made considerable progress in computerizing the records of rights and their land revenue administration set up. Many other States are also moving ahead in this direction.

Further, there is scope for enlarging the ambit of these schemes and taking a comprehensive approach to digitize cadastral records and other land data and integrating it with core GIS as well as computerization of property registration, inter-connectivity of revenue and registration offices, automatic initiation of mutation notices, and creation of district, state and national land data banks. This approach could be piloted in some select districts in various parts of the country, and a comprehensive plan could be prepared. However, such an approach is not yet finalized.

(d) and (e) The replacement of the two existing schemes with the new comprehensive scheme is not finalized yet.

IT Refund

2671. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission to State Bank of India to handle Income Tax (IT) refunds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has called for bids from other banks to appoint them to handle IT refunds; and

(d) if so, the details of banks which have submitted their bids in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a pilot scheme of Refund Banker has been launched in Delhi and Patna under the scheme, the refund data is sent to State bank of India by Income Tax Department after processing of Income-tax return. Within three days of receiving the data, SBI dispatches refund cheques by speed post or sends refund through ECS.

(c) and (d) At this stage, this is a pilot scheme being implemented by Income tax Department and State Bank of India. Accordingly, no bids have been called from other banks to appoint them to handle IT refunds.

Financial Assistance to Karnataka

2672. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to Karnataka during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Karnataka for more financial assistance to fund its developmental projects and resurrection of flood affected people of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Central assistance released by Ministry of Finance to Government of Karnataka during last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1. Plan Assistance	2104.37	2292.66	1455.78
2. Non-Plan Grant	524.27	459.11	645.87
3. Share in Central Taxes	3244.73	3878.44	4213.42
4. Small Savings Loan	2733.05	4266.19	4327.25
Total	8606.42	10896.40	10642.32

(b) to (d) Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for long term requirement of funds for restoration

of damaged infrastructure due to heavy floods of 2005. The details of funds sought are for the following sectors:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Activity	Project requirement of the State Government
1.	Rehabilitation of Roads and Bridges	1070.82
2.	Rehabilitation of Irrigation works	167.84
3.	Repairs of Buildings	55.80
4.	Reconstruction of Electrical Works	41.16
5.	Restoration of Water Supply and Sanitation	112.58
Total		1448.20

An Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been set up under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to assess the financial requirements of the States which suffered from natural calamities during the year 2005. The proposal of Karnataka for considering of funds is under consideration of IMC.

Expansion of Simhadri Power Project

2673. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Simhadri Thermal Power Station, Visakhapatnam is being expanded;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new unit of the station is likely to become functional and the additional power proposed to be generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. NTPC proposes to expand the capacity of its existing Simhadri Thermal Power Project (Simhadri TPP, 2x500 MW), by adding 1000 MW capacity in Stage-II.

Feasibility report for Simhadri TPP, Stage-II (2x500 MW) has been finalized with an estimated cost of the project as Rs. 4844.40 crores (At 3rd Qtr. 2006 price

level). Various input tie-ups and clearances including environment clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests are being processed.

Subject to timely clearances/approvals both 500 MW units of the project are envisaged for commissioning in 11th Plan period. Additional average daily power generation from Simhadri Stage-II (2x500 MW) after Commercial Operation Date (COD) will be 19.2 Mega Units (MUs) at 80% Plant Load Factor (PLF) and 21.6 MUs at 90% PLF.

[Translation]

Starvation Deaths

2674. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether starvation and poverty is widespread in the country, particularly rural and backward areas where people are not having any income due to drought and are dying of starvation;

(b) if so, the deaths of such details during the Tenth Plan period, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation;

(d) whether the Government proposes to approved some scheme for construction of rural roads, digging of tanks, water works etc. under the rural development programmes for the affected people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) No incidence of starvation death has been reported by any State Governments/Union Territory in the country so far.

(c) To maintain food security in the country, the Government is allocating foodgrains at subsidized rates for people living under Below Poverty Line (BPL), Above Poverty Line (APL) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) under Targeted Public Distribution System and for the following Welfare Schemes:—

- (i) Mid day Meal (administered by Ministry of Human Resources Development)
- (ii) Wheat Based Nutrition Programme and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent girls (administered by Ministry of Women and Child Development)
- (iii) Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Special Component of SGRY (administered by Ministry of Rural Development)
- (iv) Annapurna Scheme
- (v) Village Grain Banks Scheme.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of schemes for Rural Development for poverty reduction, employment generation and rural infrastructure and amenities creation. Under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, wage employment is provided and assets are created including rural roads, tanks and water works etc. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, rural connectivity is provided by constructing all-weather roads. Under Indira Awaas Yojana, assistance is provided to the rural poor to construct houses. The programmes of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Total Sanitation Campaign aims at providing basic amenities like safe drinking water and sanitation. Similarly the programmes of Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme aims at enhancing livelihood by adopting watershed approach in rural areas.

[English]

Surplus in Revenue Accounts

2675. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether of late most of the States have shown surplus in their aggregate revenue accounts;

(b) if so, the details of revenue accounts for each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts made for revenue collections by the Union Government and State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A number of States have shown revenue surplus in their revenue accounts. The details of such states for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The efforts made for revenue collections by the Union Government and State Governments are:

(i) The Union Government has taken the following steps to maximise collection of direct taxes:

1. Monitoring of the recovery of arrears by a Task Force.
2. Monitoring of advance tax payments by top taxpayers by the senior officers of the Department of Revenue.
3. Detection of new areas of violation/avoidance of the provisions of TDS and taking action for proper deduction and deposit of TDS.
4. Selection of cases under scrutiny based on objective financial indicators and proper risk assessment.

5. Further computerization of the business processes and databases of the Department of Revenue for linking of information and reporting of high value transactions.
6. Cross-verification of data collected through Annual Information Return with return of income and issuance of notices in suitable cases.
7. Conducting of surveys at a large scale for detection of concealment and for compliance of TDS.
8. Collection of data of purchase of luxury goods and issuance of notices in suitable cases.
9. Multi-media campaign to encourage voluntary compliance of tax laws.

(ii) The most significant tax reform measure taken by State Governments for enhancing their tax revenues is the implementation of State level Value Added Tax (VAT), replacing the earlier Sales Tax systems. VAT is the most efficient system of indirect taxation, which has provided very good buoyancy to the tax revenues of the States. VAT implementing States have shown significant improvement in the revenue performance and the tax revenues.

Statement

States showing Revenue Surplus in the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	States	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 RE
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	+184	-8	+222
2.	Bihar	-1107	+1076	-153
3.	Chhattisgarh	-641	+146	+782
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	+1910	+1577	+1816
5.	Jharkhand	+142	-1111	-1553
6.	Karnataka	-525	+1638	+1187

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Madhya Pradesh	-4476	+1717	-25
8.	Manipur	-44	+92	+482
9.	Meghalaya	+85	-50	+131
10.	Mizoram	+83	+107	+182
11.	Nagaland	+547	+155	+461
12.	Sikkim	+160	+169	+199
13.	Tripura	+106	+394	+515

Source: RBI Publication called State Finances, A Study of Budgets of 2005-06 and 2006-07.

- Sign denotes revenue deficit and + denotes revenue surplus.

RE indicates Revised Estimates.

Setting Up of Power Projects Abroad

2676. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydro Power Corporation has signed any agreements with some neighbouring countries for setting up of power projects there;

(b) if so, the details along with the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of each project to be executed; and

(d) the details of power plants set by NHPC so far abroad?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No agreement has been signed as yet with any neighboring country for setting up of hydro projects by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC). However, NHPC has signed an agreement on 29-09-2006 with the Department of Energy, Royal Government of Bhutan for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project (672 MW) in Bhutan.

(d) The details of power plants so far executed by NHPC abroad on turnkey/deposit basis are as under:

Sl. No.	Project	Country	Capacity (MW)	Year of completion
1.	Devighat	Nepal	14.1	1984
2.	Kurichu	Bhutan	60	2002

[Translation]

Coverage of the Poor under IAY

2677. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages which have extremely poor and backward inhabitants without SCs/STs have not been covered under the Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY);

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) guidelines provide, inter alia, that a maximum 40% of the total IAY allocation during a year could be utilized for construction/upgradation of dwelling units for non SC/ST BPL rural households and at least 60% for SC/ST BPL rural households. The funds are allocated to the States/Districts giving due weightage to housing shortage and poverty ratio at State level and housing

shortage and SC/ST population at District level. The District Panchayat/Zilla Panchayat/District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) on the basis of allocations made and targets fixed, decide the number of houses to be constructed/upgraded Panchayat-wise under IAY, during a particular financial year. A Statement showing the State-wise funds utilized and houses constructed for non-SC/ST households during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Funds Utilised and number of Houses Constructed for Non-SC/ST population during 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the Indira Awaas Yojana

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ UTs	2005-06		2006-07	
		Funds Utilised on Non SC/ST	Number of Houses Con- structed for Non SC and ST	Funds Utilised on Non SC/ST	Number of Houses Con- structed for Non SC and ST
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13375.00	56746	7621.88	31537
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0
3.	Assam	10003.38	44307	10309.25	32503
4.	Bihar	38655.11	144949	33982.81	104081
5.	Chhattisgarh	1747.61	8848	965.83	877
6.	Goa	152.51	555	74.42	595
7.	Gujarat	6121.07	23821	3582.44	11586
8.	Haryana	910.50	3653	481.45	1314
9.	Himachal Pradesh	352.27	1284	253.48	487
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1834.88	8231	1637.49	6029
11.	Jharkhand	4065.65	22979	2632.87	10791
12.	Karnataka	5245.29	23165	3831.19	15582
13.	Kerala	3081.82	15615	1789.18	7005

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3842.81	19171	3065.50	8437
15.	Maharashtra	8365.33	36601	4866.62	13344
16.	Manipur	134.04	473	0.00	0
17.	Meghalaya	21.47	151	0.80	0
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0	0.00	0
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0	0.00	0
20.	Orissa	8506.82	33217	3563.56	12887
21.	Punjab	297.38	1138	152.53	795
22.	Rajasthan	2878.56	13129	1425.94	2883
23.	Sikkim	146.13	678	126.68	446
24.	Tamil Nadu	6968.01	26018	3561.60	803
25.	Tripura	1148.36	4327	553.42	1155
26.	Uttar Pradesh	17887.55	73017	12328.34	47591
27.	Uttaranchal	1974.28	12916	1086.03	7464
28.	West Bengal	7537.64	37130	7539.54	32571
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12.18	90	12.29	50
30.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0
31.	Daman and Diu	0.14	1	0.23	1
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0.00	0
33.	Pondicherry	56.07	162	26.17	157
Total		145321.86	612382	105471.54	350971

[English]

Promotion of Bio-Tech Market

2678. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote

the bio-tech market in view of great potential to emerge as a global player in the sector;

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

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Government during 2005-06 and 2006-07 for promotion of bio-tech in the country;

(d) the criteria for allocation of such assistance; and

(e) the system evolved to regulate the bio-tech regimes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has taken a very proactive view for the promotion of biotech market keeping in view the strength and potential of the biotech industry of the country. The Government has taken various steps in terms of fiscal incentives, tax benefits, custom duty rationalization for the promotion of biotech market. For the promotion of biotech products, apart from various research and development programmes, the Department of Biotechnology has initiated a programme for public-private partnership in the form of Small Business Innovative Research Initiative (SBIRI) during 2005-2006.

(c) and (d) The Department initiated SBIRI programme for the promotion of biotech industry and the biotech products market during 2005-2006. An assistance of Rs. 1648 lakhs was earmarked for the year 2005-2006 and Rs. 1100 lakhs have been spent during the year 2006-2007. The criteria for allocation of such funds is based on the recommendations and approval of the Planning Commission and can be accessed at <http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/or> www.dbtindia.gov.in/.

(e) To regulate the biotech regime in the country, the Government has evolved a biotech regulatory system under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and the Rules 1989 thereunder. Under this Act, the biotech products are regulated through Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). The IBSC and RCGM are serviced by the Department of Biotechnology while GEAC is serviced by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

National Urban Infrastructure Fund

2679. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering for setting up of National Urban Infrastructure Fund to provide long term finance to bankrupt urban local bodies in the country under JNNURM;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Planning Commission has raised objection for allowing municipalities to raise money or participation of private financial institutions as HUDCO in performing this role; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the details of the proposal could be known only after it is firmed up.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Planning Commission has suggested that there may be no need for setting up of a new financial institution like proposed National Urban Infrastructure Fund and its Asset Management Company to perform function that could properly be assigned to an already existing organization like HUDCO.

Audit of Petroleum Companies

2680. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ordered as audit into the records of 12 public sector oil giants like IOC, ONGC etc. to evolve better norms to price the products and to calculate the subsidy to be granted to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to monitor petroleum and gas activities to ensure transparency and to protect interest of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Government has issued an order in exercise of powers u/s 233 B of the Companies Act, 1956 that audit of cost records as maintained under Cost Accounting Records (Petroleum Industry) Rules, 2002 be conducted in respect of the companies indicated at the enclosed Statement, for the year ending 31-03-07 and every financial year thereafter.

(c) The physical and financial activities of oil PSUs are monitored by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through regular quarterly performance review meetings. Besides, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory

Board is being set up to promote competition in the oil and gas sector, ensure transparency and to protect the interest of the consumers.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Company
1.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.
2.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
4.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
6.	IBP Co. Ltd.
7.	Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd.
8.	Oil India Ltd.
9.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
10.	Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.
11.	Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.
12.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.

Aid Package by ADB

2681. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed to double its aid package to more than \$ 2.5 billion annually to the country within next three years and also to support Bharat Nirman and other infrastructure projects in various key sectors such as energy including power, rail freight corridor, roads and highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreements between ADB and the respective Ministries have been signed;

(d) if so, the amount of aid to be provided by ADB for all these sectors, project-wise; and

(e) the progress made so far in completing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government of India and Asian Development Bank have tentatively finalized the ADB's Country Strategy Program for 2007-2009. The ADB will make efforts to increase its lending to India from US \$ 2.45 billion in 2007 to US \$ 2.65 billion in 2008 to US \$ 2.85 billion in 2009. The loans are in sectors identified by the Government of India to combat poverty through infrastructure-led growth. Nearly 77% of the three-year program focuses on core infrastructure projects including Transport (National Highways, State Roads, Rural Roads, Railways and Urban Transport); Urban (Water and Sanitation, City Development, Municipal Reform); and Energy (Power Sector Reforms, Transmission and Distribution, Hydropower). The Rural Roads component is a part of the Government's Bharat Nirman.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The finalization of ADB's annual loan portfolio is done each calendar year (2007, 2008 and 2009) in consultation with the line Ministries and State Governments.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals under ARWSP and TSC

2682. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various States under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) during the last three years and current year, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposals out of them cleared so far, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for delay in clearing all the proposals; and

(e) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) Under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), funds are allocated to the States at the beginning of each financial year. States are empowered to plan, sanction and implement proposals at their level. Projects proposals are not received at the Center.

Under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), district-wise proposals are received at the Center and sanctioned by the National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) constituted for the purpose. The number of projects received and sanctioned during the last three years and current year, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement. The NSSC meeting is convened as many times as required in the year to sanction pending projects.

Statement

The status of TSC Projects proposals

Sl.No.	State	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	
		Number of Proposals Received and Approved			Approved	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	0	0	0	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	10	0	
3.	Assam	3	1	5	2	1
4.	Bihar	0	0	22	0	
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	1	8	1	
6.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	
7.	Goa	1	0	0	0	
8.	Gujarat	0	20	0	0	
9.	Haryana	12	0	0	1	
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	5	0	
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	0	0	0	
12.	Jharkhand	0	16	0	0	
13.	Karnataka	0	15	9	0	
14.	Kerala	0	0	1	0	
15.	Madhya Pradesh	30	0	0	0	
16.	Maharashtra	13	0	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	1	4
18.	Meghalaya	2	0	1	3	
19.	Mizoram	1	0	6	0	
20.	Nagaland	0	0	1	4	
21.	Orissa	0	15	0	0	
22.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	
23.	Punjab	9	0	2	0	
24.	Rajasthan	0	11	11	0	
25.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	
26.	Tamil Nadu	6	1	0	0	
27.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	
28.	Uttar Pradesh	29	0	0	0	
29.	Uttarakhand	7	0	0	0	
30.	West Bengal	3	0	0	1	
Total		132	80	81	13	5

[English]

Performance of Banks

2683. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reviewed the performance of all commercial banks;

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

(c) whether RBI has directed the banks to report individual profit and loss for various business segments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for issuing such directives; and

(f) the extent to which such directives are likely to bring transparency in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In accordance with Section 36(2) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) prepares and submits to the Central Government an annual report on the "Trend and Progress of Banking in India", which covers, inter-alia, a comprehensive review of the performance of the banking system during the year. RBI has published the report for 2005-06 and has placed the same in public domain on its website www.rbi.org.in.

(c) to (f) To ensure greater disclosures for enhanced transparency in accordance with Accounting Standards (AS)—17 under segment reporting, RBI has issued draft guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks (excluding

RRBs) revising its previous circular issued in March, 2003, recategorising various business segments for reporting purpose. In the draft guidelines, the segment 'Other Banking Business' has been divided into three segments viz. Corporate/Wholesale Banking, Retail Banking and Other Banking Operations, and thus increasing the number of segments from three to five.

Garbage Based Energy Project

2684. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Technical Development Corporation and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (IL and FSL) jointly proposed to set up a garbage based energy project in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the power shortage problem in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh Technology Development and Promotion Centre and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd. are jointly developing two projects for processing of Municipal Solid Wastes in Delhi for implementation in Public Private Partnership mode. These projects include power generation component of about 16 MW from about 2000 tonnes per day of garbage at Timarpur and Okhla, and about 12-15 MW from about 1200-1500 tonnes per day of garbage at Ghazipur.

(c) Government is implementing and Accelerated Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban Wastes aimed at processing and treatment of garbage for safe disposal and to augment power generation in urban centres. The Programme provides for financial and fiscal incentives for setting up projects for energy recovery from urban wastes including garbage. During a hearing on Writ Petition No. 888 held on May 6, 2005, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has stayed any further subsidies by Government for projects on energy recovery from Municipal Solid Waste.

PAN-Card for Trading in Shares

2685. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether PAN-Card is now mandatory for Demat Account and Trading in shares and securities; and

(b) if so, the procedure for disposal of the shares and securities held by individuals who have no PAN-Card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) In order to enhance "Know Your Client" norms, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made Permanent Account Number (PAN) mandatory for opening demats accounts on or after April 1, 2006. In respect of demat accounts opened before April 1, 2006, it is mandatory for the account holders to provide PAN to Depositories by December 31, 2006. Similarly, SEBI has made furnishing details of PAN mandatory for trading in cash segments of exchanges with effect from January 1, 2007. It was already mandatory for trades in the futures and options segment of exchanges.

(b) Where a person does not have a PAN, the demat account has been "suspended for debit" after December 31, 2006 till it is provided. Once the Beneficial Owner (BO) complies with the PAN requirement, the demat account will be defrozen by the Depository Participant (DP) and thereafter, the BO can sell the securities lying in his/her account.

Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property

2686. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given its assent for signing the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property under the international pact which aims to provide for a presumption of immunity as supported by the principles of International Law;

(b) if so, whether this treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly;

(c) whether India will joint 18 nations which are already signatory to the Convention; and

(d) if so, the manner in which it is likely to be beneficial for India?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes Sir, India has signed the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property on 12th January 2007.

(b) Yes Sir, the Convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by resolution A/59/38 on 2nd December 2004.

(c) Yes Sir, India is one of the signatories to the Convention. 28 countries have signed the Convention out of which 4 countries have become party to the Convention by ratifying it.

(d) Participation in the Convention would promote uniformity in State practice as it incorporates rules negotiated and accepted by all countries. It would provide greater clarity and certainty of the law, and persons who enter into dealings with foreign States or their Embassies would be better aware of their legal rights in case any disputes were to arise.

Criminal Cases against Reliance Group

2687. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases received from other Ministries/Departments for legal opinion on criminal cases against Reliance Group of Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several cases are pending with the Ministry of Law and Justice for several years;

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

(e) the time by which the legal opinion against Reliance Group of Industries is likely to be given by the Government; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Companies not Paying Taxes

2688. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many foreign companies are not paying taxes in India, having full-fledged business operation in the country by declaring 'No Direct Presence in the Country', and obtaining 'No Permanent Establishment Certificate' (PE) in India;

(b) whether any survey/examination has been conducted by the Income-tax department or by any other agency to identify such global companies;

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

(d) action taken against guilty companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Under the Double Tax Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs), foreign companies doing business in India are required to pay tax if they are operating through a Permanent Establishment (PE) in India. There have been disputes in a number of cases as to the existence of a permanent establishment in India. However, no certificate of existence or non-existence of PE is issued by the Department. The Reserve Bank of India grants permission to the foreign companies to open liaison/representatives offices which are not permitted to do business. Where a liaison office is found to be conducting business, it would be required to pay taxes and the Department takes suitable action whenever any such information comes in its possession.

(b) to (d) Surveys/examinations are conducted from time to time and the cases in which any violation of domestic law is noticed, action is taken as per the provisions of the law.

(e) The Ministry of Finance, through the office of Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation), is constantly investigating and assessing such cases and suitable action is being taken as per the provisions of the domestic law read with the respective DTAA.

*[Translation]***Smuggling of Petroleum Products**

2689. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether petroleum products are being smuggled through the western coasts;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the government to check the smuggling petroleum products?

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

(b) During the last 3 years, 18 persons have been arrested in this regard.

(c) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent and thwart attempts to smuggle Petroleum Products into the country through the Western coast.

*[English]***Detection of Weapons**

2690. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs officials in Kochi have recently detected 47 pistols and 37 Air Guns in a container originating from Dubai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are as below:—

On 09-01-2007, during the examination of the consignment imported by M/s. Premier Exports, Cochin, 49 numbers of Air pistols and 37 numbers of Air Rifles were found concealed inside eleven cartons of T.V. stands and one carton of lighting fixture.

(c) The air rifles and air pistols have been seized. 5 persons have been arrested for offences punishable under Section 135 of Customs Act.

*[Translation]***Zonal Plans under Delhi Master Plan 2021**

2691. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to prepare Zonal Plans under Delhi Master Plan 2021;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time frame fixed for preparation of such Zonal Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Master Plan of Delhi 2021, which was notified by the Central Government on 7-2-2007, provides for preparation of Zonal Plans in the form of structural plans, within 12 months of its approval. The preparation of Zonal Plans is also governed under the relevant provisions of the Delhi Development Act, 1957.

*[English]***Loan to Small Scale Industries**

2692. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries (SSIs) find it difficult to get loans from Government financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loan provided to the SSIs by the Government financial institutions during each of the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure easy provision of loans to the SSIs?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The amount of outstanding loans provided by Public Sector Banks to Small Scale Industries during the years ending March, 2005 and March, 2006 are Rs. 67,800 and Rs. 82,492 crores, respectively.

(d) Besides the Government's "Policy Package on Stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector" envisaging 20% year on year growth in credit to SMEs, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formulated a scheme to encourage banks to establish mechanisms for better co-ordination between their branches and branches of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) which are located in clusters identified by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for co-financing of SMEs on mutually agreeable operational modalities. Modification in Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for upgradation of SSI sector, introduction of Credit Rating Scheme by National Small Industries Corporation and setting up SME Rating Agency by SIDBI are some other measures taken by the Government and RBI to increase the credit flow to SME sector. Further, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 has been enacted to cater to the needs of SME sector.

Open Market Borrowings

2693. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of prepayment of outstanding State Open Market Borrowing (OMB) was discussed in the 18th conference of State Finance Secretaries;

(b) if so, the details of decision taken thereon;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka has made any requests to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereon?

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

Based on the requests of State Governments, a general scheme for buyback of State Development Loans (SDL) through auction route has been drawn up through consultation between RBI, Government of India and State

Governments. Government of India has already communicated its concurrence to RBI regarding the buyback proposal of Government of Karnataka, as also of Orissa, Gujarat and Rajasthan vide letter dated February 2, 2007.

[Translation]

Cleanliness Campaign

2694. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to some Non-Government Organisations to launch cleanliness campaign in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of amount provided by the Government for cleanliness campaign in the country during the last three years; and

(d) the States which have been included in this campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Fake Insurance Business

2695. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the ongoing fake insurance business in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government to check such fake insurance business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

(IRDA) has reported that it was not aware of any fake insurance business being conducted in any part of the country. However, out of 2.51 crore policies procured by LIC upto 28-02-2007 in the current financial year, four cases of fraud have been reported where insurance was taken on the life of non-existent persons.

(c) The provisions of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Act, 1999, enable check fake insurance business, which have proved to be effective.

Medical Instrument

2696. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical electronic instruments are being manufactured in the country;

(b) if so, whether such instruments are manufactured with indigenous techniques;

(c) the percentage of indigenous and imported instruments being supplied in medical field of the country; and

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure marketing of electronic instruments as per the standards of medical field?

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

(b) The medical electronic instruments are being manufactured in India using indigenous as well as imported technologies.

(c) According to a recent Ernst and Young study on healthcare, around 30% of the medical instruments supplied in the medical field in the country are manufactured indigenously and the balance 70% are imported.

(d) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been developing and maintaining standards for various medical instruments in the country. As regards medical instruments in the field of nuclear medicine, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) certifies that the instruments meet the internationally acceptable radiation safety norms. These standards as well as international standards such

as FDA/CE etc. are being followed for medical instrument sales in the country.

Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCB)

2697. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of debts of sick and closed Public Sector Undertakings outstanding in Public Sector Banks in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for One Time Settlement (OTS) for settlement of these accounts without interest and easy terms; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) State Government of Kerala has requested for One Time Settlement (OTS)/restructuring of dues of several state public sector entities towards three public sector banks i.e. State Bank of India, State Bank of Travancore and Vijaya Bank. The request of the State Government has been referred to the concerned banks which are empowered to take appropriate decisions after considering their recovery policies, securities available in the respective accounts and merit of each case.

Smuggling of Narcotics

2698. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has included India in the list of countries engaged in production and smuggling of narcotics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has lodged its protest with the U.S. Government in the said matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The US domestic law (Section 706 (1) of the Foreign Relations Authorisation Act) requires the US

President to identify countries as 'major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries', referred to as the "Major List" India has been included in this list. The US President is also required under section 706(2) (A) of the Act to identify any country on the 'Majors List' that "failed demonstrably" during the previous 12 months to adhere to international counter narcotics agreements or to take counter narcotics measures set forth in US law. India has not been listed as a country that has "failed demonstrably".

(c) and (d) The Government of India has taken up the matter with the US Government. The US Government has indicated that India's inclusion in the "Majors List" is primarily because of the 'large-scale diversion from licit opium production into the illicit market'. US has requested information over a period of time that diversion from licit production has been reduced to a modest problem.

High Level Committee on Power Projects

2699. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a high level Committee to examine the pros and cons of bulk ordering for power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

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

(b) A committee was constituted comprising Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Chairman and Managing Director, National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC), Member (Thermal), CEA and Director (Technical), NTPC to examine the pros and cons of bulk ordering for following options:

- (i) Negotiated Contract with BHEL.
- (ii) International Competitive Bidding (ICB) with the mandatory requirement of setting up manufacturing base in India.

(c) The Committee has already submitted its report in July, 2006.

TDS from Mumbai

2700. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) tax collected at source by the Income Tax Department during 2005-06;

(b) whether Income Tax authorities at Mumbai have set any target for collection of tax at source for the year 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and achievement made therefor as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) An amount of Rs. 58606.02 crore was collected by way of tax deducted at source (T.D.S.) during financial year 2005-06 by the Income Tax Department.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) An amount of Rs. 13,840 crore has been set as the target for collection of T.D.S. in Mumbai against which, an amount of Rs. 14,160.93 crore has been collected till 12th March, 2007.

Rural Electrification under DG Project

2701. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pilot projects started under joint programme on Distributed Generation (DG) and rural electrification between NTPC Ltd., and Tata Energy Resources Institute (TERI) have been successfully implemented; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the list of villages covered under the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As informed by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC), NTPC and TERI had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 15-3-2006 for a joint programme on distributed generation and rural electrification. Under this joint programme twenty two potential villages have been identified for distributed

generation project and Pre-Feasibility Reports for twenty two projects have been finalized by NTPC. None of the projects have been implemented so far.

Cases under NDPS Act

2702. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of

cases under NDPS Act and its conviction rate during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): The State-wise number of cases registered under the NDPS Act, 1985, and its conviction rate during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of Cases Registered (CR) and Conviction Rate (CNR) under NDPS Act, 1985 during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005

Sl.No.	State/UT	Year-2003		Year-2004		Year-2005	
		CR	CNR	CR	CNR	CR	CNR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	461	7.5	441	13.3	563	11.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22	—	30	—	39	100.0
3.	Assam	121	57.1	129	52.8	125	59.8
4.	Bihar	287	43.2	240	38.6	319	55.9
5.	Chhattisgarh	365	63.4	403	51.2	344	63.0
6.	Goa	26	73.7	30	75.0	31	81.8
7.	Gujarat	133	35.2	108	39.8	101	34.6
8.	Haryana	1686	39.2	1391	40.6	1427	49.4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	310	18.2	319	34.9	242	29.5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	176	2.2	162	5.5	192	11.8
11.	Jharkhand	49	68.3	48	68.3	53	31.4
12.	Karnataka	298	3.9	242	9.8	292	10.6
13.	Kerala	435	65.3	451	61.7	409	49.2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	759	63.3	900	57.0	869	54.5
15.	Maharashtra	470	14.7	804	34.9	1365	64.1
16.	Manipur	115	76.5	75	30.8	65	47.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17. Meghalaya		11	40.0	14	—	24	—
18. Mizoram		122	97.0	212	71.4	89	72.2
19. Nagaland		117	100.0	142	99.7	143	89.9
20. Orissa		111	23.1	123	26.9	97	22.9
21. Punjab		3345	57.6	3226	53.3	4464	60.2
22. Rajasthan		712	41.6	856	47.5	973	44.4
23. Sikkim		4	25.0	3	33.3	6	—
24. Tamil Nadu		4227	74.3	5916	71.0	4390	71.3
25. Tripura		17	50.0	23	—	81	3.8
26. Uttar Pradesh		11320	69.4	9330	70.1	10283	70.3
27. Uttaranchal		346	87.5	258	69.2	367	82.1
28. West Bengal		452	13.6	399	20.9	485	9.9
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		1	25.0	2	100.0	3	—
30. Chandigarh		65	100.0	89	61.1	164	84.3
31. Dadar and Nagar Haveli		0	—	1	—	0	100.0
32. Daman and Diu		0	—	3	—	2	—
33. Delhi		1150	85.9	1237	66.2	1410	64.2
34. Lakshadweep		0	—	0	—	2	—
35. Pondicherry		0	100.0	1	100.0	2	—
Total (All India)		27913	61.2	27608	60.1	29421	60.9

NPA and Economic Offences

2703. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of growth in size of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) in banking sector and the frequency of economic offences, the Reserve Bank of India

has urged the Government for creation of an independent and insulated Serious Fraud Office to deal with such incidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has contemplated any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not urged the Government for creation of an independent and insulated Serious Fraud Office to deal with the growth in size of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) and the frequency of economic offences.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Levying AIDS Tax

2704. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Country in the world levy AIDS tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request from France has been received by the Government of India for imposing AIDS tax on air travel; and

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

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

Seizure of Gold

2705. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Gold seized by various agencies during each of last three years;

(b) its market value at the time of seizure; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The quantity of Gold seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Customs field formations, and its market value at the time of seizure during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity	Value
2003-04	26.29	2.48

Year	Quantity	Value
2004-05	17.189	1.61
2005-06	18	1.77

(c) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent and thwart attempts to smuggle Gold in to the country.

Service Tax on Advertising Space in Newspapers

2706. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has ever informed the general public about the non-applicability of service-tax on advertising space in newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such an assurance has been implemented by the Government in letter and spirit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Any service provided in relation to scale of space or time for advertisement is specified as taxable service under section 65(105) (zzzm) of the Finance Act, 1994. Sale of space for advertisement in print media is specifically excluded from the scope of the said taxable service. Print media includes newspaper as defined in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. In view of the foregoing provisions, sale of space for advertisement in newspaper is not leviable to service tax.

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

Ayurvedic Mouthwash for Cancer Patients

2707. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed an

ayurvedic mouthwash for oral cancer patients suffering from radiation associated mucositis;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with results of clinical study undertaken;

(c) whether the CSIR purposes to file global patent for the said mouthwash;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said mouthwash available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir.

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12.00 noon.

11.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Twelve of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003—

- (i) The Qualifications, Powers and Functions of Chief Electrical Inspector and Electrical

Inspectors Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 481(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2006.

- (ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fee) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. L-7/25(8)/2004/CERC in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2006.

- (iii) The Indian Electricity Grid Code (Second Amendment), 2006 published in Notification No. L-7/25(6)/2004/CERC in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2006.

- (iv) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in Inter-state Transmission) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. L-7/25(6)/2004/CERC in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2006.

- (v) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure for making of application for determination of tariff, publication of the application and other related matters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. L-7/25(7)/2004/CERC in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2006.

- (vi) The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (Procedure, Form, Fee and Record of Proceedings) Rule, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 33(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) of item (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5979/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 2005-2006.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) at above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5980/07]

- (5) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5981/07]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Urban Development for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5982/07]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5983/07]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi 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 Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5984/07]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2007-2008.

...(Interruptions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5985/07]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5986/07]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5987/07]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Science and Technology for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5988/07]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5989/07]

- (3) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Science and Technology for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5990/07]

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

- (4) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Bio-Technology for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5991/07]

- (5) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5992/07]

- (6) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5993/07]

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Cost and Works Accountants (Election to the Council) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 712(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th November 2006 under section 40 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 81(E) dated the 13th February, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5994/07]

- (2) A copy of the Visvesvaraya Vidyuth Nigama Limited, and the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited Amalgamation Order, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 2100(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 2006 under Sub-section (5) of section 396 of Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5995/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of

Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5996/07]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5997/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 41(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 2007 under section 9 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5998/07]

- (2) A copy of the UCO Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.OSR/1/2006 in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5999/07]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 95(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 53/2003-Customs (NT) dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (ii) G.S.R. 96(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 52/2003-Customs (NT) dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (iii) G.S.R. 98(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making to certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
- (iv) G.O. 281(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currency into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.
- (v) G.O. 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currency into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.
- (vi) G.S.R. 117(E) to G.S.R. 131(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs duty changes in context of the Budget proposals

announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2007.

- (vii) G.S.R. 168(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
- (viii) G.S.R. 172(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (ix) G.S.R. 179(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (x) G.S.R. 110(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 45/2005-Cus. dated the 16th May, 2005.
- (xi) G.S.R. 105(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 75/2005-Cus. dated the 22nd July, 2005.
- (xii) G.S.R. 106(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 69/2004-Cus. dated the 9th July, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6000/07]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 99(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind two Notifications mentioned therein.

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

- (ii) G.S.R. 132(E) to G.S.R. 154(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise duty changes and exemption in context of Budget proposals pertaining to indirect taxes as announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2007.
- (iii) G.S.R. 178(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2007 together an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment in Notification No. 6/2006-CE dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (iv) The CENVAT Credit (Third Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 185(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) G.S.R. 167(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2007 together an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 3/2006-CE(NT) dated the 1st March, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6001/07]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 107(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2007 containing corrigendum to Notification No. 178(E) dated the 25th March, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6002/07]

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 155(E) to G.S.R. 166(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2007 together an explanatory memorandum regarding certain changes made in service tax in context of the Budget proposals announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2007 under sub-section (4) of Section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6003/07]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1974:-

- (i) G.S.R. 128(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 42/96-Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (ii) G.S.R. 186(E) and G.S.R. 187(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provisionally exempt imports of vitrified and porcelain tiles, other than industrial vitrified tiles, produced and exported by specified parties from anti-dumping duty.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6004/07]

- (9) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 102(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 2007 together an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the first Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 issued under section 11A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6005/07]

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Fourteenth Report

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence (2006-07) on 'Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'.

...(Interruptions)

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Twenty-third to Twenty-sixth Reports

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development:—

- (1) Twenty-Third Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (2) Twenty-Fourth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Nineteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (3) Twenty-Fifth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development); and
- (4) Twenty-Sixth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-First Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

12.03 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Dilip Waman Pagare and other casual workers of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited regarding giving benefits to casual workmen employed

by HAL, Nashik Division, Ozar (Nashik) as are being granted to workmen of Hyderabad Division placed in similar conditions i.e. Hyderabad pattern.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6006/07]

12.03½ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

- (i) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 12th, 14th, 15th and 18th Reports of the Standing Committee on Energy pertaining to the Ministry of Power**

*THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I beg to lay this statement on the present status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twelfth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Eighteenth Reports of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy in pursuance of direction 73A of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 1st September 2004.

The 12th Report is related to Demand for Grants for the year 2006-07. It has seventeen recommendations, all of which have been accepted by the Government.

The 14th Report is related to The Electrify (Amendment) Bill, 2005. It has eight recommendations, three of which have been accepted and two have not been accepted. Factual position on the remaining three recommendations has been explained as the committee has not indicated any specific action.

The Fifteenth report is related to "Implementation of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme". It has 6 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by the Government.

As regards 18th Report which is based on 'Demand for Grants of Ministry of Power, 2006-07', I am to State that the Report has been received in the Ministry on 19-12-2006 and all the recommendations made in the 18th Report are under consideration.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 6007/07

[Shri SushilKumar Shinde]

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in the said reports are indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House by reading out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the remaining part of the First part of the Budget Session will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of the National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2007.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:—
 - (a) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006;
 - (b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and
 - (c) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

Sir, I would like to move that after the passing of the Budget, Ordinance replacing Bills listed for the day should be taken up, and till they are disposed of, the Private Members' Business should be deferred. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

*SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Sir, these issues may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Declaration of the route from Salempur to Manchholi Pratappur and from Sonudhao upto Mehrauna Bihar Border via Ramjanki as National Highway and linking this route with the National Highway.
2. Providing Indira Awaas facility to the families affected by fire in 64 villages of Sultanpuri in Balla district as per the promise made by the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Government of India.

*SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, these issues may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Celebration of Lord Gautam Buddha's 2550th birth anniversary with much fanfare across the country and on the auspicious occasion of Lord Gautam Buddha's birth anniversary, setting up of a Central University in his memory by the name of Buddhist University in national capital, Delhi.
2. Conversion of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar memorial located at 26-Alipur Road in National Capital Delhi into a museum by the name of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Museum.

*SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, these issues may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. **Urgent need to establish the proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya at Deghao under the Syaldhe development block in Almora district of Uttarakhand.**
2. **Need for providing immediate relief to farmers who suffered heavy losses due to destruction of their crops and horticulture caused by the recent heavy snowfall and hailstorm in the hilly areas of the country especially in the hilly terrain of Uttarakhand.**

*Laid on the Table.

[English]

*SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, these issues may be included and discussed in the next weeks agenda:

1. Widening of National Highway No-9, between Hyderabad-Vijayawada into Four/Six lanes in Andhra Pradesh.
2. Impose of ban on the Gutka, which is injuries to people's health.

*SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, these issues may be included and discussed in the next weeks agenda.

1. There is a need to streamline the functioning of Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd., Kolkata on account of involvement of unscrupulous traders located at Silchar, Assam. It is learnt that the management is favouring these traders to earn exorbitant profits whereas other stockest have been deprived of to wipe out competition.
2. A revival package has been finalized by the Cabinet for B.C.P.L. but it can only be survived if the top management is withdrawn from the factory such as the tender of iron folic acid tablet in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh worth Rs. 12 crore with an expectation of getting Rs. 3-4 crore order by a contractor with GMP Certificates. After opening the tender the Asst. Drug Controller suspected that documents from Kanpur are not original. The Certificates have been circulated all over the country from marketing department and on base on this circular, depot have filled up the tender. The competitors also have collected the copy of the letter issued by Drug Controller. DF has sent a letter to WMK on 22nd February, 2007 and urge upon for vigilance enquiry.

[Translation]

*SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH (Sholapur): Sir, these issues may be included in the next weeks agenda:—

*Laid on the Table.

1. Deployment of railway employees at the unmanned railway gates particularly at night time in the country especially in Sholapur railway division.
2. Matter relating to the running of Sholapur-Pune-Sholapur intercity towards both directions at the same time and the introduction of an express train between Sholapur and Nagpur via Hyderabad.

[English]

*DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, these issues may be included in the next weeks agenda.

1. Need to raise the daily emoluments of casual employees of Air India working in Cochin air port to the level of their counterparts in Mumbai airport.
2. Need to change the terms of references of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee to study the agrarian crisis in Alappuzha district so as to include the entire Kuttanad, Onattukara, Kari-Land and Pokkali-Land and Fisheries sector in the Alappuzha district.

[Translation]

*SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Sir, these issues may be included in the next weeks agenda:—

1. In order to operate modern and new technology rail services on the narrow gauge route from Bharuch to Jabosar the work of converting this railway section into broad gauge.
2. By converting narrow railway line from Ankleshwar to Netrat which is laying inoperative, into broad gauge the work of extending this to Nandurbar in Maharashtra via Dediya Para Sagbara Sailamba so that the progress of the tribal people living in the adjacent villages of these railway divisions can be ensured.

*DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, these issues may be included in the next weeks agenda:—

*Laid on the Table.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

1. Providing immediate relief to the farmers affected by heavy downpour and hailstorm.
2. The discussion on the Bill to include Rajasthani language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

[English]

*SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The Scientific Adventure Council has recommended setting up an Indian Institute of Science and Research at Thiruvananthapuram with the Planning Commission approval. This issue may be included and discussed in the next weeks agenda.

The Regional Cancer Centre established in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala has to develop with modern amenities. The funds allotted by the Central Government be released forthwith. This may be an item in the agenda.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.30 p.m.

12.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Twelve-thirty of the Clock.*

12.30 hrs.

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

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

12.31 hrs.

*(At this stage Shri Subhash Maharia and some
other hon'ble Members came and stood on
the floor near the Table)*

*Laid on the Table.

GENERAL BUDGET, 2007-2008—GENERAL DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—(GENERAL), 2007-08

AND

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS— GENERAL, 2006-07

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item Nos. 18 to 20.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members belonging to different political parties who have participated in the debate on the Budget for 2007-08. ...(Interruptions) I have listened to most of the interventions and I have also studied the notes made on the other interventions. It seems to me that most Members have mixed views: while they are genuinely happy about the impressive growth of the economy, they are legitimately concerned about some aspects of the growth which affect sections of the people. ...(Interruptions) In fact, I share these sentiments, and I have given expression to them in the Budget speech. There is no doubt that we have recorded an unprecedented rate of growth, but the question is, is the growth inclusive? There is no doubt that there is an investment boom in the country, but the question is, is the investment across all sectors, especially agriculture? There is no doubt that more jobs have been created, but the question is, are there jobs available for all? In the course of my reply, I shall make an attempt to answer these questions. ...(Interruptions) I do not find Prof. Malhotra! Where is Prof. Malhotra who opened the debate? Is he the Deputy Leader of Opposition? ...(Interruptions) Is he the member of the BJP? ...(Interruptions)

I am grateful to hon. Prof. Malhotra who opened the debate on the General Budget. He did so in 2004-05 and in 2005-06 too. Although he is a sports lover, presumably he believes in sportsmanship only on the playground and not in Parliament! Not one word of acknowledgement or praise for a good programme escaped his lips—then and now. In 2004-05, he described the first Budget of the UPA

Government as "the poor man is being kicked". That year recorded a growth rate of 7.5 per cent. In 2005-06, he described the second Budget as "anti-poor, anti-middle class, anti-women, anti-farmer". That year recorded a growth rate of nine per cent. ...*(Interruptions)* The opening speaker on the Budget for 2006-07—not Prof. Malhotra—had also very harsh things to say about the Budget; nevertheless for 2006-07, the estimate of growth is 9.2 per cent. In a way, therefore, the harsh criticism of the Budget by the BJP is welcome. Such criticism appears to bode well for the economy. ...*(Interruptions)* The more vehement the criticism, the better the growth story turns out to be. May I therefore wish Prof. Malhotra—who has returned as the opening bowler in this year's Budget debate—many happy returns? In the interest of robust and sustained economic growth of the country, may I wish him a long life, many more years in the Opposition and many more speeches opposing the Budget! ...*(Interruptions)*

...*(Interruptions)*

The Budget may not have satisfied everyone, but there are surely aspects of the Budget which have been universally acclaimed. Why have these escaped the attention of Shri Malhotra and his friends? ...*(Interruptions)* The best answer to Shri Malhotra is a part of the speech of his colleague, Shri Swain. Let me quote Shri Swain.

"I agree to the point that the GDP rate is at its peak. The tax revenue has doubled. The fiscal deficit is a record low. The expenditure as a percentage of GDP is the lowest. The growth has been unprecedented."

Thank you, Shri Swain. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, I wonder what Shri Malhotra has to say on this. I think, only an extremely churlish opposition can find no merit at all in the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

Allow me to end by saying that strong fundamentals and faster growth has given us an opportunity to unfurl our sails and catch the wind. ...*(Interruptions)*

With these words, once again, I thank the hon. Members and I request them to kindly adopt the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I wish to lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

"Let me deal with the issue that is uppermost in the minds of most Honourable Members, and that is inflation. If you agree with the view shared by most economists, inflation is a monetary phenomenon. Look at the monetary aggregates: money supply is growing at 21 per cent. Non-food credit has increased, year on year, by 30 per cent. There are large inflows of foreign exchange. For example, in 2005-06, the remittances alone from Indians working overseas have been estimated at over US\$ 24 billion. So far, this year, we have added US\$ 42 billion (including valuation change) to the reserves. Besides, the high growth of the economy is fuelling demand, and supply of many items has not been able to keep pace with demand.

The current inflation is driven largely by the primary articles group. In the last few weeks, the contributors to inflation have been: maize, vegetable oils, fish, groundnut, atta, rice bran oil, cement and some items of steel, electrical machinery, and wires and cables. We had a similar situation of inflationary pressures in 1990-91, 1998-99 and 2002-03. As the supply of primary articles improved, inflation moderated subsequently. I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the supply side of some essential primary articles. For example, except in 1999-2000, wheat production has stagnated between 66 million and 72 million tonnes during the last 10 years. Rice production has remained between 81 million and 90 million tonnes during most of the ten year period. The production of pulses has not exceeded 14.9 million tonnes. Demand for each of these items is rising every year. The only long-term answer is to increase production and productivity.

Since inflation is a monetary phenomenon, RBI has the direct responsibility for maintaining price stability. When I met with the Central Board of the RBI recently, I pointed out that Government had been fully supportive of the RBI in the measures that it had taken and urged the RBI to continue to be vigilant and take such measures as are necessary to maintain price stability. The RBI has already taken a number of steps to moderate money supply. It has used instruments such as the repo rate, the MSS and the CRR. These monetary steps will temper core inflation over a period of time.

However, I may also note that monetary steps do

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

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not have the same impact on fuel and food items. For example, when crude oil prices hit US\$ 75 a barrel, the only way we could provide a cushion to the people was to absorb a large part of the price rise on the Budget and on the balance sheets of the oil companies. Subsequently, there was a supply-demand mismatch in sugar. This was followed by supply constraints in wheat and pulses. The long-term answer is to produce more in order to meet the rising demand. In the short term, we can only reduce customs duties as well as import these items to the extent they are available in the world market. And that is what we did. Customs duties were cut sharply. We imported 55 lakh tonnes of wheat to augment supplies in the domestic market. We have allowed import of pulses, edible oils, etc. at nil or low duties. We also curtailed exports of some essential commodities. It is because of these steps that inflation has been contained at the current level. The average inflation for 2006-07 is expected to be about 5.4 per cent.

Let me recall another period of high inflation in recent times. It was 2000-2001. For 48 out of 52 weeks in that year, inflation was over 6 per cent; in 22 of those weeks, inflation was over 7 per cent; and in 12 of those weeks, it was over 8 per cent. The principal contributor to inflation in that year was fuel and power. WPI inflation touched a high of 8.8 per cent in the week ending January 13, 2001 and average inflation for 2000-01 was 7.2 per cent. Inflation was moderated by the Government over the next six to twelve months.

The difference between 2000-01 and 2006-07 is that, in 2000-01, we had high inflation but modest growth. In that year, GDP grew by only 4.4 per cent. In 2006-07, GDP is growing at over 9 per cent. As the Prime Minister said a few days ago, "our effort is to moderate inflation without affecting growth". Let me assure the Honourable Members that Government has taken, and will take, fiscal, monetary and supply side measures to moderate inflation. I recognise the burden on the people, but this burden will ease over the next weeks and months.

The Congress Party became the single largest party at the last elections on the plank of the *aam admi*. We take this commitment to the *aam admi* seriously. My

friends in the opposition will be disappointed if they think that they can get away with ridiculing the *aam admi* or the programmes designed for the *aam admi*. Let me ask my friends in the opposition a few questions. Do you or do you not support the scheme to provide jobs for 100,000 physically challenged? Do you or do you not support the promise of 100,000 scholarships through a means-cum-merit national test? Do you or do you not support the *Aam Admi Bima Yojana* which intends to cover one crore rural landless households? If you do not support any of these proposals, you should have the courage to stand up and denounce them. But—I ask you respectfully—why do you keep silent? What does your silence mean? Are you surprised, are you cynical, or are you envious? Each one of these schemes has been possible because of growth, and because of the revenue the growth has brought to the exchequer. Each one of these schemes has been possible because we—the UPA Government—are confident that we can initiate them, implement them and deliver results. I ask Shri Malhotra and his friends, "Are you so economical with truth that you do not wish to acknowledge that these schemes are indeed for the benefit of the *aam admi*?"

I could list a number of other features in the Budget which are clearly targeted to bring benefit to the *aam admi*. In fact, I can hand over a four page document listing these features, if the Hon'ble Shri Malhotra and his friends would do me the favour of reading the document. At the top of the list is agriculture. There are other items like expansion of scholarships for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, OBCs and the minorities. There is relief to senior citizens. There is a programme for skill development. There is tax relief to the small scale industry, the small firm, the small company and the small service provider. Usually, the *aam admi* is a small person. By ridiculing or ignoring the various programmes announced for the small person, the opposition is actually ridiculing the *aam admi*.

Agriculture is at the top of the list because it is one sector which is lagging far behind the other two sectors, namely industry and services, in terms of growth. In the 27 quarters between the first quarter of 2000-01 and the third quarter of 2006-07, year-on-year average quarterly growth has been only 2.3 per cent in agriculture, compared

to 7.3 per cent and 8.4 per cent in industry and services, respectively.

Thus, for the first time in recent years, the Budget focuses sharply on agriculture. We have addressed the five critical issues that affect agriculture: credit, water, seeds, fertiliser and power. On farm credit, we have kept our promise of doubling farm credit; in fact, we have done it in two years against the promise of doing it in three. On water, there are more programmes in this Budget than in any previous Budget. We have made a beginning in restoring water bodies; we have a new programme for ground water recharge; and we have a new scheme for training farmers in water management. We have also increased substantially the outlay for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). As stated in the Budget speech, 35 projects will be completed in 2006-07 and additional irrigation potential of 900,000 hectares will be created. We hope to keep up the momentum in future years too. One seeds, we have identified the critical deficiency. Supplementing the existing programmes for production of certified seeds, we intend to launch a mission for doubling the production of certified seeds for different kinds of pulses in three years. On fertiliser, we have been generous in providing money for subsidizing fertilisers, and we have also promised that we intend to find ways and means to deliver fertiliser subsidy directly to the farmers. On power, the performance in the 8th, 9th and 10th Plans has been consistently below expectations. In the 9th Plan period, that is 1997-2002, against a planned capacity addition of 40,200 MW, the country added only 19,000 MW. I need not remind Hon'ble Member of who was in Government during that period. In the 10th Plan period, that is 2002-2007, against a planned capacity addition of 41,110 MW, the country was able to add only an estimated 23,163 MW. Both the NDA and the UPA Governments share responsibility for the poor performance. Acutely aware that we are falling behind in the race to balance supply and demand of electricity, the UPA Government has conceived, and is implementing, the Ultra Mega Power Projects Scheme (UMPP). Two UMPPs with a capacity of 4,000 MW each have been awarded and two more will be awarded by July 2007. Apart from this, we are expanding the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Project (APDRP). We are also increasing the pace of implementation under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana.

Honourable Members! Each one of these interventions is intended to promote agriculture growth. I have repeatedly pointed out that 115 million families are classified as farming families; 55 per cent of the work force is dependent on agriculture; and that nearly three-fifth of the population shares less than one-fifth of the GDP. The promotion of aricultural growth is therefore the key to inclusive growth. It is the best weapon to fight agrarian distress, rural poverty and rural unemployment on a durable basis. I believe that the initiatives that we have taken in this Budget will go a long way to revive agriculture and raise the growth rate in that sector to the desired level of 4 per cent.

A lot was said about interest rate on farm loans. As I am able to recall, it was only in 2003-04, that an attempt was made to moderate interest rates on farm loans. A band of plus or minus 2 per cent over the PLR was fixed. In that year, the PLR of five major banks was between 10.25 and 11 per cent. Hence, at best, the interest rate on farm loans could have been 8.25 per cent, but it is a matter of common knowledge that no one got a farm loan at 8.25 per cent.

In July 2003, public sector banks announced that crop loans will be given at 9 per cent.

When the UPA Government took office, the interest rate was 9 per cent. The amount of farm loans given in 2003-04 was Rs. 86,981 crore. Today, farm loans are available at 7 per cent from public sector banks, RRBs and co-operative banks. The Central Government gives a 2 per cent subvention. Many State Governments have added their own subvention and brought down the interest rate to 6 per cent or 5 per cent. What is important to note is that, at the lower rate, the total amount of farm credit in 2005-06 is expected to reach Rs. 190,000 crore and for 2007-08, we have indicated a target of Rs. 225,000 crore. We have kept our promise to double farm credit in three years; in fact we have done it in two years. More and more farmers are being brought into the fold of institutional credit. Every year, on average, about 60 lakh farmers are added to the clientele of banks. The revised draft National Policy for Farmers prepared by the National Commission on Farmers states at paragraph 1.5.6 on 'Credit' that

"The interest rate should be as low as possible. It should be possible to bring about a reduction in

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transaction cost by eliminating all forms of waste and inefficiency in the operation of the banking system.

The inefficiencies of the delivery system should not be loaded on the interest charged."

We shall keep in mind this recommendation while finalising the National Policy on farmers.

Many members referred to the implementation of the NREGS. Shri Singh Deo tried to compare the performance of States. Members will recall that NREGS was formally launched on February 2, 2006. Hence, the first full year for the programme is 2006-07, and that year is not yet over. It would be too early to judge the efficacy of the scheme or to pronounce on the quality of the expenditure or the management of the scheme by State Governments. Besides, the figures available State-wise cannot be compared with each other. The 200 districts are not evenly distributed among the States. Consequently, the amounts allocated to the States are not equal. States which have a larger number of districts covered under NREGS would have been allocated more money. In our preliminary assessment, some States are doing well and some are not. I think we should give more time to the States before we reach any definitive conclusion. Meanwhile, I understand that the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Rural Development are monitoring the progress of NREGS in the States.

There was some complaint about the allocation to NREGS. For 2006-07, we allocated Rs. 11,300 crore. The Revised Estimate also shows that Rs. 11,300 crore will be spent. However, there are indications that the whole of the money may not be spent. Hence, for 2007-08, we have made an initial allocation—and I repeat, initial allocation—of Rs. 12,000 crore and, since it is a demand driven scheme carrying a legal guarantee, we will supplement the amount according to the demand and the need. We must also keep in mind that the NREGS is a fall back scheme. If other employment opportunities, especially in agriculture, are available, a person is not likely to take up work under NREGS; and even if a person takes up work under NREGS, he or she may not avail of the maximum number of 100 days. The real test is whether a person entitled to work under NREGS has been given

work on demand or has been denied work. The scheme is being implemented by State Governments. It is primarily the State Governments which have to ensure that no person entitled to work under NREGS is denied work and the wages that go with the work. I would urge Honourable Members to monitor the implementation of the Scheme in their respective districts or constituencies and convey their assessment to the Ministry of Rural Development.

References were made to Aam Admi Bima Yojana. I would respectfully submit that this is the first large attempt by any Government to provide social security to a section of the unorganised workers in the country. The Arjun Sengupta Committee report has made some estimates of the number of people employed in the organised and unorganised sectors. For the unorganised sector, the number has been put at about 34 crore. Obviously, this includes agricultural workers and non-agricultural workers. It includes land-owning workers and landless workers. It includes self-employed such as artisans. I have with me the NSS report No. 491 of the year 2003. This report estimates the number of landless households at 1.5 crore. I readily agree that the number could be more, and I said so in the Budget speech. But we have to make a beginning. LIC has informed me that, by end March 2007, 70 lakh households will be covered through the existing schemes of LIC. As Members are aware, the existing schemes are partly supported by State Governments and partly by the social security fund with the LIC. The premium liability is shared between the State Government and the social security fund. In some cases, the premium on behalf of the beneficiaries is paid under one or other scheme of different Ministries of the Central Government. Having regard to these factors, we decided to make a beginning and have proposed to cover about one crore households in 2007-08. LIC is working out the details of the scheme. It will offer cover for death and disability. I am confident of persuading State Governments to come on board and jointly fund the scheme. As we gain experience, we will extend the cover to more categories of workers in the unorganised sector.

Honourable Members have raised a number of specific issues. In respect of tax related issues, the appropriate occasion to reply to them will be in the debate on the Finance Bill. Hence, Mr. Speaker Sir, with your

permission, I shall not deal with any tax related issues. But I do wish to make brief references to two matters. One is the export duty on iron ore. Honourable Members would have noticed that there are two view points. While the steel industry has supported the export duty, the iron ore exporters have pleaded for a reconsideration of duty on iron ore fines. We had already gathered a lot of material and we have asked the stakeholders to give us more material if they wish to do so. We shall consider all the facts and circumstances objectively and take suitable decisions. The other matter is the dual excise duty on cement and rise in the price of cement. Excise duties on most goods are ad valorem, where the duty in rupees rises with the price of the commodity. Excise duty on cement, on the other hand, at the request of the industry has for many years been kept at specific rates. Furthermore, dual rate is not a new phenomenon. There have been instances of dual sales tax rates; and there are instances of dual excise duty rates. Cement prices were around Rs. 136—Rs. 180 per bag in February 2006. Even as late as October-November, 2006, prices were around Rs. 178—Rs. 218 per bag. Just before the Budget, prices had risen to around Rs. 224 per bag in some centres. Government cannot plead helplessness or remain passive when the price of a commodity such as cement rises abnormally and at a very fast rate. Government is still hopeful that cement manufacturers will realise their responsibility and moderate prices. If they face difficulties in adding capacity or accessing coal or raw-materials, certainly Government will help them in that regard. We are keeping a careful watch over the situation and will take appropriate steps to convince the cement manufacturers to act accordingly.

I shall now reply briefly to some non-tax related issues raised by Honourable Members. A number of Members, including Shri Malhotra, asked me why we have not banned forward trading in commodities. I was somewhat surprised by Shri Malhotra's question. Futures trading in commodities commenced on the MCX in November 2003 and on the NCDEX in December 2003. There are two views on forward trading. Having regard to the view of the Standing Committee, the forward markets regulator has suspended trading in tur, urad, wheat and rice. Government has referred the matter to an expert committee and will take appropriate action on receipt of the report.

Shri P. Karunakaran wanted to know about the six AIIMS-type institutions. I am informed by the Ministry of Health that while Rs. 75 crore was provided in 2006-07, some unexpected problems have arisen due to the rejection of bids for the selection of project consultant and architectural concept design. They are in the process of re-tendering. Meanwhile, land has been provided and environmental impact assessment study and pre-construction survey of the sites are under way.

Shri Devendra Yadav wanted to know about de-hoarding operations. I referred to the Prime Minister's letter in the Budget speech. We are informed that five States have imposed limits on stocks for wheat and pulses and have also taken action against those who held stocks in excess of the limits. I would urge other State Governments to heed the advice of the Prime Minister and impose stock limits and start de-hoarding operations.

Shri Suresh Prabhu questioned our commitment to increasing power generation. Mr. Speaker Sir, I have already given figures of generation capacity added during 2002-07. We can quibble about when the foundation stone was laid and when power generation started; but the fact remains that in 2004-05, 6,100 MW was added and in 2005-06, 6,300 MW was added. This is more than what was added in any year between 1998-99 and 2003-04. However, I readily concede that we have to take a more aggressive and focussed approach to the question of adding to capacity, especially in view of the rising demand for electricity.

Shri Satyanarayan Jatia complained that what has been done for upgradation of ITIs or for the physically challenged or for awarding scholarships amount to 'a drop in the ocean'. I wonder why we are so cynical. A few years ago, there was not even that solitary drop for the physically challenged or for students seeking scholarships; but I do not recall Shri Jatia complaining. I would earnestly plead that we give up the habit of finding fault with every new initiative. A drop in the ocean is better than none.

Shri Swain asked some questions about the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). As Members are aware, NAIS was introduced in 1999-2000. It applies to both Kharif and Rabi food crops and, from the very beginning, the claims have far exceeded the premium. For example, in Kharif 2005, while the premium was Rs.

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450 crore, the claims reported were in the order of Rs. 1,060 crore. For Rabi 2005-06, the premium was Rs. 105 crore and the claims payable were Rs. 338 crore. Since the start of the scheme, Government has grappled with this problem. A restructured scheme is under examination. Meanwhile, I have proposed that we may ask Agricultural Insurance Corporation to start a weather-based crop insurance scheme in two or three States as an alternative to the NAIS.

Shri Lakshman Singh complained that the National Highway Development Programme has stalled. I am afraid this is not correct. In the 1,257 days between December 12, 2000 and May 21, 2004, the length of highways completed was 2,342 kms besides, during this period, 122 contracts for 5,053 kms at an estimated value of Rs. 23,126 crore were awarded. Contrast this with the record during the 1,013 days between the period May 22, 2004 and February 28, 2007. During this period, 3,473 kms of highways have been completed; 174 contracts for 7,369 kms have been awarded; and the estimated cost is Rs. 46,561 crore. I reaffirm Government's commitment to NHDP; in fact the UPA Government has gone beyond the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South East-West corridors. New phases have been added to NHDP, and this is one of the important programmes of the Government in the infrastructure sector.

Shri Kishore Singh Sangwan, Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, and some others asked me about remunerative prices for farmers. The UPA Government has substantially increased MSP for wheat and paddy. In 1997-98, MSP for wheat was Rs. 510 per quintal for six years, by 2003-04, it had risen to Rs. 630 per quintal. In only three years of the UPA Government, we have increased it to Rs. 640, Rs. 700 (with bonus) and Rs. 750 at the beginning of the sowing season. Yesterday, the Cabinet has taken some decisions concerning wheat and, I understand, the Minister of Agriculture will make a statement in that behalf. Similarly, for paddy of common variety, in 2006-07 MSP was fixed at Rs. 580 per quintal with a bonus of Rs. 40 for paddy procured in Kharif 2006-07. The UPA Government has stood solidly by the farmer and has strained every nerve to make farming a viable proposition.

I would take this opportunity to quote a passage from the Economic Survey:

"There could be a potential contradiction between a 'remunerative' price for the farmer and a 'fair' price for the consumer in the short run. The same contradiction arises in the case of pricing of petroleum products. The reconciliation of such a contradiction ought not to be in terms of an expensive compromise of fiscal rectitude."

Mr. Speaker Sir, let me now return to the essential features of the Budget. The Budget is, first and foremost, a statement of receipts and expenditure. In 2003-04, gross tax revenue of the Central Government was Rs. 252,449 crore. In 2004-05, we increased it by 19.9 per cent; in 2005-06, we increased it by 20.0 per cent and in 2006-07, we have increased it by another 27.8 per cent, according to the Revised Estimates. In 2007-08, Budget Estimate (BE) upon BE, we plan to increase the gross tax revenue by another 24 per cent.

The prime beneficiaries of the increase in the Central Government's gross tax revenue are the State Governments. Year after year, we have devolved more money to the State Governments by way of shared tax revenues and by way of grants and loans. In 2004-05, the resources transferred to State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) was Rs. 157,567 crore. In 2005-06, it was Rs. 173,142 crore and in 2006-07, it was Rs. 214,935 crore. And in 2007-08, it will be Rs. 249,437 crore.

In addition to the above, Honourable Members are aware that there are direct releases of Central assistance to State Plans and implementing agencies as well as direct releases under Central Plan to State and District levels and to the implementing agencies. These sums are also large, and approximately Rs. 50,000 crore every year.

As a result, the combined financial position of the State Governments has improved considerably in the last three years. Let me compare the tax revenues available to the States (share in Central taxes and own tax revenue) with the net tax revenue available to the Centre. In 2006-07, for example, the tax resources available to the Centre was Rs. 345,971 crore and the tax revenue available to the States was Rs. 377,580 crore. For many years now, States have enjoyed an edge over the Centre in terms of

availability of tax revenues. That is why we say that the States must come forward to share an equal responsibility in many of the programmes and schemes that are being implemented in the States. Be it Central Plan schemes or Centrally sponsored schemes or State Plan schemes which are supported by the Central Government, it is important that States share an equal responsibility with the Central Government.

Among the other major initiatives taken by the UPA Government with the full cooperation of the State Governments are the successful introduction of VAT; the beginning of the phase out of CST from April 1, 2007; and the start of work to prepare a road map to introduce GST with effect from April 1, 2010. In my view, these constitute the most comprehensive tax reform ever undertaken in this country.

The next major feature of any Budget is allocation of the resources raised among various heads of expenditure. The pattern of allocation of such resources signals the priorities of a Government. Let me look at some major sectors and the allocations made over the years. Let me take rural employment and poverty alleviation. Beginning with Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and culminating in NREGS, broadly speaking, there were eight schemes under this head. Looking at the sector as a whole, in 1997-98, the total allocation was approximately Rs. 5,850 crore. When the NDA Government completed its term of office after one plus five years, the total allocation in 2003-04 was approximately Rs. 9,924 crore (that is an increase of about 70 per cent). After four Budgets of the UPA Government, the allocation for this sector in 2007-08 has risen steadily to approximately Rs. 27,140 crore (that is an increase of 275 per cent over 2003-04).

Likewise, under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, the allocation in 1997-98 was about Rs. 1,300 crore. By 2003-04, it had increased to Rs. 2,585 crore and by 2007-08, the UPA Government has increased it to Rs. 6,500 crore.

The same is the story in education. From about Rs. 1,800 crore in 1997-98, it rose to Rs. 4,560 crore in 2003-04, but in 2007-08, the allocation is Rs. 25,081 crore. The same is true of health.

If you look at Central Plan outlay by sectors,

Honourable Members will find that in the three years of the UPA Government, the outlays have increased dramatically. These figures are available in the document titled 'Budget at a Glance' for the respective years. I shall quote some examples of outlays for the year 1997-98, the year before the NDA assumed office; for 2003-04, the last year of the NDA Government; and for 2007-08, for which I presented the Budget 16 days ago. For agriculture and allied activities, the outlay increased from Rs. 2,756 crore to Rs. 3,671 crore during the NDA Government, and under the UPA Government, it now stands at Rs. 8,588 crore. The figures for rural development are Rs. 6,949 crore to Rs. 13,238 crore and from Rs. 13,238 crore to Rs. 20,342 crore. For the energy sector, the numbers are from Rs. 21,129 crore to Rs. 42,240 crore, and from Rs. 42,240 crore to Rs. 79,158 crore. For social services, the figures are from Rs. 12,115 crore to Rs. 31,102 crore, and from Rs. 31,102 crore to Rs. 80,315 crore.

I could go on and on. In every sector, the UPA Government has, at the end of three years and at the beginning of the fourth year, made much larger allocations than in all the six years of the NDA Government. You can take any sector. You will find that more money has been allocated. It is true that, in some sectors, the allocation is not adequate. Members have demanded more. Members are right. Many sectors deserve more. But, Members should kindly appreciate that while we are doing our best to raise more resources, the total envelope of resources has limited elasticity. Given the total resources available, we have done our best.

As I said in the Budget speech, there is no dearth of funds, there is no dearth of schemes, what needs to be done is to deliver the intended outcomes.

I take pride in saying that all this has been possible without departing from fiscal responsibility. We have raised revenue in a responsible manner and we have allocated funds in a responsive manner. In doing so, we have adhered to the obligations under the FRBM Act. I understand that Shri Malhotra is the President of the Archery Federation of India and I would have thought that he would have a good word for the Government's fiscal marksmanship if not for anything else. We have done better than the target for fiscal deficit and the target for revenue deficit. This is what makes India's growth

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story credible and sustainable. This is what encourages both the domestic investor and the foreign investor. This is what gives us the courage to go forward on the path of inclusive growth.

My Budget speech contained a little over 12,800 words. It is a matter of some satisfaction that 25 words have made a deep impression upon Shri Malhotra and some of his friends. Let me say this: I love the sea, I love trees, I love birds and I love animals. I take comfort in the fact that at least one of my predecessors shares my love for animals. The difference between us is that I have frankly admitted my concern for dogs and cats while my predecessor hid his affection in the minutiae of the Finance Bill. In chapter 23 of the customs tariff occurs entry 2309.10. The rate of duty was 40 per cent. One of my predecessors reduced the duty from 40 per cent to 35 per cent. Two years later, he again reduced it from 35 per cent to 30 per cent. Shri Malhotra may be wondering who I am referring to. The two years in which customs duty on pet foods was reduced were 2000-01 and 2002-03, and the distinguished Finance Minister who did so was Shri

Yashwant Sinha. When I unwittingly took the same path, I had fondly hoped that all of us are blessed with a sense of humour. May I wish Shri Malhotra not only a long life and a long tenure in the opposition but also a sense of humour?"

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2007-08 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 61, 63 to 72, 74, 75 and 77 to 104."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2007-2008 submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

Sl. No.	No. and Name of the Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant 'On Account' submitted to the Vote of the House	
		Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Ministry of Agriculture			
1.	Department of Agriculture and Corporation	1287,40,00,000	13,60,00,000
2.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	403,32,00,000	—
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries	190,70,00,000	2,97,00,000
Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries			
4.	Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	184,39,00,000	89,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy			
5.	Atomic Energy	356,44,00,000	265,15,00,000

1	2	3	4
6.	Nuclear Power Schemes	237,86,00,000	390,87,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers			
7.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	33,08,00,000	9,75,00,000
8.	Department of Fertilisers	4090,60,00,000	9,45,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation			
9.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	79,26,00,000	10,33,00,000
Ministry of Coal			
10.	Ministry of Coal	48,00,00,000	5,00,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry			
11.	Department of Commerce	314,62,00,000	117,83,00,000
12.	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	80,58,00,000	—
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology			
13.	Department of Posts	1206,22,00,000	38,70,00,000
14.	Department of Telecommunications	907,50,00,000	29,00,00,000
15.	Department of Information Technology	242,66,00,000	13,17,00,000
Ministry of Company Affairs			
16.	Ministry of Company Affairs	23,17,00,000	2,50,00,000
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution			
17.	Department of Consumer Affairs	39,29,00,000	5,75,00,000
18.	Department of Food and Public Distribution	4352,50,00,000	62,70,00,000
Ministry of Culture			
19.	Ministry of Culture	146,61,00,000	8,33,00,000
Ministry of Defence			
20.	Ministry of Defence	1144,18,00,000	130,25,00,000
21.	Defence Pensions	2441,46,00,000	—
22.	Defence Services—Army	5862,98,00,000	—
23.	Defence Services—Navy	1174,79,00,000	—

1	2	3	4
24.	Defence Services—Air Force	1738,14,00,000	—
25.	Defence Ordnance Factories	1191,52,00,000	—
26.	Defence Services—Research and Development	533,70,00,000	—
27.	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	—	6976,27,00,000
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region			
28.	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	206,45,00,000	25,73,00,000
Ministry of Earth Sciences			
29.	Ministry of Earth Sciences	97,70,00,000	6,64,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests			
30.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	252,99,00,000	3,51,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs			
31.	Ministry of External Affairs	671,28,00,000	126,54,00,000
Ministry of Finance			
32.	Department of Economic Affairs	581,04,00,000	75,87,00,000
33.	Payments to Financial Institutions	953,80,00,000	6725,63,00,000
35.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	6262,37,00,000	—
36.	Loans to Government Servants, etc.	—	60,00,00,000
38.	Department of Expenditure	24,00,00,000	—
39.	Pensions	1217,92,00,000	—
40.	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	203,08,00,000	35,00,000
41.	Department of Revenue	750,49,00,000	25,00,000
42.	Direct Taxes	312,00,00,000	1,75,00,000
43.	Indirect Taxes	281,63,00,000	23,37,00,000
44.	Department of Disinvestment	67,00,000	550,33,00,000
Ministry of Food Processing Industries			
45.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	38,05,00,000	5,00,00,000

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
46.	Department of Health and Family Welfare	2640,26,00,000	85,27,00,000
47.	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	85,48,00,000	—
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises			
48.	Department of Heavy Industry	47,58,00,000	104,76,00,000
49.	Department of Public Enterprises	2,41,00,000	—
Ministry of Home Affairs			
50.	Ministry of Home Affairs	128,05,00,000	11,78,00,000
51.	Cabinet	34,21,00,000	5,56,00,000
52.	Police	2411,59,00,000	754,97,00,000
53.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	169,26,00,000	3,24,00,000
54.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	259,12,00,000	12,00,00,000
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation			
55.	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	78,86,00,000	94,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
56.	Department of School Education and Literacy	5305,70,00,000	—
57.	Department of Higher Education	1534,75,00,000	17,00,000
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
58.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	230,99,00,000	40,31,00,000
Ministry of Labour and Employment			
59.	Ministry of Labour and Employment	314,96,00,000	1,16,00,000
Ministry of Law and Justice			
60.	Election Commission	2,42,00,000	—
61.	Law and Justice	136,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
Ministry of Mines			
63.	Ministry of Mines	55,70,00,000	9,24,00,000

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Minority Affairs			
64.	Ministry of Minority Affairs	22,80,00,000	11,67,00,000
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy			
65.	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	94,78,00,000	10,71,00,000
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs			
66.	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs	6,67,00,000	1,67,00,000
Ministry of Panchayati Raj			
67.	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	795,08,00,000	—
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs			
68.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	1,02,00,000	—
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions			
69.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	55,96,00,000	4,75,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas			
70.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	478,56,00,000	—
Ministry of Planning			
71.	Ministry of Planning	20,30,00,000	1,25,00,000
Ministry of Power			
72.	Ministry of Power	813,99,00,000	168,37,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President			
74.	Lik Sabha	45,20,00,000	—
75.	Rajya Sabha	18,16,00,000	—
77.	Secretariat of the Vice-President	26,00,000	—
Ministry of Rural Development			
78.	Department of Rural Development	7224,64,00,000	—
79.	Department of Land Resources	250,63,00,000	—
80.	Department of Drinking Water Supply	1260,29,00,000	—

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Science and Technology			
81.	Department of Science and Technology	285,56,00,000	12,32,00,000
82.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	316,98,00,000	2,00,000
83.	Department of Biotechnology	115,78,00,000	—
Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways			
84.	Department of Shipping	185,25,00,000	98,25,00,000
85.	Department of Road Transport and Highways	2000,15,00,000	2112,40,00,000
Ministry of Small Scale Industries			
86.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries	98,07,00,000	—
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment			
87.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	322,36,00,000	20,83,00,000
Department of Space			
88.	Department of Space	379,52,00,000	263,48,00,000
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation			
89.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	305,82,00,000	3,10,00,000
Ministry of Steel			
90.	Ministry of Steel	14,08,00,000	—
Ministry of Textiles			
91.	Ministry of Textiles	468,53,00,000	54,25,00,000
Ministry of Tourism			
92.	Ministry of Tourism	65,10,00,000	85,50,00,000
Ministry of Tribal Affairs			
93.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	32,62,00,000	5,84,00,000
Union Territories (Without Legislature)			
94.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	187,84,00,000	136,14,00,000
95.	Chandigarh	198,39,00,000	31,96,00,000
96.	Dadra and Nagar haveli	153,02,00,000	6,52,00,000

1	2	3	4
97.	Daman and Diu	59,81,00,000	7,60,00,000
98.	Lakshadweep	53,66,00,000	27,58,00,000
Ministry of Urban Development			
99.	Department of Urban Development	167,36,00,000	757,74,00,000
100.	Public Works	132,29,00,000	59,67,00,000
101.	Stationery and Printing	29,42,00,000	11,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
102.	Ministry of Water Resources	123,34,00,000	6,86,00,000
Ministry of Women and Child Development			
103.	Ministry of Women and Child Development	975,50,00,000	—
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports			
104.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	125,54,00,000	4,46,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital		71486,11,00,000	20619,94,00,000

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2006-07 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the

charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3, 5, 7 to 11, 13 to 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28 to 33, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45 to 48, 50 to 60, 63, 66, 70, 72, 75, 78, 80 to 87, 89 to 101 and 104."

The motion was adopted.

*Demands for Supplementary Grants-Third Batch (General) for 2006-2007
submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

Sl. No.	No. and Title of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
		Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Department of Agriculture and Corporation	265,02,00,000	—

1	2	3	4
2.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	65,99,00,000	—
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	3,00,000	—
5.	Atomic Energy	2,00,000	—
7.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	732,57,00,000	72,50,00,000
8.	Department of Fertilisers	3533,79,00,000	12,18,00,000
9.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	84,91,00,000	—
10.	Ministry of Coal	8,00,000	—
11.	Department of Commerce	381,32,00,000	1,00,000
13.	Department of Posts	365,24,00,000	1,00,000
14.	Department of Telecommunications	60,59,00,000	—
15.	Department of Information Technology	1,00,000	4,40,00,000
16.	Ministry of Company Affairs	—	26,80,00,000
18.	Department of Food and Public Distribution	1,00,000	1,00,000
19.	Ministry of Culture	2,00,000	—
21.	Defence Pensions	582,00,00,000	—
23.	Defence Services—Navy	98,86,00,000	—
24.	Defence Services—Air Force	34,46,00,000	—
26.	Defence Services—Research and Development	10,68,00,000	—
28.	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	50,00,000	—
29.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	3,04,00,000	—
30.	Ministry of External Affairs	185,81,00,000	—
31.	Department of Economic Affairs	445,99,00,000	6000,00,00,000
32.	Currency, Coinage and Stamps	—	96,37,00,000
33.	Payments to Financial Institutions	1,00,000	—
35.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	8947,39,00,000	—
38.	Department of Expenditure	3,46,00,000	5,00,00,000

1	2	3	4
39.	Pensions	235,56,00,000	—
41.	Department of Revenue	1,00,000	—
42.	Direct Taxes	65,05,00,000	—
45.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	1,00,000	16,80,00,000
46.	Department of Health and Family Welfare	4,00,000	25,35,00,000
47.	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	1,00,000	—
48.	Department of Heavy Industry	188,31,00,000	613,38,00,000
50.	Ministry of Home Affairs	9,22,00,000	—
51.	Cabinet	72,41,00,000	—
52.	Police	1,00,000	1,00,000
53.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	283,16,00,000	—
54.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	120,49,00,000	—
55.	Department of School Education and Literacy (Previously—Department of Elementary Education and Literacy)	189,28,00,000	—
56.	Department of Higher Education (Previously—Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education)	133,73,00,000	—
57.	Ministry of Women and Child Development (Previously—Department of Women and Child Development)	3,00,000	—
58.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	1,00,000	1,00,000
59.	Ministry of Labour and Employment	500,01,00,000	—
60.	Election Commission	1,36,00,000	—
63.	Ministry of Mines	66,14,00,000	—
66.	Ministry of Earth Sciences (Previously—Department of Ocean Development)	56,05,00,000	59,10,00,000
70.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	5000,01,00,000	528,58,00,000
72.	Ministry of Power	2,00,000	—
75.	Rajya Sabha	93,00,000	—

1	2	3	4
78.	Department of Rural Development	20,00,000	—
80.	Department of Drinking Water Supply	1,00,000	—
81.	Department of Science and Technology	2,00,000	—
82.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	2,00,000	—
83.	Department of Biotechnology	1,00,000	—
84.	Department of Shipping	105,70,00,000	1,00,000
85.	Department of Road Transport and Highways	1,00,000	—
86.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries	1,00,000	—
87.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	60,52,00,000	—
89.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	12,62,00,000	—
90.	Ministry of Steel	165,80,00,000	1,73,00,000
91.	Ministry of Textiles	297,52,00,000	2,00,000
92.	Ministry of Tourism	1,00,000	—
93.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	2,00,000	—
94.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	40,17,00,000	—
95.	Chandigarh	55,59,00,000	25,34,00,000
96.	Dadra and Nagar haveli	1,00,00,000	—
97.	Daman and Diu	50,70,00,000	—
98.	Lakshadweep	43,01,00,000	7,30,00,000
99.	Department of Urban Development	24,26,00,000	12,43,00,000
100.	Public Works	—	25,71,00,000
101.	Stationery and Printing	7,98,00,000	—
104.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	2,00,000	—
Total		23588,85,00,000	7533,05,00,000

12.38 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT)
BILL, 2007*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2007-2008.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2007-2008."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce ** the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up the motion for Consideration of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2007-08, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2007-08, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 16-3-07:

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.41 hrs.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 2007*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-2007.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-2007."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce ** the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 16-3-07.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-2007 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.44 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabodh Panda, are you moving the Statutory Resolution?

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I am not moving...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Santosh Gangwar, Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan and Shri Suresh Prabhu—not moving.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, be taken into consideration."

In order to give greater operational flexibility in the conduct of monetary policy, the Central Government had promulgated an Ordinance on 23rd January 2007. To replace the Ordinance, the Government has brought this Amendment Bill which *inter alia* provides for amendment to Section 24 in order to empower RBI to specify a statutory liquidity ratio without any floor. In the context of the developments in the banking and finance sector and soaring demand for credit, it is no longer necessary to continue the existing floor of 25 per cent in the statute itself as the regulator needs to have flexibility in this regard for managing liquidity in the system. It is necessary that RBI as the regulator and the authority vested with the powers to conduct monetary policy, has the necessary flexibility regarding stipulation of holding of liquid instruments by banks. As such, the existing floor of 25 per cent has to be removed keeping intact the ceiling of 40 per cent as the guidance from RBI. The proposal of the Government to remove the floor limit on SLR had received unanimous recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance and will give operational flexibility to RBI in the conduct of monetary policy.

Another Amendment relates to amendment to Section 53 of the Banking Regulation Act as amended by Special Economic Zones Act, 2005. Section 53 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 empowers the Central

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Government on the recommendation of Reserve Bank to exempt applicability of any or all the provisions of the Act to any banking company including all the public sector banks either generally or for a certain period through notification in the Official Gazette. In the recent past, banks have been granted exemptions from the application of certain sections of the Act. It has, therefore, now been proposed that sub-section 2 of Section 53 as amended by the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 be amended to provide that this requirement shall apply in cases of exemptions being granted to institutions/banks/branches located in Special Economic Zones.

...(Interruptions)

It had become necessary to carry out urgently, the required amendments in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. If these amendments have not been made immediately, there was a fear of adverse impact on the smooth functioning of the banking system in the present changing scenario.

I now recommend that the Bill be taken up for consideration and passing by the august House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Long Title
were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.47. hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMA-
CEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2007

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item Nos. 27 and 28 together for discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a Statutory Resolution, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri Prabodh Panda, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava and Shri Suresh Prabhu—not moving.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM
VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

12.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.41. hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-one minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN in the Chair]

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Home Affairs Shri Shivraj Patil will make a statement now.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—Contd.

(II) Incident of Naxal attack on police force in Bijapur Police District in Dabtwada District in Chhattisgarh in the early hours of 15th March, 2007

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Madam, with a deep sense of anguish and sadness, I rise to inform the House of a tragic incident which occurred in the early hours of 15th March, 2007 near Bijapur in Chhattisgarh.

During the intervening night between 14th/15th March, 2007 2-3 a.m., a group of naxalite attacked a police force camping in a vacant Ashram school building in Rani Bodli village in Bijapur district. As per the reports received, at the time of this attack, there were about 70 personnel of the State Armed Police and Special Police Officers (SPOs) appointed by the Chhattisgarh Government camping here. In this attack, 16 police personnel of State Armed Police and 39 SPOs have been reportedly killed and 12 police personnel were injured. The injured have been taken to a nearby hospital. 39 Police weapons have been looted by the naxalites. Chhattisgarh Police have also reported that about 10-12 naxalites were also killed in the incident.

The senior police officers of the State Government have reached the spot and are supervising the relief and search operations. The State Home Minister along with the DGP is also visiting the site of the attack. Search operations are continuing keeping in view the possibility of the surrounding area being mined by naxalites.

The Central Government has been regularly reviewing the naxalite situation in Chhattisgarh. 13 battalions of Central Para-Military Forces have been deployed in the State to supplement the efforts of the State Police Force to control naxal violence. 4 India Reserve Battalions have also been sanctioned to the State and while 2 such battalions have been raised by the State, the other 2 are under raising. UAVs have also been made available to the State Government. This is the only State to which these have been given. 17 armoured vehicles have been given to the State to neutralize threats posed by IED land-mine blasts used by naxalites against the security forces and civilians. Additional funds of Rs. 25 crores are also

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

being given to the State Government under the police modernization scheme primarily for helping the State police to set up demining units with latest equipments. This is in addition to normal funds given to the State every year under the police modernization and security related expenditure (SRE) schemes. In addition, three expert teams from the CPMFs for detection and disposal of explosives have also been provided. Need-based helicopter facility for evacuation of casualties and movement of police personnel has also been given to the State Government. A helicopter has been sent from Delhi to assist the State Government in rescue operations.

The Ministry is in regular touch with the State Government and is keeping a close watch on the situation. The Central Government has promised the State Government any further help if required. The Government views the naxalite menace as an area of serious concern and remains fully determined to combat the challenge posed by it in association with the State Governments.

Madam, I was asked to make statements on two incidents; in Chhattisgarh and the other on incident in Nandigram. In Rajya Sabha, I could make a statement on the incident in Nandigram, but I could not make a statement on the incident in Chhattisgarh. That is why, I have made this statement here. If necessary and if there is a demand, I have statement on the incident in Nandigram also, I can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam, he had stated that on the basis of a telephonic message, he made some statement. I would like that the hon. Minister makes a statement today here also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Madam, if allowed, I can do that.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All right.

15.46 hrs.

(iii) Incidents on 14-3-2007 in the Nandigram Police Station Area in West Bengal

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Madam, I rise to inform the House

about the unfortunate and tragic incidents that took place on 14-3-2007 in the Nandigram Police station area in West Bengal.

A report received in the Ministry of Home Affairs from the West Bengal Government on 14th March, 2007 evening in this matter is as follows:—

"A proposal for setting up a mega-chemical hub and a multi-product Special Economic Zone (SEZ) over about 10,000 acres of land in Nandigram Police Station of Purba Medinipur District was under consideration of the State Government. Though no final decision has yet been taken about the exact location of the projects, on December 28, 2006 an informal notice for public information regarding likely location of this project was circulated by the Haldia Development Authority to all Blocks and Gram Panchayat offices of the area. This notice was by way of information only. No specific location of the projects had yet been decided by the State Government. Once this notice reached various Block offices, there was massive resentment among those people who feared that their lands would be acquired. A number of political organizations and parties formed a Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee. On January 03, 2007, an unruly mob of about 3,000 people attacked a police party under the charge of Officer-in Charge, Nandigram Police Station and set fire to a police jeep. In another incident on the same day, another police jeep was set on fire at Garchakraberia Bazar. Twenty-three police personnel also received injuries in these clashes. Three cases were registered in Nandigram Police Station over these incidents.

I was told by the hon. Chief Minister that he has told his officers that the acquisition proceedings will not be continued without developing a kind of an agreement between the farmers and the Government. These incidents were followed by several meetings between the Administration and the Opposition parties in which it was clarified by the district administration that no notification for acquisition of land had yet been finalized. In spite of that, local feelings ran very high and a bandh was declared in Nandigram Police Station area on January 04, 2007. Following this, peace meetings were held in several places of Nandigram Police Station on January 06, 2007, but even after the meetings, the situation turned violent. In the night of January 06/07, 2007, there was a major clash between

two groups one owing allegiance to the Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee and the other owing allegiance to the ruling Left Front.

In this clash, four people who were residents of various villages of Nandigram Police Station, were killed and two separate cases were started over this incident. This was followed by ransacking of CPI (M) Party offices at several places and incidents of violence and arson at the residence of several local leaders of CPI (M). The agitators also damaged many bridges and culverts and dug up several roads as a result of which, the movement of vehicles became impossible after 7 January, 2007.

There, a series of peace meetings convened by the District Magistrate, Purba Medinipur over this issue starting from January 08, 2007 in which it was unanimously decided that all parties will take necessary steps to restore peace in the locality and police camps would be set up at the disturbed places. Despite these resolutions, however, it was not possible to repair the damaged roads, culverts and bridges and it was also not possible to deploy the State Police within the affected parts of the Nandigram Police Station. Despite several measures initiated by the District administration to restore peace, execution of all Governments projects and schemes came to a standstill since no Government officer was allowed to enter the affected area. Gradually, a number of people, owing allegiance to CPI (M) had to move their places of normal residence in Nandigram Police Station and take shelter in several temporary camps at Khejuri. Tension between the two rival groups kept on mounting. There were several incidents of violence between February 3 and February 6, 2007 in which fire was exchanged or bombs exploded between the rival groups. On February 7, 2007 a Sub-Inspector of Police Shri Sadhu Chatterji had gone to investigate a report received about destruction of road communication. He was waylaid by an unruly mob and killed. His dead body was recovered only on February 10, 2007. Over this incident also, a case was started but all these cases could not be investigated properly because the police was not able to enter the affected areas.

On February 11, 2007, the Chief Minister, in a public meeting at a place close to the affected area, made an open commitment that no land for setting up the chemical

hub and SEZ would be acquired at Nandigram if the people of Nandigram were against such acquisition.

However, sporadic incidents of violence involving displaced people in the camps at Khejuri and the people at Bhangaberia and Sonachura areas of Nandigram Police Station continued. It was resolved in one of the peace meetings that both parties would maintain peace during the Madhyamik Pariksha (Class-X) which was going on. The Madhyamik Pariksha was over on March 5, 2007. The District Magistrate, Purba Medinipur again convened an all-party peace meeting. In this meeting, he proposed that peace should be restored, police should enter the affected areas of Nandigram Police Station, damaged bridges and roads should be repaired and normalcy restored to the entire affected areas. However, the representatives of the Trinamool Congress and some other Parties did not attend this meeting.

It was decided that this lawless situation in Nandigram and its surroundings should not be allowed to continue, and the damaged roads, bridges and culverts should be repaired without any further delay, and police should take up the investigation of the cases of the murder. Thereafter, police force was mobilized and it was decided that the force should enter Nandigram through three separate routes under the leadership of senior officers. The police force was asked to exercise utmost restraint. They were further directed to use loud hailers to explain the purpose of the movement of the police party to the people of that locality which is to establish peace and to restore normalcy. Ultimately the police movement started about at 10.00 a.m. on March 14, 2007. While one of the police parties could move into Nandigram without resistance, two other police parties were confronted by large gatherings of hostile people.

When the police asked them to disperse, they paid no heed and resorted to heavy brick-batting causing injury to some policemen. To disperse the mob, police lobbed tear gas shells. The mob then became more agitated and started hurling bombs followed by opening of fire. A few policemen sustained splinter injuries. To control the situation, police initially fired rubber bullets, but this again yielded no results. Ultimately, the police had to open fire in self-defence causing dispersal of the mob. This incident

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

took place near Bhangaberia bridge. Another police party also met with violent resistance at Adhikaripara where heavy brick-batting, bomb throwing took place. As a result, some police were injured. In both the incidents, 12 policemen including Additional S.P. Tamluk and Assistant S.P. (Probationer) received splinter injuries and injuries due to brick batting. Serious and extensive injuries could be avoided as all the policemen were in protective gear. However, a number of people were injured in the police firing and it is believed that some of the agitators were also injured by the bombs that were being hurled. Till 8.00 p.m. on March 14, 2007, according to the report received at the State headquarters, 14 people died including some critically injured people who succumbed to the injuries. In addition, there were 63 injured people of whom 29 were shifted to Tamluk District Hospital for treatment. Five people were released after treatment of minor injuries and the rest were still at Nandigram Rural Hospital to receive treatment of awaiting transfer to Tamluk Sub-Divisional Hospital. This is in addition to the 12 policemen injured in the incident who received medical attention separately.

Following the above incidents, there was no further organized resistance to the movement of the police party who were now able to move to Sonachura and establish a temporary camp there. Police was also able to search a few other neighboring villages. In course of the police search, 18 illegal fire-arms were recovered which had probably been used against the police party.

There is high tension prevailing in the area but the situation is currently under control. This is a report received not today, Madam and this report has been received yesterday. Police camps have been set up in the disturbed area. Senior police officers are also camping and making efforts to restore peace.

Madam, now this is as per the information given by the State Government, and nothing is added to it.

As per further report received from the State Government, on 15-3-2007 some miscreants ransacked CPI-M party office. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister complete his Statement first.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: They also attempted to set fire to the CPM office. However, no extensive damage has been reported due to the intervention of Police which fired tear gas shells to disperse the mob. ...*(Interruptions)* It has also been reported that 14 persons have been arrested from the affected area. ...*(Interruptions)* While the death toll remains at 14, 67 persons have been injured including 40 policemen. The overall situation was reported to be under control. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, this is not the way. You please sit down. Let him complete the Statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Central Government is in constant touch with the State Government. They have been asked to provide all necessary relief and help. The State Government has also been asked to take all possible preventive steps to ensure that the situation is defused. The Central Government has promised that the situation should be defused and for defusing the situation, all help would be given to them.

We feel sorry for the lives lost and the people injured, and we feel that appropriate steps will be taken to defuse the situation. Instead of sitting in judgement, we should take steps to see that the situation is defused and controlled. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The SEZ notification should be stopped immediately if the Central Government really wants to do something. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): First of all scrap SEZs. ...*(Interruptions)* Wherever the SEZs are set up, these type of incidents will occur. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: They saved the police. The people thought that police force...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

16.00 hrs.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, Statement to be made by Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh regarding announcement of bonus for wheat farmers.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, if you want, you may lay it on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): No, Madam, I would like to read it. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the statement of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)*...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You go on shouting; nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not the way, Mr. Swain. Please be seated. Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If you find it well, you go on shouting. Mr. Swain, Mr. Lahiri and others please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yes, Dr. Akhilesh, you may please read your statement.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swain, this is not the way. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is the time for Private Members' Business. Please do not waste this time.

[English]

I am requesting you all.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Madam, as we promised to the House to give the updated information on the situations both on Chhattisgarh and Nandigram incidents, the hon. Home Minister has made a *suo motu* statement.

As you know, in parliamentary practice, the Union Home Minister cannot make any statement excepting that is furnished by the concerned State Government, be it Chhattisgarh or be it West Bengal. Therefore, I would request all the hon. Members that since the CBI is seized of the matter, let the House may be allowed to run. ...(Interruptions) The hon. Home Minister had promised to the House to make a statement and he has fulfilled his promise. The Union Government has no other agency excepting the concerned State Government to give any information to the House. As a Government, our stand is very clear that whatever updated information is available, we would give it to the House. Therefore, I would request that now let the other business of the List of Business listed for today may be transacted. ...(Interruptions)

Madam, I appeal to Kharabela-ji that one of the important announcements pertaining to the interests of

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni]

the farmers of the country is going to be just announced, for which the farmers are waiting; the procurement drive is on; and therefore, I think, this matter should get all priority now, and let Dr. Akhilesh make a statement in this regard.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now no comments from any side.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All are worried due to these things. The entire House is distressed and worried due to these two incidents.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Minister.

16.03 hrs.

(iv) Announcement of bonus for farmers growing wheat for the current rabi season

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Madam, the Government have been concerned about the food security of the country and the need to increase productivity in agriculture. We have also been concerned about the deteriorating terms of trade in agriculture. It is our commitment that the farmers in this country are given a better deal to ensure their wellbeing and prosperity. Last year, we had no option to import wheat to meet the needs of Public Distribution System and also the demands of the open market.

The Minimum Support Price for wheat in 2000-01 was Rs. 580. It was Rs. 630 in 2004-05, an increase of Rs. 50 in four years.

When this UPA Government came to power, this short-sighted policy had started showing its impact on

production. The wheat production had fallen to low levels of 68 million tonnes in 2004-05. The production rose marginally to 69.35 million tonnes in 2005-06. Last year the Minimum Support Price was Rs. 650 over which we announced a bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal. This year we followed it up with an increase in Minimum Support Price by 100 rupees making it Rs. 750 per quintal. The farmers responded admirably and have increased the area under wheat and have also increased productivity.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your hon'ble Minister is speaking. Please listen to him.

[English]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: But for the unseasonal rain and hail storms, we would have benefited from a bumper crop.

Government recognizes this great effort. We are grateful to our farmers for this response. To give better returns to our farmers, the Government has decided to declare a bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal for this Rabi season. This is in addition to the increase in Minimum Support Price announced already. This will mean that the farmers will get Rs. 850 per quintal of wheat against Rs. 700 last year.

I sincerely hope that our farmers will welcome this announcement whole-heartedly and contribute more to our procurement operations. I would like to assure the farmers that the Government will do everything possible to support them get better returns from their land.

The Government is also committed to ensure that there is no shortage of wheat in the country. To avoid any shortage in the country, the Government has also decided to permit duty free import of wheat till 31 December, 2007.

The Government is committed to provide adequate food-grains to the poorer sections of society, particularly the below poverty line and AAY through the Public Distribution System. It has also been decided that the Government will import, if necessary, adequate quantities of wheat to meet the requirements of the Public Distribution System, and other welfare schemes like Mid-Day Meals,

ICDS, other employment and nutrition programmes, etc. STC will be asked to take preparatory steps to import up to 3 million tons in case of need.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I hope the Government will make similar arrangements for procurement.

DR. RAM KRISHAN KUSAMARIA (Khajuraho): This rate is being given to the farmers. What rate will be fixed for import. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Only the hon. Member, Shrimati Radhika Selvi will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

16.07 hrs.

**MOTION RE: TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
AND RESOLUTION**

[English]

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolution presented to the House on 1 March, 2007, subject to modification that para 6 and sub-para (iii) of para 7 of recommendations thereof, relating to allocation of time to Resolution be omitted and also agree with the Twenty-sixth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 14 March, 2007."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolution presented to the House on 1 March, 2007, subject to modification that para 6 and

sub-para (iii) of para 7 of recommendations thereof, relating to allocation of time to Resolution be omitted and also agree with the Twenty-sixth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 14 March, 2007."

The motion was adopted.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Swainji, I fail to understand why are you speaking when nothing is going on record?

16.09 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE: FORMULATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE FOOD
AND NUTRITION SECURITY SCHEME—Contd.**

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Madam Chairman, I beg to move the resolution that the Government should formulate and implement a comprehensive food and Nutrition security scheme to completely eradicate starvation and malnutrition from the country.

Madam, the resolution on this important issue was initially brought on 15th December, 2006. But the discussion was postponed due to some reasons. Now I am again initiating the discussion on this issue. Even after the six decades of our Independence when some selective people of the country are talking about new telecommunication revolution, agriculture revolution and industrialization etc., our brothers and sisters in some parts of the country are reeling under starvation. It puts a question mark on our democracy and economic prosperity. Governments have been making all efforts to overcome this problem through Five Year Plans and 20 point programmes. The UPA Government is also taking steps to solve this problem. At the time when the country was facing foodgrains crisis, the second Prime Minister of our country late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had presented a resolution before the countrymen to observe fast for one day. Thereafter, the efforts made by our far-sighted Prime Minister Late Smt. Indira Gandhi to achieve self-reliance in foodgrain is known to all. One the same lines with political steadfastness, the

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

House should unanimously ponder over the suggestions on this serious issue of starvation and malnutrition so that none of my brother or sister go to bed without food or remain hungry in my country which was once a very affluent country. I am remembering the words spoken by Shrimati Vijaya Laxmi Pandit at UNO-

[English]

Democracy means nothing to those who have nothing to eat.

[Translation]

The issue which is going to be discussed in the House is related to the poorest section of the society. All the hon. Members may agree that the food, clothing and housing are the basic needs of every person in present scenario. Out of these, to make both ends meet is the utmost priority. Our country is an agrarian one where approximately 65% people are dependent on agriculture. It is a bitter truth that lakhs of people in our country fail to get enough food to satiate their hunger. Actually hunger is a problem more serious than the diseases like cancer and AIDS. As per the report of UNO, out of total world population of 700 crore, about 85 crore people are deprived of food and nutritional diet. Out of this more than 22 crore people belong to India who are suffering from malnutrition. In China, it is 14 crore. Though the number of persons dying due to starvation and malnutrition in the developing countries have come down today in comparison to 1990-1992 but still the maximum number of people die due to starvation and malnutrition. According to Shri Amritya en, requisite fund, concrete political resolution and appropriate policies are required to get rid of hunger and starvation. There is no dearth of foodgrain in our country but in the wake of ignorance of the people about nutritious diet and due to poverty and faulty public distribution system, they are becoming victim of malnutrition.

Before proceeding further, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the discussion which took place in the House on 12th March, 2007 wherein it was mentioned that as per the evaluation study, 53% wheat and 40% rice do not reach to beneficiaries under public distribution system and Antyodaya Anna Scheme. It is a

very serious problem. It was also mentioned in that report that almost hundred per cent supply of wheat made under these schemes is diverted in North-eastern states. I, therefore, suggest to overhaul the implementation and monitoring of both the said schemes, besides issuing appropriate guidelines for the State Governments.

The national health and family survey no. 3 has revealed a bitter truth that the available figures of 19 States are showing that the 75% children in the age group of 6 to 35 months are anaemic. Similarly one third of children remain under-developed. 17% of children have been found weaker as compared to their age group. Out of every 5 children, 2 are found under-weight as compared to the average weight of their age-group. We all are aware that once the health deteriorates during the childhood, it can never be regained through out the life. As per the special report of UNO and right to food, very year 200 lakh children die due to severe malnutrition. A very surprising fact has emerged that 54% of both expectant mothers as well as married women have been found anaemic.

All of us will have to think as to what kind of India we want? Do we want a weak India with our children weak or we dream of a strong India with all its citizens prosperous and strong. Although various poverty alleviation schemes were started but still many people die of starvation. As in Vidarbha, the Tribal dominated region of Maharashtra 71 children died of malnutrition. I am quoting some articles of newspapers. In the barren district of Rajasthan, 78 people from 'Saharia' tribe died of starvation. A woman and six children in Patalpur village of Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh died of malnutrition. Last year also, 13 children had died of malnutrition in this very village. In Deogarh district of Orissa also a tribal woman died of hunger. Frequent news of deaths and suicides due to hunger in newspaper cause immense pain to heart. While on one hand, there is prosperity and on the other even today our brethren die of hunger.

Even Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, during talks with express group, accepted this fact that many steps need to be taken to curb starvation and to bring about changes in the entire liestyle of people in the country. The framers of our constitution also made some provisions in section 39 and 47 of the constitution to remove the malady of poverty and hunger from this

country. Immediately after coming to power in 2004, the UPA Government inter alia promised in the Common Minimum Programme to augment the availability of foodgrains and nutritious food items and to strengthen the public distribution system in the poorest and backward areas of the country. Co-operative societies of women and ex-servicemen would be constituted for the same. Foodgrain banks would be set up in the areas with low availability of foodgrains. Special schemes will be formulated for Penniless and handicapped people to provide them with foodgrains. The people who are on the verge of starvation would be issued Antyodaya cards and schemes for providing nutritious food would be formulated especially for girls.

Though many schemes for poverty alleviation have been implemented, yet starvation malnutrition, poverty, backwardness and diseases have not been uprooted. I believe that the UPA Government will soon be able to do away with hunger and malnutrition with the help of comprehensive scheme. Still I am of the view that we should work in united manner in this direction so that no one in the country sleeps empty stomach. All the political parties and people should work together for that. Our Government has implemented many schemes for housing, employment, roads and communication i.e. Indira Awas Yojana for housing, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana for roads, Swarn Jayanti Gram Swa-Rozgar Yojana and Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana for employment.

The historical step taken by our Government is national rural employment guarantee scheme under which lacs of unemployed youth will get 100 days' employment every year and Swarn Jayanti Urban Employment scheme is also being run. Many schemes are being implemented for potable water also e.g. Swajaldhara Scheme, National Rural Health Mission is also progressing fast for health.

Many schemes are being formulated under Bharat Nirman Yojana for irrigation and communication. Besides many schemes are being implemented for food subsidy e.g. [English] Mid day meal scheme; wheat based nutrition programme, Annapurna Scheme, Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); Scheme for supply of Foodgrains to Hostels/Welfare institutions; Scheme for supply of Foodgrains to SC/ST/OBC Hostels; National Programme

for Adolescent Girls; Emergency Feeding Programme; Village Grain-bank Scheme; National Food for work Programme; National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP); Iron and Folic Supplementation Programme; Targeted Public Distribution system; Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).

[Translation]

Rural foodgrains bank is also being established from this year and Rs. 19 crore have been provided in the Budget for 2007-08 for the same. This year also, Rs. 26 thousand crores have been provided under this head. But a comprehensive scheme is needed to eradicate starvation completely.

Madam, though you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the so many schemes being run in this regard and spending Rs. 26 crores on them. Even our State Minister would accept this fact that even after spending so much amount our brethren are suffering from hunger and malnutrition, children are getting weak. A comprehensive scheme is needed to address the problem. For this purpose, there should be a similar provision which is there for disaster management or as there is a Bill going to be introduced soon for communal violence namely Prevention of communal violence. A comprehensive scheme is required to plug loopholes existing in any scheme and to secure justice to the people bringing a zero hunger Act is necessary in this regard. I would request specially the hon'ble Minister to bring zero hunger legislation as U.P.A. Government is committed to eradicate hunger from the country. By bringing such a legislation we would show our commitment. Such a legislation would strengthen the poverty alleviation programmes. In the following points should be taken special care of this legislation to provide food on priority basis to those who have no money to buy their meals so that nobody would die of hunger; to provide food on priority basis to those affected by natural calamities like floods, earthquakes, droughts, tsunami and terrorist activities; to set up food banks with the grants and donations received from the Central Government, State Government, local units, private units and the public; to levy a food cess on the lines of education cess and to set up a National fund for the management of the food banks and to provide necessary funds to the State Commissions for proper

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

implementation of this legislation; to undertake periodic review of this legislation; to make publicity among people regarding availability of food; to conduct inspection of public distribution system and to rectify all the lacunae noticed therein; to constitute Food Commissions to assist National Commission in every State and Union Territory; to open food centers in every district and block; to provide adequate funds for the same; to establish food courts for securing timely justice in case of violation of laws.

A poet has said—Bhukhe pet bhajan na hoy Gopala, Ye pakar Apni Kanthi aur mala. It means that if a person is hungry, he cannot even remember God. Therefore, I think that now its high time that every Indian gets rid of hunger and it should be his fundamental right. He should not have any fear of going to bed empty stomach. I want to tell from my own experience that I gave a break to speech preparation and decided to have my lunch first. So it is very necessary to give people security in this regard so that no more hunger deaths take place.

Brazil has introduced such a law and the results are encouraging. Hon. Minister, Akhilesh Prasadji is here. I am also aware that the Government and the Government officials would definitely oppose this because once it is implemented then it will add to their responsibilities. Today, in our country there is a public distribution system at all places, honorable Minister Shri Sharad Pawarji has also made a statement explaining how diversion is taking place and I believe even after so many years, no concrete action has been taken. After enactment of this Act people will become more aware. The enactment of Right to Information Act by the government has brought maximum transparency in our system. Enactment of Zero Hunger Act would grant more rights to the people. Though this Act will deprive the poor of their rights, yet they will be in a position to fight for it and protect their rights. This Act has been enforced in Brazil and other nations are making arrangements to follow this step. After 60 years of our independence we are spending thousands of crores of rupees on it.

I hope that under the provisions of the Zero Hunger Act the Government would formulate schemes that will help in eradication of hunger. Malnutrition is a more serious problem than hunger. As I have said earlier that if a boy

suffers from malnutrition during his childhood, he can never meet that deficiency throughout his life. Healthy mind develops in a healthy body. Until and unless we are able to provide nutritious food to the people we can't expect our youth to become strong. Same thing applies to sports as well. A large number of athletes and wrestlers also don't get required quantity of nutritious food.

I would urge the hon. Members to extend their all out support to the Zero Hunger Act. We can evolve a consensus on this kind of subject as it will be beneficial for the people of every section of society. Then alone we will be able to have a peaceful sleep as none of our brothers or sisters will go to bed empty stomach. I would urge the hon. Minister to bring such a Bill called Zero Hunger Bill. We have developed better mechanism to tackle with disaster management and communal violence after passing the Bills relating to these two subjects. Now we can deal with the situation in a better way. Similarly, passing of Zero Hunger Bill will empower the Government to protect the poor people, provide rights to every Indian and will be able to overcome hunger and provide nutritious food. Every Indian will get food, clothing and shelter, everyone will become prosperous and will be able to contribute in development of the country. So, let all of us come together and create hunger free India.

I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the Resolution of Shri Navin Jindalji, I would like to express my views on the subject. He deliberated upon a very significant issue relating to devising a comprehensive food security scheme for eradication of hunger. It is true that when objections were raised on this issue I was the first person to support it. It should have been debated long back, but such an important issue could not be discussed in the House because of interruptions. Our country's population is around 110 crore. India is predominantly an agrarian country and even these days our 75 per cent population depends upon agriculture. In our country if a person steals a bread to satiate his hunger he is liable to be punished. As per the statistics available, a child dies of hunger in the world every five seconds. Out of these, 60 lakh children are in the age group of below 5 years. Even

today, 85.2 crore people are facing hunger and most of the starvation deaths take place in rural areas. Tackling of problem of unemployment and providing employment to all has been at the center stage of discussion in the House. It has been enshrined in our Constitution that education, health and employment should be provided to everyone belonging to any section of society, poor, middle-class or rich. Even after six decades of independence, we need to assess as to what we have achieved and what we have missed. We will have to ponder over it seriously. Mr. Jean Jeglayer an expert in a U.N. report has estimated the number of person facing starvation the world over to be 85 crore 20 lakh. India, after China, is the second largest populated country and India has maximum number of such people. The problem of Hunger is a matter of shame for the mankind the world over. We will have to ponder over seriously as how to save mankind from hunger.

Madam Chairman, Shri Jindal has said that if we adopt proper ways for food distribution, I feel, the number of person dying of starvation can be drastically brought down. The Government should endeavour to tone up PDS. It has been observed that the main causes of starvation deaths are low lying and, waste land, barren land and unfertile land which can be made cultivable. We had earlier debated this issue in the House. It has been estimated that we have very large areas of waste land in our country. If the said land is distributed amongst the poor and made cultivable, we can surely overcome hunger.

This way we can eradicate starvation. Our Government have made efforts in this direction. Our Minister of Rural Developments is sitting here and listening to it attentively. His Ministry deals with the means and ways to make waste land cultivable. Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme launched by the UPA Government, which guarantees 100 days of employment in a year, has helped a lot in overcoming this menace. We guarantee 100 days of employment but it needs to be seriously pondered over as to what could be done about the remaining 265 days?

We have seen that a large number of land-less rural agriculture labourers are migrating to urban areas. I do not know about other states, but this situation is prevailing in all the big cities of U.P. It is a common sight to find 400-500 labourers at a crossing. Some times people start

calling it Labour Chowk. One can find skilled carpenter, masons or other kind of labour there. Majority of them hail from rural areas. They are also facing the same problem. If they do not earn good wages they cannot feed their families. Most of our daily wagers earn daily and manage their livelihood on the basis of it. If due to any reason, such as any calamity, he fails to earn his daily wages on a particular day his children sleep hungry. Even these days, we can come across large number of families in rural areas where people get only one meal a day. We will have to take it seriously. 60 lakh children in our country fall prey to death because of malnutrition before they attain the age of 5 years. Our Government have brought several schemes and laws such as Child Reforms and Eradication of Bonded Labour Act. Despite all this, even today, we find a large number of children and even women working on road-side dhabas, as maid-servants. I have a suggestion to eradicate it.

The hon. Minister of Rural Development is present here. My submission is that there is a need to invest adequate funds on minor irrigation and other agri-projects. Then only we can overcome starvation and malnutrition. If we observe the reports received world wide, 18000 children die every day due to starvation and malnutrition. The figure pertains to children only. 85 crore people all over the world have to go to bed without food every night and most of them belong to India. 10 crore children are suffering from malnutrition in India and the number is highest in the world. We have to ponder over it seriously. From time to time we have discussed in the House the projects relating to education, rural area development and employment but ultimately it all depends upon the strengthening of agriculture and employment generation at rural level. We have been discussing it and the Governments which came into power from time to time have made efforts in this regard. Today maximum number of malnourished children are in our country as per the assessment made world-wide. Therefore, the UPA Government especially the Congress, which is ruling the country for the last 40-50 years, has to ponder over it seriously.

It is unfortunate that we are still facing all these problems. Congress Government is responsible for it. Therefore, as per the world report, if figures are maximum in India, there is a need to enact stringent laws and to

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

make India self-reliant. 10th Five Year Plan is nearing its completion and we are going to enter into 11th Five Year Plan this year. Our endeavor should be to provide financial help at rural level, particularly for agriculture sector. Only then we can get rid of starvation and malnutrition.

Madam Chairman, while supporting and emphasizing on the resolution moved by Shri Naveen Jindal, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Madam Chairperson, I thank my young friend, Shri Navin Jindal, for bringing this Resolution before this House in his first appearance in the House. I hope that young people will not forget the poor people of our country. It is a good sign that he has raised this issue before the House.

I remember, when I came first in 1880, I brought an important Bill, Youth Bill and Right to Work, before the House. It was discussed but till today it has not been implemented in its true spirit. Some right to work has been given by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad in the form of REGA but the dream of right to work as fundamental right is still unfulfilled for our younger generation. Another Bill of mine regarding Agricultural Workers' Rights, is going to come up for discussion next week. We find that in spite of our raising many slogans like '*Garibi hatao*' or taking up a number of projects for poor people, this section of our country is always neglected. We have yet to achieve a lot. Shri Navin Jindal has already explained it by quoting certain figures.

Malnutrition and lack of food security are the main problems in our country as also in other third world countries. It has been explained as to how 85 crore of the people of the world are suffering from starvation. We hear about starvation deaths many a time but nobody agrees to it. If we raise issue about starvation death in the House, the Government would try to cover up by saying that it was not starvation death but may be death due to malnutrition or some disease. The Government never agrees that there are starvation deaths in the country. We have seen it happening in many places.

Scarce availability of food grains is one of the main

reasons for this. In 1955 the population of our country was half of what it is today. At that time, we used to get about 440 grams of food grains per person per day. After ten years, that is, in 1965 we used to get about 480 grams of food grains per person per day and in 1988, it became 494.5 grams per person per day. There was a marginal increase. In 1995 it got reduced to 475 grams per person per day. In 2002 there was a little increase and the figure went to 494 grams per person per day but in 2005, it has reached to 422 grams. So, the availability of food grains per person is today less than what it was in 1955. So your proposal is correct that in 1955, we were getting more per capita food than today. The production has increased and the population has increased. But because of poor distribution and other things, these things are happening.

As regard Public Distribution System, in 2002, in a whole year, the per capita distribution of foodgrains was 189.5 kilograms and in 2005, it has reduced to 170 kilograms. In 1999, per head edible oil figure was nine kilograms which has reduced to 7.2 kilogram in 2003. Similar is the case with sugar, vegetables, tea, coffee, etc. So, there is a reduction in all these ingredients of foodgrains. So, it is not the wholesome growth and this is a matter of concern, as has been mentioned in the Resolution.

There was a survey done in 29 States by the NFHS which has submitted an alarming report. It says that 45.9 per cent children below three years of age are under weight or are suffering from malnutrition. During 2005-06, 57.9 per cent pregnant women are suffering from anemia. If the mother is suffering from anemia, as you know, the child cannot be stronger. As regards married women between in the age group of 15 to 49, 56.1 per cent are suffering from anemia. Seventy-nine per cent children in the age group of six months to 36 months, are suffering from anemia. The figure is the lowest in Kerala and it is the highest in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. Kerala is doing better because they have created different situation through education and backwardness is more in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and some other States. This is a serious situation and the whole nation should be concerned about it. Sometimes we waste three to four hours' time of the House but we do not discuss such serious problems. If we do not discuss, we cannot find a way out. How can

we help those who are suffering due to these problems? As he has said, we need adequate funds, proper planning, sufficient foodgrains, etc. The Public Distribution System is one of the major areas through which we can take food to the poor people. But this system is not working properly and it is now in shambles. The State of Kerala has said that they produce all cash crops for the country. Therefore, the whole country is responsible to feed them because they were promised that sufficient foodgrains will be given for the PDS. But now it has been reduced and they are not getting adequate foodgrains. Now-a-days, we do not follow our own people, our intellectuals but we have become more and more dependent on the World Bank. We follow what Americans or Britishers say. We obey them just like animals. As we all know, one of the most important ingredients is the food security but we have rejected that old idea and we have accepted the system of Targeted PDS only. Earlier, there was the universal rationing system. But now because of the Targeted Public Distribution System, a large number of people have been out of the ambit of this Public Distribution System. Any Member in his or her constituency would have found out that in a village a person who is presumably an economically solvent person owning, say, a bicycle or a radio and having an account in the post office, using his influence, would get his name included in the BPL list whereas a labourer not having a job would get excluded in the list of BPL. So, the principles of Targeted PDS are not being implemented in true letter and spirit. The influential people in the villages by taking their agents get their names included in the list of BPL, whereas people who do not have anyone to support their cause fail to get their names included in the BPL list. So, the people who really need the support of the Public Distribution System are left out of the system. How would these people get food?

Again, the FCI has become a den of corruption. The hon. Minister, the other day, while stating the figures for 14 States mentioned that out of 28 states, in 14 States the food is getting diverted. This is the state of affairs in 14 States; we do not have the figures for the rest of the States. Some good quality food is sent from States like Punjab and Haryana to States like Bihar, West Bengal and such other States. It is a very strange experience that by some magic means the good food that is loaded at the starting point, at the Central Food Godown, changes to very rotten quality food at the time of unloading at the

local godowns. The good food is sold at the market. This is a very serious situation. All the concerned machinery should work in tandem to check such a malpractice. This is possible because of massive corruption at different levels. The food meant for the poor people get diverted to the black market and only rotten quality food is available for distribution to the poor people. Such quality food is bound to cause diseases amongst the people who consume such food, mostly the people belonging to the poorer sections of the society. How could we afford to allow such things to happen?

Besides, we have come across reports of starvation deaths in different parts of the country. As has been mentioned, around 70 to 80 people ate roots of plants for about two to three years to survive and finally died. We all know that is happening in the KBK districts of Orissa. One would only find old men and women in those places. The men folk have left the place since there is no work and no food in the region. The situation is more acute amongst the tribal population. They are the most neglected lot. They suffer from malnutrition and non-availability of food.

My friend was mentioning about the programmes meant for the poor people. There are many programmes; rather I should say there are too many programmes. I do not think that there is any necessity for those many programmes. I think, only two to three programmes should be taken up and implemented in right earnest. Too many programmes means, involvement of too many Ministries; different departments, different employees and different sections and different kinds of loot. Every section concerned with the programmes will have the opportunity of loot. In the event of having two to three programmes, the loot will remain restricted to only two to three sections, if one per cent goes in loot, the rest 99 per cent will reach the benefits for whom they are meant. If there are 100 channels, then there will be loot through every channel. The bureaucrats in a bid to please their Ministers would try and evolve a programme. It is the very nature of bureaucracy. They have to prove their worth since they are getting wages. They would come out with a new programme and convince the Minister about the utility and importance of the scheme and programme. The Ministers normally do not contest their intellect because they are considered intelligent people. They feel convinced

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

about the worth of the programme as has been told by the bureaucrats and they approve the scheme and then on the 15th of August, every year, from the ramparts of the Red Fort such schemes are announced by the hon. Prime Minister. In order to immortalize the departed leaders of the various Parties, the schemes are named after them; but unfortunately, 90 per cent of such programmes that are announced are not successful. The late Rajiv Gandhi once mentioned that if a rupee is sent from Delhi, only 15 paise reaches intended beneficiary. The middlemen take away the rest of it. So, the channels should be closed and there should only be one or two channels and only two to three major programmes should be taken up for implementation in right earnest.

There are so many anti-poverty programmes which do not really eradicate poverty and they are only a gimmick to hoodwink the people. Every Government announces dozens of programmes. Those programmes are not helping the people. So, I think, we have to concentrate on these things and form two or three major programmes on nutrition, food supply and drinking water all these programmes should be merged. We have to declare a war against poverty and malnutrition.

Finally, I would say that we should have a legal backing which is necessary. I am very happy that Shri Navin Jindal has proposed a comprehensive law. If a zero-hunger legislation is thought of, it would help the people. He has made general suggestions. But we should consult our Planning Commission, economists and other experts and based on their recommendations, we can prepare a comprehensive legislation based on zero-hunger. We have targeted all our funds for anti-poverty funds. Those funds should be mobilized and only then, we will have success in this field. Even after 60 years of our Independence, we are lamenting that our people are not getting proper nutrition and food. I think, the Government will seriously think of it, consult the experts and come up with a comprehensive zero-hunger Bill and implement it with some specific programme discarding all the unused and useless programmes so that we can achieve our target. By this, we will succeed in eliminating hunger and poverty.

Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Madam Chairman, at the outset, I congratulate the hon'ble member Shri Naveen Jindal for bringing a resolution before this House regarding formulation and implementation of Comprehensive Food and Nutrition scheme to eradicate starvation from the country. Today even after 60 years of our Independence, 40-50 crore population of our country is living below poverty line. The Government of Congress party has been in power since our Independence and ruled the country for approximately 45 years since then. Had the Congress led Governments made appropriate schemes to provide food security to rural people, the situation might not have been same as today.

Madam, usually the people of rural areas and their children are victim of poverty and malnutrition. The prevalence of blindness among children in rural areas due to malnutrition is manifold in comparison to urban areas. They often become handicapped due to malnutrition. The backward, suppressed and common man in the villages are most affected due to starvation and malnutrition. The people living below the poverty line belonging to any section or society are not getting adequate food, medicines, education and a house to shelter. B.P.L. people are usually most affected due to poverty and starvation. Therefore, Government should seriously think to eradicate starvation among 40-50 crore poor people of the country.

Madam Chairman, Bihar is the most backward state in the country. The hon'ble Minister of Rural Development is not present here. I had requested him earlier and today also I would like to request him that special efforts are required to remove poverty and backwardness from Bihar. I would like to mention that the state of Bihar has received 13 points in regard to poverty though Delhi, Haryana and Punjab etc. were given 20 points. Poverty and starvation is not going to be eradicated from Bihar till the points for B.P.L. in the state are increased. Therefore, I request that 20-25 points should be given to Bihar under B.P.L. Only then the problem of poverty and starvation can be solved in Bihar.

17.00 hrs.

Madam Chairman, though the Government has

implemented Antyodya and Annapurna Schemes but in reality a large part of the foodgrains meant for poor people goes to the godowns of moneylenders and influential people. Both Central and State Governments are unable to keep a check on these schemes. That is why the poor people could not get the benefit of these schemes. A short while ago, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has mentioned about the import of wheat. The remunerative price, if given to the farmers will definitely encourage them to grow more food but they are not getting it. We all are aware of the difficulties, a farmer face to grow wheat and other crops. He takes loan from the moneylender for this purpose. But when his crop is destroyed due to hailstorm or any other natural calamity, he fails to compensate for his losses. Even in case of bumper crop, he does not get remunerative price for his produce. The Government should have reduced the prices of fertilizers in this budget and irrigation facilities should have been provided. However, no such arrangements have been made. The problem of starvation will remain in the country until the farmer lives a prosperous life. The hon'ble Minister may present a populist budget and cheat the people but the country cannot be prosperous till the interest of farmers and the people living below the poverty line are taken care of.

Madam Chairman, Employment Guarantee Scheme is being implemented country wide but I have observed that it is not being implemented properly in most of the districts of my constituency. The Scheme provides guaranteed employment for 100 days to a poor person living in rural area. But such an arrangement has not been done in many states. A resolution should be passed that if a person dies of starvation, a fixed amount of compensation should be given.

Madam, Chairman, irregularities are being committed in Indira Awas Yojna. Under this scheme the amount of grant has been enhanced from 20 thousand to 25 thousand. Rs. 40-50 thousand are required to construct even a toilet, whereas a provision of only Rs. 25000 has been made under Indira Awas Yojna. Through you, I would like to demand from the Government that a minimum of Rs. 50 thousand should be given under Indira Awas Yojna because out of Rs. 20-25 thousand, the beneficiary has to pay 8-10 thousand as graft. How a poor person would be able to construct a house in such a situation? Such an

arrangement should be made so that the beneficiary get the amount credited direct to his account as it is being done in the Old Age Pension Scheme so that no bribe is required to be paid under this scheme.

Madam, poor people are unable to provide clothing, medicine and education to their children due to poverty. People living below poverty line are most affected due to poverty. Therefore, through you, I demand to enact such a law that no poor person should be deprived of education. Compulsory arrangement for education should be made for all. Residential Schools in every block should be opened for the children of poor people to provide them compulsory education from primary to matric level.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur):
Madam, Chairman, the subject we are discussing is very important, serious and sensitive subject. First of all, I would like to congratulate hon'ble Member, Naveen Jindalji, that despite him being a new Member, he has moved a Private Members' Resolution concerning the basic needs, the basic requirements confronting the country today, and the last man of the society who is afflicted by the hunger-pangs, who is a victim of malnutrition. He has moved the Private Members' Resolution about the people belonging to that class.

Today, data are available in the country as to how many people get two square meals. Number of times, survey of Planning Commission had been conducted by the National Sample Survey. It has been conducted in the year 1993, 1999 and in 2002. As per the survey, the number of BPL was estimated to be 16% once. The estimate of the BPL i.e. the number of people living below the poverty line was calculated, as 16%. This fact must be taken into account as to who is most affected by the starvation. Focus should be on removing poverty. It is the targeted area. There is a certain segment of the society who are doomed to fall prey to starvation. It is the people living below the poverty line who fall prey to starvation. From time to time, the Planning Commission makes its estimate with regard to the poverty line also. From 1993 till date different figures have come up in those surveys. It was 16% in the year 1993. You will be surprised to know that when the said estimate was made by the Planning Commission in the year 1996-97 late Professor

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Madhu Dandewate was its deputy chairman who was a very prominent socialist leader of the country. When he carried out analysis in the states, officials from here went to the states and conducted sample surveys to find out how many people get two square meals, they conducted a survey about the starvation. Just now I was congratulating Jindalji and was looking for the mover of the resolution, I was tracing him. Today, once again I would like to congratulate him for moving a very good Private Members' Resolution before the House. The targeted class suffering from starvation belongs to BPL i.e. the people living below the poverty line. I was saying that in 1996-97, BPL was estimated at 35.95, it means that 36 per cent people live below the poverty line. Analysis was done after the survey as the Planning Commission provides the estimate of the BPL, Food Ministry does not provide it. Our Minister of state is present here, it is not the work of Food Ministry, Planning Commission conducts this survey, National Sample Survey on the basis of Lakarwala Expert Group, this is a Formula, based on the Formula and the parameters, survey has been conducted. It is astonishing that in the year 1997, there were 35.97 per cent people in the country living below the poverty line, it means that there were around 35 crore people and while the survey was conducted in 2002, my NDA friends, who are also present here will excuse me, just now hon'ble Sukhdeo Paswan has said that in 2002 this figure had come down to 26 per cent. Poverty was not mitigated due to poverty eradication, the number of people living below the poverty line was shown to be reduced, this much of number jugglery is talking place with regard to the number of poor in the country. A very gross injustice is being done in preparing the data, exploitation is taking place. The number of the poor has been brought down in it. In 2002, how much reduction in the number of poor people was claimed. It has been stated that 26 per cent people are living below the poverty line and the same figure of 26 per cent still prevails. In 2002, a survey was carried out by the Planning Commission, the figure of 26 per cent projected in the said survey still holds good, but is this the fact? Is this the truth? Is it the reality? No, it is not. One can say that roughly speaking, in the formula for analysis, these could not be termed as the 'real' in it, there can be an 'approach to the real', but from 36 per

cent, a reduction of 10 per cent has been made making it 26 per cent and today the Planning Commission is preparing its plan on the basis of this 26 per cent for the whole country.

I was watching Naveen Jindalji's on T.V. wherein he was saying that many centrally sponsored schemes for poverty alleviation being implemented across the country, and the intention of the U.P.A. Government is the upliftment of the poor. The poor people of our country should not die of starvation and they should not fall prey to mal-nutrition. But in reality what is happening? That's why, I am mentioning it here. Shri Naveen Jindalji has stressed the need to introduce a 'Zero Hunger Act'. I am grateful to him for this. About this important subject, Mahatma Gandhiji had opined that the person who is afflicted with the hunger pangs, has no other aim other than to satiate his hunger pangs. For him, the administration, individual or the system which provides him with food is the God unto itself, the Almighty and he treats the food provider as the appearance of God himself. When a person's hunger is not satisfied, for him, the most important thing is to fill up his stomach. At that time, he does not care for other things of the world. When a person feels the hunger-pangs, he is overpowered by it and he can not see beyond it. How much food is needed by a common man? According to a survey, a person needs to have minimum of 2700 calories. But how many poor people's food intake has 2700 calories in it? In rich people's cases they get calories more than the levels they require. They fall prey to many diseases like diabetes, B.P. etc. Then the doctor forbids them to consume more than half glass milk, asks them to eat normal Roti and to avoid consuming ghee. Nature has put in place its own ways to punish them also. Today if the poor gets any kind of food, it is not nutritious. This is a wrong punishment inflicted upon them. This is for the system to ensure that a person should have all the nutritions like pulses, gram and all other things to subsist which will help the formation of blood. However, it is unfortunate that even after the passage of so many years, since our independence, common man fails to get two square meals for blood formation, there is no resentment against such a system in the country. A furore is created when a person is murdered. There are numerous instances in our country where many a person got killed. For the last two days, both the houses have been stalled, because in Nandigram bullets were fired on people. Serious concerns were

expressed and one should have serious concern over it. I praise this attitude. For this purpose, concern and anger should be expressed, but for this, remedial measures have to be found out. Today, in Chhattisgarh, 55 police personnel were killed who were posted there to ensure security to the system. Tribals were also there. They had been trained and were given weapons. They were deployed in the Naxal affected areas after the completion of their training, but they were eliminated there. When the roads are soaked with blood and persons are killed, resentment spreads thick and fast. Why is that priority is not accorded to the demand of formulating law and order? An uproar is created when blood is shed, but if blood is not formed in the body itself, then no such reaction. Till the time, resentment towards the system is not shown, benefits will not be accrued from the laws likely to be enacted, therefore, priority should be accorded to it irrespective of the fact that system is in our hands or it is in their hands. This is a basic question which I am raising in this House. Their suggestion regarding the laws is correct. But in what way, resentment can be created? All the hungry people are in unorganized sector. They have no organisation. Therefore, they are not recognised as a power bloc. Had the poor, marginal farmers, unorganized labourers been united, the system would have yielded. The system does not yield to their demands since their population is scattered. The people affected by the hunger pangs, the victims of mal-nutrition are unorganized. They have got no groups, they haven't got any organisation. Therefore, they are not recognised as a power bloc. In democracy truth falls in line with the person who musters enough support. The ideals for which king Harichandra suffered miseries do not have any relevance in the democracy. I would like to bring it to the records of the House. The Honesty of Harichandra can do wonders in the annals and the books in libraries, but in practical, in politics truth is what the people with support say. Today, there is neither any support in favour of the poor, nor any organisation, any unity among the poor. Our leftist brethren have given the people many slogans exhorting them to unite, but till date no such thing happened. If it materializes, then it is a very good thing. Mao Tsetung said. *[English]* "Power Flows From the barrel of the gun". *[Translation]* It was typical of that time, here attention has to be paid to both he matters and to strike a balance between both of

them. We have to enact a legislation to eradicate hunger in the democratic set up and we have to implement and monitor it properly. Many schemes have been implemented here. Who are the beneficiaries of the National Rural Scheme? It is meant for landless labourers, rural labourers. A good programme has been chalked out. This is a revolutionary Bill enacted by the UPA Government. If we take stock of the extent of implementation of this Act during the last one and a half years, its benefit has reached only 14-15 per cent people in some regions. In the current budget a provision has been made for accommodating 200 to 300 villages. If we analyze the percentage of any particular village, it will come to around 14, 15 per cent. What does it mean, what will happen to the remaining 85 per cent people? 85% labourers are not included in it i.e. the benefit of this law is not reaching the 85 per cent labourers. How can one get the benefits of the scheme? Hannan Mollahji had rightly said that only 15 per cent people are benefited from the scheme. I would like to state here that the benefits of the recent Act also did not go beyond the 15 per cent level. A poor man dies before attaining his average age which affects the national productivity. Why is there a decline in production of grains today? It is fact that if the weather favours, the trend of production comes back on track. We depend heavily on the weather. A person with an average life span of 65 years dies at the age of 40-45 years due to lack of food, malnutrition. Whether the premature deaths of persons before attaining the average life span will not affect the national production?

India's biggest asset is it's labour force. We are renowned in world for our skill even today as no one can match us in that regard in the world. Reputed contractors hire labourers from here for employing them in foreign countries. There is a saying in the village which goes like this—Man Changa tho Katouthi Mein Ganga (God sides with sincere devotees) Who will have unblemished hearts—the pullers of Rickshaws and Carts, labourers engaged in construction works who construct buildings all over the country, the construction labourers engaged in building bridges in Delhi are an unorganized lot. Who generate whole wealth for the country? The labourers of the unorganized sector generate whole wealth of the country. He is involved in the construction work, works in brick kilns, plies rickshaws, vendors who sell fruits in pavements from where it reaches the hospitals, newspaper

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

vendors, cultivators of foodgrains, by toiling hard on the land, fields and barns they generate wealth in the country. The people who generate wealth of the nation fail to get two square meals. What else could be a greater misfortune for the people? Therefore the old saying—Man Changa tho Katouthi Mein Ganga—seems a bit out of place and inept because till the time the hunger pangs are satiated, a person cannot have an unblemished heart. It sounds good but the rickshaw pullers' and the plough-wielders' hearts cannot become unblemished until their stomachs are full, this is my view.

I feel that today unorganized sector accounts for 93% of the total work force in the country and only 7% workforce are in organized sector which means 37 crore people in unorganized sector are victims of starvation and malnutrition as well. There is no social security network available for the 37 crore people. What is the need of the hour today? My younger brother has raised a very good issue, in the common minimum programme of the UPA it has been written that such a law would be formulated and today it is being stated that it is under their consideration. When a question arises about it, it is said that it is under consideration and will be taken up in the current session. It should be seen whether the Bill regarding the said matter gets introduced before the end of the current session on 22nd May or not? How many commissions were set up for the social security network and the welfare of the unorganized sector labourers till date? In the year 2002 Labour Commission was set up as an umbrella for unorganized sector. Recently a Labour Commission has been set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Arjun Sen Gupta which submitted its report to the hon'ble Prime Minister on 16th May, 2006. Till date the said report has not been presented before the House and for this purpose no act has been enacted. This proposal of the resolution is a good one, so there is a need to incorporate the same in the Bill. A central legislation should be enacted for the 37 crore unorganized sector workers which account for 93 per cent of the total work force of the country. I think the demand made by the Hon'ble Member is for the unorganized sector. The intent and objective of the said resolution should get reflected in the proposed Bill as the large scale migration of people is a cause of concern. Today there is lack of employment

opportunities for the people. Poverty in the country exists due to unemployment. Poverty alleviation is the burning issue today. Paucity of time does not allow me to speak in detail about all these matters as many more hon'ble Members are waiting for their turn to present their views.

Finally, I would like to raise a very important matter before the House. Today, the prices of all commodities are skyrocketing, be it steel....*(Interruptions)* While Sukdeo Paswanji was speaking, I was listening to his speech on T.V. For the man belonging to the lowest strata of the society, irrespective of whether he is a tribal, downtrodden or belongs to backward classes or to any inaccessible area like Arunachal Pradesh having hilly terrains, there has been no increase in minimum wages. Prices of every commodities like pulses, vegetables etc. are on the rise. However their minimum wages have not been increasing. Today the minimum wage is Rs. 62, in some states it is Rs. 72 and in some others it is Rs. 75. This is a very unfortunate situation being confronted by the nation.

Today minimum wages of the people who feed the entire country including the Jawans deployed along the borders, is not increasing. Prices of commodities like Steel, Cement etc. have increased ten fold, but the labourers who are sweating out to generate wealth for the country are not getting even the enhanced minimum wages. Members belonging to the treasury benches are present here, I am also a part of the Government. They should spell out the efforts which have been made to enhance the minimum wages. Whether any efforts have been made in this regard? I am of the opinion that they should issue circulars to the States in this regard. They should discontinue the supply of foodgrains to the states. Today food security is a very big issue. There are elected Chief Ministers in every states. They also in the Union Government by virtue of being an elected representative of the people, can say that there is a shortage of foodgrains, as such, if the states fail to enhance the minimum wages, the supply of foodgrains will be cut off from next month onwards. If they will take such a step, then nothing can stop the raising of minimum wages. Today when the Chief Minister of Haryana raised minimum wages of the labourers from Rs. 2400 per month to Rs. 3500, a furore was created. People belonging to the entire corporate world went on a strike which implies that if the minimum wage of the poor gets increased, those people

will go on strike against it though they will certainly welcome the increase in the prices of the commodities of the factories. Budget also has the inflationary effect on the prices of certain articles and commodities. With great anguish I am raising this question. I am not delivering any speech. With genuine feeling, I am raising this question as to how poverty is to be alleviated. Just now Jindalji has opined that we should enact Zero Hunger Act. We have launched a number of programmes for poverty alleviation. He has told about many centrally sponsored programmes like Golden jubilee plan etc. Poverty can be alleviated only if the people are employed and their purchasing power is increased. Today their purchasing power is decreasing. If the prices soar, purchasing capacity of the poor will decrease. This is like further taxing the poor. When the prices of the commodities increase, a new type of undeclared tax is imposed on everybody because for a material which he used to buy for Rs. 10 earlier, now comes at Rs. 15. In this way, the purchase of that particular material will be taxing for his pocket to the tune of Rs. 5. Therefore I would like to say that till the purchasing power of the poor is increased, the avenues of employment are created for them it will be meaningless to talk about poverty alleviation. Poverty alleviation can take place only when the purchasing power of everyone increases. When the purchasing power increases, when a person gets employment through some employment oriented programmes, then only poverty will diminish. Have the employment opportunities increased today? Has there been any increase in the purchasing power of the people? But they say that poverty has been alleviated, the number of the poor people has decreased, it has been lowered to 26 per cent. The poor people have no say in this regard. In today's changing times if the poor who by strenuous efforts generate wealth start to raise their voice, even the most powerful empire will start to feel the tremors. As such in the ongoing process of developments the poor is bound to slowly and steadily realize their rights. I am confident that they will raise their voices. I am not going into the condition of women and children caused by malnutrition as there is paucity of time. I would like to raise the moot point that under this present system, it is not possible either to eradicate starvation or malnutrition. Hence, we have to ponder over in a fresh manner, we will have to formulate laws and we will have to bring a legislation for the labourers of the unorganized

sector. The State Government should be held responsible for starvation deaths in their region and that State Government should be declared inefficient. The State Government should be held responsible under whose jurisdiction starvation death takes place. We can put a check on starvation deaths and malnutrition only if we consider it a priority sector. We enact the law but it is not enforced. Only 15% implementation has taken place under the rural employment guarantee scheme. In democratic forms of Government, enacting law is the only way out. This House should deliberate upon it as it is a sensitive matter. Starvation should be a matter of concern for everyone. I understand that all the philosophers and economists from Saint Kabir and Saint Ravidas to Swami Vivekanand, all our philosophers and our forefathers have recognized the importance of labour. When Saint Ravidas found 'Parasmani' he did not even touch it and said that every human being's body contains the 'Parasmani'. Every human being possesses sweat of labour with which he earns money. 'Parasmani' in the Treasure of a King or Queen can not build this country or this world. Therefore, the actual Parasmani is the sweat of labour with which common man earn money.

The Government must accept this resolution which seeks to do away with starvation and it should come forward with a Central legislation on the issue and also pass the pending Bill regarding unorganized sector as it is related to this issue itself. It is a matter related to 37 crore people. We can get people employed then only and improve their purchasing power. Once we get the people employed then it will effect poverty alleviation. If the hunger is overcome then only the mind can be healthy. Only healthy body can have a healthy mind and constructive ideas can be generated, otherwise naxalite and Salva Judum Type of activities cannot be checked, no matter how much force you deploy for the purpose. Unless the social and economic development takes places the problem of naxalism cannot be combated or curbed. Therefore, I want to say that we the Members of Parliament and the Ministers fly 35000 ft. high. I am submitting this to tell the widening gap between the poor and the rich. We the Members of Parliament travel by air because the people have given us mandate and the facility but we never contemplated upon the condition of the common people whether they are well fed or not. Hence it is a

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

most important question to be taken into consideration. It is the reason that has created a gap of 35000 ft between us and the common people, economic disparity has occurred because we fly by aero-plane at heights of 35000 ft. and are not connected with the common man. So, a wide gap has occurred between affluence and poverty. Previously this gap used to be only to 17-18 ft. because rich people used to ride elephants. People like Rawan were exceptions who had Pushpak Vimans. Now this gap of 35000 ft. reflects economic disparity at the extreme. Therefore, I want to assert that if this gap is not reduced, no power on earth could stop the poor and hungry from having A.K.-47 rifles. So violence can not be checked unless economic disparity is removed.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had delivered a long speech in this very House in 1962 on the potential equality. He was in favour of keeping all the citizens of the country on an equal footing, so that no one remains hungry. If we wish, we can arrange for food for the poor people and mitigate the hunger. If a person dies of starvation, then the System is at fault, whosoever may be in power. Those who have control over the system will have to take concrete resolution to bridge the gap of economic disparity. Presently only 14 states of the country are facing naxalite problem. I want to put it on record that if action is not taken in the right direction, anarchy and naxalism will prevail in all the States which will be a sign of danger for our democratic system.

[English]

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar):
Madam, Chairperson, I am delighted to hear the viewpoints made by my hon. friends on this very important Resolution concerning formulation and implementation of comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme. I am particularly grateful and thankful to the mover of this Resolution, Shri Navin Jindal, for making very valuable points and suggestions. Freedom from hunger is a must. Each mouth is to be fed. It is just the Right to Food.

As per our Constitution, it is the right. [Translation]
It is a constitutional right. It is mentioned in the constitution that every one should get food. [English] Whichever party may be in power, be it the Congress party, be it the BJP,

be it the Communist party, or for that matter any Alliance, if they do not know the art to feed food to the common citizens of the country, they have no right to continue in power.

17.33 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

At a very right time, my hon. friend, Mr. Jindal has moved this beautiful Resolution on the floor of the House, that is, Right to food.

We call our country as BHARAT VARSH. BHA means *alok khand main rut*; BHA mean *sadhna main rut*; BHA means *bhaat*; *bhaat* means *ama*; *ama* means rice. Do not waste *ama*. By wasting *ama*, we are wasting our own blood. The scientists can create anything and everything except blood. Blood can be created only through food. So, right to Food is the Right for the human being. [Translation] It is a constitutional right.

Only now you said [English] about naxalite problems. [Translation] Why does this problem occur.

Bubhukhita kinanah na kasoti Papam [English] The person, who is hungry is leading a very unholy and painful life because of food. [Translation] That is why naxalites so conveniently use them for achieving their ends whether they are the Harijans or the Girijans.

[English]

Even after 60 years of our Independence, poverty seems to be our property. We are the proprietor of the property of hunger.

[Translation]

The rich and the poor all have a constitutional right to live in India. We are political animals. It is because one who does not know the art how to feed is a friend even. He is not a man. For a human being, it is art of living, that is, science of being. That is Brahma, Brahmana. Ana means Anand. He knows the art of how to attain the highest mind of being, that is, science of being and art of living. Our belly is being packed with dead bodies. Those who are eating non-vegetarian food, that is, are the store houses of the dead body. The natural tendency of that dead body is to lead you to the burning *ghat*, that is,

Shamshan Ghat. Those who are eating vegetarian foods, fruits and flowers may go to the temple. It is your option. You either choose burning *ghat* or temple.

[Translation]

We are born in the lap of mother by the grace of God and the mother is blessed with milk in her breasts. When an infant is born, the mother's breasts are full of milk. A mother who does not feed her child is called Kumata.

[English]

That is why, mother is not feeding the children. The rural mother is also not feeding, not the urban women only, after seeing, particularly in the media, the beautiful scenario that you people are enjoying and we all are enjoying everyday. It is also that the mother is protecting her beauty, maintaining her beauty. But beauty is the duty of every individual. If we know the art how to maintain the life, life is vibrating in the life. Mind is vibrating in the mind and we are always propagating in favour of the slogans 'Vibrant India, Incredible India into India. But we have forgotten the rights, that is, the Right to Food. Annamaya Kosh. I know my State is a below the poverty line State.

[Translation]

This is not my proverb, it was said by a wise person that if a person behind bars get more food, water, clothes and eatables than the common man living free outside, then he will also intend and desire to go to jail.

[English]

After 60 years of democracy, we are presiding over poverty. Sir, poverty is our property and we are the proprietor of boasting that we protect democracy. Democracy cannot be maintained. Demo means 'people', cracy means 'rule' becomes democracy. It is because we do not know how to control Naxalism. The people are dying everyday. Who is killing them? According to your analogy, I am telling you the same thing. Naxalism can be rooted out very easily if food is served to every citizen in right way and in right time. Mr. Jindal is raising a very vital point that is to be honoured. This Parliament is a law making body and we have to promulgate a law to encourage him. So truth is truth. Truth is simple. Truth is

legible. Truth is natural. Truth is life supporting. So, let us support the life to protect all the Indians, those who have the right to have food of life.

My State, particularly, is below the poverty line State where the mother is selling her own baby or child to get only Rs. 5 and not more than that. It happens to the country. The Alsatian dog is even getting, you know [Translation] eats mutton of the amounts more than the wages of the common man. [English] This is the fate of democracy. So, it is right time his right to food is a beautiful proposal that must be honoured and must be approved in this august House.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Poverty has many expressions. Unemployment and hunger are both expressions of poverty. Malnutrition is another. I am very happy that we are getting an opportunity to discuss this problem in the House because my young friend Shri Naveen Jindal has brought a Resolution which gives us this opportunity to discuss this problem and find a solution.

Now, I do not want to go into statistics. Enough statistics has been provided here. I read from an article:

"As many as 45.9 per cent of children are underweight, 38 per cent are stunted and 19.1 per cent wasted...this even before they turn three. Contrast this with China, where only eight per cent are underweight".

That shows that in a different economic system that China has, they have succeeded in bringing down the malnutrition problem. Here in India, I do not say that we are making no serious effort. "But India has the hunger levels of malnourished children than Sub-Saharan Africa despite the Asian giant having more funds and better infrastructure to tackle the problem"—the U.N. Children's Fund said so.

This is the Budget Session. We claim that the GDP growth is 9.2 per cent. It is a spectacular achievement, no doubt. But, at the same time, we see this spectacle that the country is having maximum unemployment, maximum poverty, and maximum hunger. How has this to be bridged? That is the problem. Shri Naveen Jindal in his speech said about a Zero-level Hunger Act. I am not against it. But I do not think one more legislation will bring a solution to this problem.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): It can be a comprehensive legislation.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Well, we have enough comprehensive legislations. The problem I look at is slightly different. Our hon. Minister for Food made a statement just before your speech. He said that: "We are doing certain good things for the farmers, a little improvement in a kind of bonus to overcome the natural calamity." It is a good thing. But then, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan was in Chair and she asked whether you will procure enough and you did not answer that. I want to know whether there will be procurement or not. The policy is there. But procurement, as it was before, is not there.

When you speak of the problem of hunger and malnutrition, there should be in the Indian conditions, a very comprehensive Public Distribution System. Shri Hannan Mollah was pointing out that there was a good Public Distribution System in Kerala. Long before, when that Public Distribution System was established, Shrimati Indira Gandhi said in one of her speeches in Parliament—it was one of the best—that 'I am writing to all the Chief Ministers in the country to have a system like that'.

That was long back. She also said that legislation for providing job security and employment conditions to agricultural workers, as it was enacted in Kerala, should be enacted in other States. These were all her dreams 30 years before, but today, the Public Distribution System, one can say in a way, is in a shambles. The Minister in his Statement today also said that if there is difficulty, they will import. ...*(Interruptions)* They have to import. They have reached that stage. That is the problem. The problem is that we were torn-torn about the food security that we had achieved. We really had achieved food security long ago, but what has happened to that? Why have we descended from that level to a level where we have to import? He said that they have to. Why? There, they have to look at the problem and see how to tackle the problems in relation to the peasantry. If the peasantry today is committing suicides, not in five States but many more, all over the country, the reason behind it is that the problems of the peasantry are not very well attended to. When remunerative price of their produce is not there, you tell them to sow and harvest more and more, but when a man, who is a peasant, produces more, he expects

that he should have a condition under which his produce will be sold in the market at a remunerative price, but there is no such guarantee. When no guarantee is there, he will lose interest in agriculture and look for something else. Your food production is coming down because of that reason. So, until and unless you find solution to that, you cannot solve the problem of food security. Import is not the solution; it may provide an immediate help.

I remember our great economist Prof. Amartya Sen, a Nobel Laureate. He is one of the living Economists who is applauded by the world for his understanding of poverty and hunger. He is known as an Economist who has studied famine and the reasons of famine. I would suggest you to read his study on West Bengal famine. What did he say? It was the biggest famine which shook the whole foundations of our understanding of the food security and everything in those days. He said that all the statistics of that time showed that there was enough food produced in India at that time, during the British Rule and if that had been distributed among the people, there would have been no starvation, no famine and no hunger. Then, he pointed out that the problem was that the system of distribution was such that it did not reach the hungry persons. Then, he asked: Where did it go? It went to the godowns of the hoarders. So, it was a manmade famine and manmade hunger. The toll of the famine was in millions.

Here also the condition is not very much different. The Food Corporation of India was built in this country as one of the premier public sector undertakings with a view that it would enter the market, do the procurement and protect the interest of the farmers. Thereby, the hungry men will be provided food. But in the wake of liberalisation and globalisation, the Government thinks that when in the globe, Australia is producing rice and America is producing wheat, they can import it. That kind of an understanding of globalisation came. One of its first victims was procurement and another victim was Food Corporation of India. Hence, you did not answer when the Chair asked whether you will procure. Will you answer that issue when you answer to this discussion? If procurement is done properly and with a political will to feed people, then I think that we would have enough food, which can be procured and the interest of the people served. What can be done if that political will is not there?

Let us take the other aspect of it. I will read one sentence from a political and *Economic Review* article. It says that:

"Some of the middle income States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu have completely better nutritional achievements than higher income States like Maharashtra and Gujarat. North-Eastern States are comparatively better performing States, and some of them, for example Sikkim, have even outperformed Kerala."

Kerala is a poor State. If you take the parameters of employment-unemployment; the *per capita* income; the State's GDP etc., then Kerala is one of the lowest in the ladder. On the other hand, it is one of the best in the social service sectors because of the political determination of that State, namely, to provide facilities for education; for better Public Distribution System; better health facility, etc. This is the decision taken irrespective of the Party being Congress, Communists, etc. We may change, but everybody continues with that determination, which is unfortunately lacking in you. Therefore, I say that this is not merely a question of whether you have good GDP level; good income, etc., but it is a question of whether you have the determination that you will do so, so that the people will not go hungry every night. This determination is lacking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, how much more time will you take to conclude your speech?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I will conclude in a couple of minutes, but I think that we will have to extend the time. We will have to extend it because there are many speakers to speak on this issue, and the subject, as you know, is also very important.

I would like to highlight certain aspects of the problem. Nearly 80 per cent of the brain development of a child takes place between the age of 4 years and 6 years, but it is at this time that most of our children go hungry. This means that we are doing a dis-service for the future of our country, and for posterity.

There are schemes like ICDS. I salute it as it is one of the biggest schemes in the world along with the Mid-day Meal Scheme, but the manner in which it is run is

pathetic. The food that you are offering; the nutrition that you are providing to pregnant women and young children; the conditions under which they are kept in the Anganwadis, etc. are very bad. I do not know whether you go to the villages, and see it as many of them are sub-standard. Why should it be so? Why we cannot allow a little more money for it?

I do not say that the Budget for defence sector is very big. The Minister is providing liberally for defence, and added another sentence that is not written. He said that: "If defence sector needs more money, then there is no problem about it". Why we cannot take it this way? Why we cannot provide a little more money to them if our posterity has to be in a condition so that they will be healthy, intelligent and good and the future of the country will also be brighter?

That is why, probably, the National Common Minimum Programme wanted six per cent allocation for education, but we are nowhere near it. The snail pace at which we are advancing in education, it looks we are not advancing, but we are going a little backward, if you take our GDP and the percentage of Budget allotment. If there is employment, only then there is money with which a poor man can feed his children.

The Employment Guarantee Scheme, we salute it. When the Minister brought it before the House, that was the only occasion when Shrimati Sonia Gandhi spoke in this House. She said that this was the Scheme that they were going to implement in 200 districts. Now, 130 more districts were added. Why can you not say that in one go you are going to do it in all the 600 districts? I know that money constraints will be there. For overcoming that, you must look at different means and change your taxation policy. You should tax the rich. We are living in a period of super-rich millionaires. They go scot-free because of soft taxation. You have to tax them more, taxes for the children, or impose a cess to strengthen *Anganwadis* and to qualitatively improve them. *Anganwadis*, I am only speaking of children and am not speaking about workers and helpers whose condition is really pathetic.

There should be a new taxation policy to amass wealth, and while distributing that wealth, more priority should be given to health and education, and also for children and their nutritional demands should be met.

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

Employment Guarantee Scheme should be implemented in every district, and you should not wait for another three to four years to be all over the country. Only then we will be able to see that the children do not go hungry.

In conclusion, I would say that there are certain areas which require special attention. Agrarian sector where hunger, unemployment and poverty is more, the traditional industries where again unemployment, hunger and everything is more, the minorities, especially the Muslims—the Sachar Commission Report has come and how the poverty stricken poor people among that community are suffering—even those special areas are to be tackled with special care and special programmes are made. With political determination, if you implement it, then, probably, Sir, there will be better results. Once again, I support this Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (West Arunachal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. Sincerely supporting Shri Jindalji, I wish to express my fear that ultimately the Government may ask us to withdraw the resolution. We are taking some steps in this matter but this time all the parties should decide that the resolution should not be withdrawn and simultaneously the Government should also support it because recently you might have read in the Hindustan Times and the Times of India that the highest number of Asian billionaires is in India but along with that they should have written that the highest level of poverty is also there is India.

18.00 hrs.

It has not been mentioned anywhere, neither it has been published; why do they forget it? Whether the stomach of the poor people will be filled by listening to the names of 36-37 billionaires at the world level? We feel sorry to think about that. India is becoming rich but the Indians are becoming poor....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now it is six o'clock, their resolution will be introduced in the next session and your speech will continue till the next session. Now we will take up special mention.

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram):

There is large scale circulation of 500 and 1000 rupee notes in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. Fake note circulation is more wide spread in Maharashtra but Karnataka and Kerala too have become centres of its circulation. These fake notes are used in real estate dealings, vehicle transactions and by private money lenders.

Sir, these fake notes are made with such sophistication that it is almost impossible to distinguish a fake note from its original. So sir, the central government should investigate into this matter and find how these fake currencies reach India from foreign countries.

Crores of rupee worth fake note transactions are taking place in Kerala. Eminent newspapers have reported that the fake currencies seized in Kerala recently were printed in Pakistan.

The land price in parts of Kerala have increased tenfold. The poor cannot even buy two cents of land to build a small hut for themselves. Organizations with underworld connections and terrorist links are purchasing thousands of acres lands and buildings through benami deals. There should be changes in registration rules. The identity of both the buyers and sellers should be verified.

The police forces in Kerala and Maharashtra have more information regarding the circulation of fake notes inside their respective states. Kerala police is now investigating all cases involving fake notes. But sir, forces outside the country are hell bent on upsetting our economy by creating artificial inflation by circulation of fake notes.

The government should order a CBI investigation, considering the seriousness of this problem and trace the net work of foreign agencies with in the country involved in the circulation of fake notes. Thanking you.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the Lord Krishna Bank in Kerala is an old, traditional bank with several branches in rural areas. It is extending banking services to the agriculture sector and traditional industries. It is a big help for the entire population of Kerala. Recently, it

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

has come to light that a new generation bank called the Centurion Bank of Punjab's is planning to take over the Lord Krishna Bank. The Centurion Bank of Punjab's fiscal capability is not worthwhile. The employees of Lord Krishna Bank went on a strike recently. They have represented the matter to the Reserve Bank of India as well as to the Finance Ministry. Recently, CBI came out with a report that some financial mismanagement and corruption took place in the management of the Lord Krishna Bank.

The CPI has requested the RBI to enquire about the corruption and the financial mismanagement. Therefore, I would request the Government to look into the matter. Even the CPI has requested the RBI and the Finance Ministry, there is a suspicion on the part of the RBI and the Finance Minister. Hence, I would request the Government of India and the RBI to prevent this and to take necessary steps on the unlawful merger of Lord Krishna Bank with the Centurion Bank of Punjab and enquire about the corruption and financial mismanagement of these banks.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue in this House. Elections take place in many states of the country. Recently elections have been held. Now, elections have been announced for Uttar Pradesh and this is the Supreme House in the Country and laws for the entire country are enacted here. I am very sorry to say that to implement these laws, be it a lower court or the Supreme Court, it ensures that no person is hurt and no where law is violated. But, today it is seen that in Uttar Pradesh the Election Commission, be it an police officer or administrative officer or district officer or any IPS, IAS officer or state officer. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can not hold discussion on jurisdiction of Election Commission. You talk about your own demand. You can not discuss about its jurisdiction.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I am talking about my demand only. Those officials are blamed that they help a particular party. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand? Please come to the main issue.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: You must have seen that be it the State Government or Union Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not go into the details. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): If it is not under the jurisdiction of the House, it should be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter relating to jurisdiction of the Election Commission will not be a part of proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, be it State Government or the Union Government, I do not blame any one. But it is said and it is a proverb too that whether it is State Government or Union Government, one, who holds the power is worshipped. But I would like to give a recent example that the DGP of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Bua Singh was so much harassed that he took VRS and left for his village. Similarly, Chief Secretary was also removed. If the charges are proved, then he may be removed. ...*(Interruptions)** Law is for everyone. I am not accusing anyone. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except the speech of Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to increase in the transportation facilities through the Railways, there has been a steady increase in the number of passengers. In my Parliamentary Constituency Alwar, there are some big towns like Khartail, Rajgarh, Behroad. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to request that computerized booking system should be introduced in these big towns. These are large stations. Alwar city is also a large station. It also requires an additional computerized reservation centre. Therefore, I demand for additional computerized reservation centres in Alwar, Khartail, Rajgarh and Behroad of my constituency.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very serious problem. If the Finance Minister pays a little attention, my problem can be solved. Urban Co-operative Bank situated in Chandpol Bazaar, Rajasthan was closed down on 30 August, 2005. As per the Reserve Bank, at that time the bank was holding short network of Rupees 4 crores 34 lakh. After selling off the land situated in Jawahar Nagar, the bank was provided Rupees 5 crore 4 lakh. After closure of the bank, recovery of Rupees 2 crore and 20 lakhs was also made. Now, the bank has to pay to all kinds of depositors an amount of Rupees 12 crores and 20 lakh out of which rupees 1 crore and 60 lakhs belong to the State Government and depositor's amount is only rupees 10 crores and 60 lakhs. At present, the bank is having a deposit of Rupees 10 crores and 90 lakhs. Account holders of rupees 1 crore have not visited the bank for the last 20 years and these are dead accounts.

There are a total of Eight thousand depositors in the bank, out of which there are only 194 account holders of above an amount of one lakh. If payment is made to account holders of upto rupees one lakh then 7551 account holders are to be paid only rupees 691.83 lakhs, which is approximately rupees Seven Crores. In 19 months, an amount of rupees one crore fifty lakhs has been spent on the bank employees whereas there has been no income at all. The bank has given loan of rupees 5 crores and 50 lakhs out of which rupees 3 crores are the cash limit of functioning account holders which will come into rotation as soon as the bank start operating. It is sad that the consumers were told during the meeting

held on 12-3-07 under the Chairmanship of Regional Director, that the bank would start operating only after five crore rupees would be received otherwise there will be no operation, whereas, as on date the bank has funds to make 100 per cent payment.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Union Government and the hon'ble Minister of Finance that they should give instructions to the bank to return the money deposited by the poor widows, businessmen and soldiers who have deposited their money in this bank and make the bank operational once again. This is my humble request to you. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): There is a growing trend of disappearance of infants and children in various parts of our country. Hundreds of children are reported missing each year in our country. If we are not able to provide safety to our children, the life of our future generation will be at risk. It is really shocking that in spite of a large police force in our country, we are not able to prevent this heinous crime against our innocent infants and children.

Latest in the series is the barbaric incident of NOIDA's Nithari village where the complaints of 40 missing children during the last one year failed to wake up the police. Such incidents are the greatest shame to our nation and we have to hang our heads in shame before the world nations. There are a number of similar missing cases of children in various parts of our country which go unreported or cases not registered by the police.

Had the police acted swiftly and tried to establish the linkage between missing persons in such cases, the figures of murdered children would have been very less and many missing children could have been traced out.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to make our law more stringent and have Director-General level Conferences of Police in this regard so that our police force do not turn a blind eye towards the shocking trend of missing infants and children in our country. Thank you.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I would like

to invite the attention of the Government with regard to the shocking information and news that we are getting everyday through the newspapers and also the visual media. As was stated by the hon. Member who spoke just now, we have reports that 30-35 young children were missing. What we have seen is just parts of bones and skulls of those missing children. It is really unfortunate and shocking. It also came to our notice that two young children in Bangalore were attacked by stray dogs and killed brutally. We also got other information that the young children have become the victims of rapes and assaults, who were then killed. So, the Government has to.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a mention of the problems being faced by the people of Maharashtra due to shortage of electricity. There is a shortage approximately of five thousand Megawatt power in Maharashtra due to which there is no supply of power for 8-12 hours in rural and urban areas of Maharashtra. There are power cuts due to which the businessmen, common citizens, industries, traders, farmers in agricultural areas and the students of Maharashtra are facing a lot of difficulties. Recently, students had staged their protest near Nagpur contending that power cuts should not be made during nights. They held a huge protest and in this protest three students lost their lives in firing done by the State police.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of those, nearly nine students were seriously injured. I would like to inform the Union Government that this matter is becoming very serious. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra has stated that they would not be able to provide adequate power supply till the year 2010 because the generation of power has become very low. Therefore, the State Government has demanded from the Union Government that the State should be provided 4 thousand megawatts of power, but the hon'ble Minister of Power of the Country has provided only 200 megawatts of power to Maharashtra. Through you., I would like to urge upon the Union Government that it should immediately provide 4 thousand megawatt power to Maharashtra.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to present a very serious problem before the Government. There is acute shortage of Cooking Gas in Maharashtra. There is huge shortage in my constituency Yavatmal. I would like to say that the Government has increased the price of cooking gas too much. Above that, its supply is not being made properly. High price of the gas and its short supply are leading to a lot of corruption. The customers have to pay additional Rs. 50 therefor, even then they get cooking gas with great difficulty. Women have to face a lot of difficulties due to this.

Sir, it is always seen that whenever the Congress is in power, the incidents of corruption and hoardings increase. As the hon'ble Member has just spoken before me that there is no power for 18-18 hours in Maharashtra. So much of load shedding for long hours has put the people in great trouble.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make your demand.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to demand the Union Government that the supply of cooking gas should be increased in Maharashtra and particularly in my constituency. I have already written many times to the hon'ble Minister in this regard, but so far neither any reply has been received nor the supply has been increased. Therefore, I would again like to demand the Union Government that it should immediately address this problem and increase the supply of cooking gas.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 19th March, 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

18.17 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Monday, March 19, 2007/Phalguna 28, 1928 (saka)*

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