

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session (Part-II)
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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(Vol. XXXVI contains Nos. 11 to 18)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 17, 2008/Agrahayana 26,
1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

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

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you first after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, due to infiltration from Bangladesh in different parts of the country.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you also. Give me an opportunity to call you, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, this matter was already raised....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. You are his friend, you know this matter.

[Translation]

What will I understand in this matter?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All matters will be considered and possibly allowed to be raised after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : Sir, in elections of Madhya Pradesh with Chandrapalji.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have just been told about the notice and I will look into it. I can assure you that so long I occupy this seat, not for much longer period, no MP is allowed to be harassed by anybody in this country. I will take action. Please allow me to even go through the notice. Mr. Suman, now you are the leader, you must cooperate.

Now, Q. 261 — Shri Sugrib Singh

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Healthcare Delivery System

*261. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the healthcare delivery system undertaken in the rural areas has achieved the desired targets since the implementation of the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred on rural healthcare delivery system during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide health insurance cover to the people living in the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The achievements under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) up to 30th September, 2008 are as per details given below:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Addition of Human Resources | 2231 Specialists, 10,489 MBBS Doctors, 17,979 Staff Nurses, 32,321 Auxillary Nurse Midwives [ANMs], 7,590 Para Medics employed on contract under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM]. |
| 2. Conversion of Health Facilities into 24 x 7. | A total of 11,135 Additional Primary Health Centres [APHCs], Primary Health Centres [PHCs], Community Health Centres [CHCs] and other Sub District facilities are functional 24 x 7. |
| 3. Janani Suraksha Yojana Beneficiaries | Over 1 crore women covered under Janani Suraksha Yojana [JSY] so far. |
| 4. ASHAs/Link Workers | 6.25 Lakhs Accredited Social Health Activists [ASHAs]/ Link Workers selected, 5.40 lakh trained at least in 1st module and 2.43 lakh with Drug kits in their respective villages. |
| 5. Rogi Kalyan Samitis | 547 District Hospitals (DHs), 4038 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 662 other than CHC Hospitals, 16735 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have their own Rogi Kalyan Samitis (RKSs) with untied funds for improving quality of health services. |
| 6. Village Health and Sanitation Committees | 2.98 lakh villages (nearly 50%) have their own Village Health and Sanitation Committees out of which 2.10 lakh have received Rs. 10,000/- untied grant for local action. |
| 7. Village Health and Nutrition Days | 30.48 lakh in 2006-07, 44.76 lakh in 2007-08 and 13.35 lakh so far in 2008-09, Village Health and Nutrition Days organized at ICDS Centres to reach basic health services. |
| 8. Mobile Medical Units [MMUs] | 212 MMUs functional at so far. |
| 9. AYUSH | 4853 health facilities have co-located AYUSH services. 3933 AYUSH Doctors and 831 AYUSH paramedics added to the system. |
| 10. Programme Management Units | 398 District Programme Managers, 434 District Accounts Managers, 433 District Data Managers, 523 District Programme Management Units (DPMU), 34 State Programme Management Units (SPMUs), 1261 Block Managers, 1413 Accountants, 2550 Blocks PMUs added under NRHM. |
-

2. The Framework for Implementation of the National Rural Health Mission, as approved in July, 2006, provided for the following time line for NRHM activities in every calendar year. So far, only the 2007 timelines have become due. The 2008 time line will only become due after December, 2008. An assessment by the time lines also clearly indicates that most of the targets for December, 2007 have already been met and many of the targets for December, 2008 are in the process of being achieved. The lags have been mainly on account

of non — availability of adequate number of trained medical and nursing personnel. The training of functionaries is also a time taking activity. In spite of the shortages of medical and nursing personnel the public system has geared itself in every State to provide health care for all in rural areas. Since the health sector was suffering from so many constraints, human, physical and financial, it will take time to fully provide quality health services for all in rural areas. The performance against the time line is given below:—

Time Line for NRHM Activities

Activity	Phasing and time line	Achievement up to September, 2008
1	2	3
1. Fully trained Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every 1000 population/large isolated habitations in 18 Special Focus States	50% by 2007 100% by 2008	6.25 lakh ASHAs selected covering nearly all villages in the 18 special focus States except Himachal Pradesh (which is not taking up the ASHA programme but working through the Aanganwadi Workers). Of them 87% ASHAs trained in first module, 33% in 2nd Module, 27% in 3rd module, 20% in fourth module and 39% ASHAs provided drug kits. Reports of Common/Joint Review Missions confirm the active role played by ASHAs in connecting poor rural households to health facilities, even when all four modules of training have not been completed. Training completion up to fourth module to go up substantially by end December, 2008.
2. Village Health and Sanitation Committee constituted in over 6 lakh villages and untied grants provided to them.	30% by 2007 100% by 2010	Nearly 50% villages have their own Village Health and Sanitation Committees in place with their own Bank accounts and untied fund of Rs. 10,000 for local health action. The process of formation of Village Health and Sanitation Committees is at an advanced stage in most States. The progress in Bihar needs to be speeded up. All other States/UTs likely to have their committee in place by December, 2008.
3. 2 ANM Sub Health Centres strengthened/established to provide service guarantees as per IPHS, in 1,75,000 places.	30% by 2007 60% by 2009 100% by 2010	Over 90% of existing Sub Centres fully functional and have received untied grants for local health action. 2nd ANM placed only in over 15% Sub Centres so far due to non-availability of trained ANMs and also their deployment at PHCs due to Staff Nurse shortages.

1	2	3
4. 30,000 PHCs strengthened/ established with 3 Staff Nurses to provide service guarantees as per IPHS.	30% by 2007 60% by 2009 100% by 2010	3 Staff Nurses have been posted at 3742 PHCs (nearly 15% of the currently established (PHCs). Additional 3743 Staff Nurses have been appointed at CHCs under NRHM. 6669 PHCs are providing 24 x 7 services. There were only 1137 PHCs functioning 24 x 7 before the start of NRHM.
5. 6500 CHCs strengthened/ established with 7 Specialists and 9 Staff Nurses to provide service guarantees as per IPHS.	30% by 2007 50% by 2009 100% by 2012	2236 CHCs have been functioning 24 x 7 which at the start of NRHM was only 742.2231 Specialists have been appointed on contract under NRHM. However the availability of specialist manpower is an issue for which steps for multi skilling are being undertaken. A first grant of Rupees 20 lakhs was given to every CHC for improvement of services under NRHM. Subsequent releases are as per Facility survey and identification of gaps.
6. 1800 Taluka/Sub Divisional Hospitals strengthened to provide quality health services.	30% by 2007 50% by 2010 100% by 2012	524 Sub-divisional hospitals have started functioning as First Referral Units [FRUs]. Only 299 were functional as FRU on 31.3.2005.
7. 600 District Hospitals strengthened to provide quality health services.	30% by 2007 60% by 2009 100% by 2012	491 District Hospitals functioning as First Referral Unit FRU at present. Only 135 were functional as FRU on 31.3.2005. A first grant of Rupees 20 lakhs has been given to every District Hospital for up gradation under NRHM. Subsequent releases are as per facility survey.
8. Rogi Kalyan Samitis/Hospital Development Committee established in all CHCs/Sub Divisional Hospitals/District Hospitals.	50% by 2007 100% by 2009	Over 90% District Hospitals and CHCs have their own Rogi Kalyan Samitis. 72% PHCs have their own Rogi Kalyan Samitis.
9. District Health Action Plan 2005-2012 prepared by each district of the country.	50% by 2007 100% by 2008	Over 80% districts have prepared District Health Action Plans. The process has been a little delayed in Bihar due to litigation. All other States/UTs have mostly prepared District Health Action Plans.
10. United grants provided to each Village Health and Sanitation Committee, Sub Centre, PHC, CHC to promote local health action.	50% by 2007 100% by 2008	Nearly 50% Village Health and Sanitation Committees have received untied grants. 100% Sub Centres, PHCs, CHCs have been provided united grants for local health action.
11. Annual maintenance grant provided to every Sub Centre, PHC, CHC and one time support to RKSSs at Sub Divisional/District Hospitals	50% by 2007 100% by 2008	Over 90% existing institutions have received have received united grants. Maintenance grants for Sub Centres are provided only where there is a Government building and where States have asked for resources in their PIP.

1	2	3
12. State and District Health Society established and fully functional with requisite management skills.	50% by 2007 100% by 2008	100% States/Districts have established common societies. The process of merger of existing societies is also nearly complete in many States.
13. Systems of community monitoring put in place.	50% by 2007 100% by 2008	Advisory Group of NGOs on Community Action has taken up community monitoring in 9 States. The lessons learnt in this process will become the basis for further strengthening community monitoring. Many States have involved Panchayati Raj Institutions in monitoring and implementation.
14. Procurement and logistics streamlined to ensure availability of drugs and medicines at Sub Centres/PHCs/CHCs.	50% by 2007 100% by 2008	Procurement audit is under way in six States to understand the system of procurement and logistics in States. TNMSC like system has been operationalized in Kerala. West Bengal has also notified its Medical Services Corporation. Constant efforts to strengthen procurement and logistics in States are being made and the exemplar model of TNMSC is being advocated to States.
15. SHCs/PHCs/CHCs/Sub Divisional Hospitals/District Hospitals fully equipped to develop intra health sector convergence, coordination and service guarantees for family welfare, vector borne disease programme, TB, HIV/AIDS, etc.	30% by 2007 50% by 2008 70% by 2009 100% by 2012	Rogi Kalyan Samitis have been formed in most institutions and they are helping in bringing about intra health sector convergence for better services.
16. District Health Plan reflects the convergence with wider determinants of health like drinking water, sanitation, women's empowerment, child development, adolescents, school education, female literacy, etc.	30% by 2007 60% by 2008 100% by 2009	All District Health Action Plans necessarily have sections on inter sectoral convergence covering wider determinants of health like drinking water, sanitation, women's empowerment, child development, adolescents, school education, female literacy, etc.
17. Facility and household surveys carried out in each and every district of the country.	50% by 2007 100% by 2008	State Societies are conducting facility surveys and some are conducting household surveys also. These form the basis for preparation of District and State Health Action Plans.
18. Annual State and District specific Public Report on Health published	30% by 2008 60% by 2009 100% by 2010	Not due as yet. However, many independent agencies like Voluntary Health Association of India, Jana Swasthya Abhiyan, etc. have been bringing out independent citizen's reports on NRHM. Some State Societies have also published Reports of progress under NRHM.

1	2	3
19. Institution-wise assessment of performance against assured service guarantees carried out.	30% by 2008 60% by 2009 100% by 2010	A new Health MIS has been launched in October, 2008. It is likely to be fully operational by March, 2009. This will enable direct web based data capture from districts.
20. Mobile Medical Units provided to each district of the country.	30% by 2007 60% by 2008 100% by 2009	Over 30% districts have established Mobile Medical Units for outreach services in remote locations.

(c) The expenditure incurred on rural healthcare delivery system during the last three years and the current year, is at *Annexure I and Annexure II*.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana [RSBY]

for providing Health Insurance cover to Below Poverty Line workers in the unorganized sector and their families. In addition, a few States viz. Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have taken initiatives under NRHM to start pilot projects on Health Insurance for BPL population of their States.

Annexure-I

Budget for States

(Rs. in crores)

Budget Head	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	B.E.	Release	B.E.	Release	B.E.	Release	B.E.	Release
RCH Flexible Pool	1699.16	2011.65	1998.22	1427.03	1725.00	1842.72	2535.00	1387.24
Mission Flexible Pool		962.13	1943.18	2069.36	3155.00	3149.697	2285.00	984.43
NDCPs	691.03	561.56	723.45	648.91	837.63	469.83	979.34	303.12
Total NRHM	4658.40	5020.29	7100.62	6836.01	8980.68	9198.29	9191.82	4920.68

Note: Resources are also provided in kind. Including the kind transfers, the release was Rs. 5703 crores in 2005-06, Rs. 7486.59 crores in 2006-07 and Rs. 10189 crores in 2007-08.

Annexure-II

The releases under NRHM by the Central Government to the States and UTs during the 2005-06 to 2008-09 (Up to 30.9.2008)*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	States	Releases to States under NRHM			
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8.44	10.14	7.97	1.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Andhra Pradesh	365.39	423.28	631.24	434.36
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.00	50.69	42.25	10.07
4.	Assam	154.13	375.42	593.75	375.17
5.	Bihar	315.88	490.12	482.10	207.08
6.	Chandigarh	3.37	6.98	4.77	1.85
7.	Chhattisgarh	118.61	164.43	178.80	201.59
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.77	2.89	1.34	0.65
9.	Daman	1.79	3.59	0.51	0.95
10.	Delhi	32.83	54.40	81.36	41.38
11.	Goa	6.17	4.37	5.16	4.09
12.	Gujarat	346.28	311.75	417.69	213.17
13.	Haryana	85.14	134.69	131.79	80.14
14.	Himachal Pradesh	58.64	78.97	54.07	41.42
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	67.68	57.10	165.57	27.04
16.	Jharkhand	143.51	191.59	158.28	73.36
17.	Kárnataka	199.27	284.02	314.62	268.09
18.	Kerala	113.66	190.62	297.61	146.44
19.	Lakshadweep	1.62	1.75	0.50	0.00
20.	Maharashtra	338.58	366.11	706.34	313.01
21.	Manipur	26.97	38.68	47.64	13.19
22.	Meghalaya	21.56	37.34	40.03	12.62
23.	Mizoram	27.61	60.66	29.44	18.23
24.	Madhya Pradesh	298.14	472.14	636.91	418.95
25.	Nagaland	29.60	43.88	44.53	32.42
26.	Orissa	231.07	238.83	360.45	165.34
27.	Puducherry	4.30	6.17	4.78	1.82
28.	Punjab	94.13	173.50	118.89	71.39

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Rajasthan	325.22	459.91	692.35	327.50
30.	Sikkim	9.47	24.45	42.08	11.87
31.	Tamil Nadu	245.16	365.47	590.67	262.34
32.	Tripura	28.77	40.66	72.20	42.65
33.	Uttar Pradesh	930.00	1180.24	1531.50	736.98
34.	Uttarakhand	56.66	50.67	162.14	54.65
35.	West Bengal	299.87	440.50	548.68	309.85
Grand Total		5020.29	6836.01	9198.29	4920.68

*Expenditure incurred at the Central Government level/support to States in kind is not reflected in the table above.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Sir, the expenditure of our GDP on health care is not sufficient to meet the demands of people of our country. I appreciate the move of the Central Government to increase the Budgetary Outlay for health sector. But at the same time, I am unhappy for shifting the Central-State financing ratio from the current 80:20 to 60:40.

The Government has put several national programmes under the umbrella of NRHM. The financial soundness of all the backward States, particularly of Orissa, is not very good. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will exempt some of the poor States, like Orissa, from this new pattern of financial ratio and let them remain in the old system so that the objectives of NRHM in such States can be obtained.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, you have understood it. I do not know.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, for the first time in the country that huge resources have been invested into the health sector. I would just like to compare that when I took over as a Minister about four and a half years ago, the total Budget for the Health Ministry was approximately about Rs. 6,000 crore. Today, it is about Rs. 16,500 crore; just in four years. The Tenth Plan spending for the health was approximately about Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 42,000 crore. For the Eleventh Plan, the Prime Minister has planned to

allocate Rs. 1,40,000 crore; just from Rs. 40,000 crore to Rs. 1,40,000 crore. This shows the seriousness of the Government on spending on health.

Today, under the National Rural Health Mission, States like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, plus these three newly formed States, North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, that is, about 18 States have been on focus. This includes Orissa also. In Orissa, we have focused a lot on that and huge investments have been done.

Sir, this year, when I said, the health budget for the Health Ministry is approximately about Rs. 16,500 crore, about Rs. 12,000 crore to Rs. 12,500 crore has been earmarked only for the National Rural Health Mission. This shows that for the first time, in the country, huge investments are being there parked in very health facility in this country.

I would categorically state that every Public Health Centre in the country, whether from the sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres, District Headquarters Hospitals, the primary public health centres, all the centres are having large resources, both financial resources and material resources as well as infrastructure. It is a continuous process. We have initiated a huge programme called the National Rural Health Mission. This is the biggest programme ever in the history of health

sector in the country. Again, I would like to reiterate to the hon. Member that Orissa is one of the very focussed States under the National Rural Health Mission.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Sir, I would like to know about the Central and State ratios for this programme.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : On the ratio, this programme was launched on April 12, 2005. At that point of time we were in the Tenth Plan. During the Tenth Plan period, the ratio for this programme was that there was hundred per cent funding by the Central Government. During the Eleventh Plan, 2007-2012, the ratio was 85:15, that is, 15 per cent from the States and 85 per cent from the Centre. After 2012, in the Twelfth Plan, we plan to have it at about 75:25. The problem is that this amount of money has to be absorbed properly, in a transparent manner in all the States. So, it took us more than one whole year to put in place the mechanism of the National Rural Health Mission like having the District Health Societies, District Health Missions, State Health Missions; the Chief Ministers to be the Chairmen of the State Health Missions. So it has to be in a transparent manner. Absorption capacity and all that we are putting in and we are monitoring it. If there are any specific problems in the States, we are there to address them. We are very very liberal in these focussed States to have more investments of not only resources but manpower, equipment, mobile medical units and all infrastructure on the health sector.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Sir, a very few States have so far implemented the Health Insurance Scheme to the people living in the rural areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the details of the steps taken by him to convince the States that have so far not implemented the Health Insurance Scheme and also the details of the assistance being provided by the Central Government to the States under this scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : Detail of efforts made to convince the Chief Ministers.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, it is a good question. The hon. Member has asked about health insurance. Under the National Rural Health Mission, we have earmarked resources for health insurance, according

to a State-specific health insurance. So the success of the National Rural Health Mission is the flexibility of the States. We have been liberal in giving flexibility to States to undertake programmes, to innovate programmes. Till date, during the last three-and-a-half years of this programme, 208 innovative schemes have been done by the States all over the country. That is such a huge flexibility we are giving to them. Under this, there are a lot of States which have gone through innovative health insurance schemes; like Andhra Pradesh has done; Madhya Pradesh has done; Rajasthan has done; Gujarat has done; Maharashtra has done; Tamil Nadu has done. These are some of the States, and periodically we have reviews and we call meetings of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, the apex body, and Ministers, Health Secretaries share the success of the State schemes with each other. Definitely, if Orissa has not taken up the health insurance, we urge the Government of Orissa to take up the health insurance which is a very very core sector for especially the below poverty line and the poor people. Also, Sir, under the national scheme, the Labour Ministry is taking up the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana scheme for the below poverty line in organized sector. Till date, nearly about 50 lakh people have been covered under the scheme. For the premium, the Government of India is the maximum contributor; the State a little bit and the individual about Rs. 30. For that, the coverage is nearly about Rs. 30,000 per family, per year. And we are trying to expand it to really about four crore below poverty line families under the scheme. It is a very very viable scheme which is being worked out.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, in pursuance of the National Rural Health Mission, second phase of RCH programme has been introduced with an aim of reducing the TFR, IMR and MMR. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any kind of evaluation has been made to that effect. And if so, what is the present rate of TFR, IMR and MMR?

MR. SPEAKER : To the ignorant people, fuller descriptions would have been helpful.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The National Rural Health Mission was conceptualized precisely for reducing the infant mortality, the maternal mortality and increase in

nutrition, drinking water, hygiene and sanitation in most of the villages. As I already said, this programme was launched in 2005; it is about 3 1/2 years ago. It took us one year to just put in place the mechanism from the village level to Village Health and Sanitation Committee, to Sub-Centres, to the Primary Health Centres, Rogy Kalyan Samiti, to the District Health Mission, District Health Society, State Health Mission, National Mission; the whole of our mechanism we have been working out. There have been different surveys that have been done. The recent survey, that was the District-Level Household Survey, which has been the DLHS-III survey. The preliminary reports have come that there has been two-point reduction in infant mortality. Earlier, all these years, there has just been a one-point reduction. Finally, now we have seen a two-point reduction. But this was in the year 2006-07 when the programme was initial one. Now we have gone deep into the programme. I am sure the results which come next year will show that we have a larger reduction in infant mortality. And in the SRS survey which is going to come soon in January-February, the preliminary reports say that there has been a large amount of reduction in the maternal mortality also, in some States on the foetal fertility. So we definitely expect it. Once this programme that is now there is completely embedded in all these States, by the end of next year we are going to see very visible, very vibrant results which are going to drastically reduce infant mortality, maternal mortality, fertility rate, disease burden because this is included in all these programmes.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam. Let there be specific questions and brief replies also. Brevity is always a virtue.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM : Sir, I appreciate the Minister for the achievements under National Rural Health Mission. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, under this Mission, there are 70,700 health volunteers. Previously they were called as community health workers at village level but now they are converted into ASHAs. But, for the last two years, they have not been given any proper training and drug kits were not supplied to them, even though they are very helpful at the village level.

My question to the hon. Minister is this. The remuneration, the honorarium being paid to them is very

meagre. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to increase the honorarium. There are discrepancies in the honorarium between rural areas and hilly, tribal areas. Why such discrepancies are there?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : For the first time, in our country, we have seen a new breed of health cadres called ASHAs.

MR. SPEAKER : He has appreciated that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : ASHAs are called Accredited Social Health Activists. Till date, we have managed to enlist about 6,25,000 ASHAs. Our target is one ASHA for each village. We have approximately about 6,38,000 villages. The National Rural Health Mission is for the country but initially was focused on the 18 States which have nearly about 2/3rd of India's population and which have low indices of health parameters. There we had ASHAs. In the middle of this year, we have decided that in the entire country, we will have ASHAs. Andhra Pradesh have enlisted these workers much before. Three years before, this ASHA scheme had come to Andhra Pradesh. This year only, we had given permission to Andhra Pradesh to have ASHAs. The entire country has now have ASHAs. They will be trained. The remuneration to ASHAs is like this. The more work they do, the more money they get. It is not a fixed salary that they are getting. ASHA is not going to do immunization; ASHA's work is to take the child to the Sub Centre to be immunized. For every immunization, ASHA is getting money. ASHA gets the money to take the lady for a health checkup, anti-natal checkup to a PHU or a sub-centre. ASHA gets money for delivery; ASHA has to bring the pregnant lady for delivery. She stays with her for two days from the date of delivery; ASHA will get money. Post-natal check up, ASHA will get money if she induces a household to build a household latrine under the Rural Development Ministry who are giving money for the latrine purposes. So, each of the work ASHA does, ASHA is going to be paid. We have five modules for training for ASHAs. It is a continuous process every year. Most of the ASHAs have gone through the first module. They have been embedded into the system. There have been some issues which have been brought in, like the issue brought by the hon. Member. As and when issues have been raised,

please bring them to my notice, and we will be sorting out these issues.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, I really appreciate the hon. Minister that he has given the information about the Rural Health Missions. But when we talk about allotment of money to the States, as to how much money is being allocated to different States, I think, it is very meagre in my State Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, there is lack of health facilities.

The hon. Member Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam just now mentioned about ASHAs. But it is disappointing that in spite of the hon. Minister himself having said in this House that six lakh doctors, 10 lakh nurses, 2 lakh dental surgeons, and even the paramedical staff would be provided in the rural areas, the same have not been provided in Uttar Pradesh though all the conditions had been determined.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, this is a very important question. Even the technicians are not available for the X-Ray machines. Though they have brought the X-Ray machines yet they are not yet opened for function.

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, the condition is so bad. Even in the rural areas, the pregnant women are not able to reach the hospitals due to the pathetic conditions.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much money has been allocated to complete the Rural Health Mission in Uttar Pradesh, particularly so, in Rampur District. In Tanda, Sawan, Milak, Kemri and all, there is no technician available even to run the X-Ray machines.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. You have asked as to what are the allocations.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, there are no technicians and even no gynecologists available there.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to put a specific question, Madam.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, there is a pitiable situation.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a debate on this; this is a Question Hour.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, whether the hon. Minister is going to provide any temporary arrangements of the gynecologists to meet and improve this kind of a condition?

MR. SPEAKER : Very good.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the allocation of resources for the States are based on the population of the States, and weightages are given to the low-performing States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Uttar Pradesh gets the maximum allocation under the National Rural Health Mission every year.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please stop talking there. last row? This is not a place for gossiping.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, we have a Common Rural Mission, which goes to all the States, reviews it. They go to the Community Health Centres, Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres and all. As regards Uttar Pradesh, in about 693 Community Health Centres and about 819 Primary Health Centres, they found out that about 45.5 per cent the PHCs are functioning 24 x 7, and approximately about 43 per cent of the PHCs conducted, at least, 10 deliveries in the last one month. This was never even imagined before.

I would definitely say that the National Rural Health Mission has been embodied. I am not saying that it has succeeded as much as what we are trying to, because we are very, very impatient, because we want the results quickly.

But since it is a social sector, to reduce the infant mortality by one per cent, millions of people have to work together cohesively including doctors, nurses, paramedics, civil societies, NGOs, the State Governments and the Central Government. It is just not in some economic sectors where we take the policy decision overnight and just get the results.

Nevertheless, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh we have been doing a lot. We have empowered the State Government that they could hire people on contract basis, if there is no availability. But unfortunately in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, there has been a constraint of health and human resources, of pre nurses. Specially in Bihar, all the nurses have been employed; there are no more nurses to be employed there. So, we have to start colleges; we have to start nursing institutions. There, we have given larger resources to start these institutions. In Uttar Pradesh also, the State Government has been empowered. When I say 'empowered', I mean to say that at the local level each village has a Village Health and Sanitation Committee; in all the hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, there are *Rogi Kalyan Samitis*. These *Rogi Kalyan Samitis* are empowered to hire doctors on contract basis, to hire specialists on contract basis.

We will be giving all these from the Central Government. We have been giving to them so much of empowerment. I would like to definitely assure that a lot of focuses are being done on Uttar Pradesh. If there is any specific problem, I would again like her to go to each of these centres in her constituency. I would request not only her, but all the Members in this House to go to each of the sub-centres and to go to each of the Primary Health Centre because all of these centres have been having resources. Money has been parked there. The Members have to go there also for seeing whether they are spending it properly or not.

Plus, another thing that I want to inform, through you, to the Member is that under the Rural Development Ministry's District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, this National Rural Health Mission is also going to be monitored in a few months. So, the Rural Development Ministry has already accepted that. All the Members will also be monitoring about the progress and programmes of the NRHM under the District Vigilance Monitoring Committee.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

You ask the question but in brief. Don't make it a lengthy speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and Health Minister who granted special status of Bihar. They have shown special interest and allocated more funds keeping in the backwardness and poverty there but I understand that these funds are not being utilized. Still hundreds of hospitals are there which are in very bad condition. Implementing programmes in rural areas they have said that health facilities will be provided 24 hours throughout the week. I do not want to speak about any far flung area. The health center situated in a village near my Parliamentary Constituency Patna....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should visit these areas periodically and see as to what work is being undertaken there.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am saying the same thing that no work is being done there. The hospital is completely non functional. Where the funds are being used, nobody knows. The Hon. Minister has also given some data.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : The funds allocated during the last three years are not being utilized properly. Being kind towards Bihar, the funds he has allocated if that are not utilized, the local people will not be benefited. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he merely allocates the funds or monitors it as well? Is any monitoring Committee there to see whether facilities?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Very good question. You become very specific when you are angry.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : There is a monitoring mechanism embedded into the programme. Plus, we have external monitoring mechanisms done by various groups. We have the civil society, the NGOs and the Auditors Guilds. We have external supporting agencies to monitor that, and at each point, like the *Rogi Kalyan Samitis*, they monitor all these programmes.

Coming to Bihar, under the district level household survey which was done, the pre-survey, in Bihar out of

these 66 CHCs and 524 PHCs. It was found that 64.5 per cent of the PHCs are 24 x 7 and about nearly 31 per cent PHCs conducted at least 10 deliveries in the last one month. This shows a huge increase in trends.

Another very glaring example which happened in Bihar under the National Rural Health Mission was that before the National Rural Health Mission, the average patient attendance in the Primary Health Centres in Bihar was about 39 per month. Today, it is approximately 4,000. So, you can imagine what this programme is. The National Rural Health Mission has transformed in Bihar from approximately on an average of 40 patients to 4,000 patients. They have done a lot of innovations on diagnostics and on public-private participation in all these issues. We are focusing definitely a lot on Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and that is our priority on our hand in giving equipment and all these things.

Here, we are empowering each of these basic units of these villages. There is a Village Health and Sanitation Committee where the Village Headman is the Chairman of that Committee. Every year we give Rs. 10,000 to bring about infrastructure, to bring about manpower and to bring about awareness creation against water bodies, mosquitoes. All these things have been brought. UNCTAD funds are parked. Approximately, Rs. 25,000 is given for each sub-centre to get their medicines, to remove quality problem issues and all that. I am sure they are doing that.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, we have taken half-an-hour on this one Question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I would like to say one example. Before the National Rural Health Mission was implemented, there were about 3,550 specialists all over the country in the primary public health areas. Today it is 5,781, nearly about 64 per cent increase within the last three years. About the medical officers, before the National Rural Health Mission, they were 20,308 and today they are 30,797. About the Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, before this NRHM they were 1,20,194 and today they are 1,65,515.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given those figures.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : About the Nurses and Lady Health Workers they were 17,317 before the National Rural Health Mission and today they are 35,350. Then, we have AYUSH doctors also as part of that and today we have 3,933 new AYUSH doctors put up in all these primary public health areas. Definitely, we are trying our best. All the States are supporting this programme. I can give the commitment of our Government that we are investing more in the health sector.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 262. Shri Ranen Barman - not present. He gives but not here. Shri Basu Deb Acharia -

Coal-to-Liquid Projects

*262. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to synthesize oil from coal by adopting Coal-to-Liquid (CTL) technology as reported in the Times of India dated 24 November, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has identified coal blocks for the purpose and also invited bids for its allotment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the names of the companies which have been allotted coal blocks for the said purpose;
- (e) whether the Government has received any complaint in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon; and
- (g) the estimated quantity of oil likely to be produced out of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In view of the rising demand for energy in a rapidly growing economy, efforts are being made to locate alternative/additional sources of energy to supplement the available energy resources for the sake of energy security of the country by converting coal into liquid fuel through a process called coal liquefaction.

(c) The Government have offered three coal blocks, namely, Palasbani (Part of Radhikapur West), North of Arkhupal (Sirampur) and Ramchandani Promotional through an advertisement published in various national and regional newspapers on 15.06.2008. A notice was also placed on the website of the Ministry of Coal.

(d) In response to the advertisement, 22 companies have submitted their applications. The scrutiny and evaluation of these applications is under progress. No coal block has so far been allocated for this purpose.

(e) and (f) No complaint has been received so far.

(g) The applications are being scrutinized and it is not feasible at this stage to estimate the quantity of oil to be produced from this project.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, in the past no attempt was made to extract oil from the coal although we have the technology and we have abundant potential. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government has received a proposal from Oil India Limited to set up a plant of 1.5 million tonnes which project this public sector company wants to have with Coal India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation, and Engineers India Limited to extract oil from coal in Assam. Assam coal is not fully utilised because of its low quality. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action he has taken on this proposal.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, for the information of the hon. Member, through you, I would like to say that the quality of coal in Assam is not of low quality. It is rather a good quality coal, to begin with. As far as the proposal from Oil India Limited is concerned, Oil India Limited has a pilot plant in North-East Assam with CIL. The Assam coal is more suitable for that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, in reply to Part-G of the main Question, in the statement the hon. Minister has stated that the applications are being scrutinized. They have selected blocks – Palasbani, Arkhupal and Ramchandani. Three blocks have been identified. I want to know how much of oil would be available from these three blocks. The hon. Minister has stated that it is not feasible at this stage to estimate the 'quality' of oil.

MR. SPEAKER : It is quantity of oil.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, Sir. How much quantity of oil can be extracted? If that study has not been made, how these three blocks have been identified and advertisement has been issued and applications were invited? On what basis these three blocks have been identified without a detailed study and the applications were invited to allot these blocks for extraction of oil from coal?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very pertinent question.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, this process of CTL, what is known as Coal-to-Liquid, is not well established in the world. We are trying to find out different technologies.

These coal blocks have been allocated based on the quantity available because we need approximately 80,000 barrels per day and for this, we need 30 million tonnes to be produced. So, based on that, the blocks have been identified. But all the three blocks are not to be given; only one block will be given. The study is going on by an Inter-Ministerial Group — IMG as we call it — and as soon as the study is over, it will be allocated only then. So, it is not done haphazardly and it is done with well-informed information.

We are trying for the sake of energy security in the country. So, we need to have more experiments done. This is being done.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Sir, on behalf of the Government of India, the hon. Minister has proposed the allotment for three blocks and it is a matter of chance that all these are in my Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency and my district. For that, I would like to compliment the hon. Minister. Supporting the question

asked by the hon. Member, Shri Basudebji, I would like to say that he himself had accepted that this is not a very established technology. But even then he has taken an initiative, this is a good thing. Is it a remunerative process or not with regard to cost of production? Keeping in view the market trend when it was proposed, the price of oil in international market was very high. I would like to ask, whether it is cost effective or not in the present scenario?

You will allot blocks. Recently I have come to know about some blocks that the blocks allotted for ultra megawatt by his Ministry, have been given to another plant and company granting approval for their re-use. These are very expensive blocks and the cost is just right. Will you allow some saving plant in it? Will it be used for that only or it can be re-used as well?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, the question of its re-use will arise only when it is put to use and some saving is done. We have not reached that process or stage.

So far as the question of cost effectiveness is concerned, today the rate is 40 dollar, and according to that it is not cost-effective. But the cost effectiveness does not apply to every work in the country. When we need energy security we have to do some experiments. Therefore, this experiment will be done and

[English]

we are trying to find out how best it can be done in case of emergency.

[Translation]

When it was 150 dollar per barrel, it was cost effective. But today, it is 40 dollar and it is not cost effective, it is true. But this market is so volatile that nobody knows as to what is going to happen in the market in the near future.

[English]

We have to make the country prepared for any situation.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, coal-to-liquid fuel technology, commonly known as CTL technology, is an established technology which is being

utilized by South Africa at its Sasol plant, the only such plant in the world, since 1949. It is manufacturing per year 40 million tonnes of different synthetic oil products like petrol, diesel oil, furnace oil, naphtha etc. as well as LPG. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has initiated any step to have this proven technology from the Sasol plant authorities for utilizing some of our coals to be processed to liquid fuels, LPG and other products.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, let me make it clear that the kind of coal available in different countries and even different parts within our own country is different. In South Africa, the ash content is only 30 per cent to 35 per cent. Here, in our coal, ash content is as high as 40 per cent to 45 per cent. So, the process, which they are using, is not necessarily suitable for us. They go for warm process, hot process, but we need cold process. Now, that cold process is not identified anywhere in the world and not proved.

Therefore, we are still looking into the process. This Expert Committee is going into all these factors before taking a decision. It is not a proved technology.
...(Interruptions)

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN : Sir, my query has not been answered....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, it should not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN : Sir, it is misleading the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not permitted, and you know this as you have been here for a long time. If any hon. Member or hon. Members are not satisfied with the reply, then there is a procedure in the rules regarding it. You have to adopt that procedure. Otherwise, if you are not satisfied, then you will go on asking 20 clarifications.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 263, Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

Regional Imbalances within States

*263. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey to detect regional imbalances that exist within each State of the country;

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

(c) the reasons for the regional imbalances that exist in various States despite implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the backward districts of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the efforts made by the Government to attain balanced development in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a to (f) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Planning Commission has not conducted any study/survey to detect regional imbalances that exist within each State of the country. However, an Inter-Ministry Task Group on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances was set up which submitted its report in 2005. The recommendations of this Group were used to formulate the Backward Regions Grant Fund which covers 250 backward districts in all the States, except Goa.

(c) Despite the efforts made through various measures including the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, regional imbalances continue to exist owing to the sub-

continental dimensions of the country with inherent differences in geographical parameters and historical developments which have led to disparities in the levels of development of different areas owing to differences in resource endowment, levels of infrastructure and socio-economic parameters.

(d) to (f) At present there is no such proposal. The specific scheme which aims at removal of regional imbalances that exist within States, is the Backward Regions Grant Fund which aims of catalyzing development in backward district by: (a) providing infrastructure; (b) promoting good governance and agrarian reforms; (c) converging, through supplementary infrastructure and capacity building, the substantial existing development inflows into these districts.

[Translation]

*SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Mr. Speaker Sir, the question is related to development of undeveloped States. The Government has given the reply that survey has not been conducted. Sir, there is lot of disparity between urban and rural areas. Developed States are developing further and undeveloped States are lagging behind. If survey of regional imbalance is not conducted, it will not be possible for the undeveloped States to develop.

Recently, a person from Sultanpur village of Solapur District Shri Rahul Shinde became a martyr in the terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26th November. I had an opportunity to visit that village. Today also that village has no road, no school and no hospital. If there are such villages, how can we achieve development of such villages. There are large numbers of such villages in the country. You have said that you have not conducted the survey. May I request the Government to conduct the survey of the undeveloped areas and rural areas in the matter of development urgently.

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Marathi.

Force. It went into the question of the backwardness of the region. They have identified about 250 districts in this country, and they gave the recommendations in 2005. On the basis of the recommendation, the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) has been formed by the Government, and an amount of Rs. 25,771 crore has been allocated in the Plans for the purpose of giving it to the backward region; Rs. 1 crore for the capacity building; and Rs. 10 crore, which can be spent by the urban local bodies and also by the Panchayat organizations, and the powers have been given to them.

The State Government, for the purpose of planning, allocates funds for the purpose of development in the region. The funds have also been provided by the Government of India directly to the States for the development under various Centrally-sponsored Schemes. This fund is a separate fund, which has been given for the purpose of development of the backward region and it has been given by the Government of India so that it can be supplemented. A separate fund of Rs. 250 crore has been given for KVK regions merging the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) into the BRGF, and separate allocation has been given for the backward region of Bihar also by the Government of India.

Now, the hon. Member is referring to the survey that has to be done. My request is that we will have to consider that aspect, and what are the schemes that are being implemented by the Government of India through the State Government under various schemes. Further, it has to be seen whether the benefit reaches the people. I agree with the hon. Member, and it will take some time for the Government to consider this aspect.

[Translation]

*SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : There are 250 backward districts in the country. Which are the backward districts in Maharashtra? What steps are being contemplated by the Central Government to start industries, hospitals and educational institutions in the rural districts of Maharashtra?

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Marathi.

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, as far as the Government of India is concerned, under the Bharat Nirman, the Government of India is giving funds to the State Government for the purpose of creating rural infrastructure; rural roads; rural electricity; rural water supply; employment guarantee scheme; and also other facilities.

Secondly, under Bharat Nirman, the schemes are being implemented. The hon. Member is referring to the setting up of hospitals. The hon. Health Minister has clearly mentioned about the National Rural Health Mission. The funds have been provided by the Central Government to the States. Apart from that, under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme, under the Eleventh Plan, about Rs. 48,000 crore has been allocated by the Government of India which would take care of students up to upper primary class. In the Tenth Plan, it was not even Rs. 5,800 crore. There is quantum jump in allocation of funds for hospitals, for providing facilities in schools, drinking water supply and creating the infrastructure in the rural areas.

With the permission of the hon. Prime Minister, I visited some of the States to see whether the Centrally-Sponsored Schemes are being properly implemented in the States or not. I would request the hon. Members of this House that for the purpose of implementation of the Scheme successfully, they should persuade their respective State Governments to see that the benefits of the schemes reaches the targeted group. With your kind permission, Sir, I would request the hon. Members to do that.

MR. SPEAKER : My experience is not very happy.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has two aspects. One is the backward States and the other is the backward districts in the states and even within the districts as just now Deshmukh Sahib has stated, many villages are still backward. Hon. Prime Minister had also made an announcement from the Red Fort that there would be uniform development, so grant was given under the Intensive Comprehensive Scheme and the Government is providing grants to 250 backward districts to see that no district remains backward and no

area in the States remains backward. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is formulating an Intensive Comprehensive Scheme so that no State remains backward and no village within the district remains backward?

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, there are inter-State imbalances and also intra-State imbalances. To bridge the gap between developed and also the developing districts, the Government of India, for the year 2008-09, allocated Rs. 1,09,000 crore under the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme. The fund has been provided by the Central Government. The hon. Member is very right in saying that the gap remains. It has to be bridged very closely for which not only the Government of India, but also the implementing agencies, that is, the State Governments have to pay proper attention to it. The cooperation of the State Governments is required for the purpose of achieving the targets. To bring the people from Below the Poverty Line to Above the Poverty Line, to create rural infrastructure for the purpose of providing amenities to the people living in the rural areas, for all round development and bringing the developing areas and underdeveloped areas to the developed level, the cooperation of the State Governments is required. We all have to work in coordination for the purpose of bringing all round development in the State.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to what are the new initiatives being taken for the growth of industries in the underdeveloped districts in the Eleventh Plan this year. In this connection, I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating any proposal to restructure the Industrial Policy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : As far as industrial growth is concerned, the hon. Member is pointing out the industrial growth at the rural level, various agencies like the Small-Scale Industries Department and also the Industry Department have been coordinating with each other for developing industries in the rural areas. For the purpose of facilitating the setting up of industries in the rural areas, the infrastructure has to be developed.

Electricity, roads including approach roads, etc., all these have to be created. Until and unless that type of atmosphere is created, industries will not come up in those areas. Therefore, the Government of India with the help of the State Governments has provided for such things in various schemes under Bharat Nirman. Then, industries will be attracted to those areas.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, please put a brief question. This is the third question that I have allowed and it is already 11.45 a.m.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in view of the regional imbalances within the States, as the Prime Minister has also made a statement, has he conducted any survey to identify the backward states or the backward districts. Secondly, there is regional imbalance in Uttar Pradesh. Has he conducted any survey in this regard? If so, the report thereof? Particularly, the funds provided to UP as financial assistance by the Government of India during the last Five Year Plan, have not been utilized properly. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government of India have any provision to get a survey conducted in this regard?

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : In the first part of the question, I have already answered this supplementary because an Inter-Ministerial Task force has been constituted and went into the question. As far as the survey which the hon. Member wanted, I would say that we would like to see – from our point of view – whether people are getting the fruits of the number of schemes which are being implemented. Sir, 133 Central Government schemes are being implemented by the States. Based on that, we would decide as to whether we have to go for a survey or not.

Dumping of Non-Biodegradable Waste

*264. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign countries are dumping their non-biodegradable waste in the country;

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

(c) the names of the countries and the non-biodegradable waste dumped by them in the country during the last three years and the current year, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Import of wastes is not allowed for dumping/disposal purposes in India as per the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movements) Rules, 2008. However, recyclable wastes like plastics, paper wastes and metal scrap conforming to the specifications mentioned in the Rules are allowed for recycling by the actual users who have the necessary approval from the concerned authorities.

According to the Department of Customs, no instance of foreign countries dumping their non-biodegradable wastes in the country has been reported. However, two cases of import of waste paper mixed with non-biodegradable municipal solid wastes beyond the permissible limits were noticed by the Customs Authorities during the last three years. Out of the two cases of mixed waste paper from USA, the consignment received at Kochi has been re-exported to the supplier on the directions of the authorities. The other consignment received at Tuticorin Port was also ordered for re-export by the Custom Authorities. However, in view of the pending case before the Madurai Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, the impugned cargo is still lying under the custody of Customs Authorities. A third case of e-waste from Kuwait also came to the notice of the Customs Authorities of Mumbai Zone and was re-exported.

The steps taken by the Government to control illegal dumping include legal provisions as provided in the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-

boundary Movements) Rules, 2008 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Customs, Act, 1962 and the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. In addition, a consent mechanism is in place under which the waste reprocessing units are required to take prior permission from the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : According to the Government, they are not aware of any waste that has come from any country into India. They have put only three cases in which waste has been found and re-exported. However, are they not aware that NEERI says that 105 countries are exporting hazardous wastes to India and their hazardous wastes have grown exponentially between 1997 and 2005 at the rate of 62 per cent from non-biodegradable plastics and 15,000 tonnes of organic mercury compounds? The domestic wastes from European countries alone under the guise of paper wastes, which the Government allows, have been discovered repeatedly to be non-biodegradable filth like used plastics, cans, bottles, milk cartons, etc. But my specific question is, under the Basal Convention of which we are the signatory and which the US is not, the rule is that every signatory to the Basal Convention cannot import waste from a non-signatory. However, on the 17th of September in 2008, the US Government Accountability Office gave a 67-page report in which they said that electronic waste of the worst kind was being sent by companies to India for dumping. And the method in which it was done was to get anybody who is what you call a direct user for every 100 items that you import, 40 per cent were utter rubbish being dumped here, which the user is also aware of. Is the Government aware of the GAO Report and what do the Government intend to do about hazardous waste coming in from America which is coming in illegally?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : As far as our rules regarding hazardous waste are concerned, no waste is permitted in the country. Only waste which can be recycled, reused and for recovery purposes is permitted. We have brought this notification in 2008 and have made the import of hazardous waste more stringent.

Regarding e-waste, e-waste is not permitted in the country and we have not given any permission of e-waste

in the country so far. In our country, the recycling industry is very large; there are 771 registered units working in the country and we are recycling around 31 lakh tonnes of various wastes. There is a concept of 3 Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle. This is economically beneficial and it is also environmentally sound....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : She has referred to some specific instance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I am trying to help you.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : We have not given any permission to any firm from America regarding import of e-waste.

Regarding Basel Convention, we are a party to it, and wherever prior consent is required, we are giving prior consent; and it is all being done as per the Convention.

MR. SPEAKER : She has mentioned some specific instances.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Yes, Sir. We have noted. I have given my reply.

MR. SPEAKER : In the reply, you have said that they are re-exported.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Yes, they are re-exported.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I have talked about two reports and you have not replied to either one of those. Are you not aware of the NEERI report?

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has referred to a specific report of NEERI and also she has referred to a report of GAO; I will ask the Ministry to have a look at it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Thank you.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK : May I know from the hon. Prime Minister, whether the Government is aware that in the name of ship breaking, poisonous materials like asbestos and non-biodegradable wastes are being dumped

in our country? If so, what are the steps taken and are proposed to be taken in this regard and the number of cases where punishment is meted out to the culprits?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : As far as ship breaking is concerned, we have a well-laid procedure and we are well-equipped to handle ship breaking. Whatever is coming, is being handled as per law and as per procedure. This is a very big industry and this is also something which is being re-used. So, there is no problem. Even this matter went up to the Supreme Court and everything is being done under our Ministry based on guidelines.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Almost a year back – I do not exactly remember the date and the number of the Question – in response to one of my questions, the then Minister of Environment and Forests had given a written reply to me saying that there was an incident. In Cochin Port, the urban waste had been imported from the USA. The Government had decided to re-export it. During that time, in response to a Supplementary, the Minister had assured that it would be examined and definitely action would be taken against the agency or the addressee which had imported it.

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question now.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Urban waste was imported from the USA; it was at the Cochin Port; they had re-exported, all right. But what was the action taken by the Government against the addressee which imported the urban waste from the USA to Cochin? May I know this from the Government?

MR. SPEAKER : You had already asked.

Mr. Minister, do you have any information now?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Yes. In was the 2007 case. The importer was Kochi Kadalas, Ernakulam. The Exporter was Belson Corporation. It was a brown paper mix waste. It came to India, but was re-exported. It was not accepted and it was not allowed in the country; it was re-exported.

MR. SPEAKER : What was the action taken against the person? Was there any action taken against the person who imported it?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : It was not allowed to enter.

MR. SPEAKER : But somebody attempted to bring it in.

Okay, you may look into it.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : We will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER : He will look into it.

Shortage of Vaccines for Immunisation Programme

*265. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether shortage of Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT) and Diphtheria and Tetanus (DT) vaccines in the country has adversely affected the Universal Immunisation Programme as reported in the Hindu dated 12 November, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States where such shortages have been noticed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The shortage of Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT) and Diphtheria and Tetanus (DT) has marginally affected the Universal Immunization Programme to some extent in some States for some time.

The status of availability of DPT and DT vaccines in the States during April, 08 to November, 08 is enclosed at Annexures-I and II.

The Government of India has placed supply orders for supply for DPT and DT vaccines as per the annual requirement of vaccine along with the buffer stock for the year 2008-09. The supplies of DPT vaccines have been started by the manufacturers from the month of September,

2008, whereas the supplies of DT have been started from the month of November, 2008.

Annexure-I

Status of Availability of DPT vaccine in the States during April '08 December '09

Quantity in lakh doses

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ UTs	Requirement from April'08- December'08	To be available with the States upto December'08	Shortage
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.25	0.28	-0.04
2.	Andhra Pradesh	61.21	58.76	2.45
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.05	1.03	0.03
4.	Assam	27.60	27.51	0.09
5.	Bihar	125.14	89.30	35.84
6.	Chandigarh	0.82	0.64	0.19
7.	Chhattisgarh	24.49	22.87	1.63
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.33	0.31	0.03
9.	Daman and Diu	0.18	0.14	0.04
10.	Delhi	12.40	12.57	-0.17
11.	Goa	0.72	1.04	-0.32
12.	Gujarat	57.52	51.95	5.57
13.	Haryana	23.01	22.91	0.10
14.	Himachal Pradesh	5.17	5.40	-0.23
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	11.23	11.94	-0.71
16.	Jharkhand	31.90	31.64	0.26
17.	Karnataka	45.20	40.64	4.56
18.	Kerala	20.05	19.25	0.80

1	2	3	4	5
19. Lakshadweep		0.05	0.08	-0.04
20. Madhya Pradesh		75.84	67.69	8.15
21. Maharashtra		72.72	76.18	-3.46
22. Manipur		1.82	1.84	-0.01
23. Meghalaya		2.54	2.72	-0.18
24. Mizoram		0.90	1.20	-0.30
25. Nagaland		1.45	2.51	-1.06
26. Orissa		34.07	31.58	2.49
27. Pondicherry		0.77	0.91	-0.13
28. Punjab		19.55	16.59	2.95
29. Rajasthan		70.90	63.58	7.32
30. Sikkim		0.52	0.57	-0.05
31. Tamil Nadu		42.58	38.29	4.29
32. Tripura		2.23	2.08	0.14
33. Uttar Pradesh		219.72	157.47	62.25
34. Uttarakhand		8.59	5.70	2.90
35. West Bengal		89.15	55.41	33.74

Annexure-II

Status of Availability of DT vaccine in the States during April '08 December '09

Quantity in lakh doses

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ UTs	Requirement from April'08- December'08	To be available with the States upto December'08	Shortage
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.12	0.11	0.01

1	2	3	4	5
2. Andhra Pradesh		18.19	12.48	5.71
3. Arunachal Pradesh		0.23	0.13	0.10
4. Assam		9.60	4.48	5.12
5. Bihar		25.49	11.58	13.91
6. Chandigarh		0.19	0.22	-0.03
7. Chhattisgarh		6.67	4.94	1.73
8. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.08	0.07	0.01
9. Daman and Diu		0.07	0.06	0.01
10. Delhi		3.23	3.80	-0.57
11. Goa		0.21	0.23	-0.02
12. Gujarat		14.21	6.12	8.09
13. Haryana		6.33	6.32	0.01
14. Himachal Pradesh		1.33	1.84	-0.52
15. Jammu and Kashmir		2.87	3.09	-0.22
16. Jharkhand		24.00	11.11	12.89
17. Karnataka		9.77	6.23	3.54
18. Kerala		7.30	4.64	2.66
19. Lakshadweep		0.01	0.02	-0.01
20. Madhya Pradesh		18.01	6.22	11.79
21. Maharashtra		20.16	26.31	-6.15
22. Manipur		0.45	0.15	0.30
23. Meghalaya		0.72	0.10	0.62
24. Mizoram		0.30	0.13	0.17
25. Nagaland		0.37	0.49	-0.12
26. Orissa		9.27	3.64	5.63
27. Pondicherry		0.19	0.06	0.13

1	2	3	4	5
28. Punjab		6.17	6.19	-0.02
29. Rajasthan		17.57	17.23	0.34
30. Sikkim		0.14	0.05	0.09
31. Tamil Nadu		10.73	6.00	4.73
32. Tripura		0.86	0.55	0.11
33. Uttar Pradesh		51.79	40.66	11.14
34. Uttarakhand		2.58	0.26	2.32
35. West Bengal		18.95	5.06	13.89

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Sir, the immunization programme is one of the key interventions for the protection of children from life threatening diseases which are preventable. Shortage of the vaccine will hit the immunization programme adversely. States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have been facing an acute shortage of the vaccine. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps being taken to provide proper quantity of vaccine to the States.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : In the last couple of months there has been shortage of some vaccines for some period of time. I would come to the second part and say that a lot of steps have been taken. I would like to assure the House that from the month of December there will be no shortages in all the States of the country.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Sir, the Minister of Health has ordered the closure of vaccine production at the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, the Pasteur Institute in Coonoor and the BCG Vaccine Lab in Chennai. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why this step has been taken by the Government.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, there is no closure of manufacturing of vaccine at PI, Coonoor or CRI, Kasauli or BCG, Chennai. We have withdrawn the licence from them for manufacturing. I would like to explain the circumstances under which we had to do this.

The World Health Organisation goes from country to country assessing and recognizing the National Regulatory

Authorities. The National Regulatory Authority in India is the Drug Controller General of India who issues licences to these manufacturing units for both pharmaceuticals as well as vaccines. Periodically, they go to different countries all over the world and recognize them. Time and again, they have come to India. In India there are three types of qualifications based on which the NRA gives licences. One is the Schedule M, which is the Indian GMP (Goods Manufacturing Practice). Second is, the WHO GMP. Third is the WHO Pre-qualification. WHO pre-qualification is the highest form of quality. Without the Indian GMP no institution in India can manufacture any pharmaceutical drug or vaccine. Unfortunately, these three Indian manufacturing units did not have even Indian GMP. Since the Indian NRA has given WHO pre-qualification or WHO GMP, they say that if India does not ask these vaccine manufacturing units without an Indian GMP to stop manufacturing then they will derecognize India's NRA. So, if all these organizations do derecognize India's NRA, then the credibility of India will be lost and we cannot export also.

We have spent nearly about Rs. 50-60 crore in these three units to improve the facilities, to make it at least Indian GMP Compliance. Two of these institutions are more than 100 years old and one of them is 60 years old. There is no space for expansion. The buildings are dilapidated and there have been problems. Under the Drug Controller General of India, I have sent a team of experts to go through all these institutions and give me a report on their viability. They have submitted the report. It is not that we are going to close down these institutions. None of the employees is going to be laid off. All of them are given their salary and we are going to restructure the entire process of manufacturing and viability.

Simultaneously, Sir, a new state-of-art vaccine manufacturing unit is being planned, which will process these vaccines with cutting-edge technology. Since these vaccines deal directly with children's lives, we do not want any sub-quality vaccine, without going through the due process of recognition, to be supplied in India. That is precisely why we have asked them to stop manufacturing; we have not closed them down. We are going to use them for other syrups and other things after they undergo the Indian GMP.

MR. SPEAKER : Only half a minute is left. You can put a very brief question.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil) : As it is, there is shortage of vaccine and the production centers at Coonoor, Chennai and Himachal have been closed. My specific question to the Minister is was this shortage of vaccine due to closure of these units.

MR. SPEAKER : Was the shortage due to these units?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Yes, Sir. There was some shortage due to these units. I have already answered why we had to stop these units.

MR. SPEAKER : You have fully answered that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : We have stopped manufacturing in these units due to the quality process and due to the processes which have to be followed. Again, I would like to assure that from December onwards all these shortages are being taken care of.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

New Toll Policy

*266. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the existing toll policy and its objectives towards development of National Highways;

(b) whether the Government proposes to bring about changes in the existing policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the cost of collection of toll is more than the toll revenue collected;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) In exercise of the powers conferred by the National Highways Act, 1956, the Government has notified the new "National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008", in the Gazette to India Extraordinary dated 05 December, 2008. The main features of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 are given below:—

- (i) Uniform rate of fee for public funded and private investment projects.
- (ii) Categorisation of vehicles in five categories for fixing the base rate of fee.
- (iii) Concession/discount to local users, and for multiple journeys.
- (iv) Annual revision of rate of fee.
- (v) Levy of user fee for two-lane highways @ 60% of the user charges prescribed for four-lane highways.
- (vi) Rate of fee prescribed for use of permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel. In case of the permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel costing more than Rs. 10 crore and less than Rs. 50 crore and forming part of the section of the National Highway, the rate of fee will be same as applicable to the section of the National Highway. In case of a bridge, bypass or tunnel costing more than Rs. 50 crore, the length of the bridge, bypass or tunnel shall be excluded from the length of such section of National Highway and the fee shall be levied at the rate specified for such permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel.
- (vii) Rate of fee prescribed for overloading.
- (viii) Provision for collection, remittance and appropriation of fee.

- (ix) Location of Toll Plaza prescribed.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

**Expansion of SBI Operations in
Rural and Semi-Urban Areas**

*267. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the total branches of the State Bank of India (SBI) functioning in rural and semi-urban areas at present;
- (b) whether the SBI has proposed to add 1,000 branches in rural and semi-urban areas during the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the SBI proposes to expand its marketing mechanism and tie-up with business facilitators to double the growth of deposits and advances from rural branches;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the extent to which it is likely to help the rural and semi-urban population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) According to information furnished by the State Bank of India (SBI), presently there are a total of 7446 branches of SBI functioning in rural and semi-urban areas, out of which, 4250 are rural and 3196 are semi-urban branches.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The SBI has received authorisation to open a total of 1069 branches of which 519 will be rural branches and 550 will be semi-urban branches.

(d) to (f) The vision of the Bank is that business from rural and semi-urban branches should be as much from

urban and metro branches in 3 to 5 years. Towards this end the Bank is engaging Business Correspondents (BCs) and Business Facilitators (BFs) for penetration into rural and semi-urban areas, setting up a number of Customer Service Points (CSPs) for Business Correspondents and targeting to open 40 lakh smart carts no-frill accounts this year.

Expansion of Forest Cover

268. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the existing forest cover in view of air pollution, Ozone depletion and declining rainfall in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to formulate a new policy to increase forest cover in the country in view of large-scale denudation of forests;
- (d) if so, the details thereof outlining the targets set and results achieved with regard to afforestation during the last three years and the current year;
- (e) whether any State has requested for additional funds for increasing the forest cover; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) and (b) In the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted as one of the eight missions to *inter alia* help counter the effects of climate change through afforestation programmes. The proposed national programme would focus on two objectives, namely increasing the forest cover and density as a whole of the country and conserving biodiversity.

(c) No, Sir, there is no change in the National Forest Policy, 1988 which aims to achieve one third of the land area of the country under forest or tree Cover.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The major afforestation scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, namely the 'National Afforestation Programme' provides financial assistance for regeneration and eco-development of degraded forests and adjoining areas. Under this scheme no state-wise allocation of funds is provided. The new projects as well as ongoing projects are considered as per the existing guidelines of the scheme and subject to availability of funds. The details of funds released under the scheme for the last three years and the current year are as given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-28	2008-09 (upto 3.12.08)
Amount Released	248.12	292.75	392.95	224.66

Anti-Rabies Vaccines

*269. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
SHRI UDAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- whether the anti-rabies vaccines are adequately available in the Government hospitals in the country;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether these vaccines conform to the quality norms of international standards;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether complaints have been received regarding non-availability and the poor quality of these vaccines;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (g) There is currently adequate installed capacity in the country for both tissue culture Anti-Rabies vaccines (284 lakhs doses per annum)

and Anti-Rabies Serum (10.4 lakhs vials per annum). Against this installed capacity, in the year 2007-2008, 123.59 lakhs doses of Anti-Rabies Vaccines and 6.85 lakhs vials of Anti Rabies Serum have been sold in the country. These biologicals (vaccines/serum) whether indigenously produced or imported, cannot be marketed unless their quality is certified by the Central Drug Laboratory at Kasauli.

In so far as Central Government hospitals are concerned, no shortage of Anti-Rabies Vaccines and Anti-Rabies Serum has been reported. In Delhi, these are administered at Dr. RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital. The following table illustrates their availability in the year 2007-08:—

Hospital	Anti-Rabies Vaccines	Anti-Rabies Serum
Dr. RML Hospital	26,200 doses	28,500 vials
Safdarjung Hospital	52950 doses	25,800 vials

In addition to above, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences also procured 6484 doses of anti-rabies vaccine, between January to December, 2008. There has been no complaint about the quality of these vaccines. In so far as State Governments are concerned, the vaccines are procured by them out of their own resources. No report has been received from any State Government about shortages of Anti Rabies Vaccine or Anti Rabies Serum.

Policy for Tobacco Products

*270. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- whether the Government proposes to enact a comprehensive policy on tobacco to discourage its consumption by imposing higher taxes, increasing excise and import duty on tobacco products and ban on foreign investment in the tobacco sector as reported in the Times of India dated 5 November, 2008;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) The Government's health policy on tobacco is to ensure effective protection of non-smokers from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke and to protect children and young people from being addicted to use of tobacco. Government has taken a number of effective measures to protect citizens from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke; discourage use of tobacco and impose progressive restrictions with a view to eventually eliminate all forms of advertisement, sponsorship and promotion of tobacco. In order to achieve these objectives, "The Cigarettes and Other tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement of Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" was enacted by Parliament.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has proposed review of existing trade tax policy with the view to discourage the consumption of tobacco products, viz.:—

- (i) Review of the existing Free Trade Agreement (FTA), import and FDI Policy, EOU/SEZ policy/trade of tobacco and tobacco products.
- (ii) Review of industrial licencing policy to effectively regulate cigarette units. Also, expend is scope to cover other manufactured products such as gutka, cigars, machine made bidi, etc.
- (iii) Review of taxation policy to correct the distortion in tobacco taxes; use tax as an instrument to curb tobacco consumption in society.

[Translation]

Insurance for the Poor

*271. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any insurance scheme for the benefit of the poor for

reconstructing their houses damaged due to natural calamities; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, insurance companies provide general insurance products, which, among other things, cover damage to dwellings due to natural calamities such as floods, earthquake, hurricane, inundation etc. Some insurance companies have also devised specific covers for the weaker sections of the society, mostly in the nature of package covers which include cover of damage to dwellings.

[English]

Regulatory Mechanism and Cable Operators

*272. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the existing legal and regulatory mechanism to regulate the cable operators in the country;
- (b) whether it is mandatory for the cable operators to carry a prescribed minimum number of public broadcasting channels on their network;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether violations in this regard have come to the notice of the Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against the defaulters; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure strict compliance of the said regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) The Cable Television Network services in the country are regulated as per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation)

Act, 1995 and the Rules thereunder. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is also regulating carriage of Cable TV services in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 has provided for mandatory carriage of Doordarshan channels notified by Prasar Bharati under the provisions of the Act. As on date cable operators are required to carry following channels compulsorily in their Cable TV Network services:—

- (1) Lok Sabha Television channel
- (2) DD Rajya Sabha channel
- (3) DD-1 (National channel)
- (4) DD (News channel)
- (5) DD Sport channel
- (6) DD Urdu channel
- (7) Gyan Darshan channel
- (8) DD Bharati channel; and
- (9) Regional channel of the State concerned wherein the cable operator is providing its services.

(d) to (f) The Government has received complaints of non-carriage of notified channels. On receipt of such complaints, concerned authorized officer has been directed to take necessary action for ensuring carriage of these channels. Government has issued instructions from time to time for ensuring enforcement of Section 8 of the Act and carriage of notified channels by cable operators.

Financial Assistance for Eradication of Polio

*273. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether external assistance from various countries including that of Japan is being obtained/utilised to eradicate polio from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States which are likely to be benefitted by the said assistance;

(d) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has provided any assistance in this regard;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of funds allocated by the Government for eradication of polio during the last three years and the current year; and

(g) the number of polio eradication campaigns launched by the Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Yes, Sir. Various external agencies are assisting the programme for eradication of Polio.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The Polio eradication activities are conducted across the country. All the States and UTs are benefited.

(d) Yes, Sir. WHO is providing Technical Assistance for Polio eradication activities.

(e) The MoHFW, GOI and WHO collaborated to form National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), in 1997 which provides technical and logistic assistance to the Government of India and also works closely with State Governments/UTs to achieve the goal of polio eradication in India.

(f) As per enclosed Statement-II.

(g) The annual eradication strategy is planned on the basis of the recommendations of the Government of India's apex advisory body on polio eradication called the India Export Advisory Group (IEAG). The group comprises national and international epidemiologists, virologists, public health experts, partner organizations and Government representatives. The number of National Immunization of Day (NID) and Sub National Immunization Day (SNID) rounds conducted from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I*External Funding Provided for Polio Eradication Programme Year 2005 onwards*

Name of agency/ Country	Year	Amount Euro/ USD/SDR	Amount INR (in crores)
1	2	3	4
KfW, Germany	2005-06	Euro 16.07 million	95.00

	1	2	3	4
KfW, Germany	2006-07	Euro 40.62 million	240.14	
KfW, Germany	2007-08	Euro 50.00 million	295.60	
KfW, Germany	2008-11	Euro 45.09 million	266.57	
World Bank	2005-10	SDR 90 million	613.21	
JICA, Japan	2005-08	USD 11.67 million	54.09	

Statement-II*Funds allocated during last three years and also current year*

Rupees in lakhs

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Funds allocated during 2005-06	Funds allocated during 2006-07	Funds allocated during 2007-08	Funds allocated during 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	42.85	97.65	50.02	87.50
2.	Assam	471.82	1252.84	735.46	1928.71
3.	Manipur	65.61	129.98	64.99	117.73
4.	Meghalaya	70.86	110.12	79.04	282.71
5.	Mizoram	24.19	48.88	25.09	43.21
6.	Nagaland	49.52	103.51	53.98	141.6
7.	Sikkim	14.08	28.24	14.65	24.88
8.	Tripura	72.82	225.84	79.17	139.97
	Total	811.75	1996.86	1102.40	2766.31
9.	Bihar	3601.96	4937.51	6233.56	6226.48
10.	Madhya Pradesh	891.97	2396.19	1097.1	1856.73
11.	Orissa	325.14	657.03	564.06	1190.93
12.	Rajasthan	766.35	1439.16	1430.47	2449.85
13.	Uttar Pradesh	15511.18	16044.12	17616.78	20697.66
14.	Uttaranchal	466.07	548.66	585.52	913.33

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Chhattisgarh	219.23	460.84	372.56	671.8
16.	Jharkhand	784.47	899.73	911.98	676.87
Total		22566.37	27383.24	28812.03	34683.65
17.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	14.98	29.95	14.70	27.16
18.	Andhra Pradesh	853.31	2186.12	2710.10	2996.13
19.	Chandigarh	8.63	31.70	14.39	17.36
20.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.91	7.41	2.97	5.31
21.	Daman and Diu	3.05	4.44	2.25	3.57
22.	Delhi	813.56	708.02	1079.46	1779.76
23.	Goa	9.75	18.98	9.78	17.98
24.	Gujarat	559.71	1614.96	1300.49	1096.59
25.	Haryana	561.86	1049.08	827.04	1510.96
26.	Himachal Pradesh	102.93	239.70	102.93	192.51
27.	Jammu and Kashmir	128.72	261.57	179.38	338.03
28.	Karnataka	505.87	1302.44	735.07	999.13
29.	Kerala	192.54	347.12	203.13	383.46
30.	Lakshadweep	2.61	4.89	2.84	5.04
31.	Maharashtra	1514.59	3348.19	2516.63	3575.67
32.	Pondicherry	4.57	17.50	19.6	16.48
33.	Punjab	304.15	828.52	657.29	543.84
34.	Tamil	493.36	968.39	512.65	969.70
35.	West Bengal	1839.38	2825.23	1484.96	2176.37
Total		7916.48	15794.21	12375.66	16655.05
Grand Total (A)		31294.60	45174.31	42290.09	54105.01

Statement-III

Sub Immunization Day (SNID) rounds conducted from 2005-06 to 2008-09

Year	NID Round	SNID Round
2005-06	2	7
2006-07	2	6
2007-08	2	10
2008-09	2	6

Investment in Infrastructure Sector

*274. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the infrastructure sector in the country has been adversely affected due to the current global financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase investment in the infrastructure sector in the wake of the global financial crisis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) The measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) The XI Five Year Plan envisages an ambitious programme for infrastructure creation. The total investment requirement has been projected at Rs. 20,56,150 crore (2006-2007) prices. In spite of depressed global credit markets. Government is committed to achievement to the targets projected in respect of investment in infrastructure during the XI Plan Period. The details of the investment required — sector wise — for infrastructure in the XI Plan Period are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) The steps taken by Government in the recent

months to facilitate smooth flow of funds to the infrastructure sectors are as under:—

- i. Policy for availing External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been progressively liberalized to expand the definition of infrastructure; permit ECBs upto US \$ 500 million per borrower per financial year for Rupee expenditure and/or foreign currency expenditure for all permissible end uses under the automatic route; allow payment for obtaining license/ permit for 3G spectrum as a permissible 'end use'; and, rationalize and enhance the 'all in cost' interest rate ceilings at which ECBs can be availed.
- ii. The India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) has been authorized to raise Rs. 10,000 crore through tax free bonds by March 31, 2009. These funds will be used by IIFCL to re-finance bank lending of longer maturity to eligible infrastructure projects, particularly in highways and ports sectors. Depending on the need, IIFCL will be permitted to raise further resources by issue of such bonds.

Statement

Estimated Investment requirement in Infrastructure in the XI Five Year Plan

Sector	Investment requirement during XI Plan (Rs. crore at 2006-07 prices)			Public: Private
	Public Investment	Private Investment	Total Investment	
1	2	3	4	5
Electricity	4,81,013	1,85,512	6,66,525	72:28
Roads	2,07,360	1,06,792	3,14,152	66:34
Telecom	80,753	1,77,886	2,58,439	31:69
Railways	2,11,454	50,354	2,61,808	81:19
Ports	33,516	54,479	87,995	38:62

1	2	3	4	5
Airports	9,338	21,630	30,968	30:70
Water supply and Sanitation	1,38,309	5,421	1,43,730	96:04
Irrigation	2,53,301	0	2,53,301	100:0
Storage	11,189	11,189	22,378	50:50
Gas	10,327	6,528	16,855	61:39
Total	14,36,559	6,19,591	20,56,150	70:30

Source: Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) Volume 1, Chapter 12

New Code for Advertisements

*275. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new code for regulating the contents of the advertisements to prevent its adverse impact on the minds of children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Advertising Standards Council of India has examined this issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to implement the content code for telecasting advertisements through electronic media; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (f) With a view to containing the adverse effect of programme and advertisements on viewers, specially the children, the Government

had set up a Committee to review the existing Programme and Advertisement Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Committee has submitted its report on 5.3.2008 which is available on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in for wider consultation.

A Representative from Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) was a member of the above Committee and the draft Code was formulated after studying similar regulation in other democracies. No time-frame has been fixed for its implementation.

Presently, Rule 7(9) in the Advertising Code of the Cable Networks Rules, 1994 recognise the Code and Self Regulation adopted by Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). In addition, Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the violation of the existing Programme and Advertising Codes and recommend action to the Government.

Acquisition of Land for National Highways

*276. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land acquired for construction and widening of the National Highways during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the amount of compensation released for such acquisition, State-wise;

(c) the area of land to be acquired for the NH Projects, State-wise;

(d) the time by which the said land is likely to be acquired; and

(e) the number of cases of land acquisition under dispute and settled during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) The Government of India is overall responsible for development

and maintenance of National Highways. Various works relating to the National Highways are implemented through different agencies, such as State Governments, Border Roads Organisation and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). These agencies are also responsible for acquisition of land for development of National Highways as per the requirements.

Information on the land acquired for construction and widening of the National Highways during the last three years and the current year, the amount of compensation released, area of land to be acquired for National Highway

Projects, number of disputes and those settled till date, in respect of the projects being implemented by the State Governments is given in Statement-I.

As regards projects implemented by National Highways Authority of India, the information is given in the enclosed Statement-II. Land Acquisition is a continuous process and efforts are made to expedite the same.

Information from some States/Union Territories, Border Roads Organisation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

*Information in respect of Projects implemented by the State Governments/Union Territories
(from January, 2005 to 15th December, 2008)*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Area of land acquired for construction and widening of the NH (In Hectares)	The amount of compensation released for such acquisition (Rs. in crore)	Area of land to be acquired for the NH Projects (In Hectares)	The number of cases of land acquisition under dispute	The number of cases of land acquisition settled
1.	Andhra Pradesh	129.807	12.772	19.008	1	1
2.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Jharkhand	4.56	7.29	1.06	2	Nil
6.	Karnataka	256.02	89.36	29.95	7	Nil
7.	Kerala	32.42	25.70	96.31	45	26
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	72	Nil	Nil

Note: Information in respect of States/Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Administration is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Statement-II*Information in respect of National Highways Authority of India (Cumulative figures upto 15.12.2008)*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Area of land acquired for construction and widening of the NH (in Hectares)	The amount of compensation released for such acquisition (Rs. in crore)	Area of land to be acquired for the NH Projects (In Hectares)	The number of cases of land acquisition under dispute	The number of cases of land acquisition settled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4058	462.38	7668	N/A	N/A
2.	Assam	1540	351.12	2062	N/A	N/A
3.	Bihar	361	165.26	1394	88	02
4.	Chhattisgarh	22	0.10	37	N/A	N/A
5.	Goa	—	5.06		N/A	N/A
6.	Gujarat	517	79.83	524	N/A	N/A
7.	Haryana	93			N/A	N/A
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8		37	N/A	N/A
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1333	282.79	1407	N/A	N/A
10.	Jharkhand	51	12.13	571	11	01
11.	Karnataka	2078	395.79	3225	N/A	N/A
12.	Kerala	138	143.54	354	255	82
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1824	105.04	2863	N/A	N/A
14.	Maharashtra	1115	111.14	3725	N/A	N/A
15.	Orissa	520	137.28	520	N/A	N/A
16.	Punjab	26	182.24	859	N/A	N/A
17.	Rajasthan	3930	341.27	4177	22	03
18.	Tamil Nadu	3067	1135.80	5319	86	48
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1455	443.11	3187	100	22
20.	West Bengal	587	206.98	737	N/A	N/A

Note: N/A—Not available. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reforms in Coal Sector

*277. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has considered the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Coal Sector Reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the actions taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee constituted by Ministry of Coal on Road Map for Coal Sector Reforms under the Chairmanship of Shri T.L. Sankar has submitted Part-I of the Report in December, 2005 and Part-II in September, 2007.

Actions taken or proposed to be taken on major recommendations are furnished below:—

Sl. No.	Major Recommendations	Action Taken/proposed to be taken
1	2	3
1.	Augmenting domestic coal production to bridge the gap between demand and supply with emphasis on captive coal mining.	Government has allotted a number of new captive coal blocks, besides taking up a number of new coal projects under coal PSUs to augment coal production to bridge the gap between demand and supply.
2.	As coal shall remain India's primary source of commercial energy supply, a time-bound plan to cover the entire country by regional mapping in 15 years should be prepared by Geological Survey of India, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDIL) and Ministry of Coal (MOC).	An action Plan has been prepared to cover the balance coal bearing area of 5438 sq. km under regional exploration. It is envisaged to cover in area of 2791 sq. km during XI Plan and the balance there after. Exploratory drilling capacity of CMPDIL is being doubled.
3.	Coal India Limited (CIL) may be granted the status of Navratna company and the subsidiaries of CIL may be granted the status of Mini Ratna companies in which case only those proposals of such a subsidiary would need Government approval wherein the capital expenditure exceeds Rs. 500 crore.	CIL has been granted Navaratna status. Besides this, 5 of its subsidiary companies (South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.; Western Coalfields Ltd.; Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.; Northern Coalfields Ltd.; and Central Coalfields Ltd.) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. have been accorded Miniratna Category-I status. Case of enhancing financial delegation to Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) on par with Miniratna-I companies is under consideration.
4.	The issue of major restructuring of CIL should be considered during the 12th Plan Period.	This is agreed to.
5.	The environment issue in respect of coal projects should be taken up on priority consideration by the Government.	The Government has issued new Environment notification on 14.9.2006 as per which the proposals of coal mining projects are being processed for environmental clearance.

1	2	3
6. Planned imports of coal need to be encouraged.	Imports are planned by Power Sector every year in advance keeping in view the requirement CIL is also contemplating to import coal.	
7. Increasing proportion of all domestic coal that is not earmarked for Power Sector be brought into the E-auction market over the next 2 to 3 years.	E-auction of coal has already been started.	
8. The current system of linkages feeding the power sector may be replaced with formal long term Fuel Supply and Transport Agreements that include the Railways.	The new coal distribution policy of Government provides for long term fuel supply and transport agreement that include railways.	
9. All possible legal measures should be evolved to cancel the licenses issued earlier if the allottee has not taken adequate steps to bring the allotted mines to production or in setting up the end use units.	On the basis of regular review of the progress of captive blocks, de-allocation of some coal blocks has been done. Regular monitoring is being done to review the progress periodically.	
10. Coal price would need to be regulated in light of the market realities. The regulation of coal price has to be differentiating the pricing of coal for power generation since it consumes 80% of the domestic production and the quality of coal it consumes is not easily saleable to the steel and cement sectors.	The issue of coal pricing is being looking into by a Committee of Planning Commission to evolve guiding principles to fix coal prices. The Committee is yet to submit the report.	
11. Promotion of underground mining.	Action has been initiated by CIL to enhance the level of production from underground mines from around 44 million tonnes achieved in 2006-07 to about 67 million tonnes by 2011-12 mainly by adopting mechanization of operations, introduction of continuous miner technology longwall technology.	
	The additional investment has been estimated at Rs. 5185.59 crores for attaining this production level. CIL has also identified 7 blocks which can be developed into mega mine (more than 2 million tonnes production per annum) with state of art consultancy and technology with foreign expertise.	
12. Improve production and productivity of men and machinery with focus on technology up gradation.	Action has been initiated to improve productivity of heavy earth moving machinery (HEMM) in opencast mines mainly by increasing the number of hours of operation and awarding maintenance and repair contracts, streamlining	

1	2	3
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the replacement of old equipment, and deployment of large size equipment. In underground mines, improvement in productivity is being addressed through mechanized coal loading adopting side discharge loaders, load haul dumpers, conveyor belts etc. and introduction of continuous miner technology and longwall technology wherever it is feasible. Shortwall technology on experimental basis has also been introduced. Adoption of Highwall technology is also envisaged in some of the opencast mines.

13. There is need to have permanent cell for technology evaluation and monitoring and improving the systematic operating procedures for modern new equipment procurement (In CIL).

A department has already been created at Coal India and also at CMPDIL for adoption of new technology. CMPDIL as the planning wing of Coal India provides the initial inputs for adoption of new technology.

14. Switch over to Gross Calorific Value (GCV) based pricing and grading of coal

In view of the resistance of switching over to GCV based grading of coal by major consumers, it is proposed to first narrow down the existing bands of Useful Heat Value (UHV) based grades of coal. To start with, the same is to be applied at the selected pit head stations of NTPC for a period of 60 days with effect from 1.12.2008.

15. Promote coal washing

Government has already taken policy decision to encourage use of washed coal by permitting private entrepreneurs to set up washeries on coal company's land. CIL has also taken a decision to supply washed coal to power sector by setting up new washeries on Build Own Maintain (BOM) basis and funding will be made by CIL. Additional washing capacity of about 140 million tonnes per year would be created during next five years.

16. Promotion of cutting edge technologies like Underground Coal Gasification (UCG), Coal Bed Methane (CBM), Coal Mine Methane (CMM), Coal to Liquid (CTL) etc.

Government has already permitted CBM operations on commercial lines and 26 blocks have been allotted to various entrepreneurs. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP and NG) regulates the CBM operations. For CMM, coal companies are taking action to extract methane gas from the existing mines and a demonstration project in association with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environmental Fund (GEF) is under implementation in one of the mines of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL). Government has recently recognized UCG, CTL as one of the end uses under captive mining policy.

1	2	3
17. Although India is not under any obligation under Kyoto Protocol to reduce emissions, it is recommended that India should assume their role of a responsible user of coal taking every effort to reduce the emission level of coal as well as its consumption.		Action already initiated for adopting clean coal technologies. CIL has committed to sell processed coal to all its consumers. Government has given lot of stress for the extraction of coal bed methane which would eventually reduce emission owing to coal.
18. Outsourcing should be differentiated from contract labour employment. It is not a method to extract more work and pay less to unskilled and semi skilled labour. In fact, it becomes relevant and inevitable in tasks, which call for specialized skills.		CIL and its subsidiaries have initiated actions and have included clauses in the tenders/contracts to remove exploitation of labour and also have generated training programmes for uplifting skills of its own workmen.
19. Setting up of a Coal Governance and Regulation authority (CGRA) to coordinate and attend to all issue relevant for development of coal resources, regulation of coal price (wherever necessary), and nurturing level playing field between the entrenched large public sector coal companies and the emerging small coal companies in the State public sector and the captive mining sector.		Action initiated for creating CGRA. Draft Note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is under Inter Ministerial consultation.
20. Ensure proper mine closure and restoration of mined out areas. The Coal Regulatory Authority should be given the responsibility to monitor the restoration work. A fee of Rs. 10 per tonne of coal mined as Mine-restoration levy should be collected annually and release as grants on for such work.		MOC has prepared draft guidelines for mine closure which can be implemented by Coal Controller till the organization of Coal Regulator is put in place.
21. Coal R and D fund should be created whereby half of one percent of the turnover of all coal companies in the public and private sectors is deposited. CGRA could manage the funds.		The creation of R and D fund is agree to. It is preferable that the proposed fund should be kept available with the industry instead of CGRA. In the present system the R and D activities are identified, monitored and funded through Standing Scientific Research Committee (SSRC) which is chaired by Secretary (Coal).

There are some other recommendations that require wider consultations for which action/deliberation has been initiated.

(c) Following major benefits are likely to accrue:—

(i) Bridging the demand-supply gap in coal in the short, medium and long-term;

(ii) Improvement of productivity of men and machinery;

(iii) Research and development and introduction of cutting edge technology;

(iv) Improve Regulation and Governance in the coal pricing and trade.

Excise Duty for Tobacco Companies

*278. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of excise duty evasion by tobacco companies have come to the notice of the Union Government during the last year and current year;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against such companies; so far; and

(d) the steps taken to check the excise duty evasion by tobacco companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Cases of excise duty evasion by units manufacturing tobacco products, like cigarettes, gutkha, biris and other tobacco products have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) The total number of cases of excise duty evasion by tobacco companies and the estimated amount of duty evasion in the last financial year and the current year are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Number of cases booked	Duty involved
2007-08	154	412
2008-09 (upto November, 08)	73	43

The company wise details of cases involving duty amount of more than Rs. 5 crores are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Duty involved
1	2	3
1.	Kurele Pan Products Pvt. Ltd., Ghaziabad	118.00

1	2	3
2.	Sam Aromatics	52.76
3.	VST Industries Ltd.	41.12
4.	Kurele Pan Products Pvt. Ltd., Kanpur	38.00
5.	Hyderabad Deccan Cigarette Factory Ltd.	21.72
6.	M.R. Tobacco	21.31
7.	Raghnath International Ltd.	15.90
8.	Shri Raj Pan Masala Ltd.	15.00
9.	Sunrise Food Products	15.00
10.	Som Sugandh Industries Ltd.	13.50
11.	Kothari Products Ltd.	11.68
12.	Lok Nath Prasad Gupta	10.43
13.	Urmin Products	10.37
14.	Chandan Tobacco Co.	7.90

(c) Action as per Central Excise Act and rules made thereunder is taken against these companies.

(d) The following steps have been taken to check evasion by tobacco companies;

- (i) In the case of Pan Masala and Gutkha, production capacity based duty has been introduced with effect from 1.7.2008. It has resulted in increase in the revenue by about 300%.
- (ii) Cigarette manufacturing companies are subjected to physical control.
- (iii) Instructions have been issued to for increased surveillance and inquiries by investigating agencies like Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence and field formations.

Projects of States for External Assistance

*279. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) The details of the projects of various States for external assistance recommended by the Union Government to international financial institutions during the last year and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted for recommending such proposals; and

(c) the present status of proposals pending with the Union Government and the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) A Statement indicating the details of the projects of various States for external assistance recommended by the Union Government to International Financial Institutions during the last year, and the current year, State-wise is enclosed.

(b) (i) Government of India gives priority to projects which help in achievement to targets identified under the Eleventh Five Year Plan including Millennium Development Goals. Accordingly, State Governments and line Ministries are required to identify and prepare Preliminary Project Report (PPR) on these lines. The State Governments, after identifying the projects, send and same to Department of Economic Affairs

(DEA) through line ministries. Thereafter, DEA, in consultation with the line ministries recommends some proposals to World Bank (WB) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for funding.

(ii) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) prepares a Country Strategy Programme (CSP) for a three year period on a rolling basis every year. The ADB CSP Mission comes to the country every year. Before finalizing, DEA holds meetings with the line Ministries to list out the possible areas of projects to build up a healthy pipeline.

It is up to the State Governments to take up with the Department of Economic Affairs the project proposals sponsored by States for funding. On receipt of the same, DEA collates these proposals and in consultation with the line Ministries and ADB, the final CSP is formulated.

(c) One project namely Sujala Watershed Project-III received from the State Government of Karnataka in August, 2008 is pending for seeking assistance of Rs. 495.30 crore from the World Bank. Approval of the Ministry of Agriculture as well as Planning Commission has been received. Department of Expenditure has been requested on 21.11.2008 to offer their comments from debt substitutability angle.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Posed to World Bank on (Date)	Amount of World Bank assistance sought	Status of the project
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Upgradation and maintenance of rural roads in 5 districts of Andhra Pradesh	15.7.2008	Rs. 726.75 crores	Preparation stage.
2.	Andhra Pradesh Rural Water Supply and Sanitation project	05.04.2007	Rs. 950 crores	Preparation stage.
Assam			Nil	

1	2	3	4	5
	Bihar			
3.	Bihar Panchayats Strengthening Project	1.8.2007	US\$ 120 million	Preparation stage.
	Gujarat			
4.	Gujarat State Highway Project-II	03.10.2008	US\$ 354 million	Not available
	Haryana			
5.	Haryana Power Projects	14.11.2007	IBRD – US\$ 1082 million	Appraisal stage.
6.	Upgradation of State Highways in Haryana	06.06.2007	US\$ 200 million	Not available
7.	Improvement of Civic Amenities in Haryana-Urban Areas	07.11.2007	Rs. 2900 crores	Not available
8.	Haryana Resource Management and Livelihoods	23.10.2007	US \$ 40 million	Not available
	Himachal Pradesh		Nil	
	Jammu and Kashmir		Nil	
	Karnataka			
9.	Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project-II	03.10.2007	US \$ 300 million	Not available
	Kerala		Nil	
	Madhya Pradesh			
10.	Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project-II	5.9.2007	US \$ 100 million	Preparation stage
	Maharashtra			
11.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project-IIA	19.11.2008	Rs. 1050 crores	Not available
	Orissa			
12.	Orissa Water Sector Improvement Project	16.05.2007	Rs. 3493.1 crores	Preparation stage.
13.	Orissa State Road Project	NA	US \$ 250 million	The Bank has approved the project on 30.9.08
14.	Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project – TRIPTI	8.6.2007	US \$ 82.4	Negotiations held.
	Rajasthan			
15.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project-II	25.7.2008	Rs. 600 crores	Preparation stage.

1	2	3	4	5
	Tamil Nadu			Nil
	Uttaranchal			Nil
	Uttar Pradesh			
16.	Uttar Pradesh SAL-II	20.7.2007	Amount of assistance (IBRD + IDA) is to be decided by the World Bank in consultation with Department of Expenditure and Government of Uttar Pradesh.	Pre-appraisal stage.
17.	Uttar Pradesh Sodic Lands Reclamation Project-III West Bengal	12.2.2008	Rs. 1369.6 crores	Preparation stage
18.	West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project	17.01.2007	Rs. 1143 crores	Preparation stage.
19.	West Bengal Urban Development Project	29.09.2008	US \$ 100 million	Preparation stage.
20.	Improved Service Delivery by Panchayats in West Bengal	17.8.2007	US \$ 120 million	Preparation stage.
21.	Biodiversity conservation and Socio-economic development of the Sundarban Area of West Bengal	22.5.2008	Rs. 922.92 crores	Preparation stage.
	Multi-States and Central Sector Projects			
22.	India Statistical Strengthening Project	14.6.2007	US \$ 120 million	Pre-approval stage.
23.	National Innovation Project	18.7.2007	IBRD – US \$ 165 million	Pre-approval stage.
24.	SME-II	1.8.2008	IBRD US \$ 200 million	Preparation stage.
25.	Rural Finance Access through Microfinance	1.8.2008	IBRD US \$ 100 million + IDA US \$ 50 million	Appraisal stage.
26.	Capacity Building under JNNURM concerning MoUD and HUPA	14.08.2007	US \$ 60 million	Preparation stage.

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Railways-Eastern Corridor)	27.02.2008	US \$ 400 million	Not available
28.	Sustainable Urban Transport Project	29.09.2008	US \$ 220 million	Not available
29.	Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme-II	30.09.2008	US \$ 300 million	Not available

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Posed on	Amount of assistance sought	Status of the project
Maharashtra				
1.	Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra's Distressed Districts.	10.12.2007	US\$ 40 million	preparation project

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Projects approval in 2007

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount in (US\$) million
1.	Jammu and Kashmir Urban Sector Project.	300.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh Power Sector Investment Programme.	620.00
3.	Madhya Pradesh Road Sector Development Project-II.	320.00
4.	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project.	273.00
5.	India Infrastructure Project Finance Facility.	500.00

Project approved in 2008

1.	Assam Governance and Public Resource Management II.	100.00
2.	Bihar State Roads I.	420.00
3.	Madhya Pradesh Urban Sector Development Project (Supp)	71.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh Clean Power Development Investment Programme.	800.00
5.	Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Investment Programme.	189.00
6.	Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Investment Programme (UUSDIP)	350.00
7.	Khadi and Village Industries Development Programme.	600.00
8.	MFF – National Power Grid Development Investment Programme	600.00

Implementation of Patient Safety Programme

*280. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) proposes to implement a patient safety programme in order to reduce the scope of error in medical treatment as reported in the Times of India Dated 6 November, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce similar such programmes in other Government Hospitals across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, follows an Optimum safety programme as per existing guidelines while providing treatment. In order to create awareness and sensitization about patient's safety in hospitals, AIIMS had organized a four day South Asian Conference and CME from 3rd to 6th November, 2008, in which one day theme for the scientific deliberation was patients safety.

In a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services (DGHS) on 14.1.2008 regarding Patient Safety Challenges through Safe clinical Practice, Safe Injection and Immunization, Blood safety and Safe Health Care Waste Management, instructions have been issued for formation of Patient Safety Committee in hospitals to monitor the safety of patients.

Project Tiger

2683. SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Project Tiger already under implementation in various States alongwith the results achieved.

(b) whether the Government proposes to start the Project in other States also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) Project Tiger is an ongoing, focussed Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, providing funding support to 17 tiger range States in the country, for in-situ conservation of tiger in the 37 designated tiger reserves. It has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as reveled by the recent findings of the All India tiger estimation using the refined methodology. This independent report highlights the achievements of Project Tiger by showing that viable tiger population exists only in tiger reserve areas, which are under the jurisdiction of Project Tiger, while the status of outside populations are highly depleted. Details of funding support provided to States under Project Tiger, during the last 3 years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Approval for establishing new Tiger Reserves is based on proposals received from States, as per the enabling provisions contained in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, vis-à-vis the status of tiger and its habitat in the proposed area.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve Range State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	68.7926	46.675	73.9175	26.083

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	172.418	237.3725	110.2542	54.7805
3.	Assam	86.4896	87.431	95.614	221.269
4.	Bihar	6.4918	69.9554	98.3205	49.673
5.	Chhattisgarh	24.3343	10.00	35.225	92.1296
6.	Karnataka	453.2248	286.277	1159.71491	235.7748
7.	Kerala	116.1708	109.00	153.2449	86.60
8.	Jharkhand	164.1784	155.967	45.16	48.2165
9.	Madhya Pradesh	777.2676	897.942	2975.94113	2083.6589
10.	Maharashtra	334.19	238.56	295.71907	233.1276
11.	Mizoram	65.156	115.16	82.90	80.00
12.	Orissa	107.0024	183.8717	43.28	473.76
13.	Rajasthan	281.2458	176.541	410.68	2477.3026
14.	Tamil Nadu	136.9528	108.535	45.40	208.836
15.	Tripura (only for all India tiger estimation)	0.50	—	—	—
16.	Uttaranchal	159.9212	192.78	202.005	270.84
17.	Uttar Pradesh	162.8782	183.265	134.89	157.51
18.	West Bengal	228.29358	190.5283	308.67414	111.5693
Total		3345.5076	3289.8609	6270.94035	6911.1308

Death of Animals in Ranthambore

2684. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether death of animals has been reported from the Ranthambore Wild Life Sanctuary;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) and (b) Details of recent mortality of wild animals in the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, including the cause, as reported by the State are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) As informed by the State, two offenders have been arrested for poaching a panther. The steps taken by the Government of India of wildlife protection/conservation are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

The details of death of wild animals alongwith reasons are as below

Sl. No.	Name of animal	Date of Death	Reasons as reported by the State
1.	Panther	20.12.2007	Poaching
2.	Panther	6.6.2008	Natural death
3.	Bear	3.8.2008	Natural death
4.	Tigress	1.9.2008	Natural death
5.	Jungle Cat	10.11.2008	Natural death
6.	Jungle Cat	11.11.2008	Natural death
7.	Panther	15.11.2008	Natural death

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government of India for wildlife protection/conservation

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

Administrative steps

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, interalia, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. Approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.
7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, interalia, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation./resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including copredators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 26749.097 sq. km. has been notified by 14 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh,

Arunachal, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Orissa and West Bengal). Three tiger States (Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh) have taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitats (4264.282 sq.km.). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified/notified the core/critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).

10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection of wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties of CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at the Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of

continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Reintroduction of Tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve

15. A male tiger and a tigress have been reintroduced in the Sariska Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan), based on a recovery strategy suggested by the Wildlife Institute of India. The tigers are being closely monitored by radio telemetry.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, inter alia, contains action points relating to tiger protection. A one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore has been provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force. Action has been taken for the needful in this regard.

Share of States in the GDP

2685. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) central allocation to States, during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) share of respective States in the Gross Domestic Product of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) The State-wise GDP as measured by the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 at current prices is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The latest information in this regard is available for 2006-07. As such, the estimates for the current year are not available.

- (b) The State-wise Annual Plan Outlays for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The share of each State in total State Gross Domestic Product for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Gross State Domestic Product at Current Prices

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	210449	236034	269173
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2853	2918	3424
3.	Assam	52920	57543	65033
4.	Bihar	73221	80157	98957
5.	Jharkhand	57939	62239	73579
6.	Goa	11482	12409	NA
7.	Gujarat	189118	210780	254533
8.	Haryana	93627	106385	126475
9.	Himachal Pradesh	23066	25471	28358
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	24265	26537	NA
11.	Karnataka	149854	167975	188274
12.	Kerala	107054	118998	132739
13.	Madhya Pradesh	107282	118322	128202
14.	Chhattisgarh	45999	51921	NA
15.	Maharashtra	387390	438058	509356
16.	Manipur	5050	5714	6498
17.	Meghalaya	5821	6317	6949
18.	Mizoram	2455	2697	2985
19.	Nagaland	5346	5667	NA
20.	Orissa	71428	78536	91151

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab	97452	109735	123397
22.	Rajasthan	115288	124224	142036
23.	Sikkim	1602	1803	2040
24.	Tamil Nadu	200781	223528	246266
25.	Tripura	8297	9388	10282
26.	Uttar Pradesh	246618	279762	312832
27.	Uttarakhand	23720	26172	29709
28.	West Bengal	208613	234737	272597
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1522	1691	NA
30.	Chandigarh	8305	9872	NA
31.	Delhi	89920	101800	118240
32.	Pondichery	5192	5700	6299

Source: Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Statement-II

State-wise Annual Plan Outlays for 2005-06 to 2007-08

Sl. No.	State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15650.77	20000.00	30500.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	950.00	1056.00	1320.00
3.	Assam	3000.00	3798.00	3800.00
4.	Bihar	5329.65	8250.00	10200.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	4275.00	5378.06	7413.72
6.	Goa	1025.00	1200.00	1430.00
7.	Gujarat	11000.00	12503.50	16000.00
8.	Haryana	3000.00	3300.00	5300.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1800.00	1800.00	2100.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4200.00	4347.67	4000.00
11.	Jharkhand	4510.12	6500.00	6676.00
12.	Karnataka	13555.00	16166.00	17752.58
13.	Kerala	5369.00	6210.00	6950.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7471.00	9020.00	12044.00*
15.	Maharashtra	11000.00	14829.00	20200.00
16.	Manipur	985.37	1160.00	1374.31
17.	Meghalaya	800.00	900.00	1120.00
18.	Mizoram	685.00	758.00	850.00
19.	Nagaland	620.00	760.00	900.00
20.	Orissa	3000.00	3500.00	5105.00
21.	Punjab	3550.00	4000.00	5111.00
22.	Rajasthan	8350.00	8501.42	11638.86
23.	Sikkim	500.00	550.00	691.14
24.	Tamil Nadu	9100.00	12500.00	14000.00
25.	Tripura	804.00	950.00	1220.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13500.00	19000.00	25000.00
27.	Uttarakhand	2700.00	4000.00	4378.63
28.	West Bengal	6476.00	8024.36	9150.00

Statement-III

*Share of State GDP in total Gross State
Domestic Product at current prices*

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.0	8.0	8.3

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.1	0.1	0.1
3.	Assam	2.0	2.0	2.0
4.	Bihar	2.8	2.7	3.0
5.	Jharkhand	2.2	2.1	2.3
6.	Goa	0.4	0.4	NA
7.	Gujarat	7.2	7.4	7.8
8.	Haryana	3.6	3.6	3.9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.9	0.9	0.9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.9	0.9	NA
11.	Karnataka	5.7	5.7	5.8
12.	Kerala	4.1	4.0	4.1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4.1	3.9	3.9
14.	Chhattisgarh	1.7	1.8	NA
15.	Maharashtra	14.7	14.8	15.7
16.	Manipur	0.2	0.2	0.2
17.	Meghalaya	0.2	0.2	0.2
18.	Mizoram	0.1	0.1	0.1
19.	Nagaland	0.2	0.2	NA
20.	Orissa	2.7	2.7	2.8
21.	Punjab	3.7	3.7	3.8
22.	Rajasthan	4.4	4.2	4.4
23.	Sikkim	0.1	0.1	0.1
24.	Tamil Nadu	7.6	7.6	7.6
25.	Tripura	0.3	0.3	0.3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9.4	9.5	9.6
27.	Uttarakhand	0.9	0.9	0.9
28.	West Bengal	7.9	8.0	8.4

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.1	0.1	NA
30.	Chandigarh	0.3	0.3	NA
31.	Delhi	3.4	3.5	3.6
32.	Pondicherry	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: Calculated from the data in Annexure-I.

**Estimates by Planning Commission
for Plantation**

2686. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has worked out cost of plantation per hectare in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof outlining the target achieved during the Tenth Plan period;

(c) the details of funds allocated in the Eleventh Plan so far; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the targets set out in the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) As per existing guidelines of the major afforestation programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, namely, National Afforestation Programme (NAP), the cost norms of various plantation models vary from Rs. 17160/- per Ha to Rs. 31540/- per Ha including ancillary activities.

(b) The target under the NAP during the Tenth Five Year Plan was to treat five lakh Ha of degraded forests and adjoining lands. The Ministry during the period has approved projects for treating an area of about 8.65 lakh Ha.

(c) Out of the total allocation of Rs. 2000 crore for the NAP in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 392.75 crore has been allocated during the year 2007-08 and Rs. 345.62 crore during the year 2008-09.

(d) The major steps taken by Ministry of Environment and Forests are:—

(i) A target of 6 lakh ha. area for treatment has been set for the NAP during the 11th Five Year Plan;

(ii) A new scheme, Gram/Panchayat Van Yojana (GVY) for tree plantation/afforestation on non-forest lands through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has been mooted; and

(iii) Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted as one of the eight mission of *inter alia* help counter the effects of climate change through afforestation programmes.

National Games and Athletic Meet

2687. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the State Government of Kerala to hold the next National Games and Athletic Meet in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) to (c) The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) does the allotment of National Games to States. 35th National Games have been allotted to Kerala. There is no separate Athletic meet however 'Athletics' will be a discipline in the National Games. The games are scheduled to be held in 2010. The preparation for organization and conduct of the Games will be done by the State Government concerned.

[Translation]

Pollution in Jharkhand

2688. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has released funds to

Jharkhand for the purpose of controlling pollution in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Government has provided funds to Jharkhand for the purpose of carrying out the activities relating to control of pollution, which *inter alia* include water quality monitoring, ambient air quality monitoring, strengthening of the State Pollution Control Board etc. The detail of funds released during last three years as well as current year is given in the Table below:—

Financial Year	Funds Released (in rupees)
2008-09	2,11,46,800.00
2007-08	2,00,22,000.00
2006-07	2,18,82,000.00
2005-06	88,00,000.00

Report of WHO on Water-Borne Diseases

2689. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of people die every year in the country due to waterborne diseases as revealed by the Report of World Health Organisation (WHO) recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) World Health Organisation (WHO) Report' 2008 titled 'Safer Water, Better Health' indicates that in the year 2002, around 7.82 lakh deaths in India

were caused due to water, sanitation and hygiene (WSH) practices. Out of these, 4.02 lakh deaths are attributable to diarrhoeal diseases which also include other disease like cholera, typhoid and dysentery. These diseases are caused mainly by consumption of contaminated drinking water and lack of adequate sanitation facilities. Besides, the problem of malnutrition among children associated with repeated diarrhoea or intestinal infection has been mentioned in the Report as another major cause, which accounts for around 2.17 lakh deaths in India due to WSH practices.

Supply of safe drinking water is State subject. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene education and Low cost sanitation scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of drinking water supply and sanitation facilities. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is also focused on basic health care delivery systems through a synergistic approach focusing on sanitation, water, nutrition and health care.

[English]

Tiger Population in Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Sanctuary

2690. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tiger population has increased in the Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) and (b) As per the findings of the recent All India estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the population of tigers in Andhra Pradesh, interalla, including the Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve is 95 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 84 and 107 respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers

throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter, and hence no comparison regarding the trend can be made.

State-owned Cable TV Corporation

2691. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought permission from the Union Government to start State-owned Cable TV Corporation;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its features thereof;

(c) whether other State Governments have also expressed their desire to start such State-owned channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has provisionally authorized the M/s Arasu Cable Corporation Pvt. Ltd. under Rule 11 of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 to operate in Conditional Access System (CAS) notified areas of Chennai for the purposes of distributing/providing cable TV network services. The provisional authorization is subject to final decision of Government on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in the matter.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has received requests from State Governments from time to time for allowing them to enter into broadcasting activities.

(d) As per extent policy of the Government no State Government has been allowed to enter into broadcasting services. However, the Government had sought recommendations of TRAI, which have since been received. TRAI

has not favoured the entry of State Government or its bodies into broadcasting and distribution services and has recommended that Prasar Bharati may fulfill their ambitions through its regional network. Government has not taken any decision on the said recommendations of TRAI. The detailed recommendations are available on TRAI website www.traai.gov.in

Status of New Maritime Policy

2692. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the draft Maritime Policy has now been finalized;

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

(c) the time by which the Policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The National Maritime Policy under finalisation aims to make Indian shipping and ports competitive and cost effective, increase the capacity of the Indian Ports, bring the Indian Ports at par with the leading ports of the world, augment Indian tonnage, increase the flow of private investment, ensure a competitive environment to prevent emergence of monopolies, to promote and strengthen shipbuilding, promote indigenous ship design and research and to develop and integrate the Inland Waterways to the national transport network.

[Translation]

Energy from Fusion Technology

2693. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has developed technology for generating energy from fusion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) R&D to demonstrate the technology for generation of energy from fusion is underway worldwide and the technology is yet to be established. India has joined International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) as a partner and an agreement to this effect was signed on 21.11.2006 along with The European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the Government of People's Republic of China, the Government of Japan, the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America, which is being established at Cadarache, France.

(c) Government has sanctioned Rs. 2500.00 crore

towards Indian participation in the International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor.

Nuclear Power Plants

2694. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of Nuclear Power Plants under the administrative control of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited located in various States with optimum production capacity and the quantum of power generated from each unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The details of Nuclear Power Plants under the administrative control of NPCIL are as follows:—

State	Units	Capacity MWe	Current Power levels %
1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Tarapur Atomic Power Station-1 (TAPS-1)	160	100
	Tarapur Atomic Power Station-2 (TAPS-2)	160	100
	Tarapur Atomic Power Station-3 (TAPS-3)	540	50
	Tarapur Atomic Power Station-4 (TAPS-4)	540	50
Rajasthan	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-2 (RAPS-2)	200	Shut down for EMFR
	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-4 (RAPS-3)	220	70
	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-4 (RAPS-4)	220	70
Tamil Nadu	Madras Atomic Power Station-1 (MAPS-1)	220	55
	Madras Atomic Power Station-2 (MAPS-2)	220	55
Uttar Pradesh	Narora Atomic Power Station-1 (NAPS-1)	220	70
	Narora Atomic Power Station-2 (NAPS-2)	220	Shut down for EMCCR
Gujarat	Kakrapar Atomic Power Station-1 (KAPS-1)	220	Shut down for EMCCR

1	2	3	4
	Kakrapar Atomic Power Station-2 (KAPS-2)	220	60
Karnataka	Kaiga Atomic Power Station-1 (KAIGA-1)	220	65
	Kaiga Atomic Power Station-2 (KAIGA-2)	220	60
	Kaiga Atomic Power Station-3 (KAIGA-3)	220	70

EMCCR (en-masse coolant channel replacement) is long shut down.

EMFR (en-masse feeder replacement) is long shut down.

The power level of the reactors is reduced to match the indigenous fuel availability. TAPS-1 and 2 use low enriched imported uranium and are operated at full power.

[Translation]

UNDP Report on Corruption

2695. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has revealed that corruption smothered opportunities for the most vulnerable people, limiting their areas to education and compromised basic health services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The United Nations Development Programme's Asia Pacific Human Development Report, "Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives, 2008", relates to tackling corruption in areas that can improve daily lives, particularly of the poor. The Report has highlighted that for accelerating Human Development in Asia and the Pacific there is need for improving justice systems, preventing misuse of region's abundant natural resources and ensuring the effective delivery of Public Services, such as clean water, energy, health and education that touch people everyday, thus improving daily life particularly of the poor. The Report provides a coherent,

comprehensive vision for tackling the problem of corruption in the Asia-Pacific region and proposes interventions that add to a concerted, robust response.

(c) Government is aware of the menace of corruption and is fully committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life by improving transparency and accountability. Several steps have been taken to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. Important among these steps are:—

- (i) Enactment of Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003;
- (ii) Enactment of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;
- (iii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (iv) the pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance;
- (v) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;
- (vi) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt integrity pact in major Government procurement activities; and
- (vii) India is amongst the countries who have signed

the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Government organizations are also constantly engaged in improving their functioning through e-Governance, issue of Citizen Charters and simplification of procedures and systems, which are aimed at eradicating corruption by improving transparency and accountability.

[English]

Extradition Treaty with Foreign Countries

2696. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons extradited as a result of signing of extradition treaty with various countries during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of pending extradition cases between India and other countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) The number of persons extradited during last three years and current year is as follows:—

Year	Number of persons extradited	
	From Foreign Countries to India	From India to Foreign Countries
2005	8	3
2006	5	1
2007	4	4
2008	4	6

(b) The number of pending extradition cases between India and other countries is 41.

(c) Efforts are made through diplomatic channel for extradition of fugitives. Matter is taken up at the appropriate level from time to time.

National Per Capita Income

2697. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI HARISINGH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National per capita income in comparison to per capita income of various States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any disparity in the per capita income between rural and urban areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to remove this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) The Statement giving national per capita income (NNP) and per capita income of States (NSDP) during the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 as compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) and the Directorates of Economics and Statistics of respective States is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The national per capita net domestic product (NDP) is estimated at Rs. 10606 for rural areas and Rs. 30217 for urban areas for the year 1999-2000. The per capita NDP for urban areas is 185% higher than the rural NDP. For the States, the per capita income for rural and urban areas is not available separately.

(d) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set the growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. The Government has given priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and increasing the income of rural population. Besides, a number of programmes/schemes have been formulated in the Eleventh Plan to improve the level of living and quality of life of the rural population. These measures are expected to increase the income levels in the rural areas and reduce the disparity in the per capita income between rural and urban areas.

Statement

Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices

(Rupees)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22041	23755	26226	29582
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19322	22185	22335	25836
3.	Assam	15487	17013	18211	20166
4.	Bihar	6861	7400	7930	9702
5.	Jharkhand	12951	17887	18803	20773
6.	Goa	54577	66135	70112	NA
7.	Gujarat	26922	28846	32991	37532
8.	Haryana	33910	37648	41988	49038
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28333	31198	33817	36656
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	17528	18630	20799	NA
11.	Karnataka	20536	23576	26015	28830
12.	Kerala	25645	27864	30668	33609
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14306	14476	15304	16578
14.	Chhattisgarh	15515	17513	21290	24647
15.	Maharashtra	29165	32481	36090	41331
16.	Manipur	14728	18386	20326	22495
17.	Meghalaya	19830	21232	22847	24672
18.	Mizoram	21963	22417	23900	25679
19.	Nagaland	20821	20998	21083	NA
20.	Orissa	14252	16308	17610	20240
21.	Punjab	31182	33158	36759	40566
22.	Rajasthan	16507	16515	17306	19512

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Sikkim	21476	23791	26412	29512
24.	Tamil Nadu	24106	27137	29958	32733
25.	Tripura	21138	22836	25700	27777
26.	Uttar Pradesh	11425	12023	13316	14685
27.	Uttaranchal	20220	23069	24870	27800
28.	West Bengal	20804	22526	25041	28753
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32670	34446	36829	NA
30.	Chandigarh	66512	75181	86629	NA
31.	Delhi	48566	53309	58655	66728
32.	Pondicherry	48547	44908	48477	52669
All India Per Capita NNP		20895	23199	25956	29642

NA-Not Available

Source: For Sl. No. 1-32 — Directorate of Economics and Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All-India — Central Statistical Organisation.

Cases of Female Foeticide

2698. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sex determination test and female foeticide reported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the prevalence of sex determination tests and female foeticide in different states and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing law to discourage the practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per the reports received from the State/UT Government up to 31.10.2008, 116 cases related to determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus and 35 cases pertain to advertisements about facilities of pre-conception/pre-natal sex selection in different States/UTs.

The concerned State Governments are regularly requested to take effective measures for speedy disposal of the ongoing cases.

(b) While it is difficult to determine prevalence of sex determination tests due to the absence of witness or evidence thereto, the Child Sex Ratio is one indication of the prevalence of female foeticide. A Statement containing State/UT-wise Sex Ratio (No. of female per 1000 male) and Child Sex Ratio (No. of girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years) during 1991 and 2001 is annexed. Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference,

neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration of population. Easy availability of the sex determination tests and abortion services may also be proving to be catalyst in the process, which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

(c) and (d) Steps are afoot to further strengthen the PC and PNDT Act, 1994 and the Rules framed thereunder in consultation with the legal experts and all the stake holders towards making penalty provisions for violators of the Act more stringent, including imposition of fine up to Rs. 5 lakhs and incarceration up to 7 years upon conviction.

Statement

State/UT wise Sex ratio and Child Sex Ratio during 1991 and 2001

India and State/Union territory*/District	Sex ratio		Child Sex Ratio	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA	927	933	945	927
Jammu and Kashmir	896	892	NA	941
Himachal Pradesh	976	968	951	896
Punjab	882	876	875	798
Chandigarh	790	777	899	845
Uttaranchal	936	962	948	908
Haryana	865	861	879	819
Delhi*	827	821	915	868
Rajasthan	910	921	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916
Bihar	907	919	953	942
Sikkim	878	875	965	963

	1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	859	893	982	964	
Nagaland	886	900	993	964	
Manipur	958	978	974	957	
Mizoram	921	935	969	964	
Tripura	945	948	967	966	
Meghalaya	955	972	986	973	
Assam	923	935	975	965	
West Bengal	917	934	967	960	
Jharkhand	922	941	979	965	
Orissa	971	972	967	953	
Chhattisgarh	985	989	974	975	
Madhya Pradesh	912	919	941	932	
Gujarat	934	920	928	883	
Daman and Diu*	969	710	958	926	
Dadra and Nagar	952	812	1013	979	
Maharashtra	934	922	946	913	
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	961	
Karnataka	960	965	960	946	
Goa	967	961	964	938	
Lakshadweep*	943	948	941	959	
Kerala	1036	1058	958	960	
Tamil Nadu	974	987	948	942	
Pondicherry*	979	1001	963	967	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands*	818	846	973	957	

Source: Census 1991 and 2001, O/O Registrar General of India.

*Union Territory.

Upgradation of CHCs and PHCs

2699. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of criteria adopted for the upgradation of Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to revise the criteria and to upgrade the existing CHCs and PHCs particularly in the States where adequate healthcare facilities are not available; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) recognizes the need for setting up Primary Health Centres (PHCs)/Community Health Centres (CHCs) on the basis of population, workload, and distance. It provides for adhoc first grant/maintenance grant to undertake basic upgradation in PHC/CHCs. Further strengthening is as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) Facility Surveys. New health units are as per priority of States articulated through their Programme Implementation Plan (PIPs).

(c) Financial support has been extended to States on the basis of their Programme Implementation Plans as per criteria mentioned above.

[Translation]

Target and Achievement of FM Radio Stations

2700. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target for establishing FM Radio Stations in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether the Government has achieved the target in this regard;

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

(e) the number of FM Radio Stations proposed to be set up during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, during the 10th Plan, Government had fixed a target for establishing 253 new All India Radio (AIR) FM stations (including 100 numbers of Low Power 100 Watt FM stations in the States of North Eastern Region and 50 numbers in other States) in the country. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) AIR could not achieve the target fully. So far only 68 new FM Radio stations including 50 numbers 100 Watts stations have been set up.

(d) The main reasons for not achieving the target during the 10th Plan are delay in procurement of suitable site (land) at reasonable rates, non-sanction of fresh Operation and Maintenance staff for new stations and lengthy procedure for procurement of imported FM transmitters.

(e) The proposals have not yet been finalized.

Statement

1. List of new FM Transmitters proposed in 10th Five Year Plan:

Sl. No.	State	New Station
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada (10 kW)
2.		Karimnagar (5 kW)
3.		Srikakulam (1 kW)
4.		Nellore (10 kW)
5.		Mahboobnagar (10 kW)

1	2	3	1	2	3
6.		Suryapet (10 kW)	32.	Haryana	Ambala (5 kW)
7.		Adilabad (10 kW)	33.		Rohtak (10 kW)
8.		Vijayawada (10 kW)	34.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla (10 kW)
9.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair (10 kW)	35.	Jammu and Kashmir	Bhadarawah (6 kW)
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	Anini (1 kW)	36.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad (10 kW)
11.		Bomdila (1 kW)	37.		Dumka (5 kW)
12.		Daporijo (1 kW)	38.		Gumla (5 kW)
13.		Changlang (1 kW)	39.	Karnataka	Bellary (10 kW)
14.		Khonsa (1 kW)	40.		Sringeri (10 kW)
15.		Itanagar (10 kW)	41.		Gulbarga (10 kW)
16.	Assam	Karimganj (1 kW)	42.	Kerala	Konni (5 kW)
17.		Lumding (1 kW)	43.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain (5 kW)
18.		Golpara (1 kW)	44.	Maharashtra	Shirdi (5 kW)
19.		Silchar (5 kW)	45.		Oras (5 kW)
20.	Bihar	Gaya (10 kW)	46.		Amravati (10 kW)
21.		Motihari (10 kW)	47.		Aurangabad (10 kW)
22.		Banka (10 kW)	48.		Sholapur (10 kW)
23.		Madhubani (10 kW)	49.	Manipur	Tamenglang (1 kW)
24.	Chhattisgarh	Dantewara (5 kW)	50.		Ukhrul (1 kW)
25.		Rajnandgaon (5 kW)	51.	Meghalaya	Dawki (Cherrapunjee) (1 kW)
26.		Jashpurnagar (5 kW)	52.	Mizoram	Champhai (1 kW)
27.		Baikunthpur (5 kW)	53.		Tulpang (1 kW)
28.		Raipur (10 kW)	54.		Kolasib/Sarchip (1 kW)
29.	Gujarat	Jamnagar (10 kW)	55.	Nagaland	Phek (1 kW)
30.		Junagarh (10 kW)	56.		Zunheboto (1 kW)
31.		Bhuj (10 kW)	57.		Wokha (1 kW)
			58.		Kohima (10 kW)

1	2	3
59.		Tuensang (5 kW)
60.		Mon (5 kW)
61. Orissa		Deogarh (5 kW)
63.		Raygada (5 kW)
63.		Rairangpur (1 kW)
64.		Parlakimidi (5 kW)
65.		Bhawani Patna (10 kW)
66.		Baripada (5 kW)
67.		Bhubneswar (10 kW)
68. Punjab		Fazilka (10 kW)
69.		Amritsar (20 kW)
70. Rajasthan		Ajmer (10 kW)
71.		Ramgarh (20 kW)
72.		Chautan Hill (20 kW)
73.		Udaipur (10 kW)
74.		Bikaner (10 kW)
75. Sikkim		Gangtok (10 kW)
76. Tamil Nadu		Kanchipuram (5 kW)
77.		Tirunelveli (10 kW)
78.		Madurai (10 kW)
79. Tripura		Udaipur (1 kW)
80.		Nutan Bazar (1 kW)
81.		Longtherai (5 kW)
82. Uttar Pradesh		Ghazipur (Maunathbhanjan) (10 kW)
83.		Banda (10 kW)
84.		Lakhimpur Kheri (10 kW)

1	2	3
85.		Gorakhpur (10 kW)
86.		Kanpur (10 kW)
87.		Varanasi (10 kW)
88.		Raebareli (20 kW)
89. Uttarakhand		Dehradun (10 kW)
90.		Haldwani/Kaladungi (10 kW)
91.		Bhageshwar (5 kW)
92.		Champwat (1 kW)
93.		Gairsen (1 kW)
94.		New Tehari (1 kW)
95.		Rudraprayag (1 kW)
96. West Bengal		Darjeeling (10 kW)
97.		Puruilla (10 kW)
98.		Maldah (10 kW)
99.		Koochbihar (10 kW)
100.		Bardhaman (10 kW)
101.		Tamluk (5 kW)
102.		Balurghat (10 kW)
103. Pondicherry		Pondicherry (10 kW)

ii. In addition to above Government had also fixed a target for establishing 150 nos. of 100 Watt low power FM transmitters in 10th Plan.

[English]

Conservation of Wetlands

2701. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of wetlands in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to conserve these wetlands;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Sasthamkotta of Kerala; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated to the States for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 108 wetlands in the country, covering 24 States and on Union Territory, for conservation and management of wetlands of national importance under the National Wetland Conservation Programme. Hundred percent assistance is given for conservation activities like survey and demarcation, catchment areas treatment, desilting and dredging, biofencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, education and awareness and community participation. Research projects are also sponsored for undertaking research studies on various aspects of conservation and development of wetlands. List of identified wetlands, State/UT-wise, is enclosed as Statement-I.

(d) an amount of Rs. 40.25 crores has been released for undertaking various conservation activities during the last five years. The details of funds released State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-II. This also includes release of Rs. 16.23 lakhs during the last five years for Sasthamkotta wetland of Kerala.

Statement-I

Identified Wetlands

Sl. No.	State/UT	Sl. No.	Name of Wetlands
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.	Kolleru
2.	Assam	2.	Deepat Beel
		3.	Urpada Beel
3.	Bihar	4.	Kabar
		5.	Barilla
		6.	Kusheshwar Asthan

1	2	3	4
4.	Gujarat	7.	Nalsarovar
		8.	Great Rann of Kachh
		9.	Thol Bird Sanctuary
		10.	Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary
		11.	Little Rann of Kachh
		12.	Pariej
		13.	Wadhvana
		14.	Nanikakrad
5.	Haryana	15.	Sultanpur
		16.	Bhindawas
6.	Himachal Pradesh	17.	Renuka
		18.	Pong Dam
		19.	Chandratal
		20.	Rewalsar
		21.	Khajjiar
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.	Wular
		23.	Tso Morari
		24.	Tisgul Tso and Chisul Marshes
		25.	Hokersar
		26.	Mansar-Surinsar
		27.	Ranjitsagar
		28.	Pangong Tsar
		29.	Gharana
		30.	Hygam
		31.	Mirgund
		32.	Shalbugh

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
8.	Jharkhand	33.	Udhwa	12.	Maharashtra	59.	Ujni
		34.	Tilaiya Dam			60.	Jayakawadi
9.	Karnataka	35.	Magadhi			61.	Nalganga wetland
		36.	Gudavi Bird Sanctuary	13.	Manipur	62.	Loktak
		37.	Bonal	14.	Meghalaya	63.	Umlam
		38.	Hidkal and Ghataprabha	15.	Mizoram	64.	Tamdil
		39.	Heggeri			65.	Palak
		40.	Ranganthittu	16.	Orissa	66.	Chiika
		41.	K.G. Koppa Wetland			67.	Kuanria Wetland
10.	Kerala	42.	Ashtamudi			68.	Kanjia Wetland
		43.	Sasthamkotta			69.	Daha Wetland
		44.	Kottull			70.	Anusupa
		45.	Kadulandi	17.	Punjab	71.	Harike
		46.	Vembnad Kol			72.	Ropar
11.	Madhya Pradesh	47.	Barna			73.	Kanjli
		48.	Yashwant Sagar			74.	Nangal
		49.	Wetland of Ken River	18.	Rajasthan	75.	Sambhar
		50.	National Chambal Sanct.	19.	Sikkim	76.	Khechuperi Holy Lake
		51.	Ghatigaon			77.	Tamze Wetland
		52.	Ratapani			78.	Tembao Wetland Complex
		53.	Denwa Tawa Wetland			79.	Phendang Wetland Complex
		54.	Kanha Tiger Reserve			80.	Gurudokmar Wetland
		55.	Pench Tiger Reserve			81.	Tsomogo Wetland
		56.	Sakhyasagar	20.	Tamil Nadu	82.	Point Calmer
		57.	Dihalla			83.	Kaliveli
		58.	Govindsagar			84.	Pallaikarni

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
21. Tripura		85. Rudrasagar				97. Patna Bird Sanctuary	
22. Uttar Pradesh		86. Nawabganj				98. Chando Wetland, Basti	
		87. Sandi				99. Tal-Baghel Wetland	
		88. Lakh Bahoshi		23. Uttaranchal		100. Ban Ganga Jhilmil Tal	
		89. Samaspur				101. Asan	
		90. Alwara Wetland		24. West Bengal		102. East Calcutta Wetland	
		91. Semarai Lake				103. Sunderbands	
		92. Nagarla Lake				104. Ahiron Beel	
		93. Keetham Lake				105. Rasik Beel	
		94. Shekha Wetland				106. Santragachi	
		95. Saman Bird Sanctuary				107. Patlakhawa-Rasomati	
		96. Sarsai Nawar		25. UT (Chandigarh)		108. Sukhna	

Statement-II**Funds released State-wise**

(Amount of Rs. lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Wetland	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	35.85	—	47.259	83.108
2.	Assam	108.8	—	82.08	50.34	—	241.22
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Gujarat	40.00	65.75	78.5	13.9	47.36	228.51
5.	Himachal Pradesh	58.06	—	83.09	40	—	181.15
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	37.51	—	31.00	33	139.39	224.90
7.	Karnataka	18.275	64.475	28.29	36.497	—	147.537
8.	Kerala	31.12	—	16.23	—	—	57.35
9.	Madhya Pradesh	—	11.00	19.00	49.40	38.94	118.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Manipur	36.26	—	—	30	—	66.26
12.	Mizoram	7.50	—	17.92	53.00	71.99	150.41
13.	Orissa	140.45	69.50	54.95	90	—	373.30
14.	Punjab	—	—	105.14	103.27	57.58	265.99
15.	Rajasthan	56.76	—	61.45	53	13.44	184.65
16.	Sikkim	—	—	—	16.36	53.31	560.97
17.	Tamil Nadu	86.72	44.93	23.25	99.60	133.40	387.90
18.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	24.70	24.70
19.	Uttar Pradesh	—	23.67	76.00	28.54	85.14	213.35
20.	Uttaranchal	10.155	32.245	—	—	—	42.4
21.	West Bengal	70.95	169.45	127.19	92.355	124.405	584.35
22.	R&D	42.3	67	96.56	95.28	106.24	257.14
Total		744.86	548.02	959.9	845.542	927.154	4025.476

Monitoring of Snow and Rain in Himalayas

2702. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has any proposal to install radars to monitor snow and rain in the Himalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the radars are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to install two Doppler Weather Radars in the

Himalayas in collaboration with Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with capability of monitor snow, avalanches, rain and other severe weather events in the Himalayas.

(c) It is planned to install these radars in the time frame of 2010-11.

Global Gender Gap Report

2703. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the Global Gender Gap Report, 2008

released by a Geneva-based organization as reported in The Mint dated 13 November, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features of the report; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Programmes run by Nehru Yuva Kendras

2704. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the programmes being undertaken by the Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) State-wise, alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether some of the welfare measures of NYK at Nasik have been discontinued; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) implements two categories of programmes viz. Regular Programmes and Special Programmes. Regular programmes are centrally planned and implemented in different States of the country. The regular programmes, inter-alia, include National Integration Camps, Youth Leadership and Development Programme, Youth Club Development, Awareness Generation Programme, Work Camps, Seminars and workshops and Celebration/observation of National and International Days. Special programmes include programmes allotted to NYKS by different Ministries of Government of India. The details of State-wise funds allocated during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of State-wise funds allocated for the Programmes under taken during the last three years and the current year

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1474350	2395800	4894200	4974000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5651675	8642296	18761100	19067000
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1228625	1996500	4078500	4145000
4.	Assam	5651675	8642296	18761100	19067000
5.	Bihar	7777058	12775568	27733800	28186000
6.	Chandigarh	228737	375752	815700	829000
7.	Chhattisgarh	1829896	3006016	6525600	6632000
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	228737	375752	815700	829000

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Daman and Diu	457474	751504	1631400	1658000
10.	Delhi	686211	1127256	2447100	2487000
11.	Goa	457474	751504	1631400	1658000
12.	Gujarat	4348003	7139288	15498300	15751000
13.	Haryana	3659792	6012032	13051200	13264000
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2948700	4791600	9788400	9948000
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	3440150	5590200	11419800	11606000
16.	Jharkhand	3659792	6012032	13051200	13264000
17.	Karnataka	4574740	7515040	16314000	16580000
18.	Kerala	3202318	5260528	11419800	11606000
19.	Lakshadweep	245725	399300	815700	829000
20.	Madhya Pradesh	9149480	15030080	32628000	33160000
21.	Maharashtra	6826110	11272560	24471000	24870000
22.	Manipur	2211525	3593700	7341300	7461000
23.	Meghalaya	1228625	1996500	4078500	4145000
24.	Mizoram	737175	1197900	2447100	2487000
25.	Nagaland	1720075	2795100	5709900	5803000
26.	Orissa	3659792	6012032	13051200	13264000
27.	Pondicherry	914948	1503008	3262800	3316000
28.	Punjab	3202318	5260528	11419800	11606000
29.	Rajasthan	686210	11272560	24471000	24870000
30.	Sikkim	914948	1503008	3262800	3316000
31.	Tamil Nadu	6633373	10896808	23655300	24041000
32.	Uttar Pradesh	12580535	20666360	44863500	45595000
33.	Uttaranchal	229525	3593700	7341300	7461000
34.	West Bengal	5032214	8266544	17945400	18238000
Total		115687885	188420652	405402900	412013000

[English]

Indian Public Health Standards

2705. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to ascertain that all public/private hospitals conform to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS);

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The National Rural Health Mission envisages to upgrade all public health facilities as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) in a phased manner. The States/UTs have initiated IPHS Facility Surveys as per the formats developed by the Ministry. So far, the IPHS Facility Survey reports of about 942 CHCs across 18 States/UTs have been received by the Ministry. On the basis of these reports, the Ministry prepares a uniform Monitoring Report for each of these centres, highlighting the identified gaps in services, infrastructure, manpower etc. as compared to the requirements of IPHS, along with the specific comments/observations. These reports are used for monitoring to check how far the identified gaps have been filled up in these facilities.

Khel Ratna Award

2706. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for awarding Khel Ratna of sportspersons;

(b) whether any discretion is being exercised by the jury while selecting the awardees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some deserving sportspersons have not been short-listed for this award; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is conferred upon a sportsperson whose performance at the international level was most spectacular and outstanding during the year under consideration. Sportspersons found positive for use of prohibited drugs are not eligible for award.

(b) and (c) The selection is made by an independent Committee constituted by the Government, which mainly comprises eminent sportspersons and sports administrators. Subject to the eligibility criteria specified by the Scheme, the Committee determines its own procedure for selection and if necessary can obtain inputs from experts. The selection is made by consensus, failing which by majority decision.

(d) and (e) The nominations for the Award are made by recognized National Sports Federations, the India Olympic Association and State Governments/Union Territories.

Guidelines for Loan and Grant-in-aid for various schemes

2707. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has issued guidelines for loans, financial assistance and grants-in-aid for various projects/schemes in special and non-special category States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have expressed dissatisfaction in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) Central assistance of various projects/schemes in special and non-special category states is provided as per the guidelines of the respective Plan schemes. Normal Central Assistance is allocated among the States by the Planning Commission in accordance with the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula. For non-special category states, the grant: loan ratio is 30:70, whereas for special category states, the grant: loan ratio is 90:10. Following the recommendation of the Twelfth Finance Commission, States are provided only the grant portion of the Normal Central Assistance and loan portion has been discontinued since 2005-06.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

**Panchayat Yuva Kendra Aur Khel
Abhiyan Scheme**

2708. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Panchayat Yuva Kendra aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) scheme has been uniformly implemented in the country;

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

(c) the details of the salient features of PYKKA;

(d) the number of panchayats covered by the Scheme so far, State-wise;

(e) the nature of basic sports infrastructure proposed at grass root level or village/block panchayats level; and

(f) the quantum of financial assistance proposed to be given to village and block panchayats in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) to

(f) The Government has recently launched a national programme titled Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), which aims at providing basic sports infrastructure in all villages and block panchayats of the country in a phased manner over a period of 10 years and access to organized sports competitions at block, district, state and national levels.

Under the scheme, each village panchayat and block panchayat would be given one time capital grant of Rs. 1.00 lakh and Rs. 5.00 lakh respectively for undertaking development of sports infrastructure viz. development of playfield, athletic track, fencing of playfield, goal posts, poles for net games, outdoor fitness equipment etc. The State share in this will be 25% for normal states and 10% for special category States. In addition, while village panchayats would be given annual acquisition grant for procurement of sports equipment and annual operation grant to meet operational expenses of non-competition nature at Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,000 per month respectively, block panchayats would be given Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 24,000 respectively. Each block panchayat would also be provided annual competition grant of Rs. 50,000 for holding block level competitions and each district will be provide competition grant of Rs. 3.00 lakh for holding district level competitions. Further, prize money would also be provided to the winners (first three positions) in block level and district level competitions.

Based on the proposals received, the States-wise financial assistance approved so far under this scheme is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of States	No. of Village Panchayat	No. of Block Panchayat	Total amount sanctioned (in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2190	113	2597.77
2.	Bihar	847	53	1043.66
3.	Haryana	619	12	650.71
4.	Mizoram	82	3	106.66

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Orissa	623	31	734.20
6.	Punjab	1233	14	1254.67
7.	Himachal Pradesh	324	8	402.40
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	413	14	531.72
9.	Kerala	100	15	159.85
10.	Maharashtra	2689	35	2754.98
11.	Nagaland	110	5	147.90
12.	Tripura	104	4	126.24
13.	Tamil Nadu	1261	36	1336.74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2304	31	2364.77

Objection to Coastal Zone Management

2709. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fishing community has raised objections against the Draft Coastal Zone Management (CZM) notification issued in 2008;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is received a large number of suggestions and objections from various stakeholders, including fishing communities, on the draft Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification, 2008 issued on 22.7.2008. The major issues raised are the lack of clarity on the Set Back Line and other provisions of the draft notification as also the loss of livelihood of fishermen Community due to increased developmental activities etc.

(c) As on date, the Government has not taken a decision on finalization of the draft notification in light of

various suggestions and objections, referred above.

Fund-based and Non-fund-based limit

2710. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between Fund-based and Non-fund-based limit sanctioned on loans by Public Sector banks;

(b) whether Non-fund-based limit are taken into account for overall exposure vis-à-vis capital employed by the borrower; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that public sector banks do not discriminate the small scale units in restricting non-fund and need based limits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has not defined the term Fund based and non-fund based limits in its guidelines issued to banks. However, for more accurate risk management and cash flow assessment, the banks categories their credit exposures into fund based and non-fund based limits.

(b) Yes, Sir. The capital funds of the borrower and non-fund based facility sanctioned are some of the important relevant aspects considered by the banks while appraising any request for sanction of fund based facility.

(c) The Government advises public sector banks, from time to time, that they should meet the genuine credit requirement of the productive sectors of the economy in general and the small and medium enterprises in particular. To encourage the banks extend adequate credit to the small scale units, lending to small enterprises is included in the Priority Sector Lending. The outstanding credit of public sector banks to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have increased from Rs. 1,46,719 crore as at the end of March, 2006 to Rs. 1,84,589 crore at the end of March, 2007 and Rs. 2,43,796 crore at the end of March, 2008.

Internet banking

2711. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the involvement of a few Indians in a multi-crore business through Internet Banking has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Fiscal Crisis and Stabilization of Markets

2712. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has taken any initiative with developed nations in regard to fiscal crisis and stabilization of the markets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) There is no fiscal crisis or destabilization of markets in India. However, considering the current challenges faced by the global financial markets, which may impact us, India participated in the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy held at Washington on November 15, 2008. The Summit recommended strong and significant actions to stimulate economies, provide liquidity, strengthen the capital of financial institutions, protect savings and deposits, address regulatory deficiencies, unfreeze credit markets and take

measure to ensure that international financial institutions provide critical support to the global economy. It also recommended necessary action to stabilize the financial system.

Protecting Interests of Small Investors

2713. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the major problems and risks identified for investors while investing money in Initial Public Offer (IPOs) of shares;

(b) the current regulations and guidelines for issue of allotment certificates and safeguards for protecting the interests of small investors;

(c) whether the Government proposes to induct technology available to solve logistic and other problems frame required rules and regulations to protect the interest of investors and to encourage them to invest money in stock markets; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Some of the problems and risks identified for investors while investing money in IPOs of shares are relating to disclosures in offer documents, non-receipt of shares after allotment, delayed receipt of refunds, non-receipt of refunds, etc.

(b) The SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000 (DIP Guidelines) provide for adequate checks and balances to protect the investors. These guidelines require the issuer to disclose various details including the company's background to enable the investors to form informed decision. It further requires that the allotment of securities shall be made within 15 days from the date of closure of the issue falling which an interest of 15% p.a. has to be paid for the delayed refund to the applicants. The companies have been required to obtain in-principle listing approval from the stock exchanges before issuance of observations by SEBI. Further,

SEBI has also notified separate Regulations for the various intermediaries involved in the IPO process, viz., the merchant bankers, registrars to an issue, bankers to an issue, underwriters, etc. SEBI is authorised under the provisions of SEBI Act, 1992 to take necessary action against the said intermediaries for any non-compliance with the extant Rules/Regulations/Guidelines/Act.

(c) and (d) SEBI has operationalised a supplementary procedure of applying in public issues, viz., the 'applications supported by blocked amount' (ASBA) process for IPO applications. The ASBA process ensures that the funds are debited from the investors' accounts only upon confirmed allotment of securities to him and only to the extent of allotment made to the investor. This eliminates the pitfalls associated with the process of physical refund of funds. SEBI has also provided for Electronic Clearing Service (ECS) facility for refunds in certain specified centres.

[Translation]

Protection of Indian Industries

2714. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industry Associations have requested to slash the rate of interest for the protection of Indian Industries in view of global trend of slumps in business;

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

(c) whether the 'ASSOCHAM' has been raising demand for giving permission to the banks to raise funds by mortgaging Government securities on the lines of oil companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) Industry associations, including ASSOCHAM, have made various suggestions which, inter alia, include reducing the rate of interest. To improve the flow of credit to productive sectors so as to sustain the

growth momentum, the Reserve Bank and the Government of India have taken several measures including reduction in key policy rates (repo rate) and other measures to improve the liquidity in the system.

[English]

Dollar-Rupee Exchange

2715. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of making forecast by certain banks regarding dollar-rupee exchange have come to the notice of the Government in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hedging Agreements are being made by exporters on the basis of such forecasts;

(d) if so, the details thereof and malpractice, if any, reported in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Some banks and financial institutions, particularly those which are active in international financial markets, routinely prepare and circulate to their clients and constituents, their in-house research assessment (with appropriate disclaimers) of the evolution of macroeconomic and financial sector variables (such as GDP growth, inflation, Government bond yield, exchange rate, etc). Some of these reports are placed in the public domain.

(c) and (d) Persons resident in India are permitted to enter into foreign exchange derivative contracts with Authorized Dealer (AD) banks to hedge an underlying exchange exposure in respect of a transaction for which sale and/or purchase of foreign exchange is permitted under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. As hedging market risks including current risks entail an assessment of the future movements of key variables, some exporters make use of available assessments.

(e) The actual outcome in a volatile forex market might result in a loss or gain to the exporter depending upon the position taken. Apart from legal remedies available, the regulatory system in place in the forex market has sufficient safeguards and maintains vigil against any malpractice.

New Definition on Counterfeit Medical Products

2716. DR. R. SENTHIL :

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new definition on Counterfeit Medical Products has been proposed in the last World Health Assembly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has revised the definition of said Medical Products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

CGHS Facility for Employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya

2717. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide CGHS facility to the employees of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of above question does not arise.

(c) CGHS facilities are available only to Central Government employees or pensioners whose salary/pension is paid out of the Central accounts. Employees of autonomous organization are not eligible to CGHS facilities.

Industry Status to Medical Services

2718. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received requests for providing the status of industry to medical services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) No such request for providing the status of industry to medical services has been received.

Shortage of Drinking Water in BCCL Mines

2719. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether shortage of drinking water in the mines area of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) in Jharkhand has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the problem/hazards that have surfaced as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) and (b) No. There is no shortage of supply of drinking water in

command areas of BCCL in Jharkhand State. If any problem is faced during the peak summer season, due care is taken to solve the problem instantly.

(c) BCCL is extending facilities of supplying drinking water to nearby localities/villages under Community Development Scheme as a Corporate Social Responsibility.

BCCL also supplies mine water to the State Government for seven projects to Drinking Water and Sanitation Division of the State..

Closure of Atomic Power Plants

2720. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA :
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of working and non-working power generation units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Projects In Rawatbhata during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government proposes to compensate the loss suffered due to closure of power projects.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to construct new power generation plants in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the sites identified for the purpose and funds allocated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Unit-1 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station has been shut down in October, 2004 for detailed assessment of its health and techno economic evaluation for its refurbishment. Unit-2 was in operation till July, 2007 when En masse Feeder Replacement work, as a part of its Renovation and Modernisation, was taken up. This has been completed and unit is ready for fuel loading. Units-3 and 4 are in operation. Units-5 and 6 are in advanced stages of completion.

(b) and (c) Non-availability of RAPS-1 and 2 has been one of the factors in fixing the allocation to Rajasthan from other Central Generating Stations including Nuclear Power Reactors – RAPS-3 and 4 and Narora Atomic Power Station, NAPS-1 and 2. Rajasthan has an allocation of about 36% of a total capacity of RAPS-3 and 4 (440 MWe) which is being supplied at some tariff as that of RAPS-2.

(d) and (e) XI Plan proposals envisage commencement of work on two more reactors of 700 MWe each also at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan. The site is already approved in principle by the Government. The project is yet to be sanctioned.

[English]

Indians Stranded in Gulf Countries

2721. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN :
SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Indians are stranded in Gulf countries for return of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the countries alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for their early repatriation to India?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) The Indian Missions in Gulf countries have informed that there is no report of large number of Indians stranded for return to India. However, there are cases reported from time to time regarding stay of Indian nationals having become illegal for violation of local rules and regulations, non-possession of valid visas/resident permits etc.

Governments in Gulf countries have declared Amnesty Schemes from time to time to permit such foreign nationals

to either regularize their stay or leave the country without penalty, during the operation of the scheme.

Indian Mission officials visit the deportation centers of ascertain and ensure welfare of the deportees. Assistance is also provided for regularization of the stay in deserving cases. The missions also issue emergency certificates or necessary travel documents to facilitate repatriation.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Civil Aviation and State Governments, closely monitors such deportation of the Indian workers.

Allotment of Illegal and Abandoned Mines

2722. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to allot illegal and abandoned mines to coal co-operatives for mining of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Promotion of Traditional Indian Games

2723. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote the traditional Indian games and sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) and (b) The existing schemes of Government of India and Sports Authority of India (SAI) lay adequate focus on the

promotion of traditional and indigenous games such as Archery, Chess, Kho-Kho, Tug of War, Kabaddi, Wrestling etc.

(c) The Government has recently launched a national programme titled Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Ahiyan (PYKKA), which aims at providing basic sports infrastructure in all villages and block panchayats in a phased manner over a period of 10 years and access organized sports competitions at village and block panchayat level. The scheme lays special emphasis on promotion of traditional and indigenous games.

Misuse of Medical Waste

2724. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA :
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a report of an NGO named Vatavaran regarding misuse of medical waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Sea and River Erosion

2725. SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether sea and river erosion affect environmental balance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources has informed that no specific study has been commissioned in respect of sea and river erosion for assessing the impacts on the environmental balance.

(c) The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 permits shore protection measures to control coastal erosion and necessary safeguard measures are stipulated there under while approving any such project.

Renke Commission's Recommendations

2726. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received the recommendations of the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes known as Renke Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has taken any decision in consultation with the concerned Ministries for the implementation of the recommendations of the Renke Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (d) The National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Commission (Headed by Shri Renke) has submitted its report to this Ministry on 2nd July, 2008. The recommendations contained in the report are under consideration of the Government.

UNICEF Report on Healthcare Facilities

2727. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian has failed to provide basic healthcare facilities to its poorest children as pointed out in the UNICEF report released recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per the UNICEF report "The State of the World's Children 2008", India's under five mortality rate has declined by 34 per cent since 1990. It is one of the priority countries for child survival.

(c) Action is being taken by the Union Government to bring down the infant and child mortality rate in the country. A major initiative is implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy, which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality — sepsis, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, measles and malaria, all compounded by malnutrition. In addition, thrust is being given to ensure institutional deliveries and train health personnel on essential newborn care so that skilled attendance at birth is available and all newborns receive specialized care. Efforts to deliver new born and child care, both facility based as well as home based, are being made. Micronutrient supplementation with Vitamin A, Iron Folic Acid and Zinc and Infant and Young Child Nutrition are being stressed. Immunization is one of the major thrust areas of the ongoing reproductive and Child Health Programme. The National Rural Health Mission, launched in April, 2005 for a period of 7 years (2005 to 2012) is an overarching initiatives with a holistic approach which provides multiple strategic additionalities, like provision for health infrastructure up gradation and a health care worker for every 1000 population, among other and has envisaged reduction in neonatal, infant and child Mortality is one of the prime goals to be achieved.

Functioning of Primary Health Centres

2728. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have become totally defunct in the country as reported in the Times of India dated 02 October, 2008;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the availability of doctors in the PHCs and lack of basic health services like deliveries;

(c) the assistance provided by the Union Government to States under the Rural Health Mission for running of PHCs during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Union Government has conducted any inquiry to find out the reasons for not providing basic facilities in PHCs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Table showing the availability of Doctors at PHCs is enclosed as Statement-I and Tables showing facilities at PHCs are enclosed as Statement-II and Statement-III.

(c) A Table showing State-wise funds release and expenditure by State under NRHM for the financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09 is enclosed as Statement-IV.

(d) No, Sir. In the light of (b) above, the need for conducting inquiry to find out reasons for not providing basic facilities in PHCs was not felt. However, monitoring and evaluation of progress under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is done through Facility Survey, Common Review Mission etc. to continuously keep track of progress made in achieving timelines of NRHM activities as detailed in Framework for implementation for NRHM. External Evaluation like District Level Household and Infrastructure Survey has also been conducted.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Doctors at Primary Health Centres (As on March, 2007)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Doctors at PHCs				
		Required' [R]	Sanctioned [S]	In Position [P]	Vacant [S-P]	Shortfall [R-P]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1570	2497	2214	283	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85	78	78	0	7
3.	Assam	610	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Bihar	1648	2078	1850	328	*
5.	Chhattisgarh	518	1542	1154	388	*
6.	Goa	19	46	46	0	*
7.	Gujarat	1073	1073	1034	39	39
8.	Haryana	411	580	350	230	61
9.	Himachal Pradesh	443	628	628	0	*
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	374	668	643	25	*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Jharkhand	330	3927	2323	1604	*
12.	Karnataka	1679	2237	2041	196	*
13.	Kerala	909	1345	1558	*	*
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1149	1149	869	280	280
15.	Maharashtra	1800	1800	1191	609	609
16.	Manipur	72	62	103	*	*
17.	Meghalaya	103	127	106	21	*
18.	Mizoram	57	57	39	18	18
19.	Nagaland	84	53	53	0	31
20.	Orissa	1279	1353	1353	0	*
21.	Punjab	484	634	350	284	134
22.	Rajasthan	1499	1527	1318	209	181
23.	Sikkim	24	48	38	10	*
24.	Tamil Nadu	1181	2260	1984	276	*
25.	Tripura	75	161	150	11	*
26.	Uttarakhand	232	272	182	90	50
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3660	NA	NA	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	922	922	811	111	*
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20	36	36	0	*
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	6	6	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	3	5	5	0	*
33.	Delhi	8	31	23	8	*
34.	Lakshadweep	4	4	4	0	0
35.	Puducherry	39	68	68	0	*
All India ²		22370	27274	22608	4920	1410

Notes: NA: Not Available

* Surplus.

One per each Primary Health Centre.

² For calculating the overall percentages of vacancy and shortfall, the States/UTs for which manpower position is not available should be excluded.

Statement-II**Facilities at Primary Health Centres (As on March, 2007)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Existing PHCs	Number of Primary Health-Centres							
			With Labour Room		With Operation Theatre		With 4-6 Beds		With 24 Hrs. Delivery Facility	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1570	1570	(100%)	1570	(100%)	1570	(100%)	520	(33%)
2.	Bihar	1648	208	(13%)	230	(14%)	792	(48%)	304	(18%)
3.	Chhattisgarh	518	105	(20%)	50	(10%)	52	(10%)	518	(100%)
4.	Goa	19	13	(68%)	3	(16%)	13	(68%)	13	(68%)
5.	Gujarat	1073	721	(67%)	721	(67%)	721	(67%)	50	(5%)
6.	Haryana	411	210	(51%)	110	(27%)	254	(62%)	114	(28%)
7.	Himachal Pradesh	443	50	(11%)	140	(32%)	140	(32%)	50	(11%)
8.	Karnataka	1679	1679	(100%)	1679	(100%)	1679	(100%)	399	(24%)
9.	Kerala	909	131	(14%)	118	(13%)	92	(10%)	18	(2%)
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1149	230	(20%)	746	(65%)	315	(27%)	NA	NA
11.	Maharashtra	1800	1220	(68%)	1338	(74%)	1649	(92%)	1780	(99%)
12.	Manipur	72	18	(25%)	0	(0%)	15	(21%)	6	(8%)
13.	Meghalaya	103	103	(100%)	0	(0%)	103	(100%)	103	(100%)
14.	Mizoram	57	57	(100%)	57	(100%)	10	(18%)	52	(91%)
15.	Orissa	1279	822	(64%)	427	(33%)	132	(10%)	120	(9%)
16.	Punjab	484	187	(39%)	159	(33%)	280	(58%)	81	(17%)
17.	Rajasthan	1499	1430	(95%)	1430	(95%)	1499	(100%)	NA	NA
18.	Sikkim	24	24	(100%)	24	(100%)	24	(100%)	24	(100%)
19.	Tamil Nadu	1181	1181	(100%)	342	(29%)	385	(33%)	241	(20%)
20.	Tripura	75	42	(56%)	42	(56%)	37	(49%)	52	(69%)
21.	Uttarakhand	232	47	(20%)	47	(20%)	222	(96%)	47	(20%)
22.	Uttar Pradesh	3680	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	1835	(50%)	NA	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
23.	West Bengal	922	410	(44%)	0	(0%)	841	(91%)	100	(11%)
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20	20	(100%)	20	(100%)	20	(100%)	20	(100%)
25.	Chandigarh	0	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	5	(83%)	3	(50%)	6	(100%)	6	(100%)
27.	Daman and Diu	3	8	(100%)	2	(67%)	3	(100%)	2	(67%)
28.	Delhi	8	7	(88%)	1	(13%)	7	(88%)	1	(13%)
29.	Lakshadweep	4	4	(100%)	0	(0%)	4	(100%)	4	(100%)
30.	Puducherry	39	25	(64%)	14	(36%)	27	(69%)	19	(49%)

Notes:- Source of data is Quarterly Progress Reports on Rural Health Services received in Infrastructure Division.

Source of data is Quarterly Progress Reports on Rural Health Services received in Infrastructure Division from States/UTs Information is not available from the remaining States/UTs

Figures in brackets give the corresponding percentages

Statement-III

Facilities at Primary Health Centres (Contd.) (As on March, 2007)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Existing PHCs	Number of Primary Health Centres									
			Without Electric Supply	Without Regular Water Supply	Without All-Weather Motorable Approach Road	With Telephone	With Computer					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1570	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	181	(12%)	1098	(70%)	1387	(88%)
2.	Bihar	1648	421	(26%)	605	(37%)	290	(18%)	185	(11%)	20	(1%)
3.	Chhattisgarh	518	225	(43%)	304	(59%)	310	(60%)	7	(1%)	4	(1%)
4.	Goa	19	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	19	(100%)	19	(100%)
5.	Gujarat	1073	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	1073	(100%)	0	(0%)
6.	Haryana	411	11	(3%)	55	(13%)	21	(5%)	309	(75%)	94	(23%)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7.	Himachal Pradesh	443	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	20	(5%)	108	(24%)	68	(15%)
8.	Karnataka	1679	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	1620	(96%)	0	(0%)
9.	Kerala	909	6	(1%)	125	(14%)	48	(5%)	368	(40%)	36	(4%)
10.	Maharashtra	1800	59	(3%)	231	(13%)	306	(17%)	1019	(57%)	184	(10%)
11.	Manipur	72	24	(33%)	12	(100%)	28	(39%)	17	(24%)	0	(0%)
12.	Meghalaya	103	7	(7%)	13	(13%)	NA	NA	0	(0%)	0	(0%)
13.	Mizoram	57	5	(9%)	57	(100%)	13	(23%)	20	(35%)	0	(0%)
14.	Orissa	1279	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	37	(3%)	62	(5%)	NA	NA
15.	Punjab	484	5	(1%)	24	(5%)	1	(0%)	161	(33%)	10	(2%)
16.	Sikkim	24	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	1	(4%)	23	(96%)	8	(33%)
17.	Tamil Nadu	1181	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	1181	(100%)	190	(16%)
18.	Tripura	75	2	(3%)	19	(25%)	29	(39%)	32	(43%)	0	(0%)
19.	Uttarakhand	232	31	(13%)	29	(13%)	56	(24%)	42	(18%)	NA	NA
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3660	185	(5%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	160	(4%)	0	(0%)
21.	West Bengal	922	207	(22%)	113	(12%)	838	(91%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	20	(100%)	NA	NA
23.	Chandigarh	0	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	6	(100%)	0	(0%)
25.	Daman and Diu	3	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	3	(100%)	3	(100%)	2	(67%)
26.	Delhi	8	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	3	(38%)	8	(100%)
27.	Lakshadweep	4	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	4	(100%)	4	(100%)	NA	NA
28.	Puducherry	39	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	39	(100%)	0	(0%)

Notes: Source of data is Quarterly Progress Reports on Rural Health Services received in Infrastructure Division from States/UTs Information is not available from the remaining States/UTs

Figures in brackets give the corresponding percentages

Statement-IV

Release and Expenditure under Mission Flexipool for the year 2005-06 to 2008-09

Rs. in crores

Sl. No.	State	2005-06		2006-07			Unspent balance as on 31.03.07	B.E.
		Release	Expenditure	Allocation	Release	Expenditure		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A. High Focus States								
1.	Bihar	68.37	0.00	146.62	125.79	7.02	187.14	256.31
2.	Chhattisgarh	29.10	4.89	36.74	61.75	41.00	44.96	64.23
3.	Himachal Pradesh	16.15	0.39	8.33	30.29	7.18	38.86	14.58
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.68	0.11	13.78	31.39	3.54	46.41	24.08
5.	Jharkhand	32.48	0.95	47.63	46.53	0.90	77.16	83.26
6.	Madhya Pradesh	82.23	0.68	106.82	136.62	47.06	171.11	186.73
7.	Orissa	59.32	6.98	64.97	66.91	28.46	90.78	113.58
8.	Rajasthan	70.56	1.05	99.84	138.06	22.49	185.09	174.54
9.	Uttar Pradesh	129.52	1.10	293.58	241.77	41.31	328.89	513.22
10.	Uttarakhand	17.54	0.33	14.97	15.92	1.44	31.69	26.17
Sub Total		523.94	16.48	833.28	895.02	200.39	1202.68	1456.70
B. NE States								
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.05	1.68	11.54	31.07	8.33	31.11	13.23
12.	Assam	36.2	0.11	281.19	245.41	45.28	236.04	322.31
13.	Manipur*	7.52	0.00	25.15	20.48	0.82	27.18	28.83
14.	Meghalaya	7.22	0.02	24.33	19.51	2.54	24.18	27.88
15.	Mizoram*	6.01	1.17	9.48	32.43	3.91	34.35	10.88
16.	Nagaland	7.83	0.87	21.03	22.62	12.55	17.02	24.10
17.	Sikkim*	3.09	0.00	5.77	18.22	1.14	20.17	6.62
18.	Tripura	3.92	0.30	33.81	12.97	2.93	13.65	38.75
Sub Total		81.65	3.14	412.30	402.70	77.50	403.71	472.60

2007-08			2008-09			Total			
Release	Expenditure	Unspent balance as on 31.03.07	B.E.	Release	Expenditure upto 30.09.08	Release	Expenditure	Unspent Balance	% of Utilization
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
137.63	14.83	309.94	186.28		18.48	331.79	40.33	291.46	12.16
64.13	11.31	97.78	46.68	33.89	9.93	188.87	67.13	121.74	35.54
5.36	2.95	41.27	10.59		7.00	51.80	17.53	34.27	33.84
122.05	35.49	132.97	17.50	2.21	10.50	174.32	49.64	124.68	28.48
66.47	29.66	113.97	60.51	1.22	32.33	146.70	63.84	82.86	43.52
152.24	102.83	220.52	135.71	61.40	22.39	432.49	172.96	259.53	39.99
107.43	36.50	161.71	82.55	34.06	20.77	267.71	92.71	175.00	34.63
266.36	132.02	319.43	126.85	55.49	166.02	530.47	321.57	208.90	60.62
417.21	82.80	663.30	373.02	33.68	104.54	822.18	229.74	592.44	27.94
34.09	13.59	52.19	19.02		6.50	67.55	21.86	45.69	32.36
1372.97	461.98	2113.07	1058.71	221.95	398.46	3013.88	1077.31	1936.56	35.75
13.24	18.98	25.37	9.36		6.86	54.36	35.85	18.51	65.95
322.31	335.14	223.21	227.90	170.93	117.66	774.67	498.19	276.48	64.31
14.92	13.43	28.67	20.38		8.43	42.92	22.68	20.24	52.84
23.22	9.71	37.69	19.72	6.32	5.30	56.27	17.57	38.71	31.22
8.95	28.48	14.82	7.69		7.48	47.38	40.04	7.34	84.51
18.08	21.71	13.39	17.04	16.78	11.78	65.30	46.91	18.39	71.83
23.67	2.47	41.37	4.68		1.58	44.97	5.19	39.79	11.53
38.06	8.46	43.26	27.40	20.55	9.51	75.50	21.20	54.30	28.08
462.45	438.38	427.78	334.17	214.58	168.50	1161.38	687.62	473.76	59.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
C. Non-High Focus States								
19. Andhra Pradesh	46.20	4.83	102.90	119.19	59.39	101.17	179.89	
20. Goa*	1.86	0.00	1.87	1.12	0.35	2.63	3.27	
21. Gujarat	46.38	0.35	68.89	93.63	25.37	114.29	120.42	
22. Haryana	23.50	1.12	28.75	34.32	2.23	54.47	50.25	
23. Karnataka	48.84	0.00	71.78	84.38	4.25	128.97	125.48	
24. Kerala	25.26	0.00	43.37	44.60	0.52	69.35	75.82	
25. Maharashtra	65.33	0.00	131.31	113.94	8.89	170.38	229.55	
26. Punjab	24.37	1.95	33.00	42.41	5.15	58.68	57.68	
27. Tamil Nadu	31.63	8.68	84.19	97.93	27.34	93.55	147.19	
28. West Bengal	36.10	4.17	109.03	115.71	4.86	142.78	190.60	
Sub Total	349.48	21.10	675.09	747.22	138.36	937.24	1180.15	
D. Small States/UTs								
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.49	0.00	0.51	0.63	0.05	2.07	0.89	
30. Chandigarh	0.44	0.00	1.19	0.47	0.13	0.78	2.08	
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.47	0.00	0.34	0.54	0.00	1.01	0.59	
32. Daman and Diu	0.59	0.00	0.27	0.67	0.06	1.20	0.48	
33. Delhi*	1.37	0.00	18.70	4.54	0.32	5.60	32.71	
34. Lakshadweep*	0.84	0.00	0.14	0.28	0.06	1.16	0.24	
35. Puducherry	1.76	0.03	1.36	1.64	0.57	2.79	2.38	
36. Others							6.18	
Sub Total	7.06	0.03	22.51	24.42	1.18	14.62	45.55	
Grand Total	962.13	40.76	1943.18	2069.36	417.43	2557.65	3155.00	

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
179.89	91.60	189.46	130.74	121.09	56.50	466.37	212.32	254.05	45.53
0.94	0.76	2.81	2.38		0.41	3.92	1.52	2.40	38.80
142.19	137.55	118.93	87.52	65.64	96.27	347.84	259.54	88.30	74.82
46.51	24.12	76.86	36.52	4.80	13.90	109.13	41.37	67.76	37.91
88.54	41.86	175.65	91.20	24.90	76.86	246.66	122.97	123.69	49.85
143.11	67.82	144.64	55.11	41.33	37.14	254.31	105.48	148.83	41.48
177.88	132.68	215.56	166.83	125.12	60.43	482.27	202.00	280.27	41.89
26.08	18.77	66.99	41.92		6.92	92.86	32.80	60.07	35.32
226.83	84.39	235.99	106.97	78.45	39.80	434.84	160.21	274.64	36.84
233.71	8.74	367.75	138.52	103.89	52.12	489.40	69.89	419.52	14.28
1265.68	608.29	1594.63	857.71	565.22	440.35	2927.61	1208.10	1719.50	41.27
3.97	0.60	5.44	0.65		0.36	6.09	1.01	5.08	16.59
1.77	0.09	2.46	1.51		0.19	2.68	0.41	2.27	15.30
0.12	0.73	0.40	0.43	0.43	0.10	1.56	0.83	0.73	53.27
0.00	0.31	0.89	0.35	0.50	0.12	1.76	0.49	1.27	7.63
23.23	0.28	28.55	23.77		0.00	29.14	0.60	28.55	2.05
0.00	0.01	1.15	0.17		0.15	1.22	0.22	1.00	17.92
2.55	0.87	4.47	1.73		0.47	5.95	1.94	4.00	32.64
17.23			5.80		0.00	33.81	0.00	33.81	
48.87	2.89	43.37	34.41	0.93	1.39	81.28	5.49	75.79	6.76
3149.97	1511.54	4178.85	2285.00	1002.68	1008.80	7184.14	2978.53	4205.61	

[Translation]

Promotion of Hindi in CIL

2729. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiary companies propose to promote use of Hindi as official language;

(b) if so, the details thereof outlining the activities undertaken in this regard; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and spent for the purpose during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries promote Hindi as Official Language and use it in official work.

(b) The details of activities undertaken are as under:—

- All the officers and employees are improved upon for using the Official Language Hindi in official work.
- The meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee are conducted in each quarter and difficulties being faced with regard to propagation of Hindi and solutions thereto are discussed in the said meetings.
- Section 3(3) of the Official Language Act, 1963 is adhered to in Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries.
- All letters received in Hindi are replied to in Hindi.
- With a view to creating consciousness and accelerating the use of Hindi as Official Language, Hindi fortnight/week/month are organized in which various competitions are organized and incentives are given to winners.
- There is a provision for Hindi Training for officers/employees.

— Help Literature such as Dictionaries, Help Books and other books are provided.

(c) The yearwise details of fund allocated by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries are as under:—

Year	Fund allocated (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
2005-06	33,06,879/-	25,18,448/-
2006-07	39,33,885/-	27,10,478/-
2007-08	37,80,782/-	24,36,646/-
2008-09 (upto November)	41,41,552/-	30,13,633/-

[English]

Total Coal Reserve

2730. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total reserves of coal in the country and its average consumption per year during the last three years and current year; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government of find alternate sources of energy so that consumption of coal is reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) As per Geological Survey of India, the coal resources in the country as on 01.04.2008 stand at 264535 million tonnes.

The consumption per year i.e. production during the last three years and the current year is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Year	*Production (Million Tonnes)
1	2	3
1.	2005-06	407.039
2.	2006-07	430.832
3.	2007-08 (Provisional)	456.397

1	2	3
4.	2008-09 (Provisional) (Till November '08)	292.80

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of Blood Component Therapy

2731. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) proposes to promote Blood Component Therapy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NACO is providing grant-in-aid to Blood Banks for setting up of component separation units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government under Blood Safety component of National AIDS Control Programme is promoting use of blood components instead of whole blood. Necessary equipments are provided to tertiary care hospitals in the Government and Public Sector for setting up of Blood Component Separation Units. Training and Workshops on Rational Use of blood and blood components are being organized in States for Clinicians in these hospitals use of blood components. 103 such facilities exist in Government and Public Sector blood banks and it is proposed to cover all blood banks attached to Medical College hospitals during Phase III of National AIDS Control Programme (2007-2012).

(c) and (d) Under the scheme for "Modernisation of Blood banks", one time equipment and annual recurrent grant for consumables and manpower i.e. one lab technician and one counselor is being provided to blood banks with Blood Component Separation facilities.

Offshore Container Terminal at Mumbai Port

2732. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new Offshore Container Terminal (OCT) has been proposed at the Prince's Victoria Dock at Mumbai Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the size of vessels proposed to be handled at the OCT;

(c) the details of the existing capacity of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) including proposals for its expansion if any; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Mumbai Port Trust has proposed construction of two Offshore Container Berths and development of Container Terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis in Mumbai Harbour. These berths would be located 800 m offshore of Indira Dock Harbour Wall in the Mumbai Harbour area. The berths will be connected to shore by an approach trestle which starts from the junction of Prince's and Victoria Docks.

(b) The projects consists of construction of two Offshore Container Berths of 700m x 58m with 'Y' shaped approach trestle connecting the shore, providing topside facilities such as 6 Quay side Gantry Cranes, 18 Rubber Tyred Cranes and two Rail Mounted Gantry Cranes for Rail Container Depot (RCD). The project also involves development of Container Stack Yard admeasuring 35 hectares. Total investment is Rs. 1228.39 crore of which investment by BOT operator is Rs. 862.00 crore and that by Mumbai Port Trust is Rs. 366.39 crore. The length of these proposed berths is sufficient to accommodate two ships of upto 6000. TEUs in Tandem.

(c) The present annual container handling capacity of Jawaharlal Nehru Port is 3.6 Million TEUs. To meet the future traffic requirement, the port has identified the following two projects for development

under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) made on BOT basis:—

- (i) 330 m extension of container berth with a capacity of 600,000 TEUs per annum.
- (ii) Development of 4th container terminal and Marine Chemical Terminal in two phases.

Deepening and widening of main harbour and JN Port channel to meet the increase demand of trade for deep draught vessels.

(d) With the above development plans, JN Port will be benefited in the following ways:—

- (i) Increase in container traffic to 10 million TEUs per annum by 2014-15 from the present level of 4.2 million TEUs per annum.
- (ii) With the deepening project, the port will be able to handle 6th generation container vessel of draft upto 14.5 mtrs and tidal window against 3rd generation container vessel with draft of 12.5 mtrs being handled at present.

Diseases at Work Place

2733. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH :
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a report of World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Economic Forum (WEF) work place in the country has become the cause of many non-communicable diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the burden of non-communicable diseases. The root cause of these non-communicable diseases is unhealthy lifestyle,

consumption of tobacco, alcohol and junk food. One of the conclusion of the WHO report acknowledges the fact that workplace has been internationally recognized as an appropriate setting for health promotion and addressing diet and physical activity in this setting can, among other things, serve to improve the health status of workers.

(c) The pilot phase of the National Programme for prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke has already open launched in 10 States (one district in each State) early this year. The Planning Commission has provided an outlay of Rs. 1660.50 crore for 11th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Impact of Dense Settlement and Construction Activities on NHs

2734. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether dense settlement and the commercial construction work along National Highways (NHs) and adversely affecting the traffic movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the success achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Dense settlement and commercial construction along National Highways area adversely affecting the traffic movement. Such stretches are frequently encountered along National Highways at present. Ministry has no control over such development beyond the Right of Way (ROW) of the National Highways. Beyond the ROW respective State Governments are the controlling authorities. Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act 2002 has been enacted and Ministry has appointed Highway Administrators to regulate settlements

within the ROW. Wherever dense settlements are long and acute, construction of bypasses or elevated Highways are also undertaken depending upon the priority and availability of funds. It is expected that steps taken above will improve the situation.

[English]

Ante-Natal Check-UPS

2735. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the national average of ante-natal check-ups of pregnant women in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare periodically conduct large scale demographic surveys like National Family Health Survey to assess the impact of its various programmes and to identify need and gaps. The third National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) was conducted in the year 2005-06 and this survey also collected information on ante natal care of mothers. At the national level, 76.4% women had at least one ante natal care visit and 52.0% women had three or more visits. There is a wide variation in the use of antenatal care services among the States. A Statement showing percentage of women who received Ante Natal Care state-wise is enclosed.

Statement

Among women with a live birth in the past five years, the percentage who during the pregnancy, for their last birth received antenatal care (ANC) by State, India, 2005-06

State	Percentage who had at least one ANC visit	Percentage who had three more ANC visits
1	2	3
India	76.4	52.0

	1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		94.3	85.4
Arunachal Pradesh		52.6	35.5
Assam		70.7	39.3
Bihar		34.1	17.0
Chhattisgarh		88.5	54.2
Delhi		88.8	75.1
Goa		97.3	94.9
Gujarat		86.7	67.5
Haryana		88.3	59.2
Himachal Pradesh		86.4	62.6
Jammu and Kashmir		84.6	73.5
Jharkhand		58.9	35.9
Karnataka		89.3	79.5
Kerala		94.4	93.6
Madhya Pradesh		79.5	40.7
Maharashtra		90.8	75.1
Manipur		86.3	68.6
Meghalaya		67.6	54.0
Mizoram		74.3	39.3
Nagaland		57.8	32.7
Orissa		86.9	61.8
Punjab		88.9	74.8
Rajasthan		74.9	41.2
Sikkim		89.3	70.1
Tamil Nadu		98.6	95.9
Tripura		78.3	60.0
Uttar Pradesh		66.0	26.6

1	2	3
Uttaranchal	69.4	44.9
West Bengal	91.9	62.0

Source: National Family Health Survey-3.

Unscientific Coal Mining

2736. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a vast area in and around Raniganj and Asansol Coalfields has become dangerous due to unscientific coal mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of accidents occurred in these mines during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to stop such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) and (b) Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) was formed mostly from fragmented small mining units of erstwhile owners. In the pre-nationalized period, superior quality of non-coking coal at shallow depth was mined out indiscriminately without adequate scientific planning and due regard for safety and conservation.

There have been five major subsidence occurrences during the last three years. Incidents of subsidence have occurred in both the leasehold areas of ECL and outside since long. Most of the subsidence on the surface has occurred over old abandoned mine areas where workings had been done by the erstwhile mine owners. Some of the left out coal near the surface, which could not be extracted scientifically, had been exploited illegally by miscreants. The effect of illegal mining and unscientific mining done by erstwhile private mine owners have resulted in many unstable areas in and around Raniganj coalfield. In some instances the dwellings of local people constructed over unsafe areas had been affected by subsidence.

(c) The following measures have been taken to deal with subsidence and fire in the Raniganj coal mines:—

- (a) Stabilization of declared unstable areas by hydro-pneumatic sowing.
- (b) Filling up of subsided areas by earth and sand and raising plantation.
- (c) In the recent fire near Nimcha village the scientific institution CIMFR, Dhanbad has been engaged to detect the extension of fire towards the village and measures to be taken for protecting the village.
- (d) Rehabilitation of people affected by subsidence in EMRC and Coal Conservation and Development Activities (CCDA) projects.
- (e) Master/Action Plan prepared by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) for Raniganj coalfield for rehabilitation of affected persons is under processing for approval in the Government of India.
- (f) Activities for biological reclamation of fire areas are:—
 - (i) Dozing, leveling and filling of cracks.
 - (ii) Laying and spreading 0.5m thick soil layer over dozed area.
 - (iii) Preparing bandh/embankment in the area covered with soil for developing number of small pools
 - (iv) Raising plantations over the areas as reclaimed.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Reality Shows on TV

2737. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate guidelines for reality shows being telecast on various channels in the name of talent shows;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding such reality shows;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) There is no such separate proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No specific complaints have been received.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Death of Wild Animals Due to Rail Accidents

2738. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :

SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of elephants, chitals and other wild animals run over so far by trains on the rail line passing through Rajaji National Park;

(b) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Railways for prevention of death of wild animals including elephants;

(c) whether the Ministry has requested the Rail Ministry to shift the railway line to some other place;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent such deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) As reported by the State, the details of wild animals killed in Rajaji National Park in train accident during last three years are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Date	Species/Sex
1.	22.11.2006	Sambhar (Male)
2.	27.11.2006	Sambhar (Female)
3.	08.03.2007	Leopard (Male)
4.	21.11.2008	Leopard calf (Female)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise

(e) The joint patrolling initiative taken by the Railways and State Forest Department has effectively minimized the accidental deaths.

Tax on Polluting Industries

2739. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Energy Coordination Committee has proposed to levy tax on polluting industries;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) In the 10th Meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee held on 27th June 2008, as per available information, an observation was made that "Carbon Tax on power producers using coal, oil, etc. could be considered to fund the upscaling of Renewable Energy (RE) Initiatives." However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

Spectrum for Broadcasting

2740. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether various Television broadcasting companies are facing constraints on account of spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to censor such constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Satellite Television Broadcasting companies can hire transponder allocation on INSAT Systems either from ISRO, Department of Space (DOS) or on foreign satellites coordinated with INSAT systems. As reported by DOS, there are no constraints on account of spectrum for satellite-based TV broadcasting and cable distribution services.

(c) Does not arise.

Trial by Media

2741. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware there has been an increase in the trend of media trial where verdicts are delivered even before investigating agencies complete their work and have filed chargesheets;

(b) if so, the details of the private channels involved in such activities;

(c) whether any regulatory mechanism exist to check such programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by the Government of curb such programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Such instances have been reported in the media.

(c) to (e) All programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Government has also constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific violation to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The IMC either suo motu or on receipt of complaints looks into the violations and thereafter gives its recommendations to the Government, based on which action is taken as per rules. Further, a committee was constituted for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing codes. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 5.3.2008 which is available on the website of the Ministry www.mib.nic.in under the heading "Self Regulation Guidelines 2008".

[Translation]

Complaints on Screening of Movies

2742. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government against the screening of some movies;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the names of movie against which complaints have been received during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the action taken by the Government/Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in each case.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Decline of Female Workers in Coal Sector

2743. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of female workers has declined in coal sector as on 31 March, 2008.

(b) if so, the company-wise details alongwith the reasons therefor;

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

(d) whether some companies have stopped employing female candidates on compassionate ground;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that these companies provide employment to such female candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) No, Sir. There has not been any significant reduction. However, there has been reduction in total manpower due to retirement, death and any other reason and accordingly female workers strength has also decreased.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) above.

(d) No, Sir. Employment on compassionate grounds is being given as per the provision of National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA).

(e) and (f) Not applicable in view of reply at (d) above.

Recommendations of Trai on Private TV Channels

2744. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had made any recommendations to the Union Government for banning of Television Channels run by political parties and religious organisations;

(b) if so, the details of such recommendations; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on 12.11.2008 to the Government in which among other things, it has recommended the continuance of existing policy framework of not allowing States, Political/religious bodies to enter into broadcasting and distribution services. However, they have recommended that Political bodies should be allowed reasonable access to time over air-time of the public service broadcaster. Certain category of private channels may also be subjected to legal obligations to provide reasonable access to air-time to political parties specifically during election to Parliament and States Assemblies.

Similarly TRAI has recommended that the entry of religious bodies into broadcasting activities may not be permitted. The detailed recommendations are available on TRAI website www.traigov.in. Recommendations of TRAI are under examination.

[Translation]

Impact of Recession on Overseas Indians

2745. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Indian I.T. experts working in overseas countries are being sent back to India as a result of recent global economic recession;

(b) if so, the number of Indians sent back from the overseas countries after the onset of this recession; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Appointment of Public Health Experts

2746. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to appoint public health experts in the rural areas in the States for effective implementation of various healthcare schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the National Rural Health Mission, capacity building of Health system for programme planning, implementation and monitoring has been undertaken at all levels. Towards this goal, NRHM has supported provisioning of key skills in all programmes at all levels. This support is provided as per felt needs which are included by the States in their Annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP). Public health experts have also been positioned as part of this initiative. These experts assist the blocks and districts in undertaking resource mapping, identification of critical gaps and preparation of decentralized plans for compensating the gaps and addressing the epidemiology of respective district of state. They also handhold implementation of various strategies and monitoring of outcomes. Support for training in public health management is also being extended under NRHM.

The programme Management nits under NRHM, which comprise management, accounts, IT and health experts have enhanced the capacity of districts and blocks to implement various programme interventions which constitute NRHM. Many states have also positioned architects for better management of public health infrastructure, Human Resource Managers to manage the Public health cadres and experts from Medical Colleges to assist in monitoring and evaluation of programmes. These skills have substantially improved the implementation of programmes and accelerated the achievement of goals of NRHM.

[Translation]

Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act

2747. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States which have implemented Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act in the country alongwith the names of those States which have not implemented it; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against those States which have not implemented the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) was enacted on 24 December 1996. Subsequently, 9 States having Fifth Schedule Areas, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan have amended their respective Panchayati Raj Acts to give effect to the provisions of the PESA Act. Thus, all 9 States concerned have implemented the PESA Act through amendment of Panchayati Raj Acts as well as some of the subject laws of their States. Based on the replies received from the States to a detailed questionnaire on the status of implementation of some of the important provisions of PESA, a Statement has been prepared which is enclosed.

(b) Does not arise in the light of (a).

Statement

Relevant PESA Provisions	Rajasthan	Andhra Pradesh	Gujarat	Himachal Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Chhattisgarh	Orissa	Maharashtra	Jharkhand
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. What is the definition of the 'natural village' in the PESA blocks?	As per the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1999, 'Village' means a village specified as such by the Governor, by notification in the official Gazette.	As per the Andhra Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, a village shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets thereof comprising a community or communities and managing their affairs in accordance with traditions and customs.	There is no definition of the natural village but the revenue villages are almost natural villages or falias.	As per the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, a village shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets thereof comprising a community or communities and managing their affairs in accordance with traditions and customs.	As per the Madhya Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 'Village' means a village in the Scheduled Areas, which shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets thereof comprising a community or communities and managing their affairs in accordance with traditions and customs.	As per the Chhattisgarh Panchayati Raj Act, 'Village' means a village in the Scheduled Areas, which shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets thereof comprising a community or communities and managing their affairs in accordance with traditions and customs.	In Scheduled Areas, a gram (village) shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets thereof comprising a community or communities and managing their affairs in accordance with traditions and customs.	'Village' and a 'group of villages' means the village or, as the case may be, a group of villages, specified in the notification issued under clause (g) of Article 243 of the Constitution of India.	A village means any such village in the Scheduled Areas, in which there will ordinarily be a residence or a group of residences or a tola or a group of tolas comprising such community as manages its activities according to its customs and usages.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
2. Who approves plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before implementation by Panchayat in Scheduled Areas? Is Gram Sabha empowered for some other institution?	Before undertaking the implementation of the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development, before obtaining the approval of Gram Sabha is necessary.	Every Gram Sabha shall approve plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken by for implementation by the Gram Panchayat, at the village level.	The Gram Sabha shall approve the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken by for implementation by the village Panchayat	The Gram Sabha approves the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before implementation by Panchayats in Scheduled Areas.	Gram Sabha	The Gram Sabha approves plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before implementation by the Panchayats in Scheduled Areas.	Gram Sabhas approve the proposal submitted by the Panchayat, which is recommended by the Gram Sabhas to the G.P. for execution	The plans, programmes and projects for socio economic development are approved by the Gram Sabha.	The Gram Sabha approves schemes for social and economic development including all the annual schemes pertaining to the Gram Panchayat, before implementation of programmes and projects	The Gram Sabha approves schemes for social and economic development including all the annual schemes pertaining to the Gram Panchayat, before implementation of programmes and projects
3. Who is empowered to select the beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes?	Gram Sabha.	Gram Sabha.	Gram Sabha.	Gram Sabha.	Gram Sabha.	Gram Sabha.	Gram Sabha.	Gram Sabha.	Gram Sabha.	
4. Does the Gram Sabha issue certificates are issued by utilization	Every village panchayat shall obtain	Every village panchayat shall obtain	Sarpanch is the competent authority	Gram Sabha	Yes, UCs are being issued by Gram	Yes, UCs are being issued by Gram	No, the G.P. will issue utilization of	It is obligatory for the Village	Gram Sabha has function of determina	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
utilisation for expenditure of programme funds? If not, which is the competent authority to issue UCs for village level works?	the Sarpanch and Gram Sewak and respective executive agency	from the Gram Sabha a certificate of utilization of funds by that Panchayat for the plans, programmes and projects.	to issue UCs for village level works		Panchayat on the basis of a resolution of the Gram Sabha	Panchayat on the basis of a resolution after Gram Sabha	funds for village level work.	Panchayat to obtain from the Gram Sabha, the certification of Utilization of funds.	tion and confirmation of appropriate utilization of funds for schemes, programmes and projects by the Gram Panchayat.
5. What is the legislative provision for reservation of SCs/STs in Scheduled Areas? Is the number of reserved seats decided on proportion of population?	Reservation of seats in Scheduled Areas for Panchayati Raj Institutions is done proportionately. There is reservation of 50% of the total seats for STs.	Reservation of seats in the Scheduled area to every Gram Panchayat and Mandal Parishad shall be in proportion to the population of the communities in that Gram Panchayat or the Mandal Parishad. Not less than one-half the total number of seats are reserved for STs.	50% of seats reserved for STs at all three levels.	The reservation of the seats in the Scheduled Areas to every Gram Panchayat, and Panchayat Samiti shall be in proportion to the population of the communities in that Gram Panchayat or the Panchayat Samiti.	Yes, Seats for SC and ST are reserved in the proportion of their population to the total population	The minimum 50% of the seats are reserved for STs in Scheduled Area.	In the case of seats of members, minimum of 50% are reserved for STs and balance seats are reserved for other communities including SCs according to their percentage of population	The seats are reserved proportionately.	There is minimum 50% reservation of seats for STs and seats for SCs and OBCs are reserved in proportion to their population subject to an overall ceiling of 80% on reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs together.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6. Are the seats of chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels reserved for STs?	In Scheduled Areas the post of chairpersons at all levels is reserved for STs.	All seats of Sarpanchas of Gram Panchayats and Presidents of Mandal Parishads in the Scheduled Areas shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes the seats of chairpersons in Panchayats at all levels are reserved for STs in the Scheduled Areas of the Chhattisgarh	Yes	Wherever the tribal population of Panchayats exceeds 50%, the chairperson's seat is reserved for ST candidates.	The posts of chairpersons of panchayats at all levels are reserved for STs.
7. Are the Gram Panchayats consulted prior to acquisition of land in the Scheduled Areas for development projects?	Gram Sabha or Panchayati Raj Institutions as prescribed by the State Governments are required to be consulted. Preparation of actual plans and their implementation will be coordinated at the State level in the Scheduled Areas.	The Mandal Parishad shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the Scheduled Areas. The actual planning and implementation of the projects in the scheduled areas shall be coordinated at the State level.	The taluks Panchayat shall be consulted before acquiring land situated in the taluka for any development project.	The Gram Sabha shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the Scheduled areas for development projects.	Yes, the Gram Sabha is consulted.	The Gram Panchayats are consulted prior to acquisition of land in the Scheduled Tribe area for development projects. The three tier Panchayats have been authorised to coordinate the implementation of such projects.	No acquisition of land shall be made without consultation with the Zilla Parishad.	The Gram Panchayats need to be necessarily consulted prior to the acquisition of land in the scheduled areas for any development projects. However, no village Panchayat shall convey its views to the land acquisition authority without	There is no provision in the Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act 2001.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				the State level.				approval from the Gram Sabha. Various departments which are entrusted with the works/ projects are supposed to coordinate the development works.	
8. Who has been entrusted with the planning and management of minor water bodies in the scheduled Areas? If PRLs, has there also been devolution of funds for maintenance) and staff functionalities?	Yes, 80 to 300 hectare management of minor water sources has been shifted from irrigation department to Panchayati Raj Institutions and employees of different levels have been de- played. There salary and allowances are being paid by Panchayati Raj Institutions.	Planning and management of minor water bodies in the scheduled areas shall be entrusted to Gram Panchayats, Mandal Parishads or the Zilla Parishads, as the case may be, in such manner as may be prescribed.	The Gram Panchayat has been entrusted with the planning and management of minor water bodies in the scheduled areas.	Planning and management of minor water bodies in the scheduled areas shall be entrusted to Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis or the Zilla Parishads, as the case may be, in such manner as may be prescribed.	Gram Sabha.	The Gram Sabhas have been entrusted with the planning and management of minor water bodies in the Scheduled Areas of Chhattisgarh.	Zilla Parishad has been empowered to plan and manage minor water bodies.	The Gram Sabhas are expected to plan and carry out the management of minor water bodies, such as village tanks, percolation tanks, minor irrigation projects, etc. The management of minor water bodies has been entrusted to the village Panchayats.	Gram Sabha.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9. What is the legislative provision made in State Panchayat Act and above grant of prospecting licenses or mining leases for minor minerals in the scheduled Areas?	For minor minerals in scheduled areas any person or a body of persons such as Gram Sabha or Panchayati Raj Institutions will not accept mining lease without prior license or prior recommendations as prescribed in the Act. In this regard the department of mines has also issued notification dated 12.4.2002.	The recommendations of the Gram Panchayat, made in such manner as may be prescribed, shall be taken into consideration for grant of concession for the exploitation of minor minerals by auction.	All Gujarat covered under Prohibition Act	The Gram Panchayats have been empowered for enforcement of prohibition or	Law has been amended and concurrence of Gram Sabha is necessary	Chhattisgarh minor mineral Rules 1996 provide Gram Panchayats powers of	Licensing and exploitation of minor minerals for minor minerals will require approval from the Zilla Parishad.	The Gram Sabha has to be necessarily consulted for grant of prospecting licenses or mining leases for minor minerals in the scheduled areas.	There is no such provision in the Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act, 2001.
10. Whether Gram Sabha is empowered to enforce Prohibition or to regulate or restrict the	It is provided that at the level of Panchayati Raj Institutions or at the Gram	The Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers	All Gujarat covered under Prohibition Act	The Gram Panchayats have been empowered for enforcement of prohibition or	Tribals in Scheduled Areas are authorized to brew their own liquor subject to	Gram Sabha is empowered to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and	The Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas are empowered to enforce prohibition	For enforcing prohibition, the Gram Sabha has to resolve to the effect that consumption	There is no such provision in the Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act, 2001.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
sale and consumption of any intoxicant in PESA Areas? What system prevails?	Sabha level as may be prescribed under the rules framed for enforcers prohibition, are to regulate are restrict the sale and consumption of intoxicants in the scheduled areas.	and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of enforcement of prohibition or regulation or restriction of the sale and consumption any intoxicant.	regulation or restriction of the sale and consumption or any intoxicant.	certain conditions	consumption of any intoxicant in PESA Areas of Chhattisgarh.	and to regulate as well as restrict manufacturing, sale and consumption of intoxicants.	is totally prohibited.		
11. What is the status of ownership of minor forest produce in scheduled Areas? If there is a MFP Federation do the proceeds go to the GS/GP or shareholders in the cooperative? What is the	The control of Minor Forest Produce in scheduled areas will be with Panchayati Raj institutions or Gram Sabha as prescribed by the State Government.	The Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of	All activities regarding M.F.P. viz. collection, marketing and trading are entrusted to three tier Panchayats. M.F.P. are collected at village level stored at taluka level or block level and market	The ownership of MFP has not been transferred to the Panchayats, however, Pradhans of Gram Panchayats have been appointed as the Forest Officer for the issuance of pass for	Ownership lies with Gram Sabha. There is a MFP federation that gives back the money collected by the sale of Nationalized MFP to the individuals concerned.	The federation of the MFP has been set up in the State under cooperative Act of the State. The dividend and bonus is distributed to the shareholders, the collection charges of the <i>tendu</i>	Ownership of minor forest produce in the Scheduled Areas vests in GPs. Accordingly, 68 items of minor forest produce have been brought under the control of GPs to regulate the trading of	Though there has been a provision under Section 54A(f) of the Bombay Village and Panchayats Act, 1958 that the minor forest produce would be owned by the village panchayat	There is no such provision in the Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act 2001.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
experience in this regard?		the ownership of minor forest produce.	ing and trading are to be done at district level. Administrative support is provided to all district panchayats.	transport of Minor Forest Produce collected from the Forest in concerned Panchayat in respect of 37 species.		patta leaves are area also distributed to the tribals who collect leaves. The experience is satisfactory	these products.	and that the same would be disposed off by the Village Panchayat, this has not been happening in Maharashtra since the village panchayats are not yet so strong financially to handle the collection and sale of minor forest produce. In Maharashtra, Tribal Development Corporation has been entrusted with the purchase of 33 minor forest produce to be collected and sold. The permission of the Rural	

Development Department is taken on behalf of all village panchayats in the TSP area to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with. This is also done because the State of Maharashtra has already passed a legislation called. The Maharashtra Tribals Economic Condition (Improvement) Act, 1976, which authorized the TDC for monopoly purchase of all (33) items of minor forest produce.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
12. What is the role of Gram Sabhas to restore any unlawfully alienated land of STs in Scheduled Areas?	Under the prevailing law in the State Panchayati Raj Institutions or Gram Sabhas are empowered to take appropriate action.	The Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of prevention of alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.	District Panchayat is to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a ST in Scheduled Areas.	Section 3 of the HP Transfer of Land (Regulation) Act, 1968 provides that no person belonging to Scheduled Tribe shall transfer his interest in any land including any constructed premises to any person not belonging to such tribes except with the previous permission in writing of the State Government provided that the State Government before according such permission shall consult the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level.	Land Revenue code 1959 has been amended to empower Gram sabha.	The Gram Sabha has the power to prevent the alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas in Chhattisgarh and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of Scheduled Tribes.	In Scheduled Areas restoration of unlawfully alienated land belonging to a Scheduled Tribe is done by the Gram Panchayat under the control and supervision of the Gram Sabha.	Maharashtra has passed the following two legislation (i) Land Revenue and Tenancy Act 1974 and (ii) Restoration of tribal lands to the tribals Act, 1976. As provided in both the legislations referred to above, land belonging to the tribals cannot be transferred to the non-tribals and if at all that has taken place prior to 1974 it has necessarily to be restored to the tribal owner of the land. In exceptional cases if it is given on lease to the non-tribals, permission of the Collector/ State Government is mandatory.	Maharashtra has passed the following two legislation (i) Land Revenue and Tenancy Act 1974 and (ii) Restoration of tribal lands to the tribals Act, 1976. As provided in both the legislations referred to above, land belonging to the tribals cannot be transferred to the non-tribals and if at all that has taken place prior to 1974 it has necessarily to be restored to the tribal owner of the land. In exceptional cases if it is given on lease to the non-tribals, permission of the Collector/ State Government is mandatory.	There is no such provision in the Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act, 2001.

[English]

Nuclear Power Reactors in Tamil Nadu

2748. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the current status of the two nuclear power reactors which are proposed to be built at Kudankulam with foreign collaboration; and

(b) the details of the plan for obtaining enriched uranium for these new plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The work on two nuclear power reactors, each of 1000 MWe capacity was started in March, 2002 at Kudankulam in Tamilnadu. The project is being set up in technical cooperation with Russian Federation. A physical progress of 85% has been reached for this project.

(b) There is a sovereign guarantee for lifetime supply of fuel. First consignment of fuel has already been received at site.

National River Conservation Programme

2749. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated to various States under the National River Conservation Programme during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details of such funds released and utilized during the said period, State-wise, river-wise;

(c) the criteria for release of funds under this Programme;

(d) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the funds allocated to the States under the National River Conservation Programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the unspent funds lying with various States during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The pollution abatement works under the National River conservation Plan (NRCP) are implemented on cost sharing basis between Centre and the States through implementing agencies nominated by the States. Works taken up include interception and diversion of sewage for treatment in sewage treatment plants; low cost sanitation works; electric and/or improved wood crematoria; river front development works, public participation and awareness programmes etc. Budget allocation is made for the Plan as a whole taking into account the detailed project reports sanctioned and the overall progress of the works taken up under the NRCP. The details of the budget allocation for the last three years and the current financial year are as follows:—

Year	Rs. in crore
2005-06	297.20
2006-07	275.92
2007-08	256.69
2008-09	249.00

(b) The details of the funds released for the works taken up under the Plan in the identified polluted stretches of the rivers in the States and the expenditure reported to have been incurred during the last three financial years and the current financial year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (f) The Central assistance under the NRCP is released in the form of recurring grants from time to time directly to the implementing agencies of the State Governments. Funds are released commensurate with the progress of works reported. Submission of the utilization certificates for the funds released earlier, expenditure incurred and balance of funds available with the agencies are taken into account while releasing further funds. Considering that the funds are released in the form of recurring grants in stages, some amount normally remains with the implementing agencies for smooth implementation of the projects till the next installment of funds is received.

The details of the balance funds available with various agencies of the State Government during the last three financial years (as on 31st March of the year) are as follows:—

Year	Rs. in crore
2005-06	43.86
2006-07	75.78
2007-08	49.11

A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and

State level reviews the policy issues, financial and physical progress of works from time to time. Close coordination with the State Governments is ensured through field visits by the Officers of the Central Government to expedite progress of works in the States. At the Central level, the Steering Committee of National River Conservation Authority regularly monitors the implementation of the programme. The States have also been advised to synergize the activities of the various Departments/agencies at the implementation level through regular meetings and to sort out inter-sectorial issues relating to acquisition of land, power supply, mobilization of resources etc.

Statement

State-wise and Year-wise details of funds released by the Central Government along with expenditure reported by States during the last three financial years and the current financial year under the National River Conservation Plan*

(Rs. in crore)

State	River	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		Funds	Expendi- ture	Funds	Expendi- ture	Funds	Expendi- ture	Funds	Expendi- ture
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	Godavari and Musi	52.00	76.60	47.85	65.24	67.96	79.20	26.87	35.21
Bihar	Ganga	0.34	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	Yamuna	1.00	0.00	26.50	0.00	14.87	24.78	31.10	0.00
Góá	Mandovi	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	Sabarmati	0.00	5.22	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Haryana	Yamuna	4.24	5.09	7.77	4.53	3.15	9.95	13.60	5.66
Jharkhand	Damodar, Ganga and Subarnarekha	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	Bhadra, Tungabhadra, Cauvery, Tunga and Pennar	5.80	11.91	0.00	2.96	2.75	0.00	2.25	0.00
Kerala	Pamba	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.37	1.00	0.09	1.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Madhya Pradesh	Betwa, Tapti, Wainganga, Khan, Narmada, Kshipra, Beehar and Chambal	2.00	5.61	4.15	2.57	6.75	0.54	3.35	1.24
Maharashtra	Krishna and Godavari	10.70	8.54	10.09	13.46	5.21	5.24	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	Diphu and Dhansiri	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	Brahmini and Mahanadi	8.25	10.41	11.04	14.28	7.06	7.90	5.02	7.12
Punjab	Satluj	12.74	26.63	15.35	32.71	44.30	34.70	0.00	6.77
Rajasthan	Chambal	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sikkim	Rani Chu	1.66	0.04	5.05	8.05	4.79	0.00	2.63	6.54
Tamil Nadu	Cauvery, Adyar, Cooum, Vennar, Vaigai and Tambarani	103.07	238.25	82.72	102.93	18.40	27.78	6.75	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	Yamuna, Ganga and Gomti	16.78	25.57	38.65	50.05	37.66	56.64	74.75	78.54
Uttaranchal	Ganga	4.50	1.59	8.25	1.72	3.37	3.84	1.00	1.89
West Bengal	Ganga, Damodar and Mahananda	48.48	37.03	18.00	23.38	23.70	21.06	19.60	10.14
Total		277.24	452.52	275.49	323.25	241.92	271.99	187.92	153.11

*Expenditure incurred by States (Including State's share)

Anti-Terror Mechanism

2750. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Security Advisor has discussed the US anti-terror mechanism with the Department of US Homeland security; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes. National Security

Advisor has held discussions with concerned officials of the US administration in the area of counter terrorism, as part of Government's dialogue with the United States Government on a wide range of issues.

Visit of Pakistan's National Security Advisor to India

2751. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pakistan's National Security Advisor recently visited India as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 12 October, 2008;

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

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Mahmud Ali Durrani visited India from 13-14 October, 2008.

(b) and (c) The discussions covered all issues of mutual concern and interest, including the regional situation.

Attack on Indian Students in Foreign Universities

2752. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian students in foreign universities have been attacked recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) Details are being collected from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Status of Gadhuli-Santalpur Road

2753. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to USQ No. 3468 replied in Lok Sabha on 16.04.2008 regarding grant of

funds for the construction/improvement of Gadhuli-Santalpur road in Gujarat and to state :

(a) whether the amount of Rs. 127.16 crores has been considered/approved by the Union Government for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned and released in this regard; and

(c) if not, the present status of the proposal and the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The Gadhuli-Santalpur road is not a National Highway. The proposal of State Government Rs. 127.16 crore for Gadhuli-Santalpur road was returned to State Government for modification. The revised proposed amounting to Rs. 165.83 crore has since been received and is under consideration with the Government.

Fire Incidents in Coal Mines

2754. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mines where fire incidents have taken place during the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons thereof;

(b) the amount spent by the Government on the security of coal mines during the said period; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such incidents of fire in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) There were 52 number of fire incidents in 43 coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and 5 number of fire incidents in five coal mines of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last three years including current year. Reasons

of fire in coal mines are as under:—

The basic cause of coal mine fire is self-heating or auto-oxidation of coal that starts as soon as it is exposed to air in the course of mining operations. When the heat generated by the reaction of oxidation of coal is not dissipated at an adequate rate, rise in temperature occurs. This rise in temperature, in turn, accelerates the rate of oxidation, causing more heat and temperature, which ultimately leads to an outbreak of fire. This is termed as spontaneous combustion of coal, which depends on the intrinsic characteristics of coal and other extrinsic causes encountered in the course of mining operations. These causes may either facilitate or retard the initiation of mine fire.

The intrinsic properties are like chemical composition of coal (presence of certain macerals e.g. vitrinite etc.) moisture content, volatile matter, presence of pyrites and other geological factors (presence of igneous intrusion, faults etc.). The extrinsic causes include the method of mining (such as depillaring with caving, etc.), status of ventilation, presence of external combustible materials, un-scientific mining in pre-nationalized era etc. Some coal seams, especially in Raniganj, Jharia, South Karanpura coalfields, are more susceptible to spontaneous heating which increases the possibility of mine fire.

(b) and (c) CIL has made adequate provision for expenditure on safety of mines including provision for protection against mines fires etc. The details on expenditure on safety for the last three financial years and the current year (upto 2nd quarter) incurred by CIL are given below:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Financial Year	Amount spent
2005-06	51962.42
2006-07	56732.81
2007-08	53345.33
2008-09	29265.25

Coal Companies and Coal India Limited (CIL) are strictly complying with the provisions of Coal Mines Regulations (CMR), 1957 in regard to steps to be taken for fires in coal mines and other safety measures. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under Ministry of Labour and Employment administers the CMR.

Role of Genetic Factor in Determining HIV/AIDS

2755. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- whether scientists have discovered key genetic factor in determining HIV/AIDS risk;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether Indians are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than many other population groups around the world due to this factor;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A study titled 'Genetic Landscape of the People of India; A Canvas for Disease Gene Exploration' conducted by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India found that the protective gene marker against HIV-1 is virtually absent in India, making its population more at risk.

(b) Scientists at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi studied 200 people with HIV infection and 2000 healthy people over two years for the study. They found that the HLA-B*35-Px gene linked to rapid progression from HIV infection to AIDS is two-and-half times more common in Indians than a protective gene called HLA-B*35-Py. They also found that the protective gene was not present among Indians.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The findings of the above study show that the gene linked to rapid progression from HIV infection to AIDS is two-and-a-half times more common in

Indians and the protective gene was found to be absent among Indians. However, these findings have to be validated through further studies.

(e) NACO appreciates the fact that more studies are needed to understand host genetics and how it regulates disease progression in HIV/AIDS patients. ICMR is funding a study entitled "Analysis of HLA association among HIV patients co-infected with tuberculosis" to be carried out in North Indian and South Indian patients at PGIMER, Chandigarh and Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai respectively. More focused studies shall be initiated to understand the role of genetic factors in influencing risk of HIV/AIDS.

Lack of Basic Healthcare Facilities

2756. SHRI SURESH ANGADI :

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of children die due to lack of basic healthcare amenities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, inclusive the number of children died during the last three years and the current year; state-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether UNICEF and WHO have released any report in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) As per the National Family Health Survey-III (NFHS-III) (2005-06) the neonatal mortality rate is 39 per 1000 live births, the infant mortality rate is 57 per 1000 live births, and child mortality rate is 18.4 per 1000 live births. The year-wise figures and State-wise figure are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

As per the World Health Statistics Report 2008 of World Health Organisation, the neonatal mortality and

infant mortality rate for India is 39 per 1000 live births and 57 per 1000 live births respectively. And as per the State of World Children Report 2008 of UNICEF the infant mortality rate for 2006 for India is 57 per 1000 live births and neonatal mortality for the year 2000 is 43 per 1000 live births.

Action is being taken by the Union Government to bring down the infant and child mortality rate in the country. A major initiative is implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy, which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality — sepsis acute respiratory infections diarrhoea, measles and malaria, all compounded by malnutrition. In addition, thrust is being given to ensure institutional deliveries and train health personnel on essential newborn care so that skilled attendance at birth is available and all newborns receive specialized care. Efforts to deliver new born and child care, both facility based as well as home based, are being made. Micronutrient supplementation with Vitamin A, Iron Folic Acid and Zinc and Infant and Young Child Nutrition are being stressed. Immunization is one of the major thrust areas of the ongoing Reproductive and Child Health Programme. The National Rural Health Mission, launched in April, 2005 for a period of 7 years (2005 to 2012) is an overarching initiative with a holistic approach which provides multiple strategic additionalities, like provision for health infrastructure up-gradation and a health care workers for every 1000 population, among others and has envisaged reduction in neonatal, infant and child mortality as one of the prime goals to be achieved.

Statement-I

NFHS	Neonatal mortality rate	Infant mortality rate	Child mortality rate
NFHS-I (1992-93)	49	79	33
NFHS-II (1997-98)	43	68	29
NFHS-III (2005-06)	39	57	18

Statement-II**Childhood Mortality Rates by State**

Neonatal, postneonatal, infant child and under-five mortality rates for the five-year period preceding the survey, by State, India, 2005-06

State	Neonatal mortality	Infant mortality	Child mortality
1	2	3	4
India	39.7	57.0	18.4
Delhi	29.3	39.8	7.3
Haryana	23.6	41.7	11.1
Himachal Pradesh	27.3	36.1	5.6
Jammu and Kashmir	29.8	44.7	6.8
Punjab	28.0	41.7	10.8
Rajasthan	43.9	65.3	21.5
Uttaranchal	27.6	41.9	15.5
Chhattisgarh	51.1	70.8	21.0
Madhya Pradesh	44.9	69.5	26.5
Uttar Pradesh	47.6	72.7	25.6
Bihar	39.8	61.7	24.7
Jharkhand	48.6	68.7	26.1
Orissa	45.4	64.7	27.6
West Bengal	37.6	48.0	12.2
Arunachal Pradesh	34.0	60.7	28.8
Assam	45.5	66.1	20.2
Manipur	18.7	29.7	12.6
Meghalaya	23.6	44.6	27.1
Mizoram	16.3	34.1	19.5
Nagaland	19.8	38.3	27.5

1	2	3	4
Sikkim	19.4	33.7	6.7
Tripura	33.1	51.5	8.2
Goa	8.8	15.3	5.0
Gujarat	33.5	49.7	11.9
Maharashtra	31.8	37.5	9.5
Andhra Pradesh	40.3	53.5	10.2
Karnataka	28.9	43.2	12.1
Kerala	11.5	15.3	1.0
Tamil Nadu	19.1	30.4	5.3

Source: NFHS-III (2005-06)

Himatnagar Radio Station

2757. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to broadcast local programmes at Himatnagar Radio Station;

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

(c) whether the Himatnagar All India Radio is linked with Ahmedabad Road Station; and

(d) if so, the time by which it would commence its own independent programmes related to tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati (AIR) have informed that All India Radio, Himatnagar has already started the broadcast of Local Programmes including those for Tribal and Rural areas w.e.f. 28.10.2008 with a daily regular Transmission from 5.48 A.M. to 10.00 A.M.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Station originates its own programmes instead of linkage with AIR, Ahmedabad with

the exception of relaying news bulletins and news-letters from Ahmedabad and Delhi. The Station has commenced its own independent programmes related to tribal areas w.e.f. 28.10.2008.

Income Disparity between Urban and Rural People

2758. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI MANIK SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a big gap between the per capita income of the urban and the rural people in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) According to the Information available from Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita income measured in terms of Net Domestic Product (NDP) at factor cost was Rs. 10606 and Rs. 30217 respectively for the rural and urban areas in 1999-2000, at current prices. As per this the per capita income in urban areas was 2.85 times higher than in the rural areas in 1999-2000. No information giving the rural-urban differences in income level is available after 1999-2000.

(b) The gap in the per capita income between rural and urban areas result from varying factors such as differences in resource endowment, historical and geographical factors, availability of infrastructure, etc.

(c) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set the growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approxi-

mately 10% by the end of its period. The Government has given priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and increasing the income of rural population. Besides, a number of programmes/schemes have been formulated in the Eleventh Plan to improve the level of living and quality of life of the rural population. These measures are expected to increase the income levels in the rural areas and reduce the disparity in the per capita income between rural and urban areas.

High Wall Mining Technology

2759. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :
DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SSCL) has decided to bring "High Wall Mining" technology which undertake mining of thin coal seams with high productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of the tenders floated for the technology and name of the companies empanelled for the purpose;

(c) whether any violation by any of the companies has been noticed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To conserve and facilitate the optimum extraction of valuable coal reserves locked beneath high walls in opencast mines, Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) has placed order for production of coal using high wall mining technology. The work has been awarded to M/s Advanced Mining Technology Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad stipulating the following major criteria for the above technology provider:—

(1) Eligibility:—

(a) Manufacturer having major equipment in the proposed technology for at least 5 years. or

(b) Successfully operated in operation of the proposed method of mining for at least 5 years. or

(c) In case of a bidder, not falling in clause (a) or (b) above the bidder should have a legally binding agreement with the manufacturer mentioned at clause (a) or operation mentioned at clause (b) above. Such agreement should confirm that the bidder would have the necessary services from such organization upto the period of this contract.

(2) **Scope of Work:** The scope of work includes the following:—

Phase-I:

Conducting site scientific investigations, Preparing study report, Design and obtaining Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) approval for technology and equipment.

Phase-II:

Mining contract for production of coal on Cost at per tonne basis. The payment for the Phase-I work will be payable after obtaining the permission from DGMS for coal production. 25% of the total amount would be paid on getting DGMS approval for each project in sequence of operation. These studies shall be completed in 4 months.

(3) **Payment Methodology:**

Payment for production of coal will be made on fortnightly basis for the coal produced during the 15 days within the next 15 days.

Basis of payment would be on tonnage produced by arranging a Belt Weigher or on surveyed volume calculated on the agreed survey method.

(c) There has been no violation of tender conditions.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

Blood Banks

2760. SHRIMATI K. RANI :

SHRI GANESH SINGH :

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL :

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blood banks alongwith shortage, if any, in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more blood banks in rural and urban areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) There is no reported shortage of blood banks in the country. A Statement indicating State-wise number of blood banks is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under the Blood Safety component of National AIDS Control Programme – Phase III, 39 districts have been identified having no blood banks in the public sector. Out of these 39 districts, blood banks in 8 districts have already started functioning. In the remaining 31 districts, once the civil construction is completed and manpower is deployed by the State Government, these blood banks will also be made operational by providing essential equipments and annual Government, these blood banks will also be made operational by providing essential equipments and annual recurrent grant for consumables and salary of one laboratory technician as per the approved pattern of assistance, from Government of India.

To ensure access to safe and quality blood for far-flung areas, it is proposed to establish Blood Storage Centres in First Referral Units. A target to set up 3222 such Blood Storage Centres have been fixed for Phase-III of National AIDS Control Programme, of which 436 Blood Storage Centres have been made operational as on date.

Statement

State wise licensed Blood Banks in the country as on 05/11/2008

Sl. No.	State	Government	Voluntary	Private Hospital	Private Charitable	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2				2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	71	55	86	53	265
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1			3
4.	Assam	41	4	23	6	74
5.	Bihar	44	7	13	22	86
6.	Chandigarh	3	1			4
7.	Chhattisgarh	18	3	6	13	40
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1			1
9.	Daman and Diu	1				1
10.	Delhi	22	4	24	7	57
11.	Goa	5		2	3	10
12.	Gujarat	31	77	9	70	187
13.	Haryana	17	8	19	12	56
14.	Himachal Pradesh	21	1			22
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	25		1		26
16.	Jharkhand	12		6	2	18
17.	Karnataka	42	25	80	41	188
18.	Kerala	37	5	102	10	154
19.	Madhya Pradesh	48	22	26	32	128
20.	Maharashtra	84	39	75	100	298
21.	Manipur	3				3
22.	Meghalaya	6		2		9
23.	Mizoram	4		2		6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Nagaland	4				4
25.	Orissa	6	52	15	2	75
26.	Pondicherry	5		9	1	15
27.	Punjab	51	8	39	2	100
28.	Rajasthan	49	6	15	7	77
29.	Sikkim	3				3
30.	Tamil Nadu	101	25	85	58	269
31.	Tripura	3		4		7
32.	Uttar Pradesh	73	13	49	53	188
33.	Uttarakhand	17	4	5	1	27
34.	West Bengal	70	6	17	22	115
Total		922	367	714	517	2519

Waterway Services from Badarpur to Kolkata

2761. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the jetties on the waterway constructed in Karimganj on river Kushiara and Badarpur on the river Barak for waterway services from Badarpur-Kolkata-Badarpur are decaying because the services have not yet started on the waterway;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to commence the waterway services between Badarpur and Kolkata;

(d) If so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the aforesaid services is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) The

terminals at Karimganj and Badarpur are located on the Barak river in the lower reaches of Assam. Badarpur terminal is situated in the stretch of river Barak which has been proposed to be declared as National Waterways (Lakhipur – Bhanga stretch of river Barak) under an Act of the Parliament.

It is further stated that Central Inland Water Transport Ltd. (CIWTC Ltd.), a Public Sector undertaking under the Department of Shipping, has commenced regular cargo services between Kolkata/Badarpur since 2006. During the last three years following cargoes have been carried between Kolkata to Badarpur/Karimganj:—

Year	Quantity carried in Metric Tonnes
2006-07	3692
2007-08	7140
2008-09 (till November, 2008)	2700
Total	13,532 Metric Tonnes

The Badarpur terminal has also recently been modernized at a cost of Rs. 3.68 crore from the funds provided by the North East Council. However, the Badarpur terminal of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. (CIWTC Ltd.) has been operational from the last three years.

So far as the Karimganj terminal of CIWTC Ltd. is concerned, it has been fully operational from the last many years and cargo has been moved from/to Karimganj/Bangladesh/Kolkata.

[Translation]

Pollution in Coastal Region of Gujarat

2762. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Government regarding increasing pollution in coastal region of Southern Gujarat.

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

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

(d) the success achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has conducted studies on various aspects relating to assessment and control of coastal pollution including the coastal region of Southern Gujarat and brought out the following publications:—

- i. Municipal Sewage Pollution along with Indian Coastal Water;
- ii. Pollution Potential from Coastal Aquacultures;
- iii. Oil Pollution and the Marine Environment;
- iv. Prevention and Control of Marine Pollution-

Legislation, Impact Assessment and Management;

- v. Study of Pollution and Environment management in Ports and Harbours; and
- vi. Study on Coastal Fragile Area.

The Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) has also conducted a separate study through the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and a report titled "Monitoring of selected Estuaries along South Gujarat Coast" has been brought out.

Approximately, 329 million litre per day (mld) of sewage is generated in Coastal Gujarat and treatment capacity for 76 mld has been set up. The NIO's findings indicate that the Gulf of Khambhat has a high potential for dilution and dispersal of contaminants. Sewage coming out from the Municipalities must be treated before discharge into the estuaries.

(c) The GPCB has taken following steps:

- i. Prepared action plan for monitoring of coastal waters;
- ii. Started reviewing the earlier Common Consent and Authorization (CCA) granted to various industrial units;
- iii. New Common Effluent Treatment Plans (CETPs) for the Textile Industries located in Kadodara Area of Surat district established;
- iv. Upgradation of CETPs at Vapi, Ankleshwar and Panoli under progress;
- v. Upgradation of Effluent Channel Project (ECP) of Vadodara;
- vi. All the concerned municipalities directed to provide sewage treatment plants; and
- vii. Concerned CETPs/Industries directed to provide treated effluent conveyance pipelines for disposal of their treated effluent deep into sea.

(d) Marginal improvement in the coastal water quality has been reported by the GPCB as a result of above steps.

Pending Pollution Cases

2763. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pollution related cases pending before the Government at present alongwith the date of pendency of these cases and the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) As per the information available (as on 31.12.2007) from Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories, out of 8513 cases filed under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, 3548 cases were pending in the different Courts on account of various reasons. The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and NCT Delhi have set up designated Courts to deal with the Environment related cases. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Green Benches have been constituted in the High Courts of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Appointment on Fake SC/ST/OBC Certificates

2764. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some people have been appointed on the basis of fake SC, ST and OBC certificates in the offices under the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the inquiry being conducted in this regard is very slow; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Some complaints of appointment on the basis of fake caste certificates have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (d) Information about fake caste certificates is not centrally maintained.

If it is established that a candidate has secured employment on the basis of a fake certificate, he is removed from the service.

[English]

Financial Support for Road Transport

2765. SHRI P.C. THOMAS Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether various State Government have requested for exemption of Excise duty on diesel, vehicle and body building equipments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests for exemption from excise duty on vehicles and body building equipments have been received from Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. The Tamil Nadu Government has requested for complete removal of excise duty on capital goods and spare parts going into the manufacture of bus along with chassis bodies and excise duty exemption for public transport buses. Further, a request for duty waiver on bus body building activity, under section 11C has been received from the State of Kerala. No request for exemption of duty on diesel from the State Governments has been received.

During the current year, excise duty has been reduced as below:—

(i) In budget 2008-09 Government has reduced duty on all types of buses and passenger vehicles meant for transport of more than

13 persons including driver from 16% to 12% and duties on chassis for such vehicles was reduced from 16% + Rs. 10000 to 12% + Rs. 10000.

- (ii) With effect from 7.12.2008 these duties have been further reduced to 8% *ad-valorem* and 8% + Rs. 10000 respectively.

No further proposal for further reduction in duty rates is under consideration.

[Translation]

Nomination of Government Officers in Trusts

2766. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government Officers have been nominated to the trusts functioning in the country; and

(b) if so, the purpose behind such nominations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Production and Consumption of Tobacco

2767. DR. ARVIND SHARMA :
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to discourage the production and consumption of tobacco by imposing high duty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The rates of excise duty applicable to tobacco products such as cigarettes, chewing tobacco, gutkha etc. are already much

higher than the mean CENVAT rate of 10% *ad volaram* since these goods are treated as demerit goods.

(b) At present, cigarettes attract specific rates ranging from Rs. 819 to Rs. 2163 per thousand cigarettes (excluding education cesses), chewing tobacco etc. attracts a total duty of 66% (excluding education cesses) and pan masala (with tobacco) attracts duty on per machine basis, ranging from a monthly levy of Rs. 12.5 lakhs per machine to beyond Rs. 70 lakhs per machine depending on the price denomination of the pouch. The duty on biris varies from Rs. 14 per thousand to Rs. 26 per thousand (excluding education cesses).

Doing Business Report 2009

2768. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Finance Commission and World Bank have prepared 'Doing Business Report 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the position India secured in the Report;

(c) whether India has secured low position due to its cumbersome tax and legal procedure; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report compares global economies in terms of ease of doing business based on ten parameters namely; Starting a Business, Dealing with Licenses, Employing Workers, Registering Property, Getting Credit, Protecting Investors, Paying Taxes, Trading Across Borders, Enforcing Contracts and Closing a Business. The 2009 Doing Business Report has ranked India at 122nd position out of 181 countries compared globally in the report on ease of doing business.

(c) India's position on 'Paying Taxes' parameter is 169 and on 'Enforcing Contracts' is 180.

(d) The Government of India in partnership with various States Governments and Business Associations is making concerned efforts to make regulations conducive for business. The reforms include setting up of single windows, standardization of documents, simplification of taxes, online registrations/filing and payment of taxes and computerizations and introduction of Case Management System in Courts (eCourts).

Import duty on Food Products

2769. PROF. M. RAMADASS :

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the existing import duty on various items of food products;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the import duty to protect the domestic food products; and

(c) if so, the rate of import duty proposed to be levied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The current basic customs duty rates applicable to certain essential food products are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration. However, import duties are reviewed periodically on the basis of number of factors including the international and domestic prices of a commodity, domestic availability, the interests of the consumers, the impact on domestic producers, the administrative feasibility of collection and revenue consideration.

Statement

Description	Basic customs duty rate
1	2
Pulses	0%
Rice in husk	80%

1	2
Husked rice (brown rice, broken rice)	80%
Semi milled or wholly, milled rice	0%
Wheat	0%
Wheat flour	0%
Sugar	60%
Butter and Ghee	30%
Milk powder	5% (TRQ 10000 MT)
Milk Powder	60% (outside TRQ)
Onions	5%
Potatoes	30
Vanaspati	7.5%
Soyabean edible oil (Crude)	20%
Soyabean edible oil refined	7.5%
All other crude edible oils	Nil
All other refined edible oils	7.5%

Disinvestment in NALCO

2770. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to disinvest its holding in National Aluminium Capacity Limited (NALCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government intends to infuse fresh equity into the company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Government does not propose to disinvest its holding in National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).

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

(c) No Sir, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to infuse fresh equity into National Aluminium Company Limited.

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

[Translation]

Loan to Backward Classes

2771. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has directed the banks to disburse 10% of their total loan to backward classes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) As per Reserve Bank of India's instructions on Priority Sector Lending, 10 per cent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit of credit equivalent amount of off Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, has been earmarked for advances to Weaker Sections. The Weaker Sections under Priority Sector Lending include the following:—

- (a) small and marginal farmers with land holding of 5 acres and less, and landless labourers, tenant farmers and share croppers;
- (b) Artisans, village and cottage industries where individual credit limits do not exceed Rs. 50,000;
- (c) Beneficiaries of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);
- (d) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
- (e) Beneficiaries of Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme;

(f) Beneficiaries under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);

(g) Beneficiaries under the Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS);

(h) Advances of Self Help Groups;

(i) Loans to distressed poor to prepay their debt to informal sector, against appropriate collateral or group security.

(j) Loans granted under (a) to (i) above to persons from minority communities as may be notified by Government of India from time to time. In States, where one of the minority communities notified is, in fact, in majority, item (j) will cover only the other notified minorities. These States/ Union Territories are Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Lakshadweep.

Granting of Loan by Grameen Banks in Jharkhand

2772. SHRI GHURAN RAM Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases/reports of non-granting of agricultural loan to customers/farmers in Jharkhand have come to the notice of Union Government during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) No specific report of refusal of agricultural loan to customers/farmers in Jharkhand has come to the notice of the Government. All banks have robust internal grievance redressal mechanism to address customer complaints including denial of agricultural loans to the farmers. Various instructions have been issued to banks from time to time in this regard. Any genuine grievance is attended to by the concerned bank.

Besides, the Government of India has taken the following steps to ensure increased accessibility to credit by the farmers:—

- The Government of India (GoI) is providing interest subvention to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their own funds and concessional refinance to Cooperative Banks and RRBs to ensure Short Term crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh to farmers at interest rate of 7% per annum at the ground level.
- The flow of agricultural credit has tripled in the last four years from Rs. 86,981 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 2,43,570 crore in 2007-08.
- Banks have simplified the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans.
- Loans upto Rs. 50,000/- have been made collateral and margin free and the requirement of 'No Dues Certificate' has been dispensed with.
- Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards.
- Banks have been instructed to achieve financial outreach through provision of a General Credit Card to households, to open "No Frills" accounts with limited overdraft facilities, to extend financial outreach by utilizing services of Civil Society Organisation like Farmers Clubs, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Post Offices as Business Facilitator/Business Correspondent Model, etc.

[English]

Implementation of Pension Order

2773. SHRI M. SHIVANNA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) has not yet implemented revised pension as per the orders to the recommendation of 6th Central Pay Commission;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of branches of the Bank in Delhi which have not yet implemented the above order;

(d) whether the Government proposes to direct the SBI to implement the new pension orders at the earliest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (e) State Bank of India has reported that all the 8455 authorised branches of the bank including those in Delhi have already implemented, in majority of the eligible cases, the revised pensioners pay scales as per the Government order with regard to implementation of recommendation of the 6th Central Pay Commission in the Country. However, some of the cases are yet to be cleared due to certain technical reasons. These have also been taken up by the bank for early clearance.

Board of Directors in Banks and Financial Institutions

2774. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Board of Directors in Banks and Financial Institutions have been reconstituted during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any violation of Government policy has been reported by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Board of Directors of Nationalised Banks are constituted under the provisions of Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 (the Act). The following amendments were given

effect to, for reconstitution of the Boards of Nationalised Banks:—

1. Reconstituted on 26.9.2006 by amending the Act namely, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Act, 2006 (effective from 16.10.2006) providing, *inter alia*, for increase in number of whole time directors from two to a maximum of four; provision of a director representing SEBI/NABARD etc. deleted; depending on shareholding pattern of the Bank, not more than six part-time non-official directors are required to be nominated by the Central Government. In the case of those banks which have raised capital by public issue of shares, these six part-time non-official directors shall be replaced in a phased manner by directors elected by the share-holders other than the Central Government, as indicated below:—

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------------------|
| (a). | Where not more than 16% of the total paid up capital is held by the public | not more than 1 director |
| (b) | where more than 16% but not more than 32% of the total up capital is held by the public | not more than 2 directors |
| (c) | where more than 32% of the total paid up capita is held by the public | not more than 3 directors |

It has further been provided that one director, possessing necessary expertise and experience in matters relating to regulation or supervision of commercial banks, shall be nominated by the Central Government on the recommendations of the Reserve Bank. Further, by amending the clause 9 (2) of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme 1970/1980 (effective from 19.02.2007), the tenure of directors nominated under clause 9(3)(g) and 9(3)(h) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act 1970/1980, has been restricted to three years

and they cease to exist after the expiry of their tenure.

2. In so far as FIs are concerned, there has not been any amendment to the Act governing such appointment, which may lead to reconstitution of their Board.

(c) and (d) No violation of Government policy has been reported while reconstituting the Boards.

[Translation]

Economic Package

2775. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government has recently announced any economic package to boost economy and overcome the recession in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) There is recession in the economy. However, in the wake of global financial crisis, the Government, with a view to safeguard the growth process, has announced fiscal stimulus measures on 7.12.2008. Some of the major announcements are:—

1. **Central Excise** : (i) The three major *ad valorem* rates of Central Excise duty viz. 14%, 12% and 8% applicable to non-petroleum products have been reduced by 4 percentage points each to 10%, 8% and 4% respectively. (ii) The *ad valorem* component of central excise on cars has been reduced from 24% to 20%. (iii) In the case of cement, which attracts either the *ad valorem* rate of 12% or specific rates (Rs/metric tonne) depending upon the retail sale price, the specific rates have been reduced in the same proportion as the *ad valorem* rate. The concessional rates for cement produced by mini-cement plants have been reduced proportion-

ately. Bulk cement would now be chargeable to either 10% *ad valorem* of Rs. 280/- per tonne, whichever is higher. (iv) The rate of duty on cotton textiles and textile articles has been reduced from 4% to Nil.

2. **Custom duty:** Import of Naphtha for generation of electric energy has been fully exempted from basic customs duty. This exemption will be available upto 31.03.2009.
3. **Export duty on iron ores:** The export duty of 8% on iron ore fines has been withdrawn while the rate of export duty on iron ore lumps has been reduced from 15% to 5% *ad valorem*.
4. **Service Tax:** (i) The benefit of refund of service tax paid by exporters has been extended to services provided by clearing and forwarding agent to exporters also. (ii) The threshold limit of refund of service tax paid by exporters on foreign commission agent services has been enhanced from 2% of FOB value to 10% of FOB value of export goods. (iii) Drawback benefit can now be availed of simultaneously with refund of service tax paid in respect of exports.

5. **Other measures**

- Additional plan expenditure of upto Rs. 20,000 crore in the current year.
- Ensure full utilisation of funds already provided, so that the pace of expenditure is maintained.
- The total spending programme in the balance four months of the current fiscal year, taking plan and non-plan expenditure together is expected to be Rs. 300,000 crore.
- Additional funds of Rs. 1100 crore to ensure full refund to Terminal Excise duty/ Central Sales Tax (CST), additional allocation Rs. 350 crore for export incentive schemes and Government back up

guarantee to Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) to the extent of Rs. 350 crore to provide guarantees for export to difficult markets/products have been announced.

- Additional allocation of Rs. 1400 crore to clear the entire backlog in Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme has been announced.
- Inclusion of all items of handicrafts under 'Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana' has been announced.
- India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) to raise Rs. 10,000 crore through ex-free bonds by 31/3/2009 to refinance bank lending of longer maturity to eligible infrastructure projects, particularly in highways and port sectors.
- The need for initiatives for increased funds flow from public sector banks to housing and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) have been announced.

[English]

Rural Healthcare System

2776. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rural healthcare infrastructure in the country is functioning only on papers as reported in the 'Times of India' dated 02 October, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has expressed concern over the functioning of the rural healthcare system in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps taken by the Government to improve the conditions of rural healthcare centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No observation has come to the notice of Government over the functioning of rural healthcare system in any order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. There was, however, coverage in the Newspaper regarding remarks of learned judges.

(e) The endeavor of the Government through National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is to provide accessible affordable and quality health care to rural population, especially to the vulnerable section wherein upgradation/strengthening/establishment of new Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres is an ongoing process depending upon the need on the basis of population, caseload and distance. The need is projected by the State/UT Governments in their annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) that are approved by National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) under NRHM, infrastructure strengthening being the major thrust area under NRHM.

Functioning of Public Health System

2777. ADV. SURESH KURUP :

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the functioning of public health system is affected due to non-availability of key health functionaries, especially doctors and nurses;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States worst affected; as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) There is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors and nurses in the country. As per information furnished by Medical Council of India at present there are 7,13,428 allopathic registered doctors in the country. Apart from this, there are 290 medical colleges with 33,482 annual intake capacity of MBBS students and students passing out from these medical colleges every year are also adding to the strength of doctors in the country. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy in the country. However, there is an imbalance in the availability of doctors in the rural and urban areas of the country. As regard nurses, the total number of registered nurses with various state nursing Councils is 9.28 lakhs. Currently, there are 1597 Graduate Nursing Midwifery (GNM) Schools functioning in the country with an intake capacity of 80000 students (approximately) per year. In order to expand the facilities of Medical Education and health related services, under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) the Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in under served states and also to upgrade 13 existing Government Medical College/Institutions in ten States. Further, the Government encourages setting up of new college in the Government as well as private sector and also increase in intake capacity of medical students. The Government has approved the amendment to the Medical Council of India regulations to allow utilization of district hospital as teaching hospital by the promoter of private medical colleges under public private partnership model in the underserved areas in the country and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) focused States.

Under NRHM, all PHCs are envisaged to be strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posing by AYUSH practitioners and skilled nurses at PHC level. The States are encouraged to appoint doctors, specialists and paramedics on contractual basis. Multi-skill training of doctors and inservice training of ANMs/ Nurses is being done. The States have been requested to strengthen their nursing cadre. Requirement of funds for establishment/strengthening of nursing and Auxillary Nurse Midwife (ANM) schools, as incorporated in the Programme

Implementation Plan (PIP) of some States under NRHM (2006-07) has been approved.

Strategic frame work has been prepared to meet shortage of nurses in future in the following manner:—

- (i) Establishment Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) and General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) schools in those districts (230) which are not having both these training programmes.
- (ii) Establishing post graduation Nursing (M.Sc. (Nursing)) Institutions.
- (iii) Developing Cadre of nurse midwifery practitioners and establishing training institutions.

Diversion of Funds for NER

2778. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds allocated under the North East Special Package were diverted for setting up of Transmitters in West Bengal and Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the details and amount of such diverted funds alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/steps taken by the Government to restore the funds for North Eastern Region (NER)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Financial Crunch in Real Estate Industry

2779. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Real Estate industry is facing financial crunch at present;

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

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) According to data made available by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there was a sharp deceleration in the half yearly credit growth in the real estate and housing sector during the current financial year. This was partly on account of the liquidity crunch following the ongoing financial crisis.

(c) and (d) The RBI has taken a number of steps to improve liquidity for the Real Estate Sector. These measures include reduction in risk weight on exposure to Commercial Real Estate from 150% to 100% reduction in provisioning requirement for all type of sub-standard assets to a uniform level of 0.4%, refinance facility for National Housing Bank (NHB) for an amount of Rs. 4,000 crore and concessional treatment to the commercial real estate exposure restructured upto June 30th, 2009.

Controlling the Supply of Money

2780. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is controlling the supply of money to bring down the rates of essential commodities and inflation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) While fiscal and administrative measures are taken by the Government, monetary measures are initiated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which in tandem facilitate growth and contain inflation.

During periods of high inflation, the RBI regulates money supply in order to control inflation and vice-versa.

During the current financial year, when inflation was in double digit, steps were taken by the RBI to curtail money supply by increasing the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and the Repo rate. With inflation coming down from its peak level of August, 2008 and in the wake of global financial crisis, contra measures were announced by the RBI, to expand money supply, by reducing the CRR, Repo and Reserve repo rates and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). A table on the movement of these rates is given below:—

Revision in Policy Rates

Sl. No.	Date	Repo Rate	Reserve Repo Rate	CRR	SLR
1.	As on August 30, 2008	9.0	6.0	9.0	25.0
2.	October 11, 2008	9.0	6.0	6.5	25.0
3.	October 20, 2008	8.0	6.0	6.5	25.0
4.	October 25, 2008	8.0	6.0	6.0	25.0
5.	November 3, 2008	7.5	6.0	6.0	25.0
6.	November 8, 2008	7.5	6.0	5.5	24.0
7.	December 6, 2008	6.5	5.0	5.5	24.0

Note:

Figures in bold indicate the change effected by RBI

CRR: Cash Reserve Ratio

SLR: Statutory Liquidity Ratio

Estimates for Plantation

2781. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of estimates made by the Planning Commission for plantation in the country during the current Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : As per the State of Forest Report,

2005, the current forest, and tree cover is 768751 sq. km which account for 23.39% of the geographical area of the country. The target for the current Plan period is to bring 1% of the total geographical area every year and a total of 5% under forest and tree cover. During the Eleventh Plan, a total outlay of Rs. 3700 cr. has been provided for the National Afforestation Program (Rs. 2000 cr.) the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (Rs. 800 cr.) and Social Forestry with Communities (Rs. 900 cr.), which involve plantation. A National Mission "Green India" to achieve the target has been launched in 2008. The Mission will be implemented by the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Rs. 250 cr. has been allocated to the NAEB for the Eleventh Plan. In respect of rubber, tea and coffee plantations the total outlay for the current plan period is Rs. 569.17 crores. The area to be covered for plantation and re-plantation for rubber and new tea plantation is 8350 ha and 8000 ha. respectively.

National Tiger Conservation Authority

2782. SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the difference in the role as per mandate entrusted to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and project Tiger in the mission towards protection of Tigers;

(b) the extent of success achieved by NTCA and Project Tiger respectively;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Tiger Conservation Authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against the poachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act. 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of

Environment and Forests, providing funding support to tiger range States, for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves.

(b) The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been successful in fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees. Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as revealed by the recent findings of the All India tiger estimation using the refined methodology. This independent report also highlights the achievement of Project Tiger by showing that viable tiger population exists only in Project Tiger areas under the jurisdiction of Project Tiger, while outside populations are highly depleted.

(c) and (d) Based on enabling provisions made in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through an amendment in 2006, the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Tiger and Other Endangered Special Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) have already been constituted and operationalised. Further, through the said amendment, the penalty for offences relating to tiger reserves has also been enhanced. Funding support to tiger reserves is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, which includes protection and antipoaching operations. Since day-to-day management to Tiger Reserve is done by States, details of action taken against individual poachers are not collated at Government of India level.

Selection of MPs for International Ministerial Delegations

2783. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Members of Parliament are included in various delegations for International/ministerial conferences;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms for selection/nomination of such MPs;

(c) whether the clearance from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs or any other authority is mandatory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) Members of Parliament are included by various Ministries in the delegations sent by them for International/Ministerial Conferences, whenever their presence is considered necessary. The selection of Members of Parliament for inclusion in a Government sponsored delegation is to be made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, wherever necessary, in consultation with Leaders of various Parliamentary Parties/the Minister in charge of the administrative Ministry. While making the nominations, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs keeps in view the aptitude, experience and suitability of Members of Parliament and also the need of their availability for other urgent Parliamentary work. Clearance of the Ministry of External Affairs from the political angle and that of the Ministry of Home Affairs, if foreign hospitality is availed, are also necessary.

Relaxation of Norms for Establishing Colleges

2784. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to relax norms for establishing medical colleges in the country to meet the shortfall of medical practitioners in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Government has conveyed its decision to the Medical Council of India (MCI) to revise the norms prescribed for opening of new medical colleges in MCI Regulations on Minimum Standard Requirement for Medical colleges for 50/10/150 MBBS Admission Annually. Relaxations have been given in the norms for land requirement criteria for campus, bed strength, indoor

occupancy for opening of medical colleges in the States where National Rural Health Mission is operational, North Eastern States, Hill states and Hilly districts in other States. For opening of new Medical Colleges in these areas the total land requirement will be 20 acres in not more than two pieces of land separated by a distance of 15 km as against 25 acres prescribed for other parts of the country. The land separated by a road or canal connected with a bridge shall be treated as one piece of land for opening of Medical Colleges. The criteria relating to bed strength in the teaching hospitals at the time of starting Medical College has been relaxed to 250 beds as against the 300 beds prescribe for other parts of the country. The criteria for indoor bed occupancy in these areas as in relaxed to 60%. This will help in opening of new medical colleges in unserved and under-served areas of the country and also increase the number of medical colleges as well as production of doctors in the country. These decisions will take effect only on notification by the Medical Council of India.

NH Projects in Karnataka

2785. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of National Highways projects for six-laning, four-laning and two-laning undertaken/likely to be undertaken in Karnataka, Project-wise;
- (b) the status of each of the projects;
- (c) the fund released and spent therefrom on these projects, Project-wise; and
- (d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, seven projects for four laning aggregating a length of 239 km and eighteen projects for two laning aggregation a length of 129 km have been completed. Two projects for six laning aggregating a length of 34 km, thirteen projects for four laning aggregating a length of 452 km and sixteen

projects for two laning aggregating a length of 151 km are under progress.

(c) An amount of Rs. 555 crore on six laning, Rs. 3399 crore on four laning and Rs. 93 crore on two laning has been spent.

(d) The projects in progress are at various stages of implementation and likely to be completed in two years time.

Joint Power Venture of NTPC and CIL

2786. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Coal India Limited (CIL) propose to set up two power plants in West Bengal in joint collaboration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and spent therefrom in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) and (b) An MOU has been signed between CIL and NTPC on 15.03.2007 to promote one or more Joint Venture Companies with the aim of jointly undertaking development of coal blocks (including already identified coal blocks viz. Chickro-Patsimal and Brahmani) and Integrated Coal based Power Plants.

(c) Only MOU has been signed and so far no expenditure has been incurred on this project.

(d) The time for commencement of the project can be ascertained only after the finalization of the Joint Venture.

Rural Business HUBS

2787. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the Rural Business Hubs (RBHs)

in the villages located in different States alongwith the benefit accrued as a result thereof, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government proposes to broad-base the scope of Rural Business Hubs (RBHs); and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) As of now MoUs have been signed for setting up 162 RBHs in 15 States, including Tamil Nadu. Details are given in the enclosed Statement. RBH initiative is aimed at linking the rural products/producers with the national/international markets through establishing business relationship and assured buy back arrangements. The role and responsibility of the different stake holders are clearly defined in the MoUs. Work on 30 RBHs has started so far in different parts of the country. These RBHs have facilitated the cultivation and marketing of Jatropha in Haryana, Assam, Tripura and Jharkhand with assured buy back of seeds based on a transparent pricing mechanism. Through the RBHs, market linkages have been

established for passion fruit in Manipur, fruit and vegetables in Uttarakhand, pulses and chillies processing in Rajasthan and lac and tamarind in Jharkhand. RBHs have also provided marketing avenues in sericulture, dairy products, vermi compost and compressed bricks in Tamil Nadu. Besides these, hand knotted carpets in Rajasthan, bell metal and wooden handicrafts in Chhattisgarh and folk arts in West Bengal are being marketed through RBI initiatives.

Thus,, the RBH initiative is taking the benefits of economic development to the rural areas of the country through promotion of Public-Private-Panchayat Partnership. This will also help in developing a holistic and integrated partnership between decentralized rural production units and larger marketing entities.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. While the present RBH initiative is focused in 33 districts identified in consultation with the State Governments and services of Gateway Agencies have been made available to these districts for land holding the Panchayats in getting the projects going, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in partnership with State Governments, plans to expand coverage to each of the 6100 intermediate Panchayats of the country.

Statement

List of MOUs Signed Under the RBH Initiative

Sl. No.	Date of signing	Name of GP/BP/District/State	Name of the Company	Product
1	2	3	4	5
1.	13.8.05	Ramgarh Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Neemrana Group and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
2.	13.8.05	Betalghat Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Jai kali Gramodyog Phal Sangrakshan evam Prasodhan Ekai and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
3.	13.8.05	Kashipur Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Kashipur Agro Industries (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
4.	13.8.05	Bhimtal Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Sekho, Jan Shikshan Sansthan and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
5	13.8.05	Ramnagar Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Delicia Foods (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing

1	2	3	4	5
6.	13.8.05	Bhimtal Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Suruchi Fruit Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
7.	13.8.05	Ramnagar Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Imaginations Agri Exports and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
8.	13.8.05	Haldwani Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Hands K Enterprises (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
9.	13.8.05	Bhimtal Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Nainital Fruit Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
10.	13.8.05	Kashipur Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Jindal Frozen Food Products (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
11.	13.8.05	Haldwani Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Bliss Food Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
12.	9.10.05	Pinagwan/Punhana/Mewat Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha plantation and Bio diesel
13.	9.10.05	Hodal and Hasanpur Blocks/ Faridabad/Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha plantation and Bio diesel
14.	February, 2006	Blaspur, Chhacchrauli, Jagadhri and Sadhaura Blocks/Yamuna Nagar/Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha plantation and Bio diesel
15.	23.01.06	Gauriganj Block/District Sultanpur/ Uttar Pradesh	Self Employed women's Association (SEWA)	Handicrafts and Handloom products
16-37	22 MoUs signed on 24.2.2006	Different Gram Panchayats in State of Karnataka	Malavalli Power Plant Ltd., Bangalore Electric Supply Company, Mangalore Electric Supply Company, Hubli Electric Supply Company, Gulbarga Electric Supply Company, Chamundeshwari Electric Supply Company	Electricity generation/ Distribution
38-42	5 MoUs signed on 24.2.2006	Five Gram Panchayats in Hampi, State of Karnataka	National Institute of Fashion Technology	Art works/Designs of Garments
43.	29.7.2006	Movalur Panchayat, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District	Classic Bio Mass	Bio Gasifier

1	2	3	4	5
44.	29.7.2006	Kodimangalam Village, Block Mayilduthurai, Nagapattinam Dt	Cholan Bio Mass	Bio Gasifier
45.	29.7.2006	Kodimangalam Village, Block Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam Dt	Shameena Food Industries	Quality atta and value added products.
46.	29.7.2006	Vallalaharam Village, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District	K.M.R. Industries	Desiccated Coconut Powder and allied coconut products
47.	29.7.2006	Kappur Village, Kuttalam Block, Nagapattinam District	ACT Chamber Bricks Industries	Quality Chamber Bricks
48.	30.7.2006	Kanjanagaram Village, Sembanarkoil Block, Nagapattinam District	Siva Sakthi Seeds	Cultivation of paddy seeds.
49.	30.7.2006	Annavasal Village, Sembanarkoil Block, Nagapattinam District	N.A.C. Farm Products	Production of organic bananas and processed Products.
50.	30.7.2006	Semangalam Village, Sembanarkoil Block, Nagapattinam District	R.K.S. Dairy Farm	Quality milk processing packing it and other pro- cessed products
51.	20.8.2006	Thiruvengadu Village, Sirkali Block, Nagapattinam District	Sivasakthi Dairy Farm	Quality milk processing packing it and other processed products
52.	20.8.2006	Thiruvengadu Panchayat Village, Sirkali Block, Nagapattinam District	Sri Balaji Milk Dairy (Chilling Plant)	Milk chilling plant
53.	20.8.2006	Balaji Nagar, Sattanathapuram Village, Sirkali Taluk, Nagapattinam District	Sri Apsara Garments	Ready made Garments
54.	20.8.2006	Gandhi Nagar Pullivalam, Thiruvarur District	Sri Durga Vilas	Groundnuts Products
55.	20.8.2006	Chidambaram Main Road, Alkondanatham-Po. Kattumanarkoil Taluk, Cuddalore District	Sri Abirami Saw Mill	Timber Saw Mill and manufacturing of furniture and fittings.
56.	14.06.06	Tehsils Ratngarh and Churu, District + Urmul Rural Health Research and Development Trust, Bikaner	Jaipur Rugs Company Ltd.	Carpet Weaving Cluster

1	2	3	4	5
57.	18.05.06	Panchayat Samiti-Dudu, Jaipur	M/s Neerja International Inc. and RUDA	Blue Pottery Artisans Group
58.	26.10.06	Sikrai Block, Dausa, Jaipur	Kamtech Associates Pvt. Ltd.	Sandstone Crafts
59.	31.10.06	Sujangarh Block, Churu	M/s HDN Textiles, Churu	Bandhej (Tie and Dye)
60.	23.02.07	Perunthottan/Sirkali/Nagapattinam	Sri Balaji Milk Dairy (Chilling Plant)	Milk
61.	23.02.07	Vanagiri/Sirkali/Nagapattinam	Balaji Milk Dairy with Gomatha Milk Producers Society	Milk
62-65.	26.02.07	Villupuram/Marakanam Block-4 Panchayats	Auroville – Pithcandkulam (PBRC-NGO)	Compressed Bricks
66-71.	26.02.07	Villupuram/Marakanam Block-6 Panchayats	Auroville – Pithcandkulam (PBRC-NGO)	Spirulina
72-97.	26 MoUs signed on 26.02.07	Different Gram Panchayats in Nagapattinam	Rural BPOs	Computer Centre
98.	31.07.07	Jalukie Town Council, Peren District, Nagaland	Jaipur Rugs Company Pvt. Ltd. Jaipur	Sumake carpets
99.	31.07.07	Ungma village Council, Mokokchung, Nagaland	Nagaland Foods Pvt. Ltd. Dimapur	Pineapple and Passion fruit
100.	12.09.07	Zila Parishad, Ajmer	Neelkamal Bio-fuels Pvt. Ltd. Jaipur	Floriculture
101.	Nov., 07	Chattaberiya BP/North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	Marwari Traders	Terracota utility items
102.	10.12.07	Chattaberiya, Duttapukur-II Gram Panchayat North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	Marwari Traders, Udaipur	Terracota pottery
103.	17.12.07	Kathori Gram Panchayat and Jaisalmer Zilla Panchayat	Rangotri, Jaipur	Wollen Shawl (pattu)
104.	22.12.07	Muohaipei, saidan and Thenmuoi Vill Council Salkot, Churachandpur	Passion Fruit Growers Association, Manipur	Fruits storage
105.	30.12.07	Kondagaon Block Panchayat (Karanpur, Dahikonga and Sonabal)	SAATHI, Kondagaon (NGO)	Bell metal crafts

1	2	3	4	5
106.	30.12.07	Farasgaon and Kondagaon Block Panchayats (Umargaon)	SAATHI, Kondagaon (NGO)	Wrought iron handicrafts
107.	30.12.07	Kondagaon Block Panchayat (Dahikonga)	Adrash Shilp Sakthi Mahasamug (NGO)	Bell metal crafts
108.	30.12.07	Kondagaon Block Panchayat (Golawand)	Bastar Craft Development Association (NGO)	Wooden crafts
109.	30.12.07	Bastar Block Panchayat (Bhond)	Bastar Craft Development Association (NGO)	Wooden crafts
110.	30.12.07	Kondagaon Block Panchayat and Barkai of Makdi Block, Bastar (Kumharpara)	Hastshilp Udhog Sahakari Sanstha Samiti	Bell metal crafts
111.	Dec., 07	Joypur BP/Purulia/West Bengal	D.K. Enterprises	Incense Stricks
112.	Jan., 08	Nanoor BP/Birbhum/West Bengal	Weavers Studio Resource Centre	Katha Stitch
113.	Jan., 08	Manbazar - IBP/Purulia/West Bengal	Weavers Studio Resource Centre	Tassar
114.	08.02.08	Panchayat Samiti of Village Mahsona, Vikas Khand Bhyander Sandila, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh	Mia Dastkar Zariwala Pvt. Ltd. and Kalatmak Handicrafts SHG Foundation	Chicken Work
115.	Feb., 08	Pingla BP/Pashim Medinipur/ West Bengal	SASHA/Sarva Shanti Ayog	Patachitra, Stationery, apparel, leather and Patachitra products
116.	Feb., 08	Pingla BP/Pashim Medinipur/ West bengal	Weavers Studio Resource Centre	Patachitra, Stationery, leather, pottery products developed in workshop as part of Action Research
117.	Feb., 08	Coochbehar-I BP/Coochbehar/ West Bengal	Weavers Studio Resource Centre	
118.	Feb., 08	Bolpur-Sriniketan BP/Birhum/ West Bengal	Weavers Studio Resource Centre	
119.	Feb., 08	Chaltaberia BP/North 24 Parganas/West Bengal	Weavers Studio Resource Centre	
120.	Feb., 08	Chaltaberia BP/North 24 Parganas/West Bengal	Project Sukanya	Terracota decorative and utility items

1	2	3	4	5
121.	Feb., 08	Tamluk BP/Purba Medinipur/ West Bengal	Project Sukanya	Jute diversified products
122.	Feb., 08	Patashpur-I BP/Purba Medinipur/ West Bengal	Project Sukanya	Madurkathi bags, folders, curtains and mats
123.	Feb., 08	Bolpur Sriniketan/Birbhum/West Bengal	Project Sukanya	Embroidery, Batik, Costume jewellery
124.	Feb., 08	Bolpur Sriniketan/Birbhum/West Bengal	Project Sukanya	Artistic leather goods
125.	18.02.08	Soron Block, Ethah District, Uttar Pradesh	Mayana Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Bulandsher (NGO) and Nethaat Delhi (Pvt)	Organic farming and vermin compost
126.	22.02.08	Charkipari village, Deoghar Block, Deoghar District, Jharkhand	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	Sumak carpet
127.	06.03.08	Mizoram Indodelhna Programme (MIP) Government of Mizoram —	Mizorganic Producer Co. and Mizoram Village Council Association, Mizorganic Limited	Fresh fruits and vegetables (Horiculture)
128.	11.03.08	Kamarchalk GP, Kulpi Block, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal	Jaipur Rugs Foundation and VSSU	Sumak carpet
129.	11.03.08	Ghateswar GP, Mondir Bazar Block, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal	Jaipur Rugs foundation and VSSU	Sumak carpet
130.	12.03.08	Sankarpur GP, Mathurapur BP, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal	Jaipur Rugs foundation and VSSU	Sumak carpet
131.	17.03.08	Mundamundi village, Devipur Block, Deoghar, Jarkhand	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	Sumak carpet
132.	17.03.08	Gabberla GP and Mondirbazas GP, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal	Vivekanada Sevakendra-O- Sishu Uddyan (VSSU)	Organic manure, Dairy farming and Organic farming
133.	20.03.08	Bhaurkanda Village, Sarwan Block, Deoghar District, Jharkhand	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	Sumak carpet

1	2	3	4	5
134.	29.03.08	Nigai GP, Chopan Block, Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	Sumak carpet
135.	29.03.08	Kudwa Gram Panchayat, Chopan Block, Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	Sumak carpet
136.	March, 08	Illambazar BP/Birbhum/West Bengal	Project Sukanya	Kantha embroidery
137.	04.04.08	Kunjwa GP in Beheta BP and Masoda-Jalpura GP in Paliganj, Paliganj, Bihar	Gramin Vikas Pratisthan and Aushadhiya avam Sugandhit Paudha Utpadak Sangh, Bihar	Herbal and Aromatic Plants Common Facility Centre
138.	10.04.08	Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti, Jhalka II Block, Purulia, West Bengal	i-Land Informatics Pvt. Ltd.	Promotion of Folk Art
139.	10.04.08	Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti, Balrampur Block, Purulia, West Bengal	i-Land Informatics Pvt. Ltd.	Promotion of Folk Art
140.	11.04.08	Gidhia GP, Chopan BP, Sonbhadra District	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	Sumak Carpet
141.	11.04.08	Devatan GP, Chopan BP, Sonbhadra District	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	Sumak Carpet
142.	23.05.08	Juniya, Dewarawas, Santhli, Banthli GPs in Deoli blocks, Tonk, Rajasthan	Access Development Services Pvt. Ltd., farmers groups	Red chillis' procurement and marketing
143.	23.05.08	Khureda, Galodh, Dowadi, Arniya and Devpura GPs in Tonk block, Tonk, Rajasthan	Access Developmetn Service Pvt. Ltd., farmers groups	Red chillis' procurement and marketing
144.	May, 08	Manbazar-I BP/Purulia/West Bengal	Fab India (sourcing company at Kolkata-Bengal artisans)	Tassar
145.	04.06.08	Medi GP, Panchayat Samiti Kotra, Udaipur Rajasthan	Seva Mandir, Udaipur Sehkari Uphogta Thok Bhandar, Nala Dal Utpadak Sangh	Dal processing centre (Mill)
146.	06.06.08	Valor BP, Darbhanga District Bihar	Shakti Sudha Udyog, 'Khet se Bazar tak and Farmer Groups'	Makhana (Cash crop)
147.	06.06.08	Nehra BP, Darbhanga District Bihar	Shakti Sudha Udyog, 'Khet se Bazar tak and Farmer Groups'	Makhana (Cash crop)

1	2	3	4	5
148.	06.06.08	Ujjan BP, Darbhanga District Bihar	Shakti Sudha Udyog, Khet se Bazar tak and Farmer Groups'	Makhana (Cash crop)
149.	06.06.08	Jagdishpur BP, Darbhanga Dist. Bihar	Shakti Sudha Udyog, Khet se Bazar tak and Farmer Groups'	Makhana (Cash crop)
150.	06.06.08	Gangoli Kanakpur BP, Darbhanga District Bihar	Shakti Sudha Udyog, Khet se Bazar tak and Farmer Groups'	Makhana (Cash crop)
151.	14.07.08	Lala BP, Hylakandi district, Assam	D 1 Williamson Magor Bio Fuel Ltd.	Jatropha Cultivation and procurement directly from the farmers
152.	14.07.08	Zila Panchayat, Ambikapur and Manipat BP, Sarguja District, Chhattisgarh	Jaipur Rugs Foundation	Weaving of Hand Knotted carpets
153.	23.07.08	Chhan and Allahpur GP, Khandar BP, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan	Access Development Services Pvt. Ltd., Farmers Groups	Red chillies' procurement and marketing
154.	24.07.08	Chiakki Panchayat, Medinagar BP, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan	Alternative for India Development, (NGO) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Lac cultivation
155.	24.07.08	Mahuatand Panchayat, Lathehar District, Jharkhand	Alternative for India Development, Aggarwal Traders and Large Area multipurpose Cooperative Societies	Tamarind and forest produce
156.	21.08.08	Markhal and Janwada GP, Bidar BP, Bidar, Karnataka	SAHAYOG (NGO), SBI and Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corporation	Bidri craft
157.	22.08.08	Zila Parishad, Barpeta town, Barpeta District, Assam	Dhriti (NGO) and Tambul Plate Marketing Company	Arecanut Leaf Plates
158.	16.11.08	Devgaon, Latratu GP/Lapung BP/Ranch/Jharkhand	Gramin Vikas Trust and Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency	Decentralized Power Generation
159.	16.11.08	Jamtoli, Ita GP/Bero BP/Ranch/Jharkhand	Gramin Vikas Trust and Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency	Decentralized Power Generation
160.	16.11.08	Murma Nayasara GP/Tindul II BP/Ranch/Jharkhand	Gramin Vikas Trust and Chotanagpur Craft Development Society (CCDS)	Diversified Jute Products

1	2	3	4	5
161.	16-11-08	Dahu GP/Ormanjhi BP/Ranch/ Jharkhand	Gramin Vikas Trust and JHARCRAFT	Bamboo based craft
162.	10-12-08	Karidhya GP/Suri-I BP/Birbhum/ West Bengal	Birbhum Thalassemia Welfare Society and Common Interest Group	Hand Embroidered Product

[Translation]

Live Telecast of Mumbai Incident

2788. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had imposed any restriction on the live telecast of recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai by the news channels;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring out guidelines on such live coverage in view of security concerns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (d) Keeping in mind the public interest and interest of national security, Ministry of I&B vide communication dated 27.11.2008 (copy as enclosed Statement) directed all the News and Current Affairs TV channels to ensure that the coverage of the incidents relating to the recent terrorists attacks in Mumbai does not focus on or report the location, strength, movement strategy or any related operations being followed by the security forces engaging with the terrorists as it may jeopardies their position. The Channels were also directed that close-ups and images of blood or gore, dismembered or disfigured limbs or bodies or images of dead or seriously wounded people which may seriously distress a substantial number of viewers or cause panic and incite further violence may not be carried.

The News Broadcasters Associations has prescribed its own self-regulation guidelines and has agreed to incorporate an 'Emergency Protocol' to supplement these Guidelines to address such concerns.

Statement

**No. 1501/35/2008-TV (I)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

New Delhi, 27th November, 2008

To,

All News and Current Affairs TV Channels.

Subject: Directive in public interest and interest of National Security in respect of objectionable content/communication inconsistent with public interest and National Security.

Whereas all possible steps are being taken by security agencies to engage with the terrorists and bring the situation under control in the matter of the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai. It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that the media and video coverage of locations, strength, movement, strategy or any other related operations of the security forces can have adverse effect on the operation and also compromise their security and of the public in general.

2. Now therefore, all News and Current Affairs channels broadcast in India are hereby directed in public interest and in the interest of national security under Clauses 5.9 and 8.1 of the Uplinking Guidelines and Clauses 5.8 and 6.1 of the Downlinking Guidelines to ensure that the coverage of the incidents relating to the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai does not focus on or report the location,

strength, movement, strategy or any related operations being followed by the security forces engaging with the terrorists as they are reportedly jeopardizing their positions. Close-ups and images of blood or gore, dismembered or disfigured limbs of bodies or images of dead or seriously wounded people which may seriously distress a substantial number of viewers or cause public panic and incite further violence may not be carried.

3. The above directives may be treated with utmost seriousness by all TV Channels. Failure to comply with these directives will attract action under Clauses 5.9 of the Uplinking Guidelines and Clauses 5.8 of the Downlinking Guidelines. The use of SNG/DSNG vans may also have to be prohibited in the case of defaulting channels under Clauses 6.4 and 6.10 of the Uplinking Guidelines.

(Prawin Kumar)

Director (BC)

Tele No. 23381246

[English]

Proposal to Provide Labour Rooms in PHCs

2789. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under National Rural Health Mission to provide labour rooms in all Primary Health Centres (PHCs) located in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) recognizes the need for upgradation which include labour rooms in Primary Health Centres (PHCs). For this, adhoc first grant/maintenance grant, support under RCH-II/under NRHM is provided for undertaking basic upgradation in PHCs as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) formulated and circulated to all the States/UTs.

Achievements of Chandrayaan-1

2790. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the major achievements of the Chandrayaan-1, and

(b) the details of experiments so far conducted by this mission along with the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The Major Achievements of Chandrayaan-1 are:—

1. Successful and meticulous planning and execution of all aspects of the mission with clinical precision, starting with the launch using improved version of indigenous Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), accurate orbit manoeuvre of the spacecraft for reaching deep space and finally placing it in a lunar polar orbit, in the very first attempt.
2. Precise release of the Moon Impact Probe for landing in a predetermined zone near the South-pole, with all the three instruments on board working perfectly.
3. Successful commissioning of various instruments as per plan. Performance of all the instruments commissioned has been found to be excellent with data from some of them being collected regularly.
4. Paving the way for International Collaboration in future planetary exploration with Chandrayaan-1 as the forerunner with a suite of Indian payloads as well as foreign payloads from Europe and America.

(b) Chandrayaan-1 mission carried total eleven (11) payloads/experiments onboard, five Indian and six from foreign investigators, details of which are provided below:—

Indian payloads/experiments:—

- Terrain Mapping Camera (TMC) commissioned on 13 November, 2008 in the moon orbit is collecting data for preparation of high spatial resolution 3D atlas of the lunar surface.

- Moon Impact Probe (MIP) impacted on the surface of the Moon at a pre-selected location near the South Polar Region on 14 November, 2008, MIP has taken close up pictures of the lunar surface where it impacted.
- Hyper Spectral Imager (HySI) was commissioned on 16 November, 2008 and obtained data for mineralogical mapping of the lunar surface.
- Lunar Laser Ranging Instrument (LLRI) was commissioned on 16 November, 2008 and collected data to determine the height difference between the spacecraft and the lunar surface.
- High Energy X-ray Spectrometer (HEX) was commissioned on 5 December 2008. Adequate data have been received.

International payloads/instruments:

- Radiation Dose Monitor (RADOM) from Bulgaria was commissioned on 23 October, 2008 in the Earth Transfer orbit. It has provided information on Earth and Moon radiation environment.
- Miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar (MiniSAR) from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was commissioned on 17 November, 2008 and collected data.
- Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was commissioned on 18 November, 2008 and is collecting data on Moon mineral resources.
- Near IR Spectrometer (SIR-2) from European Space Agency (ESA) was commissioned on 19 November, 2008 and is collecting data on a lunar mineralogy.
- Chandrayaan-1 X-ray Spectrometer (C1XS) from Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK and ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was commissioned on 20 November, 2008 and is collecting data on elemental abundances on the lunar surface.

- Sub keV Atom Reflecting Analyser (SARA) from Swedish Institute of Space Physics and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO was commissioned on 8 December, 2008 for a short time to collect sample data.

Details observational plans for all the instruments have been chalked out. The Data obtained so far show that all the instruments are working well.

**Strengthening of Bilateral Relations
with Myanmar**

2791. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any bilateral discussions were held recently between India and Myanmar on trade and development and on a bilateral access route to the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : (a) to (c) The Minister of State for Commerce and Power Shri Jalram Ramesh visited Myanmar in July, 2008 and later on October 14-15, 2008 for holding the 3rd Session of India-Myanmar Joint Trade Committee. Foreign Secretary visited Myanmar in November, 2008 for annual Foreign Office Consultations. The Minister of Commerce of Myanmar, H.E. Brig. Gen. Tin Naing Thein also visited India in July 2008.

During the visit of the Minister of State for Commerce to Myanmar in July 2008, the two countries signed Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (BIPA) and agreements on banking arrangements between the two countries. At the 3rd Session of Joint Trade Committee, the two countries agreed *inter alia* to:—

- convert the existing border trade at Moreh in Manipur and Zowkhathar in Mizoram into normal trade;
- develop Avankhung in Nagaland as a third border trade point with Myanmar;

- expand the list of commodities under Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement from the existing 22 items to 40 items; and
- operationalise the banking arrangements.

As regards access route to the North-East, a framework Agreement on the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, a Protocol on the Transit Facilitation of the Project and a Protocol on the Maintenance and Administration of the Project were signed during the visit of Senior General Maung Aye to India on 02 April, 2008. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project envisages connectivity between Indian ports on the eastern seacoast and Sittwe Port in Myanmar and then through riverine transport and by road to Mizoram.

Coal Blocks of Kerala Electricity Board

2792. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Kerala State Electricity Board for allocation of coal blocks to generate electricity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s Kerala State Electricity Board, a PSU of State/Government of Kerala has been allocated Baitarni West coal block with geological reserves of 200.66 million tonnes jointly with two other Public Sector Undertakings viz. M/s. Orissa Hydro Power Generation Corporation and M/s Gujarat Power Generation Corporation on 25th July, 2007 for Power generation.

Villages Adopted by Banks

2793 SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some banks have adopted villages in Maharashtra;

- (b) if so, whether these banks are now refusing lands to villagers;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) Banks are implementing Service Area Approach as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines with effect from 01.04.1989. Under Service Area Approach Bank branches are catering to credit needs of the villages through credit plans. From December 2004, RBI relaxed Service Area norms and it is applicable now for Government Sponsored Schemes only. As regards the refusal of loans to villagers, it has been informed by the Bank of Maharashtra, the convantor banks for the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) that they are considering all viable proposals for loans by villagers.

CII on Global Financial Meltdown

2794. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has submitted a five point agenda to insulate India from the global financial meltdown;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The five-point agenda includes—communication and confidence, domestic liquidity and interest rates, foreign exchange management, credit flow and impetus to growth, fiscal and export promotion imperatives to help real economy.

The details of the agenda are available at the CII web site at following web address: http://www.ciionline.org/full_story.php?menu_id=78&news_id=1924

Some of the measures taken in India with regard to domestic liquidity, interest rates, credit flow and impetus to growth include:—

(a) **Monetary measures:** Reduction in the following rate: Repo-6.5% from 9%, Reverse repo 5% from 6%, CRR to 5.5% from 9% and SLR to 24% from 25%.

(b) **Bank Overseas borrowings:** October 15, 2008: Banks permitted to borrow funds from their overseas branches and correspondent banks up to a limit of 50 per cent of their unimpaired Tier I capital as at the close of the previous quarter or USD 10 million, whichever is higher, as against the existing limit of 25 per cent.

(c) **External Commercial Borrowings:**

ECB up to USD 500 million per borrower per financial year permitted for Rupee expenditure and/or foreign currency expenditure for permissible end — uses under the Automatic Route. In addition the all in cost limits were enhanced.

(d) **Participatory Notes:**

October 7, 2008: SEBI decided to lift curbs on the issuance of the Participatory Notes by the Foreign Institutional Investors. The regulator will remove the 40 per cent restriction for issuance of PNs for both case and derivative segments.

(e) **FII Investment in debt:**

October 15, 2008: Following the Government of India's announcement, SEBI enhanced the FII investment in corporate debt limit from US \$ 3 billion to US\$ 6 billion. Further in order to accord flexibility to the FIIs to allocate the investments across equity and debt, it has been decided to do away with the conditions pertaining to restrictions of 70:30 ratio of investment in equity and debt respectively, with immediate effect.

(f) **Banks, NBFCs and Mutual Funds:**

Liquidity windows opened.

(g) **NRI Deposits:**

September 16, 2008: Increase in interest rate ceiling on FCNR (B) deposits by 50 basis points, i.e., to Libor/Euribor/Swap rates minus 25 basis points.

Increase in interest rate ceiling on NR(E)RA deposits by 50 basis points, i.e., to Libor/Euribor/Swap rates plus 50 basis points.

October 15, 2008: Increase in interest rate ceiling on FCNR (B) deposits by 50 basis points, i.e., to Libor/Euribor/Swap rates plus 25 basis points.

Increase in interest rate ceiling in NR(E)RA deposits by 50 basis points, i.e., to Libor/Euribor/Swap rates plus 100 basis points.

(h) **Some other measures**

Measures announced by RBI on November 28, 2008 are available at: http://rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=19568

(i) **Measures taken in December, 2008 include:**

(a) RBI's Growth Stimulus as announced on December 6, 2008. The details of the same are available at: http://rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=19612

(b) Further Measures announced by RBI on December 11, 2008 to Stimulate Growth are available at: http://rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=19637

(c) Measures announced by Government for stimulating the economy (Press release from the Prime Minister's Office dated 7th December, 2008 is available at: http://pib.nic.in/release_release.asp?relid=45376&kwd).

PPP Projects

2795. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has issued guidelines for Public-Private partnership (PPP) projects in infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a small group of contractors and companies are monopolizing all Government sector projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to widen the base and increase competition in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The guidelines for Formulation, Appraisal and Approval of Public Private partnership projects in the Central Sector have been notified. The guidelines, *inter alia*, provide for appraisal of PPP projects where the capital costs or underlying value of the assets in Rs. 250 crore or more (Rs. 500 crore or more in respect of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) proposals) by the Public Private partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC), headed by Secretary (Economic Affairs). Appraisal mechanisms have also been separately prescribed for Central sector PPP projects with project cost of less than Rs. 250 crore (less than Rs. 500 crore in respect of NHDP proposals).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The guidelines for formulation, appraisal and approval of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects in the Central Sector mandate the procedure for appraisal and approval of central sector PPP projects. During appraisal/approval of projects, it is ascertained that the PPP projects are bid/procured in a transparent and fair manner, which helps in increasing private participation and competition and allows all companies to bid for projects.

Expenditure on Mass Welfare Schemes

2796. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop new methodology and techniques to closely and effectively monitor the expenditure sanctioned and transferred to States on mass welfare schemes to ensure that money reaches the intended beneficiary without dilution enroute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes.

(b) In phase I, generation of Unique sanction ID for all the sanctions for the release of funds under Central Plan Schemes by all the Central Ministries has been introduced on e-lekha portal of the Office of Controller General of Accounts w.e.f. 01-04-2008.

In phase II pilots to develop new methodology are going to be conducted in two States.

Smuggled Goods

2797. SHRI DALAPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of smuggled goods, narcotics, gold, electronic goods, etc., seized in Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Kolkata and Hyderabad during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of persons apprehended, arrested and convicted in this regard; and

(c) the amount realised out of the disposal of seized goods and the manner in which such goods was disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The value of smuggled goods seized during last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Gold	Electronic	Narcotics	Misc
2005-2006	1.87	8.74	46.78	143.91
2006-2007	0.71	11.08	27.91	227.53
2007-2008	1.60	8.44	77.46	192.17
2008-2009 (upto Nov'08)	1.74	41.98	34.61	197.96

(b) The details of persons arrested and convicted during last three years are as under:—

Year	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons convicted
2005-2006	130	2
2006-2007	162	2
2007-2008	166	1
2008-2009 (upto Nov'08)	127	—

(c) The amount released out of the disposal of seized goods and the manner in which such goods was disposed of are as under:—

Year	The amount realized (Rs. in crores)	Mode of disposal
2005-2006	61.92	E-auction/Tender-cum-Public auction/cash/NCCF
2006-2007	127.93	-do-
2007-2008	106.38	-do-
2008-2009 (upto Nov'08)	37.35	-do-

*Gold is deposited with Mint, Mumbai and Narcotics goods are destroyed.

Shortage of Law Officers in CBI

2798. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of law officers in the CBI;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of posts of investigating officers and other

employees in CBI to improve the working of the said investigating agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) As on 01.12.2008, out of the 230 sanctioned posts of law officers in the CBI, 74 posts were lying vacant as per details below:—

Post	Sanctioned	In position	Vacancy
Additional Legal Advisor	6	3	3
Deputy Legal Advisor	20	18	2
Senior Public Prosecutor	67	51	16
Public Prosecutor	96	60	36
Assistant Public Prosecutor	41	24	17
Total	230	156	74

Some of reasons for delay in filling up of vacancies are:—

- Lengthy process of filling up of vacancies.
- Non-availability of suitable candidates in the feeder grades.

(c) Occurrence of vacancies and their filling up is a continuous process. However, Government has taken all necessary steps to ensure filling up of vacancies in time, which inter-alia include:—

- (i) Grant of Special Incentive Allowance @ 25% of Pay-Dearness Allowance upto the level of Senior Superintendent of Police and @ 15% for officers above that rank to attract officers on deputation.
- (ii) Amendment of recruitment rules for various posts from time to time to meet the requirement of the CBI.

- (iii) Decentralization of induction of Inspector on deputation in order to ensure speedy and smooth recruitment process.

[Translation]

Number of Tigers in Reserve Forests

2799. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tigers and tigresses in the Reserve Forests in the country as per the latest Tiger Census; and

(b) the manner in which this is likely to help in re-enforcing the efforts towards tiger protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The details are given in the enclosed Statement. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(b) The findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in the Geographical Information System domain has provided a knowledge of the status of existing source population of tiger and its habitat, which, interalia, include areas required urgent, enhanced protection, establishing inviolate areas for tiger, active management and restorative inputs for securing corridor connectivity across tiger landscapes. The current estimation gives us population extant, its limit and potential for genetic connectivity with other tiger populations.

Statement

Forest occupancy of leopard in tiger States, and population of tiger as estimation by the refined methodology

State	Leopard (km ²)	Tiger Numbers		
		No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
1	2	3	4	5
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex				
Uttarakhand	3683	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	2936	109	91	127
Bihar	552	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangetic (Total)	7171	297	259	335
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex				
Andhra Pradesh	37609	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	14939	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	34736	300	236	364
Maharashtra	4982	103	76	131
Orissa	25516	45	37	53
Rajasthan	-	32	30	35
Jharkhand**	131	Not Assessed		
Central Indian (Total)	117913	601	486	718
Western Ghats Landscape Complex				
Karnataka	20506	290	241	339
Kerala	8363	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	144847	76	56	95
Western Ghats (Total)	43353	412	336	487

1	2	3	4	5
North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains				
Assam*	1500	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	670	14	12	18
Mizoram*	2324	6	4	5
Northern West	1135	10	8	12
Bengal*				
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra (Total)	5629	100	84	118
Sunderbans	-	Not Assessed		
Total Tiger Population		1411	1165	1657

*Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

**Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km².

[English]

Development of Sports Infrastructure

2800. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals for development of sports and sports infrastructure received from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Orissa during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government on such proposals; and

(c) the funds allocated for various projects/schemes during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) to (c) Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to State Sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005. Therefore, the question of considering proposals from any State Governments including Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Orissa does not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Traditional System of Medicines

2801. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote traditional system of medicines in view of the adverse effects of allopathic medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has established a separate Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) to ensure the optimal development and propagation of these systems of health care. The Department has over the years, developed a broad Institutional frame work to carry out the activities in the field of AYUSH consisting of (i) two regulatory bodies, (ii) four Apex Research Councils, (iii) six Apex Educational Institutions and (iv) two Apex Laboratories.

Further departments like Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) also undertake focused research programmes related to specific aspects of AYUSH. A National Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to coordinate activities relating

to conservation, cultivation, marketing support and export promotion and policy making for the development of the medicinal plants sector. The Department of AYUSH is implementing various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which grant-in-aids are given to the States and Central Government organizations, autonomous bodies, private organizations pertaining to Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy of overall development of these systems.

Mainstreaming of AYUSH under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and health care delivery system of the country has long been a major policy objective of the Department, so as to meet the unmet health needs of the Indian population. Towards this end, under the NRHM, AYUSH facilities are being set up in PHCs and CHCs which are being manned by qualified AYUSH physicians.

[English]

Poor Quality of X-Ray Image

2802. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of X-ray tests done in various Government hospitals have been found to be of poor image quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to poor image quality of X-ray, the patients are not properly treated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Health being a state subject, information pertaining to this is not centrally maintained. However, as reported by Delhi Government X-Rays tests done in various hospitals of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi are of good quality. But in some rare cases X-ray test may be required to be repeated due to technical reasons.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned X-Rays test done are of goods quality.

[Translation]

Swasthya Nagar Scheme

2803. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated the Swasthya Nagar scheme;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the scheme;

(c) the cities identified under the scheme, State-wise alongwith the norms fixed in this regard; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no such scheme by the name Swasthya Nagar Scheme formulated by this Ministry.

[English]

Raising Jammu and Kashmir Issue in the United Nations

2804. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in various international fora including the United Nations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; including the reaction of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Pakistan has raised the Kashmir issue repeatedly at various international fora. Government's principled and consistent position on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the illegal

occupation of Pakistan. The issue that remains to be resolved in Jammu and Kashmir is the vacation by Pakistan of the area under its illegal occupation. India remains committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Misuse of Drugs

2805. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether cases of misuse of certain drugs in the country has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The reports of misuse of Ketamine in the country were received earlier by the Government. Ketamine is used for the induction of Dissociative Anesthesia and is a prescription drug under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

(c) The Narcotics Control Bureau had sought the consent of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on their proposal to put the drug Ketamine under the purview of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The required consent has been given.

Primary Health Centres

2806. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the existing structure and the functions assigned to Primary Health Centres (PHCs) is commensurate with the basic health requirements of the rural people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof outlining the role of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA); and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revamp the PHCs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Primary Health Centre (PHC) is the first contact point between village community and the Medical Officer. A PHC is opened on the basis of population, caseload/workload and distance. It is manned by a Medical Officer and other staff. It acts as a referral Unit for 4-6 Sub-Centres and has 4-6 beds for patients. It performs curative, preventive, promotive and Family Welfare services. As on March, 2007, there are a total of 22370 PHCs functioning across the nation. Indian Public Health Standards specifying human resources, physical infrastructure, equipments and service guarantee have been formulated for PHCs.

(b) ASHA is a health activist in the community who creates awareness on health and its social determinants and mobilizes the community towards local health planning and increased utilization and accountability of existing health services. She is a promoter of good health practices.

(c) Upgradation of PHCs is an ongoing process. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), funds are released to State/UT Governments for upgradation of existing PHCs and for establishment of new PHCs on the basis of annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) submitted by the States which are approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC). These funds are released as a flexipool for states to be spent on the basis of activities prioritized by them under the Flexipool approved by the NPCC.

Malaria Treatment Policy

2807. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether according to WHO, India has adopted wrong treatment of malaria policy in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in view of the above revelation; and

(d) the details of strategy adopted by the Union Government to check the spread of malaria in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), Government of India is using the WHO recommended malaria treatment policy for treatment of both *P.vivax* and *P.falciparum*.

Under the National Drug Policy on Malaria, treatment of *P.vivax* cases is with chloroquine 25 mg/kg body weight divided over three days alongwith Primaquine in dose of 0.25 mg/Kg. bw daily for 14 days.

Chloroquine @ 25 mg/kg body weight divided over three days along with Primaquine single dose of 0.75 mg/kg bw on day 1 are to be given for of cases.

In chloroquine resistant areas Artesunate Combination Therapy (ACT) i.e. artesunate plus sulfa pyrimethamine is to be given to treat the confirm Pf cases. At present such regimen is being used in 117 most Pf endemic districts and another 253 Public Health Centres (PHCs) having chloroquine resistance and surrounding cluster of block in the country.

(d) For effective control of malaria, under NVBDCP, the revised malaria control strategy includes, inter alia, the following:—

- Use of Rapid Diagnostic Kits for the Pf case diagnosis in the remote and inaccessible areas having no microscopy centre.
- Use of ACT for treating confirmed Pf cases in all high Pf predominant areas.
- Use of impregnated bed nets for Vector control in high transmission areas with operational difficulties in carrying out Indoor Residual Spray.

[Translation]

Population Stabilization Fund

2808. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to initiate selection process of 500 youths (age group 16-20) from various States of the country especially from the neglected villages of Jharkhand State to participate in the awareness programme on population and health issues and to provide assistance under Population Stabilization Fund;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of works done by the Government and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in this regard;

(d) whether the works done by the Government organizations and NGOs for checking the growth in population of the country have been reviewed recently; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) On the World Population Day (WPD) on July 11, 2007, the Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) organized a programme for youth and adolescents, in which more than 500 youth of 16-20 age group participated. They came from under developed villages of the eight Empowered Action Group (EAG) States namely Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The young people were identified by combining GIS mapping and census data, an initiative of JSK whereby every district, taluka and village can be viewed in terms of its population and distance from a Primary Health Centre. 72 participants attended from Jharkhand as detailed below:—

Name of districts	No. of participants	Name of districts	No. of participants
1	2	3	4
Ranchi	14	Gumla	11

1	2	3	4
Chatra	10	West Singhbhum	10
Godda	16	Sahebganj	9
Dumka	02		

The aim was to sensitize the adolescents who comprise a major section of our population on life skills so that they develop communication skills to make informed choices in matters relating to age of marriage and child bearing. This effort has helped in creating awareness regarding the impact of population growth on the health of women and children and the well being of the country.

(c) to (e) Information is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The Government reviews the State of population stabilization measures from time to time. Various initiatives taken by the Government are given below:—

1. National Family and Health Survey (NFHS 2005-06)

The findings emerging from the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-2005-06) are encouraging on the population front. The total fertility Rate dropped to 2.68 in 2005-06 from 3.39 in 1992-93.

National Health and Family Survey (NFHS-2005-06) on population front

- India's population policy has an impact.
- Total fertility Rate dropped to 2.68 in 2005-06 from 3.39 in 1992-93.
- Total fertility rates range from 1.8 (in Goa, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu) to 4.0 in Bihar.
- Nineteen States have TFRs lower than the national TFR of 2.7.
- Skewed pattern in TFR is due to relatively high fertility States namely, Bihar (TFR of 4.0), Uttar Pradesh (3.8), Rajasthan (3.2), and Madhya

Pradesh (3.1). Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland (TFRs 3.0 and above).

- Fertility in West and South regions except Gujarat (TFR of 2.4) and Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Punjab have attained replacement level fertility 2.1.
- Eleven States have TFRs between 2.2 to 2.9.
- Between TFHS (1992-93) and NFHS- (1998-99) the TFR fell by 0.54 children, from 3.39 to 2.85 (a decline of 16 per cent).
- Between NFHS- (1998-99), and NFHS- (2005-06), the TFR however, declined by a meager 0.17 child, from 2.85 to 2.68 (a decline of 6 per cent).

2. The Government accords high priority to the issue of population stabilization in the country and has initiated following measures for the same:—

A. Reproductive and Child Health Programme-II

The RCH II programme envisages a paradigm shift in the manner in which the program has been planned and to be implemented. The main objective is to bring about a change in the three critical health indicators. Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Material Mortality Ratio (MMR) consistent with the goal enshrined in the National Population Policy 2000.

- Adoption of Sector-Wide Approach, which effectively extends the programmes reach beyond Reproductive and Child health to the entire family welfare sector. Building State ownership by involving States and UTs from the outset in development of the programme. Decentralization through development of District and State level need based plans. Flexible programming with a view to moving away from prescriptive scheme based micro-planning and instead allowing States to develop need based Work plans with freedom to decide upon programme inputs.

B. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)

The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. The Mission further seeks to build greater ownership of the programme among the community through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs and other stake holders to achieve the goals of National Population Policy 2000 and National Health Policy.

NRHM framework puts thrust on creating a fully functional platform for health care at all levels, from the village, the Sub-Centre, the PHC, the CHC, the District Hospital to the District and State levels. Meeting people's health and family planning needs in rural areas through quality services that are affordable, accessible and accountable is its prime objective. The NRHM Mission document has also articulated the need for partnerships with the Non-Governmental Sector. NRHM encourages training and up-gradation of skills for non-governmental providers wherever such efforts are likely to improve quality of services for the poor including family planning services.

C. The performance in sterilization-Corrective Actions taken under NRHM:

It is observed that sterilization had a marginal increase from 2000-01 till 2003-04. Thereafter subsequently there was a drop in sterilization by 4.1% in 2005-06 over 2004-05 and a further drop of 3.8% in 06-07 over 05-06. However, the following steps were taken by the Government of India to address the concerns of the providers and acceptors alike and the programme in general:—

- (a) National Family Planning Insurance Scheme since 29.11.05: which covers both the sterilization acceptors as well as the providers (doctors/health facilities) against any mishaps like deaths, complications and failures and the ensuing litigations due to sterilizations.
- (b) Orders dated 26th July, 2007 of Hon'ble Supreme Court: The orders relating to criteria

of 5 years experience for performing sterilizations were waived off.

- (c) The revision of Compensation package in September, 2007 to compensate for loss of wages and also to provide compensation to providers of services. It also provided for partnerships with the non-governmental sector.
- (d) Promoting Acceptance of No Scalpel Vasectomy to ensure male participations.
- (e) Promoting IUD 380A intensively as a spacing method because of its longevity of 10 years and advantages over other IUDs.
- (f) Fixed day Fixed Place Family Planning Services round the year — made possible on account of growing number of 24x7 PHCs and better functioning CHCs and other health facilities under NRHM.
- (g) Increasing the basket of choice of systematically and carefully introducing new and effective contraceptives in the programme. The outreach activities through the institution of ASHAs and Monthly Health and Nutrition Days under NRHM have also helped.

D. Improved performance in sterilisation in 2007-08:

As a result of the focused strategy at the Government with close State wise monitoring as also the opportunities afforded under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in terms of plugging the loopholes and bolstering the demand side financing in the view revised compensation scheme, the deficit has not only been wiped out but has also shown a healthy 9.4% increase over 06-07. Performance this year (07-08) has been 49,8,411 as against 45,14,092 in 06-07.

To sum up Population stabilization is one of the objectives of NRHM. It provides a thrust for reduction of child and maternal mortality and reduces the fertility rates. The approach to population stabilization is to provide quality health services in remote rural areas with a wide range of contraceptive choices to meet the unmet demands for these services. Efforts are on

to provide quality Reproductive Health Services (including delivery, safe abortions, treatment of Reproductive tract infections and Family Planning Services to meet unmet needs, while ensuring full reproductive choice to women). The strategy also is to promote male participation in Family Planning. Reduction of population stabilization and Infant Mortality Rate requires greater convergent action to influence the wider determinants of health care like female literacy, sanitation, nutrition, gender and social empowerment, early childhood development, marriage after 18, spacing of children and behavioural changes etc.

[English]

Irregularities in Purchase of Scraps

2809. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale irregularities have been reported in the purchase of scraps in various coal companies of WCL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) WCL does not purchase any scrap.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the above.

Toll on Rail Overbridges

2810. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to levy toll on the busy rail overbridges (ROBs) on National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) The National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 as notified on 5.12.2008. prescribe the rate of fee for use of permanent bridge, bypass or Tunnel. In the case of a bridge costing more than Rs. 10 crores but less than Rs. 50 crores forming part of the section of National Highway, user fee is to be levied as part of the section length of the highway. In case of a bridge costing more than Rs. 50 crores and forming part of a section of the National Highways, the length of the bridge is to be reduced from the section length for working out the user fee for the section and the user fee for the bridge is to be worked out as per prescribed rates and added to the user fee of the section of the highway.

Pending NHDP Projects at RFQ Stage

2811. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of NHDP projects are pending before NHA for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the projects pending at Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present, no projects are pending at Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage with National Highways Authority of India (NHA).

AIDS due to Blood Transfusion

2812. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Thalassaemic patients get AIDS after blood transfusion in the hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check that HIV infected blood is not put into blood banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Thalassaemic patients are among one of the group of multiple transfused patients who are at a high risk of acquiring Transfusion Transmissible Infections such as HIV infection.

Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the rules therein, every unit of blood is mandatorily screened for Transfusion Transmissible Infections (TTI) viz. HIV, Hepatitis B (HBsAg), Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria. Only the blood units found negative for these markers is used for transfusion purposes and the sero-reactive blood units are discarded as per guidelines.

[Translation]

Infrastructure in AIIMS

2813. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether building for new workshop, laundry, Trauma Centre, Rotary Cancer Institute and New Emergency Department have been constructed in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether these buildings are being used entirely for the patients by the Institutes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has reported that the following new buildings have been constructed in the recent past:—

(i) The Building of Laundry-cum-workshop was

completed in September, 2002 and is fully functional. The expenditure incurred to construct the building was Rs. 4.00 crores approx.

(ii) The Building of Jai Prakash Narayan Trauma Centre at AIIMS is completed in March, 2007 and is fully functional. The expenditure incurred on revised EFC is Rs. 138.53 crores plus 3% contingencies.

(iii) The expansion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute for Rotary Cancer Hospital (RCH) has been completed in 2006 with an expenditure of Rs. 98.41 crores.

(iv) As regards, New Emergency Department, no such building has been constructed.

(c) to (e) These facilities are operational and buildings are being used for patient care service by the Institute.

[English]

Indo-Arab Investment Conference

2814. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Arab Investment conference was held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the discussions held therein; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Indo-Arab Investment Projects Conclave was organized by Indo-Arab Economic Forum (IAEF), special initiative of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on April 18-19, 2008 at New Delhi.

(b) Highlights of the event are as under:—

1. The conclave was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

2. Delegations from Algeria, Baharain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Sudan participated in the event.
3. The conclave had discussions focused on various sectors like Agriculture and Food Processing, Engineering and Construction, Banking, Venture Capital, Insurance, Education, IT and ITES, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Minerals and Metals, Oil and Gas (Upstream and Downstream), Infrastructure-Rail, Road, Airports, Ports, Energy, Communication, Real Estate, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Healthcare and Tourism.
4. The conclave have focused plenary sessions on the investment opportunities present in the States of West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu and two exclusive country sessions on Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

(c) The conclave provided a platform for bringing together businessmen from the India and the Arab region in an effort to foster a stronger commercial trade and commercial relations between India and the Arab region.

Afforestation by CIL

2815. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiary companies encourage afforestation on a large scale in the vicinity of Coal Mines to protect environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cites

identified and the names of trees short listed for the purpose;

(c) whether some environmentalists and scientists have raised any objections to this;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon;

(e) whether it is a fact that for the implementation of afforestation programme outer agencies are given the contract for this by neglecting the local displaced people;

(f) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(g) if not, the details of priorities being given to the coal displaced people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 7.08 crore of plantation has been done upto November, 2008 in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) since 1993-94. The plantations raised are multi species and are planted mainly on the following sites:—

- (i) Around infrastructure and colonies
- (ii) Along coal transportation roads in mine area
- (iii) Top soil dumps
- (iv) Overburden dumps
- (v) On back filled areas and reclaimed lands
- (vi) Avenue plantation etc.

The multi species plantations raised include the following:—

Sl.No.	Types	Plants	Approx.%
1	2	3	4
1.	Fruit bearing	Ber, Jamun, Amrud, Imli, gangaimli, Sitaphal, Mango, Mahua	15
2.	Medicinal/Herbal	Neem, Karanj, Behra, Awala, Arjun, Shekakai	25
3.	Commercial and Timber yielding tree	Teak, Kusum, Shivan/Ghamar, Shishoo, Kala Sisam, Safed Sirus, Bamboo	

1	2	3	4
4.	Ornamental trees and other including endangered species (Planted around periphery and for Avenue plantation)	Gulmohar, Amaltas, Saptapani, Gravelia, Peepal, Palm Casia semmia, Babul Gledidia, Maharrook, Elaceocarpus manorial etc.	20

(c) No specific objection from environmentalists and scientists has been received in this regard.

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

(e) In all the subsidiary companies, afforestation programme is executed only through the State Forests Corporation as per the directives of the Government. Engagement preference to local population/project affected people is ensured by including a mandatory clause in the contract agreement with the State Forest Corporations.

(f) Large scale plantation is done every year by the concerned State Forest departments who are having sufficient knowledge and expertise in the matter. They are the Nodal agency for forestry work in the concerned states.

(g) As mentioned at (e) above, the local displaced people/villagers are preferably engaged by the State Forest Corporations for tree plantation work, if available and agreed upon.

Malaria cases from Goa

2816. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 19 Malaria cases, has been reported as imported largely from Goa to Europe;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government has sounded an alert to Public Health Authorities in Goa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Euro surveillance Vol. 13, Issue 1-3, Jan.-Mar. 2008, 19 Malaria cases have been reported since 2006 from India, largely from Goa. Further, during 2006-07 Eight *P falciparum* cases were reported from among tourists returning from Goa to the European Network on Imported Infectious Disease Surveillance.

(c) and (d) The situation of malaria is monitored continuously and the State Government is taking control measures, which include intensive surveillance, screening of migratory laborers, complete treatment of malaria positive cases, intensive larviciding in and around construction sites and mobilization of community as well as builders for taking up control measures. The State has also introduced bye-laws under which all labour population is screened for malaria on their arrival and provided treatment.

Comprehensive Plan for Promotion of Medical Tourism

2817. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any comprehensive plan for promotion of medical tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to upgrade and integrate various hospitals according to their specialization;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated several measures to promote Medical Tourism which include promotion in overseas markets and production of publicity materials like brochure, CDs and films etc. and their distribution in target markets. Specific promotion at various international travel fairs such as World Travel Mart, London and ITB, Berlin etc. is also undertaken.

A new category of 'Medical Visa' has been introduced for foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment.

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

Maternity Benefit to Female Workers In Coal Sector

2818. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME :

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of female workers working in coal Sector as on 31 March, 2008, company-wise;

(b) whether the Maternity benefits are extended to them under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) 29252 female workers are employed in Coal India and its subsidiaries as on 31st March, 2008. The company-wise details is given below:—

Category-wise/Company-wise strength of female employees as on 31.3.08.

Category	ECL	BCCL	CCL	WCL	SECL	MCL	NCL	NEC	CMPDIL	DCC	CIL (HQ)	Total
Executive	67	61	98	89	73	29	29	4	24	3	25	502
M/Rated	1261	1276	856	1104	929	314	225	91	65	12	117	6250
D/Rated	3811	4102	2689	1828	2432	670	325	161	69	19	11	16117
P/Rated	2898	1164	1446	84	125	35	0	0	0	0	0	5752
Casual	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
Badli	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Co.(T)	210	178	27	37	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	537
	8247	6783	5208	3142	3644	1048	579	256	158	34	153	29252

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Number of female employees availing the benefits of Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are given as under:—

2005	2006	2007	2008 (upto Nov., 08)
265	332	342	302

(d) Not applicable in view of reply to (b) above.

Maternity Deaths due to various diseases

2819. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of maternity deaths occur in the rural areas due to various diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the diseases; and

(c) the specific measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The latest survey report titled "Maternal Mortality in India: 1997-2003 trends, causes and risk factors" published in the year 2006 by the Registrar General of India – Sample Registration System, gives the leading causes of maternal mortality as "hemorrhage-38%", "sepsis-11%", "abortion-8%", "obstructed labour-5%", "hypertensive disorders-5%" and "other conditions-34%". The same report States that the risk of a female dying of these causes is higher in the rural areas.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (2005-2012), and under its umbrella, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II, launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, aims to improve access to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary health care, in the rural areas of the country, especially for poor women and children, with a special focus on 18 States which have weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure. Under the Mission, the following key strategies and interventions are being implemented to accelerate the pace of reduction in maternal mortality due to different causes, namely Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women; Operationalizing Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centers for 24 x 7 services; Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill-based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance; training

of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section; Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services; prevention and treatment of Anemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation; Organizing Village Health and Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centers; Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women; Strengthening of Health Facilities, that is, District Hospitals, Community Health Centers (CHCs) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centres (SCs), by providing them with funds including untied grants, Annual Maintenance Grants (AMG) and Corpus Funds to improve service delivery.

Policy on Broadcast of Mobile T.V.

2820. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow the opening up of Terrestrial Television (TT) broadcasting so that operators can offer mobile television services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to impose any limit/cap on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in companies offering mobile TV broadcasting;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in this regard; and

(f) the manner in which the available infrastructure could be shared between mobile companies and TV companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (f) A policy to allow the opening up of terrestrial television broadcasting so as to enable the operators to offer mobile TV services is under

consideration of Government. The proposed policy inter-alia covers all issues such as licensing, regulatory mechanism, cross-medial restrictions, foreign investment, sharing of infrastructure etc.

TRAI has, in its recommendations dated 23.01.2008 recommended composite foreign investment limit including FDI of 74% for mobile TV service while reiterating its earlier recommendations for a complete review of FDI policy relating to carriage aspects of electronic media as a whole so that it is consistent across all sectors. Authority has further recommended that foreign investments upto 49% may be permitted under the automatic route, beyond which FIPB approval will be required. The detailed recommendations are available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in. and include recommendations regarding sharing of infrastructure.

[Translation]

Threat from the Rivers Flowing into India from Tibet

2821. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the rivers flowing from Tibet into India pose any threat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this matter with the Government of China; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Government has taken up with the Chinese side matters relating to trans-border rivers. India and China have signed MoUs upon Provision of Hydrological Information of Yalung Zangbo/Brahmaputra River and Sutlej/Langqen Zangbo River in Flood Season by China to India in January 2002 and April, 2005 respectively. The MoU relating to Brahmaputra has been renewed in June, 2008. Both countries have also established an Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-Border Rivers to discuss interaction and cooperation on the

provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues. Two meetings have been held in September, 2007 and April, 2008. The next meeting is likely to be held in China in the first half of 2009.

[English]

Lack of Transparency in Procurement of Equipment

2822. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India in their report has pointed out lack of transparency, accountability, fairness and competitiveness in the purchase of equipment and materials by the Department of Space or reported in *The Hindu* dated 26 October, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof, if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India in their report No. PA 2 of 2008 (Scientific Departments) has observed adoption of exceptional mode of tendering limiting competition; changes in techno-commercial terms; advances overdue for settlement; overstocking of components etc., in procurement of certain equipment/material in Department of Space (DOS).

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Procurement of critical/strategic components has been carried out as per approved/published Purchase

and Stores procedures of DOS, taking into account the state-of-the-art technology, vendor development policies, space quality and heritage aspects, and the need to safeguard the programmatic requirements.

However, as per the existing procedure, after the CAG's report is tabled in the Parliament, Department will furnish the Action Taken Note to the Audit for vetting, before sending to the monitoring cell in the Ministry of Finance.

(e) The Department has further strengthened the procurement procedures in order to ensure judicious choice of tendering mode; rigorous evaluation of tenders; monitoring of advances and optimization of the inventory.

[Translation]

Declining Freight in the Shipping Industry

2823. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI SURAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the freight on the international shipping routes has registered a steep decline during the past three months;

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

(c) the extent to which this decline has affected the major waterways of the world and the Indian Shipping Trade?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Ship freight on international waterways has been continuously declining from past three months in the Liners as well as in the Dry bulk Sector.

(b) and (c) The Liner Container Services have been impacted due to the steep cut in freights on international routes.

In general, the decrease is ranging between 50-70% from the Indian sub-continent to Far East sector, Middle

East Sector and Europe sector. Similarly, freight is also declining on the return legs ranging from 35-50%.

On Far East sector, i.e., from India to China, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, the decline in freight rates is about 50%. From Far Eastern Ports (i.e. China, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia) to India Sub-continent, the decline in freight rates is about 60%.

From India to Middle East sector (namely UAE, Jebelali, Dammam, Kuwait, Muscat, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi), the decline in freight rate is about 45-50%. And ex-Middle East sector to India, the decline is about 40%.

From India to Europe sector (namely, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Poland, Denmark, France, Turkey, Egypt, St. Petersburg, Ukraine, Portugal, Sweden etc.) the decline in freight rate ranges between 65-70%.

The reduction in freight rate from Europe to India is about 50%.

The freight for breakbulk cargoes especially from Europe to India has registered a reduction over the last three months after September, 2008. This is mainly due to the reduction in the Bunker prices and the Bunker Adjustment Factor (BAF) has now reduced by about 55% over the last three months.

The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) serves as an indicator of the Dry Bulk market and its steep fall reflects the freight situation in the Dry Bulk market. The monthly average of BDI for July, 2008 to November, 2008 is as follows:—

Month	July, 2008	August, 2008	September, 2008	October, 2008	November, 2008
Month	8934	7407	4975	1808	824
Average BDI					
Percentage change from previous month	12.80%	17.09%	32.83%	63.66%	54.42%

The overall fall in BDI from July, 2008 to November, 2008 works out to a fall of 90.78%.

With reference to Tanker sector the Baltic Dirty Tanker Index as on 1st July, 2008 was 1866 and as on 28th November, 2008 was 1073, a drop of 42.5% during the period. The Baltic Clean Tanker Index Figures prevailing for the same dates are 1454 and 880 respectively, a drop of 39.48%.

The chemical market especially Easychems viz. Benzene, Toluene, Xylene too has softened by about 10-15% especially in the East of Suez Markets.

The decrease in freight charges is on account of the following reasons:—

- (i) The financial crisis which originated in United States of America and has spread to Europe and other countries.
- (ii) China, a major engine for growth, has a large stockpile of iron ore and coal.
- (iii) The prices of major traded commodities, for example, iron ore, steel, other ores, metals etc. have decline due to lack of demand; primary industries have been affected the most and the slump in demand and high inventory of raw materials of these industries has affected the trade in these commodities.
- (iv) Trade has also been hampered by the lack of confidence between Banks from whom the Letters of Credit are routed.
- (v) The export of iron ore from India has also declined due to pricing issues and a reduction of demand in China.
- (vi) In Tanker trade, the reduction in fuel prices and fall in demand has been a major factor for fall in freight rates.

Ship owners are now receiving returns far below breakeven levels for their vessels. While instances of bankruptcies have occurred of international shipowners, the Indian industry is struggling to cope with the downturn.

[English]

Specialised Agency for International Cooperations

2824. SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to create an agency on the lines of Japan International Cooperation Agency and South Korean International Cooperation Agency for handling development aid;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes. Pursuant to the announcement of Finance Minister in his budget speech for FY 2007-08, setting up of an autonomous agency is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The proposed Agency is envisaged to have under its mandate the entire range of existing activities relating to India's overseas development cooperation including disaster and humanitarian relief assistance and Lines of Credit to developing countries in the spirit of South-South cooperation. The agency will seek funds from MEA's budget as required.

(c) The proposed agency is envisaged as an effective mechanism and umbrella institution for implementing the entire range of Government of India's overseas development assistance.

Extension of Amenities to Newspaper Employees

2825. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the accredited newspapers including that of the local dailies operating in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide basic amenities to the employees of these news agencies/papers;

(c) if so, the details thereof outlining the names of the facilities likely to be extended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (d) Government does not give accreditation to any newspaper. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned only with accreditation of Journalists through Press Information Bureau [PIB] by providing Press Accreditation Cards, as per Accreditation Guidelines. PIB also issues railway concession coupons to Accredited Media Persons and makes recommendations to the Directorate of Estates for allotment of quarters under Journalist Quota.

[Translation]

International Assistant for Road Projects

2826. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI SURAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain road projects are being implemented with the financial assistance of the World Bank and other international financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time-frame fixed for the completion of these projects and percentage of work completed so far, Project-wise; and

(c) the names of the projects which are not likely to be completed within the stipulated time frame and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) The details of the road projects including the time-frame fixed for the completion of these projects and progress of work, undertaken with financial assistance of the World Bank and other international financial institutions are given in the enclosed Statement. As indicated in the Statement, completion of some of the projects, has been delayed. Various reasons for the delay include initial delays in land acquisition and utility shifting, delays in obtaining clearances for rail overbridges and poor performance by contractors etc.

Statement

Details of Externally Aided NHDP Projects

Sl. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Total Length	Completed Length	Awarded Cost (Rs. in crore)	Physical Progress (%)	Date of Completion as per Contract	Date of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)
(4 Laning completed projects)**

1.	Shivpuri Bypass and upto MP/RJ Border (EW-II – MP-I)	25, 76	53	53	294.98	100.00	Feb.-2008	Oct.-2008
2.	Gurgaon-Kotputli	8	126	126	265	100.00	Mar.-2001	Mar.-2001
3.	Atul-Kajali	8	38.6	38.6	162.05	100.00	Apr.-2003	Jan.-2004
4.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	48	48	58.7	100.00	Apr.-2000	Apr.-2000
5.	Sira-Tumkur	4	41.4	41.4	153.23	100.00	Aug.-2004	Jan.-2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Chitradurga-Sira	4	66.7	66-7	253.24	100.00	Aug.-2004	May-2005
7.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-11)	76	70	70	278.09	100.00	Mar.-2008	Oct.-2008
8.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (EW-II – MP-2)	25	35	35	157.36	100.00	Feb.-2008	Nov.-2008
9.	Bhiladi to Porbandar (Package-I)	8B	50.5	50-5	193.23	100.00	Nov.-2007	May-2007
10.	Barwa Adda-Barakar	2	43	43	134	100.00	Dec.-2001	Dec.-2001
11.	Raniganji-Panagarh	2	42	42	161	100.00	Nov.-2007	Nov.-2001
12.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar (Package-V)	15	106.2	106-2	288.54	100.00	Nov.-2007	May-2008
13.	Deesa to Radhanpur (Package-VI)	14	85.4	85-4	326.04	100.00	Nov.-2007	Sep.-2008
14.	Eluru-Vijayawada Package V	5	72	72	275	100.00	Jan.-2002	Jan.-2002
15.	Kajali-Manor	8	57.4	57-4	168.85	100.00	Oct.-2003	Nov.-2003
16.	Surat (Chalthan) – Atul	8	79.6	79-6	234.88	100.00	Oct.-2003	Jun.-2005
(Under Implementation projects)								
1.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-10)	76	59.85	49	347.36	78.42	Oct.-2008	Jun.-2002
2.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/ C-11)	7	42.4	0	174.81	26.85	Aug.-2009	Aug.-2009
3.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/ C-15)	7	45.6	0	218.29	34.70	Aug.2009	Aug.-2009
4.	Chitradurga Bypass	4	18	18	103.93	25.10	Sep.-2008	Apr.-2009
5.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/ C-12)	7	42.6	0	213.45	23.58	Sep.-2009	Sep.-2009
6.	Harihar-Chitradurga	4	77	62-92	196.65	0.00	Jun.-2010	Jun.-2010
7.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/ C-10)	7	40	0	167.39	22.26	Aug.-2009	Aug.-2009
8.	Haveri-Harihar	4	56	46-85	207.56	0.00	Jul.-2010	Jul.-2010
9.	Lalitpur Sagar (ADB-II/C-3)	26	38	0	140.387	12.61	Nov.-2008	Nov.-2009
10.	Sagar Bypass (ADB-II/C-5)	26	26	0	116.073	27.40	Oct.-2008	Nov.-2009
11.	Sagar Rajmarg choraha (ADB-11/C-7)	26	42	36-03	189.637	76.52	Oct.-2008	Dec.-2009
12.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhandon (ADB- 11/C-9)	26	54-7	0	203.504	14.7	Oct.-2008	Nov.-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-13)	7	40	0	231.27	19.61	Sep.-2009	Sep.-2009
14.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-14)	7	42	0	183.98	31.19	Aug.-2009	Aug.-2009
15.	Gagodhar to Garamore (Package-IV)	15, 8A	90-3	83	339.02	80.48	Nov.-2007	Jun.-2009
16.	Garamore to Bamanbore (Package-III)	8A	71-4	64	289.92	79.67	Nov.-2007	Mar.-2009
17.	Jetpur to Bhiladi (Package-II)	8B	64.5	64	299.84	96.76	Nov.-2007	Feb.-2009
18.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (UP/MP-1) (UP-11 km and MP-30 km)	25	41	35	150.03	76.00	Apr.-2008	Dec.-2008
19.	Jhansi Bypass (UP-3)	25	15	0	115.24	47.32	May-2008	Dec.-2009
20.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-4)	25	66	0	414.88	49.98	Apr.-2008	Dec.-2009
21.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-9)	76	43.15	25	286.65	77.79	Apr.-2008	Jun.-2009
22.	Lalitpur-Sagar (ADB-11/C-4)	26	55	0	171.463	35.39	Oct.-2008	Mar.-2009
23.	Chittorgarh Bypass (RJ-6)	76	40	40	314.41	94.75	Apr.-2008	Dec.-2008
24.	Sagar-Rajmarg Choraha (ADB-11/C-6)	26	44	0	163.87	13.66	Oct.-2008	Nov.-2009
25.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lahknadon (ADB-II/C-8)	26	54	0	219.01	25.14	Oct.-2008	Dec.-2010
26.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-8)	76	65	59	397.44	94.06	Apr.-2008	Dec.-2008
27.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-7)	76	63	59	375.98	95.09	Apr.-2008	Dec.-2008
28.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-5)	25	50	0	302.97	24.10	Mar.-2008	Dec.-2009
Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)								
(4 Laning completed projects)								
1.	Chandikole-Jagatpur	5	27.8	27.8	105.61	100.00	Feb.-2003	Jan.-2003
2.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package I	5	25	25	60.16	100.00	Mar.-2002	Jan.-2003
3.	Ghaziabad-Hapur and Hapur Bypass	24	33	33	81.1	100.00	Apr.-2002	Sep.-2002
4.	Cable Stayed bridge on river Yamuna near Naini	27	6	6	219.78	100.00	Feb.-2004	Jul.-2004
5.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package-II	5	32	32	59.43	100.00	Mar.-2002	Jan.-2003
6.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package-III	5	23.78	23.78	55.19	100.00	Mar.-2002	Jan.-2003
7.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package-IV	5	2.88	2.88	52.8	100.00	May-2002	May-2002

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
World Bank (WB)								
(4 Laning completed)								
1.	Sasaram-Dehri on-sone (GTRIP/IV-C)	2	30	30	197.95	100.00	Mar.-2005	Jul.-2008
2.	Aurangabad-Barachatti (TNHP/V-A)	2	60	60	284.878	100.00	Mar.-2005	Jul.-2007
3.	Dehri-on-Sone-Aurangabad (TNHP/IV-D)	2	40	40	217.99	100.00	Feb.-2004	Nov.-2005
4.	Mohania-Sasaram (TNHP/IV-B)	2	45	45	229.96	100.00	Feb.-2004	Mar.-2006
5.	Khaga-Kokhraj (TNHP/III-A)	2	43	43	179.85	100.00	Jun.-2004	Jan.-2005
6.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-I (Bridge)	2	1.02	0	108.23	100.00	Mar.-2006	Oct.-2008
7.	Barachatti-Gorhar (GTRIP/V-B)	2	80	80	434.68	100.00	Mar.-2005	Jul.-2007
8.	Handia-Varanasi (TNHP/III-C)	2	72	72	265.38	100.00	Jul.-2004	Apr.-2008
9.	Shikohabad-Etawah (GTRIP/I-B)	2	59.02	59.02	236.98	100.00	Sep.-2007	Sep.-2008
10.	Etawah-Rajpur (GTRIP/I-C)	2	72.825	72.83	323.95	100.00	Mar.-2005	May-2008
11.	Sikandara-Bhaunti (TNHP/II-A)	2	62	62	289.3	100.00	Aug.-2004	May-2007
12.	Kanpur-Fatehpur (GTRIP/II-B)	2	51.5	51.5	496.11	100.00	Mar.-2005	May-2008
World Bank (WB)								
(Under Implementation projects)								
1.	Kotwa to Dewapur (LMNHP-10)	28	38	0	263.97	16.59	Nov.-2008	Dec.-2009
2.	Kasia to Gorakhpur (LMNHP-7)	28	40	4	253.12	37.00	Dec.-2008	Dec.-2009
3.	Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border to Kasia (LMNHP-8)	28	41.115	4.5	259.77	33.59	Dec.-2008	Dec.-2009
4.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-1)	28	36	16.8	198.06	51.84	Oct.-2008	Jun.-2009
5.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-2)	28	47	20.4	212.33	60.19	Oct.-2008	Jun.-2009
6.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-3)	28	41.925	16.5	249.95	55.83	Nov.-2008	Jun.-2009
7.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-4)	28	29	1	255.21	51.00	Nov.-2008	Dec.-2009
8.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-5)	28	44	0	266.06	20.00	Oct.-2008	Dec.-2009
9.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-6)	28	43.7	0	262.6	51.00	Oct.-2008	Jun.-2009
10.	Mehsi to Kotwa (LMNHP-11)	28	40	0	318.77	18.88	Sep.-2008	Dec.-2009
11.	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP-II-C)	2	77	73.29	295.53	87.20	Oct.-2008	Mar.-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12.	Deewapur to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border (LMNHP-9)	28	41.085	0	357.14	15.12	Nov.-2008	Dec.-2009
13.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-II	2	38.987	38.5	446.99	82.20	Dec.-2006	Dec.-2008
14.	Varanasi-Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A)	2	76	73.97	396.47	89.02	Mar.-2005	Jun.-2009
15.	Agra-Shikohabad (GTRIP/I-A)	2	50.83	49.89	328.49	97.97	Mar.-2005	Mar.-2009
16.	Gorhar-Barwa Adda (TNHP/V-C)	2	78.75	71.69	299.711	85.66	Mar.-2005	Mar.-2009
17.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-III	2	44.708	40	505.27	80.00	May-2007	Feb.-2009
18.	Muzzaffarpur to Mehsi (LMNHP-12)	28	40	0	311.13	18.19	Sep.-2008	Dec.-2009

[English]

**National Centre for Natural Products
Research**

2827. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to sign any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Natural Products Research;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Indian system of medicine is likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The Government has already signed A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Natural Products Research (NCNPR), University of Mississippi, USA. The MoU aims at setting up an Indo-US Joint Center for Research Indian Systems of Medicine (CRISM) at NCNPR by Department of AYUSH. The primary mission of the CRISM would be to facilitate scientific validation and dissemination of information in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines, through collaborative research.

This will help in creating advocacy for Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) in the US, encourage research in ISM through modern science and create a market for both ISM and ISM products in the US.

[Translation]

Press release by PIB in English

2828. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :- Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the press releases are prepared in English language only and Hindi language is being ignored in the Press Information Bureau (PIB);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the criteria followed in this regard;

(d) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure all press releases to be released in both English and Hindi language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. press releases are released in English and later translated into Hindi by Press Information Bureau.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Ban on Plastic Bags

2829. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
 SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME :
 SHRI RANEN BARMAN :
 SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :
 SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of plastic/polythene bags in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of adverse impact on environment caused by the use of plastic bags in the country along with the steps taken to check the menace;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take steps and encourage plastic bag manufacturers to set up state-of-art plastic recycling units and to take up research for the development of biodegradable plastics;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is aware of any eco-friendly technology being adopted by any other country for preparing food wrappers as a substitute to plastic bags; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Considering the volume of plastic bags used, size of plastic industry and the non-availability of cheaper substitutes, at present there is no proposal with the Government of India to call for a complete ban on the usage of plastic bags all over the country, However, in some of the hill stations, tourist and pilgrimages places, the use of plastic carry bags has been prohibited/restricted by the local authorities.

(c) The virgin plastic bags are not per-se injurious to health and hazardous to environment. The indiscriminate

littering of used plastic bags and the recycled/coloured plastic bags containing certain chemical additives may pose environmental problems including making land infertile, choking open drains, ground water contamination, etc. The Government of India has notified "Plastics Manufacture, Sale and Usage Rules, 1999 as amended in 2003. As per the provisions of these Rules, carry bags and containers made of virgin plastic shall be in natural shade or white.

(d) and (e) Recycling of plastic bags if carried out in unsound manner can result in emission of toxic gases which may affect environment and pose health risks. According to the Plastic Manufacture, Sale and Usage Rules, 1999, as amended in 2003, the recycling of plastic wastes is required to be undertaken by the registered units only and as per the norms prescribed under these rules. The Government provides financial assistance for management of plastics including R and D activities.

(f) and (g) Some of the developed countries have started using bio-degradable plastics, paper, etc. in food packaging.

Regional Rural Banks

2830. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :
 SHRIMATI K. RANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in the country, Statewise;

(b) the outstanding loan of these banks;

(c) the measure being taken by the Government to recover such outstanding loans; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen RRBs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) There were 91 Regional Rural Banks

(RRBs) functioning in the Country as on 31st March, 2008. The State-wise information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The outstanding loans of these RRBs as on 31st March, 2008 as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was Rs. 5909673.67 lakh (provisional).

(c) Loans are generally paid back as per terms of their disbursement. For such outstanding loans that are not paid on due dates, apart from regular efforts for recovery of loans viz. issue of demand notices, recovery camps with the help of State Government, the following measures are also being taken:—

(i) Compromise settlement of dues through Lok Adalat.

(ii) Extending the jurisdiction of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SERFAESI Act), to the loans advanced by RRBs.

(d) To strengthen the RRBs, several measures have been taken:—

(1) Amalgamation of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) sponsor bank-wise at State level. The amalgamated RRBs will reap benefits of a large area of operation and enhanced credit exposure limits.

(2) Recapitalization of weak RRBs in a phased manner.

(3) Expansion of non-fund based business activities such as sale of insurance policies, disbursement of pension, salaries etc. and handling of Government business to increase income generation.

(4) Permitting RRBs to accept Foreign Currency Non-Residents (FCNR) Deposits.

(5) Allowing consortium lending of RRBs.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of RRBs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	2
4.	Bihar	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	3
6.	Gujarat	3
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
10.	Jharkhand	2
11.	Karnataka	6
12.	Kerala	2
13.	Manipur	1
14.	Meghalaya	1
15.	Mizoram	1
16.	Madhya Pradesh	10
17.	Maharashtra	6
18.	Nagaland	1
19.	Orissa	5
20.	Punjab	3
21.	Puducherry	1
22.	Rajasthan	6
23.	Tamil Nadu	2
24.	Tripura	1

1	2	3
25.	Uttar Pradesh	12
26.	Uttaranchal	2
27.	West Bengal	3
Total		91

Outsourcing of ATMs

2831. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India is contemplating to outsource ATMs to external agencies;

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

(c) whether the sites for these ATMs have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Bank of India has reported that 500 ATMs are expected to be hired under this model on a pilot basis (i) to reduce expenditure in setting up ATMs; (ii) to improve availability of ATMs to customers and (iii) to improve the quality of customer service. The process of site identification has begun.

Imposition of Sales Tax on Petrol/Diesel

2832. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any suggestions regarding the tax burden on the oil companies due to imposition of sales tax on petrol and diesel by various States;

(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 S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) The issue of tax burden due to States' sales taxes on petrol and diesel has been raised by various stakeholders on several occasions. As per Entry 54 of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, taxes on sale or purchase of goods in a State subject and an Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has been constituted to take decision on all matters relating to State level VAT and sales tax related issues. In this regard on 9.6.2008, the then Union Finance Minister had also written to the Chairman, Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers requesting the States to reduce the sales tax rates on petrol and diesel to a uniform level throughout the country.

[Translation]

Illegal transaction by Private Banks

2833. SHRI HARSINH CHAVDA :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private banks in the country are becoming helpful in the illegal transaction of money and operation of black money;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has made some provision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the provisions so made, and the present implementation status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND) has been set up to receive information relating to large cash and suspicious transactions from financial sector, analyse it and disseminate information in appropriate cases to relevant intelligence/law enforcement agen-

cies. FIU-IND does not undertake any investigations. Further, FIU-IND does not have the desired information.

(c) and (d) The private sector banks are required to operate under the overall regulatory framework prescribed by Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Instances of money laundering, whenever come to the notice of banks, the same are reported by them to FIU-IND. Further, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2005 has been enacted and action taken against the money launderers according to the provisions of this Act. Reserve Bank of India has also issued detailed instructions to banks on observance of Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and prevention of money laundering. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2005 and RBI instructions on KYC and Money Laundering are operational and the banks are required to follow these provisions.

[English]

Re-Insurers with General Insurance Companies

2834. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAAN :
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector general insurance companies have employed international re-insurers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of these re-insurers had gone into liquidation and owed crores of rupees; and

(d) if so, the facts in the matter and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) General Insurers' Public Sector Association (GIPSA) has reported that public sector general insurance companies are not employing international re-insurers with questionable credit ratings. While placing business with re-insurance, the insurance companies ensure that international re-insurer has atleast a rating of

"BBB" or equivalent of Standard and Poor as prescribed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

(c) and (d) GIPSA has informed that in case of Oriental Insurance Company (OIC) out of its total re-insurance business placed, only one company, namely, Reliance National of Singapore has gone into liquidation. Against a recovery of US\$ 23.89 mln., only US\$ 3.8 mln. is accepted by scheme of arrangement. OIC has also filed a recovery suit in Singapore for the entire amount plus interest thereafter till actual settlement.

Import Duty on AIDS and Cancer Drugs

2835. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received a request to remove import duty on 60-odd anti-AIDS and cancer drugs in order to bring down prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) In 2006-07, Government had received recommendation for full exemption from customs and excise duty on 27 anti-AIDS drugs and 69 anti-cancer drugs.

(b) The recommendation was examined in 2006-07 budget and 10 specified anti-AIDS, 14 anti-cancer drugs, and bulk drugs for their manufacture were provided a concessional customs duty of 5%. These drugs were also exempted from CVD equal to excise duty. With the reduction in Central Excise duty applicable to drugs and medicines from 16% to 8% in the budget 2008-09, and subsequent reduction to 4% on 7.12.2008, the import duty on all drugs has reduced further.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Food Products

2836. SHRI M. RAMADASS :
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provides subsidy on food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes any change in the existing subsidy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) Government does not provide subsidy on food products. However, food subsidy is provided to Food Corporation of India, which is responsible for procurement and distribution of wheat and rice under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes and to maintain buffer stock of food grains as a measure of food security. Further, food subsidy is provided to States which have undertaken the responsibility of procuring foodgrains from within the State and distribution the same to the targeted population under TPDS and other welfare schemes. The quantum of money spent during the last three years and budget estimates including First Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2008-09 is given below:—

Explicit Food Subsidy of the Central Government

(Rupees crore)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
			(Provisional BE + First Actuals)	Supplementary)
Food Subsidy	23077	24014	31328	37731

Source : 1. Expenditure Budget Volume I.
2. Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance.

[English]

Increase in Duty Drawback Rates

2837. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase duty drawback rates reduced earlier to help Textile Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The drawback rates were fixed on the recommendations of a Committee constituted for purposes of formulating the all industry rates of duty drawback. Several representations have been received after announcement of the drawback rates requesting for increase in the rates of drawback for various items including textile items. These representations have been forwarded to the Committee for consideration. Further action would be taken on receipt of the recommendation of the Committee.

[Translation]

Vehicle and Home Loan

2838. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who have availed vehicle loan and home loan during the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) whether these loans through notionalised banks are being repaid in time;

(c) if not, the number of persons who have not repaying the said loans;

(d) whether banks have taken action against them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (e) The bank-wise data on outstanding and impaired credit for housing and auto loans, as furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the last three years, is attached at Statement-I to III. Data on number of persons who have availed these loans, have not repaid them and action of the banks in this regard is not available. Banks, however, have a well-established

mechanism for recovery of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) and guidelines for one-time settlement of dues. Banks can also initiate action against defaulters of loans under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

Statement-I

Amount in Rs. crore

Bank Name	March 2006					
	Retail-Outstanding		Retail-Impaired		NPA Ratio (%)	
	Housing Loan	Auto Loan	Housing Loan	Auto Loan	Housing Loan	Auto Loan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Allahabad Bank	2377.44	113.98	71.37	5.94	3.00	5.21
Andhra Bank	1571.42	55.58	40.13	5.6	2.55	10.08
Bank of Baroda	4279.24	203.53	141.67	6.23	3.31	3.06
State of India	4201.55	223.05	71.24	6.92	1.70	3.10
Bank of Maharashtra	1522.69	166.35	26.38	7.41	1.73	4.45
Canara Bank	5599	620.52	97.32	31.79	1.74	5.12
Central Bank of India	1921.02	94.97	79.94	6.07	4.16	6.39
Corporation Bank	3668.94	314.89	170.54	16.16	4.65	5.13
Dena Bank	1275.75	22.99	35.05	1.59	2.75	6.92
IDBI Bank Limited	7399.44	3.21	54.42	0.93	0.74	28.97
Indian Bank	3302.3	107.75	101.61	9.52	3.08	8.84
Indian Overseas Bank	2714.22	150.47	76.88	3.8	2.83	2.53
Oriental Bank of Commerce	2608.92	54.84	85.95	3.45	3.29	6.29
Punjab and Sind Bank	1222.88	36.79	26.58	5.18	2.17	14.08
Punjab National Bank	6360.48	650.8	91.51	21.57	1.44	3.31
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	1685.8	73.26	27.73	2.79	1.64	3.81
State Bank of Hyderabad	2262.34	18.53	34.73	4.48	1.54	24.18
State Bank of India	32002.08	4274.77	1072.67	80.77	3.35	1.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of Indore	882.48	209.07	56.09	3.53	6.35	1.69
State Bank of Mysore	1323.43	214.56	32.99	0	2.49	0.00
State Bank of Patiala	2014.08	272.01	79.52	4.64	3.95	1.71
State Bank of Saurashtra	954.21	27.85	21.34	0.2	2.24	0.72
State Bank of Travancore	2843.09	516.85	53.67	4.63	1.89	0.90
Syndicate Bank	3893.35	106.81	154.2	4.26	3.96	3.99
UCO Bank	2632.69	59.85	49.82	3.25	1.89	5.43
Union Bank of India	4587.58	465.5	174.26	23.42	3.80	5.03
United Bank of India	1500.27	57.41	52.12	0.18	3.47	0.31
Vijaya Bank	3376.71	266.2	147.8	11.18	4.38	4.20

Source: Off-site returns submitted by banks

Statement-II

Amount in Rs. crore

Bank Name	March 2006					
	Retail-Outstanding		Retail-Impaired		NPA Ratio (%)	
	Housing Loan	Auto Loan	Housing Loan	Auto Loan	Housing Loan	Auto Loan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Allahabad Bank	3177.08	202.91	109.34	8.35	3.44	4.12
Andhra Bank	1772.02	107.87	31.54	4.76	1.78	4.41
Bank of Baroda	5877.22	390.11	170.06	6.77	2.89	1.74
State of India	5345.43	424.26	94.72	3.17	1.77	0.75
Bank of Maharashtra	2165.89	636.61	50.57	8.23	2.33	1.29
Canara Bank	6575.17	886.96	205.46	50.48	3.12	5.69
Central Bank of India	2868.65	134.72	117.59	4.6	4.10	3.41
Corporation Bank	4195.33	430.55	168.23	17.57	4.01	4.08
Dena Bank	2521.69	55.24	75.61	2.22	3.00	4.02
IDBI Bank Limited	9235.57	30.81	114.64	2.52	1.24	8.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Indian Bank	3801.11	145.1	112.31	9.29	2.95	6.40
Indian Overseas Bank	2959.8	233.98	104.03	4.74	3.51	2.03
Oriental Bank of Commerce	3305.48	310.28	95.02	3.79	2.87	1.22
Punjab and Sind Bank	982.75	234.94	23.28	3.73	2.37	1.59
Punjab National Bank	7350.8	924.23	178.05	30.82	2.42	3.33
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	1767.21	133.86	53.61	2.8	3.03	2.09
State Bank of Hyderabad	2688.12	283.65	38.7	4.82	1.44	1.70
State Bank of India	37310.27	5503.95	1413.94	116.23	3.79	2.11
State Bank of Indore	1028.8	142.93	47.19	4.19	4.59	2.93
State Bank of Mysore	1834.03	233.41	62.54	5.92	3.41	2.54
State Bank of Patiala	2481.79	404.49	106.64	7.6	4.30	1.88
State Bank of Saurashtra	1109.15	45.45	20.78	2.25	1.87	4.95
State Bank of Travancore	3490.99	790.67	51.5	5.91	1.48	0.75
Syndicate Bank	5298.67	172.84	227.34	5.81	4.29	3.36
UCO Bank	3332.69	56.02	78.52	2.12	2.36	3.78
Union Bank of India	4465.02	714.55	146.6	44.6	3.28	6.24
United Bank of India	2218.02	337.1	66.54	2.93	3.00	0.87
Vijaya Bank	3819.39	519.63	167.1	12.41	4.38	2.39

Source: Off-site returns submitted by banks

Statement-III

Amount in Rs. crore

Bank Name	March 2006					
	Retail-Outstanding		Retail-Impaired		NPA Ratio (%)	
	Housing Loan	Auto Loan	Housing Loan	Auto Loan	Housing Loan	Auto Loan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Allahabad Bank	3061.81	234.93	132	8.31	4.31	3.54
Andhra Bank	1994.76	132.58	26.02	3.78	1.30	2.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bank of Baroda	6950.73	495.72	301.68	12.2	4.34	2.46
State of India	6342.61	584.04	190.85	8.52	3.01	1.46
Bank of Maharashtra	2610.23	742.58	71.95	11.63	2.76	1.57
Canara Bank	6658.6	943.66	143.86	18.9	2.16	2.00
Central Bank of India	3825.51	223.07	170.9	5.43	4.47	2.43
Corporation Bank	4431.66	543.21	143.2	25.56	3.23	4.71
Dena Bank	3155.41	146.97	84.02	2.79	2.66	1.90
IDBI Bank Limited	10367.04	35.39	139.03	2.88	1.34	8.14
Indian Bank	4188.07	191.69	110.58	9.87	2.64	5.15
Indian Overseas Bank	2961.13	332.8	100.07	4.93	3.38	1.48
Oriental Bank of Commerce	3141.13	345.11	119.45	6.78	3.80	1.96
Punjab and Sind Bank	1007.86	54.5	17.71	0.62	1.76	1.14
Punjab National Bank	7664.35	926.02	309.79	48.6	4.04	5.25
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	1853.5	178.11	59.94	2.2	3.23	1.24
State Bank of Hyderabad	3210.67	36.14	35.74	5.9	1.11	1.63
State Bank of India	41957.02	7149.11	1420.69	212.22	3.39	2.97
State Bank of Indore	1272.63	200.66	41.4	4.44	3.25	2.21
State Bank of Mysore	1991.69	267.1	59.9	10.47	3.01	3.92
State Bank of Patiala	2901.67	572.56	87.09	9.92	3.00	1.73
State Bank of Saurashtra	1224.13	63.72	28.87	3.16	2.36	4.96
State Bank of Travancore	4157.83	921.2	48.14	10.78	1.16	1.17
Syndicate Bank	7183.16	206.29	288.77	8.69	4.02	4.21
UCO Bank	3808.51	72.96	121.36	3.67	3.19	5.03
Union Bank of India	5252.92	805.07	188.58	30.52	3.59	3.79
United Bank of India	4147.59	717.41	34.46	0.3	0.83	0.04
Vijaya Bank	4198.37	841.05	202.37	10.89	4.82	1.29

Source: Off-site returns submitted by banks

Agricultural Bank

2839. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal any proposal to set up Agricultural Bank exclusively for providing loan and other financial facilities to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Agricultural Loan by Co-operative Banks

2840. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the share of loans disbursed to agriculture sector out of the total loans disbursed by the cooperative banks during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the share of agriculture loan by co-operative banks is decreasing; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) The total loans disbursed by Cooperative Banks in the last three years and during the current year, is given below:—

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Total Loans disbursed by Cooperative Banks	Loans disbursed to agriculture sector	% of agriculture loan to total loans
1	2	3	4
2005-06	50,226	39,786	79

1	2	3	4
2006-07	55,727	42,480	76
2007-08 (Provisional)	58,902	43,684	74
2008-09 (upto 31 October, 2008)	Not available	21,978	Not available

(Source: NABARD)

Although the percentage share of loans disbursed by Cooperative Banks in the agricultural sector as come down marginally, it has increased in absolute terms in the last three years.

[English]

Loan on Forged Signature

2841. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of sanction of loans on forged signatures by Allahabad Bank detected during the year 2006 and the amount so sanctioned, region-wise;

(b) the action taken against the officers and other involved therein;

(c) whether these cases have been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for investigations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) A Statement received from Allahabad Bank containing all the requisite details is annexed.

Statement

Cases of Sanction of Loans on forged Signature during the year 2006*

Sl. No.	Branch	Zone	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Officers/others involved	Action taken	Whether referred to CBI/CVC for investigation	If so, details thereof and progress made so far
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	RBB, Meerut University	Meerut	7.45	P. K. Jain	Reduction of Basic Pay	No	Nil
2.	Muskanwa	Gonda	5.74	Md. Khursheed	Reduction of Basic Pay	No	Nil
3.	RBB, Elgin Road	Kolkata - Metro	65.98	1. M. M. Roy 2. Sanjib Ghosh 3. Fullora Adhikary	1. Reduction to lower stage 2. Censure 3. Caution	No	Nil
4.	Maihar	Satna	9.40	R. P. Singh	Reduction of Basic Pay	No	Nil
5.	Terwa Manikapur	Sitapur	2.62	G. M. Kapoor	Compulsory Retirement	No	Nil
6.	Barasat	Barasat	16.70	1. Dinesh Kumar 2. S. N. Hazra	1. Censure 2. Reduction of Basic Pay	No	Nil
7.	Begisara	Muzaffarpur	4.92	1. B. K. Jha 2. V. S. Singh 3. U. N. Upadhyay 4. S. S. Pandey	1. Reduction of Basic Pay 2. Censure 3. Censure 4. No action	No	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Udaipur	Jaipur	9.46	1. K. L. Agarwal 2. R. L. Gurjar	1. Reduction of Basic Pay 2. Withholding of promotion	No	Nil
9	Puri Sea Beach	Bhubaneswar	5.13	K. C. Riath	Reduction to a lower stage	No	Nil
10.	Patliputra Colony	Patna	21.73	V. S. Soumitra	Removal from service	FIR registered with CBI.	The case is under investigation.
11.	Kotwa	Banraich	3.86	1. R. K. Tiwari 2. K. Sahoo	1. Reduction of Basic Pay 2. Censure	No	Nil
12.	Holipura	Kanpur	3.25	Dinesh Saxena	Reduction of Basic Pay	No	Nil
13.	Parliament Street	New Delhi	46.14	1. V. M. Pai 2. J. K. Gupta	1. Non-Vigilance 2. Non-Vigilance	No	Nil

Subsidy on Fishing Boats

2842. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether fishing boats with engines of 8HP and above running on kerosene and diesel are given subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether boat engines of 2HP to 7HP being run on kerosene and diesel are not given subsidy;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations. Under the component on Motorisation of Traditional Craft of the CSS, subsidy to the tune of Rs. 20,000 per traditional boat for conversion into motorised boat has been provided. This subsidy is shared equally by Government of India and the respective State Governments. In case of Union Territories (UTs), the entire cost of subsidy is borne by Government of India. The subsidy is extended to the Out Board engines from 8HP to 10HP.

(c) to (e) Engines ranging below 8HP have not been covered for subsidy under this scheme, as such low capacity engines may not be efficient to go for fishing in deeper waters. Under the component on Fishermen Development Rebate on High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil, a rebate/subsidy of Rs. 1.50 per litre on HSD consumed by the mechanised fishing vessels below 20 meter Over all Length (OAL) is provided. Rebate s shared on 82:20 basis between Centre and State Governments. In case of the State where Sales Tax is exempted by them and in UTs, the entire subsidy amount is borne by the Government of India.

Ban of Tobacco Products

2843. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL :
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently urged its member countries to make their respective country tobacco free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to ban advertisement of tobacco and its products in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the advisory issued to the State Governments for the implementation of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (b) World Health Organisation (WHO) – Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) has identified strategies to reduce the demand and to reduce the supply of tobacco products. WHO has not made any specific recommendation to make their member countries tobacco free. The WHO-FCTC has come into force in February, 05.

(c) and (d) Section-5 of the "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" prohibits advertisement of cigarette and other tobacco products. State Governments are mainly responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Act. The Ministry of Health and FW has written to the State Governments in May, 2008 to set up monitoring committees at the State Level, as also at District Level.

Pregnancy Death amongst SCs/STs

2844. ADV. SURESH KURUP :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether among the women dying during pregnancy, delivery or post partum complications, a large proportion are from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as reported in the Times of India dated 11 October, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) whether according to data collected by UNICEF, the maternal mortality ratio shows that women are dying of preventable causes of death;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the preventive steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) The latest officially published survey report of the Registrar General of India – Sample Registration System (RGI-SRS), titled "Maternal Mortality in India: 1997-2003 trends, causes and risk factors" (2006), does not indicate the percentage of maternal deaths during pregnancy, delivery or post partum period among Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

There is no officially published data by UNICEF for the country as a whole on the causes of maternal deaths. However, the RGI survey report gives the leading causes of maternal mortality for the country as "hemorrhage", "sepsis", "abortion", "obstructed labour", "hypertensive disorders" and "other conditions".

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (2005-2012), and under its umbrella, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II, launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, aims to improve access to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary health care, in the rural areas of the country, especially for poor women and children, with a special focus on 18 States which have weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure. Under the Mission, the following key strategies and interventions are being implemented to accelerate the pace of reduction in maternal mortality, namely Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special

focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women; Operationalizing Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centers for 24 x 7 services; Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill-based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance; training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section; Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services; prevention and treatment of Anemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation; Organizing Village Health and Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centers; Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women; Strengthening of Health Facilities, that is, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centres (SCs) by providing them with funds including untied grants, Annual Maintenance Grants (AMG) and Corpus Funds to improve service delivery.

Vacant Posts in various Departments

2845. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in Press Information Bureau (PIB), Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and Song and Drama Division in the North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up; and

(c) the number of new posts likely to be created in these departments in NER during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) The number of posts lying vacant in Press Information Bureau (PIB), Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and Song and Drama Division in the NE region are as under:—

Name of Media Unit	No. of vacancy
PIB	12
DAVP	13
DFP	51
S&DD	19

(b) Filling up of vacancies in the Central Government Departments is a continuous process and these vacancies are filled up after obtaining due clearance wherever necessary.

(c) Nil.

Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway

2846. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consultant has been appointed for alignment (1st Phase) works on Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work on the expressway has been started; and

(d) if so, the status thereof alongwith the funds allocated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of fixing of alignment has been taken up through the consultant (M/s Secon Private Ltd.).

(c) and (d) The consultant has completed the services and the report has been finalised. After fixing of alignment, the appointed consultant starts the feasibility study. Detailed land plan schedules along the alignment is thereafter prepared and the process of land acquisition initiated, which takes about two years. The bidding process is

initiated approximately one year before the scheduled completion date of land acquisition such that award of concession and financial close (within six months after the award) of the project as well as acquisition to the entire land are accomplished simultaneously. The requisite funds have been allocated for undertaking feasibility study after appointment of the consultant for which proposals have already been received.

[Translation]

Corporate Frauds

2847. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether market regulator SEBI has evolved new code of conduct;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to make it mandatory for stock exchanges and depositories to annually audit their transactions as per new code of conduct evolved by the market regulator;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has also decided to set up a committee of experts drawn from the IT and communications field to examine ways to prevent corporate frauds;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Central Government to minimize these possibilities of corporate frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) SEBI has not issued any new code of conduct for market participants. It has, however, issued a code on conflict of interests for Members of the Board. A copy of the said code is provided at enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Regulations require every depository to cause an inspection of its controls, systems, procedures and safeguards annually, and forward a copy of the report to the SEBI have stipulated that the exchange shall conduct audit of their systems by a reputed independent auditor on an annual basis. The systems audit should be comprehensive encompassing audit of systems and processes related to examination of Trading Systems, Clearing and Settlement Systems (Clearing Corporation/ Clearing House), Risk Management, Databases, Disaster Recovery Sites, Business Continuity Planning, Security, Capacity Management and Information Security audit.

(e) and (f) No such Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

(g) SEBI keeps a constant vigil on the market, irrespective of the levels of the indices and has taken action wherever warranted. SEBI has been also conducting regular meetings with officials of the stock exchanges and depositories and they have been advised to step up their own surveillance measures and to initiate expeditious demonstrative action wherever warranted as so to protect investors' interest and ensure orderly functioning of the stock market.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has informed that:—

- i. Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has been set up to investigate cases of serious corporate frauds;
- ii. MCA has implemented the e-Governance system to enable greater corporate information and transparency to stakeholders;
- iii. the statutes regulating chartered accountant; company secretaries; cost and works accountants have been amended to provide a more stringent and effective framework for disciplining and regulating the conduct the such professionals and
- iv. The Companies Bill, 2008 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha which includes, inter-alia, proposals for more effective inspection/investigation of companies, where warranted.

Statement

Code on Conflict of Interests for Members of Board

This Code has been adopted by the Board in its meeting held on December 4, 2008 to ensure that it conducts in a manner that does not compromise its ability to accomplish its mandate or undermine the public confidence in the ability of Member(s) of discharge his responsibilities.

Definitions

1. In this Code, unless the context otherwise requires:—

- (i) "family means spouse and dependent children below 18 years of age.
- (ii) "Conflict of interests" means any personal interest or association of a Member, which is likely to influence the decision of the Board in a matter, as viewed by an independent third party.
- (iii) "Member" means a Member of the Board and includes Chairman of the Board.
- (iv) "regulated entity" means a company which is listed or proposed to be listed on a recognized stock exchange(s) or an intermediary registered with SEBI.
- (v) "shares" means shares or any other instrument convertible into shares, of a company listed or proposed to be listed on a recognized stock exchange.
- (vi) "substantial transactions" means transactions of at least 5,000 shares or shares of a value of at least Rs. 1,00,000.
- (vii) "WTM" means a Whole Time Member of the Board and includes the Chairman of the Board.

2. Words and expressions used and not defined in this Code but defined in the securities laws shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in those laws.

Code in addition to other provisions

3. This Code shall be in addition to the provisions of Section 7 A of the SEBI Act, 1992 (1) and 19 A (1) of the SEBI (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) Rules, 1992, and Regulations 9 and 11 of the SEBI (Procedure for Board Meetings (Regulations, 2001.

General Principles

4. (1) A Member shall take all steps necessary to ensure that any conflict of to which he may be subject to does not affect any decision of the Board.
- (2) A Member shall disclose his interests which may conflict with his duties.
- (3) A Member shall not exploit to his personal advantage, any personal or professional relationship with regulated entities or any employee of such entities.

Outside or private activities

5. (1) A WTM shall not hold any other office of profit.
- (2) A WTM shall not engage in any other professional activity, which entails receipt of salary or professional fees.

Transactions in shares

6. (1) A Member shall disclose his holding of shares and holdings of shares of his family within 15 days of the assumption of Office.
- (2) A Member shall disclose his holding of shares and holdings of shares of his family at the end of each financial year within 15 days of the close of the financial year.
- (3) A WTM shall disclose substantial transactions by him and his family within 15 days of such transaction.
- (4) A Member shall not deal in securities of a company listed on a recognized stock exchange based on unpublished price sensitive information which he may have got access to.

Conflict in respect of agenda

7. (1) A Member, who is directly or indirectly in any matter coming up for consideration at a meeting of the Board, shall disclose the nature of his interest at such meeting.
- (2) A Member shall not take part in any deliberation or discussion of the Board with respect of such matter except to the extent of professional advice if sought by the Board.

Members not to hear to decide in certain cases

8. No Member shall hear or decide any matter which he has a conflict of interest.

Availing services of intermediaries

9. A Member shall disclose if he or his family has any dispute in respect of product of services availed from an intermediary.

Acceptance of gifts

10. (1) A WTM shall not accept any gift by whatever name called, to the extent possible, from a regulated entity.
- (2) A WTM shall hand over the gift, if the receives any and the value exceeds Rs. 1000/-, to the General Services Department of the SEBI.

Other disclosures

11. A Member shall disclose the following:
 - (a) any post, other employment or fiduciary position which a Member holds, or has held in the past 5 years in connection with any regulated entity;
 - (b) any other significant relationship, including a professional, personal, financial or family relationship held in connection with a regulated entity;
 - (c) any honorary position, by whatever name called, in any organisation.

Procedure for managing the conflict

12. (1) A Member shall disclose a conflict of interests at the earliest possible opportunity.
- (2) A Member shall seek determination from the Chairman if he has a doubt whether there is a conflict of interests or not.
- (3) Chairman shall seek determination from the Board if he has a doubt whether there is a conflict of interests or not.
- (4) If the Chairman or the Board, as the case may be, determines that there is a conflict of interests, the Member or chairman shall refrain from dealing with the particular matter.
- (5) The Chairman or the Board, as the case may be, shall assign that matter to another Member or a Committee of Members.

Procedure for public for raise conflict of interests

13. (1) Any person, who has reasonable ground to believe that a Member has an interest in a particular matter, may bring the same with material evidence to the notice of Secretary to Board.
- (2) The Secretary of the Board shall place the details received under sub-clause (1) before Chairman in case of a Member and before the Board in case of Chairman.
- (3) The Chairman or the Board, as the case may be, shall determine if the Member of Chairman has an interest which is likely to affect the decision by him.
- (4) The Member or the Chairman, as the case may be, shall refrain from dealing with the particular matter of the Chairman or the Board determines that there is a conflict of interest.
- (5) The Chairman or the Board, as the case may be, shall assign that matter to another Member or a Committee of Members.

Maintenance of disclosures

14. (1) The information as disclose under this Code shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed save in the following circumstances:—
 - a. where there is a requirement for disclosure for the purposes of managing potential or actual conflicts;
 - b. where there is a requirement for disclosure following the change of responsibilities of a Member;
 - c. where there is a requirement for the purposes of disciplinary proceedings;
 - d. where there is any legal or regulatory obligation for disclose the information.
- (2) The disclosures by a Member may be scrutinized under the authority of the Chairman with due regard to Members' areas of responsibility.
- (3) The disclosures by Chairman may be scrutinized under the authority of the Board with due regard to Chairman's responsibility.
- (4) The Secretary nominated under Regulation 12(1) of The SEBI (Procedure for Board Meetings) Regulations, 2001 shall keep and maintain custody of documents/records etc. pertaining to any disclosure made by Members under this Code.

Transitory provisions

15. The existing Members shall make the disclosure as required under the Code within a period of one month from the date on which this Codes was adopted by the Board.

Impact of Smoking of Bids

2848. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI :
SHRI UDAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more Indians die from smoking of bidis than from any other forms of tobacco as reported in the Times of India dated 13 May, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether bidis smoke releases toxic chemicals at levels higher than those of cigarettes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per report of Tobacco Control in India, 2004 approx. 8-9 Lakh persons die annually due to tobacco attributable diseases. While there are no exact estimates of death due to bidi, as the report titled "Bidi Smoking and Public Health" 2008, bidi consumption is much higher than cigarette consumption especially in rural areas. As per National Sample Survey, 55th round (1999-2000), 36.5% of households in rural areas and 19% households in urban areas consumed bidi.

(c) and (d) While there are no standardized smoking machine methods to test toxic chemicals found in bidis, there are studies to indicate that bidi smoking is more harmful because of low-porosity of the leaf wrapper. In the absence of significant filtration, the bidi smoke deliveries of high toxic chemicals are greater than cigarettes. Systemic exposure to chemicals in bidi smoke or bidi tobacco also results in damage of chromosomal and respiratory tract.

The Government of India has enacted a Comprehensive Tobacco Control Law in 2003 to protect the non-smokers from ill effects of passive smoking as also the discourage the consumption of tobacco.

[English]

Total Sanitation Campaign

2849. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether this Ministry coordinates with the Ministry of Rural Development to make the Total Sanitation

Campaign more popular and successful all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Rural Health Mission seeks to achieve its goals not a stand alone initiative but through Intersectoral convergence with programmes run by allied Departments. The following initiatives are being undertaken for strengthening of convergence with health and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

— A common Village Committee to deal with water, sanitation and health issues has been advocated. The existing Village Water and Sanitation Committee to include health and to be renamed as Village Water Health and Sanitation Committee.

— Use of United fund for water and sanitation activities.

— A common District Committee to deal with Water, Sanitation and Health issues under the District Panchayati Raj Institutions to oversee preparation and implementation of Village health and sanitation plans.

— Instructions have been disseminated to States through Joint DO letters to strengthen inter sectorial convergence initiatives which also includes integration of activities of State Water Sanitation Mission and District Water Sanitation Committee.

— Involvement of Accredited Social Health Activities (ASHA) as motivators for construction of toilets under TSC especially for BPL class.

— IEC materials on sanitation, to be given to ASHAs for creating awareness on health, sanitation and hygiene education.

— Joint IEC Action plans on preventive and curative aspects of water, sanitation, health and

hygiene to be prepared. Information may be provided for common messages of TSC and NRHM in all publicity material.

- PHC doctors to be involved by including rubber stamps with health and sanitation messages on their prescription slips.

(c) The joint initiative would not only help in highlighting the importance of sanitation and water as determinants of good health but also help in preventing water and hygiene related morbidities and thereby positively impacting on the disease burden.

Proposal to Extend the LTC Scheme to other Destination

2850. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to relax the LTC Rules to enable the nonentitled category to perform air journey; to the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to extend this facility for other destinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Government has already relaxed LTC Rules on 2.5.2008 for a period of two years to perform air journey on LTC for visit to North Eastern States (NER) for non-entitled categories.

(b) Group A and B employees are permitted to travel by air from their place of posting to NER. Other categories of employees are permitted to travel by air to NER from Guwahati or Kolkata. All employees are also allowed conversion of one home-town LTC into LTC to NER.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Do not arise.

Expenditure Incurred by ICMR on Research Activities

2851. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for research activities during the 10th Plan period; and

(b) the amount earmarked for the same during the 11th Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per Indian Council of Medical Research, an amount of Rs. 1124.44 crores was spent by them on research and related activities during the 10th Plan period.

(b) An amount of Rs. 5000 crores have been earmarked for the same in the 11th Plan period.

Import Duty on Machines used in Paper Industry

2852. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reduced/decided to reduce duty on import of machines used in paper industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Government has provided a concessional rate of 7.5% ad valorem on all capital goods, including machinery used in paper industry, as against the peak rate of 10% ad valorem attracted on non-agricultural goods, in general. At present, there is no proposal under consideration to further reduce the customs duty rate on machines used in paper industry.

Green Field Private Rural Agricultural Banks

2853. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Green Field Private Rural Agricultural Banks to set up a number of branches in rural or semi-rural areas to lend to agriculture and allied sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Review of NH Projects

2854. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of National Highways has been reviewed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the progress in this regard is very slow;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes Sir, the progress of National Highway Projects is constantly monitored through periodic reviews.

(b) Financial progress of National Highway Projects during last three years and current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) There has been slow progress in implementation of some projects. This is generally due to various reasons such as, delays in land acquisition, forest clearance, shifting of utilities, poor-performance of some contractors and law and order problem in some States.

(e) The matter is taken up with concerned State Governments for expediting the land acquisition, forest clearance, shifting of utilities and for providing proper security to facilitate the progress of works. Action is also taken against non-performing contractors as per the provisions of the contract.

Statement

Details of funds allocated and Expenditure incurred for development of National Highways for the last three years and current year

Rs. in crore

2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure (upto 30.09.08)
8741.58	8661.85	10476.07	10398.55	11193.76	11133.786	11691.17	5926.54

[Translation]

Assistance to IOA

2855. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has extended any assistance to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and other Organising Institutions for organising Commonwealth Games 2010 in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including financial allocation made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) and (b) The Organizing Committee (OC), Commonwealth Games is responsible for the Conduct of the Games. The Government has approved a budget of Rs. 767 crore as a loan to the Organizing Committee (OC) for the Conduct of the Games, out of which, Rs. 302 crore has been released so far.

[English]

Coal under Linkage System

2856. SHRI HITEN BARMAN :
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of consumers covered under the coal linkage system;

(b) whether some private entrepreneurs independent power producers have been denied coal under the said system;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : (a) Government has notified the New Coal Distribution Policy (NCDP) on 18th October, 2007. The existing classification of consumers into Core and Non-Core has been reviewed and it has now been decided to dispense with the same. Instead, each sector/consumers would be treated on merit keeping in view, inter-alia, the regulatory provisions applicable thereto and other relevant factors. While requirements of Defence Sector and Railways will be met in full at notified prices as at present, 100% of the "Normative" requirement of power and Fertilizer Sector would be considered for supply of coal through Fuel Supply Agreements (FSA). Rest of the consumers/actual users would be supplied 75% of "Normative" requirement through Fuel Supply Agreement. The linkage system has been replaced with a more transparent bilateral commercial arrangement of enforceable Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA).

New Consumers from Power, Fertilizer, Cement and Sponge Iron may be issued Letter of Assurance (LoA),

based on prevailing norms and keeping in view the recommendations of Administrative Ministry, which may, inter-alia, have regard to Letter of Assurance/Linkage already granted to the consumer of specific sector, existing capacity, requirement for capacity addition during a Plan period etc. All other consumers may be issued LoA by CIL/SCCL based on prevailing norms and on the recommendation of the administrative Ministry. CIL may also engage an independent Government or recognized agency/institution, if required, for the purpose of processing/certification of coal requirement of individual consumers, if there is no prevailing norms for such category of consumers/sector.

(b) to (d) The Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) which is an Inter-Ministerial Committee, decides the request of various applicants seeking Letter of Assurance (LoA) in respect of Power, Cement and Sponge Iron sectors. The Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) for Power, Cement and Sponge Iron in its meetings held in August, 2007, November, 2007 and December, 2007/March, 2008 had considered the applications of Power including Independent Power Producers (IPPs), Sponge and Cement/Cement Captive Power Plants respectively based on inter-alia the recommendations of administrative Ministries during those meetings. Out of cases taken up for consideration, barring a few cases which have been dropped/rejected by the Committee on specific grounds like unit not being traceable etc., the other cases have either been approved for insurance of Letter of Assurance or deferred for want of details.

Nutritional Supplements to HIV/AIDS Patients

2857. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide micro and macro nutritional supplements to people suffering from HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to introduce such supplements under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National AIDS Control Programme Phase III (2007-2012) has a component of nutritional support for People living with HIV/AIDS in Anti Retroviral Therapy. The micro nutrient supplementation will be in the form of multi-vitamin and minerals drops/syrup/tablets adjusted for different age groups. The macro supplementation is proposed to be in the form of cereal and pulse based products based on cultural and regional dietary practices.

(c) and (d) The supplementation is already being provided in some ART centres in Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh on a pilot basis.

Forest Area In Andhra Pradesh

2858. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the forest cover in Andhra Pradesh has gone up during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted to categorize a forest as dense or moderately dense or open forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) and (b) The forest cover assessment of country is carried out by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) using remote sensing technology once every two years and the findings are published in 'State of Forest Report (SFR)'. The last such report released is SFR 2005, and therefore the trends of forest cover for the last three years are not yet available. However the forest cover data as per SFR 2005 and its comparison with SFR 2003 data with respect to Andhra Pradesh is given below:—

Forest Cover details for Andhra Pradesh

Details	State of Forest Report					
	2003		2005		Change from 2003 to 2005	
	Area (km ²)	% of geographical area	Area (km ²)	% of geographical area	Area (km ²)	
Forest Cover						
Very Dense	130		130		0	
Moderately Dense	24,221	16.15	24,199	16.13	-22	
Open Forest	20,061		20,043		-18	
Total	44,412		44,372		-40	

(c) The criteria adopted for categorising of forest cover in SFR is as follows:—

Classification scheme of forest cover mapping:

Category	Description
1	2
Very Dense Forest	All lands having tree cover with

1	2
	canopy density more than 70%
Moderately Dense Forest	All lands having tree cover with canopy density between 40% and 70%
Open Forest	All lands having tree cover with canopy density between 10% and 40%

[Translation]

Ban on Smoking and use of Tobacco Products

2859. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to ensure a total ban on the smoking and the use of tobacco products at public places by launching de-addiction programmes with the help of NGOs and other Government agencies; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard and money spent by the Government on the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Government of India has notified "The Prohibited of smoking in Public Places Rules, 2008" vide GSR No. 417(E) dated 30th May 2008. The Rules have come into force from 2nd October 2008. Government has set up 18 tobacco cessation Centres (TCC's) in 17 States across the country to help users to quite the tobacco addiction.

Under the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme, on tobacco cessation facility is being provided in each of the 18 Pilot districts Rs. 1.55 Crores has been released to the 18 districts for District Tobacco Control Programme activities including Cessation.

[English]

Amendment in the Immigration Laws by U.K.

2860. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Kingdom (U.K.) has amended their Immigration laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its implications on the Indians in U.K.;

(c) whether a large number of Indians have objected to such amendment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has taken up the issue with the U.K. Government; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes. The UK has amended their immigration laws and has launched a Points- Based System (PBS) in 2008 to streamline more than 80 existing routes of entry into five broad categories for the non EU workers. Each of the 5 tiers will have different conditions, entitlements and entry clearance checks. As a first stage, Tier-1 of PBS for highly skilled workers has replaced the erstwhile Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP), and has been implemented in India from 1st April, 2008. Tier 2 for skilled workers has been implemented from November 27, 2008. Other tiers of the PBS are to be implemented by Spring 2009.

(c) and (d) The Government is not aware of Indians having objected to the new Points-Based System introduced in 2008.

(e) and (f) Government have urged the UK authorities in bilateral talks that the new system should not create difficulties for Indian nationals entry or stay in the UK.

Single Shot Vaccine to Protect Children

2861. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a single shot vaccine to protect children from many diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard so far; and

(d) the time by which the vaccine is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The Government of India is considering introducing of Pentavalent formulation to protect children against 5 vaccine preventable diseases

namely Diphtheria, Pertusis, Tetanus, Hepatitis-B and Hib by giving single injection to the child. However, no decision has been taken as yet.

[Translation]

Thorium Based Nuclear Power Plant

2862. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any thorium-based Nuclear Power Plant in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) propose to construct a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) designed to generate most of its power from Thorium based fuel, to serve as a demonstrator for thorium related technologies. However, decision on location of this proposed plant has not been taken.

(c) Utilisation of the large Thorium resources available in the country has been a component of DAE's R&D Programme since inception. These efforts have led to the design and developed of AHWR, which will serve as a platform for large scale demonstration of the developed technologies. Several large experimental facilities have helped in establishing the acceptability of the new advanced features provided in this reactor to address the requirements internationally being stipulated for next generation Nuclear Power Plants. The initiation of work pertaining to construction of this reactor is planned under the XI Five Year Plan.

[English]

Alternative Access Route to Bhutan

2863. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been frequent blockades of NH 31 A which is the only access route to Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Sikkim to allow them an alternative access route to Bhutan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Plying of traffic on NH-31 A is blocked intermittently due to natural calamities, such as sliding and sinking of formation and landslides as also due to political bandhs organized by the sympathisers of Gorkha land;

(c) to (e) Government has approved 'in principle' a proposal to develop an alternate highway from Chalsa to Gangtok, There is, however no proposal of any alternate access route from Sikkim to Bhutan.

Relocation of Blue Bulls

2864. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nilgais (blue bulls) are being relocated from the are of the new integrated terminal of the IGI Airport in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places of their relocation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, permission for trapping and translocating Nilgais from the new integrated terminal of IGI Airport in Delhi to Asola Bhati Wildlife Sanctuary, Delhi has been given as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to the Chief Operating Officer, Delhi International Airport (P) Ltd., IGI

Airport Terminal-1B, New Delhi. Sixty two Nilgais have been translocated by Delhi International Airport (P) Ltd. through Wildlife SOS, D-210, Defence Colony, New Delhi. The Department of Forest and Wildlife, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has made arrangements for the rehabilitation of the translocated Nilgais in the Asola Bhati Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Non-Profit Trust Fund for Diaspora
Philanthropy**

2865. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to set up a Non-Profit Trust Fund to channelize diaspora philanthropy has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount deposited so far; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to ensure transparent transactions in this fund?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) A not-for-profit Trust to channelize diaspora capital into India has been approved by the Government. This will serve as a credible institutional mechanism to assist the Overseas Indians to contribute to the social causes. The trust will have a Board chaired by Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and twelve nominated Members (four each from amongst eminent overseas Indians, resident Indians, and from Government — all nominated by the Government of India). The day-to-day management of the trust will be vested in the Managing Committee, with Secretary MO/A as Chairman and a Chief Executive Officer of the Trust as Secretary. The Managing

Committee will have seven members, both, Government officials as well as persons of eminence from outside the Government. The trust is expected to be fully operational with effect from the next financial year.

[Translation]

Special CBI Courts

2866. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of special courts of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the country as on date;

(b) the number of cases pending in these courts during the last three years and the current year, special court-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) A Statement showing location-wise details of the 39 Special Judge Courts and 10 Special Magistrate Courts set up exclusively for trial of CBI cases as on date is enclosed.

(b) Information regarding court-wise pendency of cases is not centrally maintained.

(c) Government does not intervene in the judicial functioning of the Courts. However, CBI endeavours through constant monitoring/supervision, to ensure that there is no delay in trial on its part.

Statement

Location-wise details of the 39 Special Judge Courts and 10 Special Magistrate Courts set up exclusively for trial of CBI cases as on date

Branch	No. of Special Courts			
	Special Judge	Place of functioning	Special Magistrate	Place of functioning
1	2	3	4	5
Bangalore	2	Bangalore	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
Bhubaneshwar	1	Bhubaneshwar	—	—
Chandigarh	1	Patiala	1	Patiala
	1	Chandigarh		
Chennai	2	Chennai	—	—
	1	Coimbatore		
	1	Madurai		
Cochin	2	Ernakulam	—	—
Dehradun	1	Dehradun	1	Dehradun
	1	Ghaziabad	1	Ghaziabad
Delhi	2	Tis Hazari	—	—
Gandhinagar	2	Ahmedabad	2	Ahmedabad
Guwahati	1	Guwahati	—	—
Hyderabad	1	Hyderabad	—	—
Jabalpur	—	—	1	Raipur
Jaipur	1	Jaipur	1	Jaipur
Jodhpur	1	Jodhpur	1	Jodhpur
Kolkata	1	Kolkata	—	—
	1	Siliguri	—	—
Lucknow	3	Lucknow	2	Lucknow
Mumbai	4	Mumbai	—	—
Patna	2	Patna	—	—
	1	AHD/Patna	—	—
Ranchi	1	Ranchi	—	—
	4	AHD/Ranchi	—	—
Vishakhapatnam	1	Vishakhapatnam	—	—
Total	39		10	

Assistance to Myanmar

2867. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided any assistance to the victims of cyclone in Myanmar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) India was one of the first countries to rush emergency relief assistance to Myanmar in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in May 2008. Two Indian Naval ships and eight Indian Air Force aircrafts delivered immediate relief material, including food grains, roofing material and medical supplies to Myanmar. Two self-sustained medical teams, comprising 47 doctors and supporting staff, were in the cyclone-affected areas for more than two weeks. India has provided cash assistance of US\$ 200,000 for the reconstruction of the Shwedagon Pagoda Complex in Yangon. In the rehabilitation phase, India has supplied 1020 tonnes of corrugated steel sheets for roofing, 500 solar torches and lanterns and 1.8 lakh bottles of I.V. fluids and will undertake supply of transformers and other necessary items required by Myanmar.

[English]

National Institute of Sustainable Coastal Zone Management

2868. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala for setting up of National Institute of Sustainable Coastal Zone Management in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and

Forests had received proposals from some of the coastal States, including Kerala, for setting up of a National Institute for Sustainable Coastal Zone Management in locations in the respective States to address matters like the policy and legal issues pertaining to the Integrated Coastal Management Zone approach in the country; and as on date no decision has been taken in this regard.

De-contamination Kit by BARC

2869. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has designed and developed a portable personnel de-contamination kit;

(b) if so, the details thereof outlining its function;

(c) the details of the utility of this de-contamination kit; and

(d) the locations wherefrom the said kit has been functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Portable Personnel Decontamination Kit (PPDK) was developed by BARC to respond to any radiological emergency that may strike in public domain. PPDK comprises of inflatable/deflatable structure along with separate area for radiation monitoring and decontamination. It has separate provision for pressurised water delivery and waste water collection. The system has battery and inverter for power backup. The full kit is packed in eight packets which can be transported to the required location and can be erected within half an hour for use.

(c) In case of any radiological emergency in public domain where there is likelihood of persons getting contaminated, PPDK will be of great utility in decontaminating the public. This will protect persons from any possible radiation exposure from the radioactive contami-

nation. It is expected that using this design, Defence and other National Emergency Response Agencies can develop and maintain such units in their facilities.

(d) One unit is functional at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai and is being used during emergency exercises. Improved version of four units of PPK is under fabrication for use in the metropolitan cities.

[Translation]

Implementation of Centrally Funded Schemes

2870. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has implemented various Centrally funded schemes for the developed of rural and urban areas of the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated and spent therefrom for implementing these schemes during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, A large number of scheme have been funded by the Central Government for the development of rural and urban areas during the last three years and the current year. Scheme wise details are already available in the printed documents of Outcome and Performance Budget of the respective Ministries. The details of Major programmes for Rural Development i.e. Bharat Nirman (comprising 6 components namely Rural Water Supply, Rural Sanitation Programme, Rural Housing/ Indira Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana and Rural Telephony) and Urban development i.e. Jawaharlal Nehru National Under Renewal Mission [comprising of 4 components namely Urban infrastructure and Governance (UIG), Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP), Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme in Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and Integrated Housing and slum development Programme (IHSDP)] and the allocation/ release during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

1. Rural Development – Bharat Nirman

Rs. in crores

Sl. No.	Component	Fund Released				Total Release
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
1.	Rural Sanitation Programme	1900.314	2301.972	5445.71	2163.36	11811.356
2.	Rural Water Supply	4093.12	4552.4	6425.83	3825.65	18897
3.	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	4185.6	6265.08	10833.8 (including NABARD window release of (Rs. 4500)	5358.82 (including NABARD window release of (Rs. 4500)	26643.3
4.	Indira Awas Yojana	2738.21	2907.53	3882.37	2707.8	12235.91
5.	Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana	1495.182	3353.278	3811.69	539.93	9200.08
6.	Rural Telephony	34.204	55.29	44.74	7.15	141.38

II. Urban Development – Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

Rs. in crore

Sl. No.	JNNURM Components	Total Allocation (2005-12)	Year-wise allocation		
			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	(i) Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG)	25500.00	2500.00	2805.00	3513.89
2.	(ii) Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP)	13650.00	1000.00	1501.00	1880.35
3.	(i) Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme in Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT)*	6400.00	900.00	704.00	881.92
4.	(ii) Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)	4450.00	500.00	490.00	613.84
Total		50000.00	4900.00	5500.00	6890.00

*Additionality of Rs. 500 crore was provided fro UIDSSMT for 2007-08.

[English]

Review of Higher Medical Education

2871. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Professor Ranjit Roy Choudhury to review higher medical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the major findings of the report; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations of this committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In order to examine and make recommendations on the need for constitution of an independent authority to organize and regulate Post Graduate Medical Education in the country, to maintain the

standard of Post Graduate Medical Diplomas and Degrees awarded by different universities in the country including Diplomat Degrees awarded by the National Board of Examinations and to assess and feasibility and also recommend the modalities for establishment of such body, the Government constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Professor Ranjit Roy Choudhury.

The Committee has submitted its report. The recommendations are under consideration.

Quality of TV Broadcast

2872. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of the TV broadcast is not upto the mark in the country;

(b) if so, the number of complaints/representations received in this regard;

(c) whether some areas are still left out of TV coverage in the country;

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

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government to improve the quality of TV broadcast in the country particularly in the tribal and inaccessible areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) TV Broadcast is done through various modes namely direct to home, cable and terrestrial mode by private broadcasters and Doordarshan. No record is maintained regarding quality of TV broadcast in all these modes. However, performance of TV transmitters in Doordarshan network is satisfactory, through complaints of malfunctioning of some of the transmitters are received from time to time. No centralized data is maintained in this regard.

(c) to (e) In terrestrial mode, TV coverage is estimated to be available of about 92.2% population, including a large segment of population in tribal and inaccessible areas. The areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission, along with rest of the country, have been provided with multi-channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free-to-air Direct to Home (DTH) service, signals of which can be received all over the country (except Andaman and Nicobar Islands). Project for DTH service (in C-Band) for Andaman and Nicobar Islands has since been approved. For expansion and improvement of terrestrial coverage, 116 transmitter projects in various parts of the country has also been approved.

Medical Grants Commission

2873. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the proposal for setting up of a Medical Grants Commission (MGC);

(b) whether the matter concerning MGC has since been finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Planning;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the decision regarding MGC is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) There is a proposal for establishment of Medical Grants Commission. The modalities of the Commission are being worked out. The matter for provision of funds for this purpose is being pursued with the Planning Commission.

Archives of Films Division

2874. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether old footage of historical importance are lying in Cans in the corridors of the building of Films Division in New Delhi;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to digitize the archives of the Films Division in the country;

(d) the criteria fixed for selection of material/agency for the said purpose; and

(e) the details of the funds allocated/utilised for the said purpose during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, year-wise and success achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Yes, Sir. Films Division is in the process of digitising all the 8131 films in its archives.

(d) The films in Films Division's archives have been classified as "Most Precious", "Precious" and "Normal" on the basis of their historical value and their contents. The "Most Precious" films have been/are being digitized on High Definition format and "Precious" and "Normal" films are digitized on Standard Definition format. The agency selected for carrying out digitisation was through a tender which was advertised on all India basis and selected on the basis of technical infrastructure available with the agency.

(e) The details of the funds allocated and utilised in the Eleventh Five Year Plan are as follows:—

Year	Funds allocated	Expenditure
2007-08	Rs. 535.00 Lakhs	Rs. 533.76 Lakhs
2008-09	Rs. 300.00 Lakhs	Rs. 285.84 Lakhs (till Nov., 2008)

Till November 2008, 7278 films have been digitised out of a total 8131 films.

Installation of ATMs

2875. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for installation of Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to install more ATMs particularly in rural areas during the current financial year and also in 2009-10;

(c) if so, the sites identified for the purpose, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) In terms of Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, banks are required to obtain prior approval of Reserve Bank of India for opening a new place of business such as branches/Off-site ATMs. Such approvals are granted to banks depending on the thrust of the extant Branch Authorisation Policy and directions issued in this regard. With the objective of liberalizing and rationalizing the branch authorization policy, a framework for Branch Authorization Policy which is consistent with the medium term corporate strategy of banks and public interest has been put in place since September, 2005. In terms of this revised policy, banks are required to submit

their branch expansion plans for opening branches/Offsite ATMs on an annual basis.

While considering applications for opening branches/Off-site ATMs, RBI gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in underbanked areas, actual credit flow to the priority sector, pricing of products and overall efforts for promoting financial inclusion, including introduction of appropriate new product and the enhanced use of technology for delivery of banking services. Such an assessment includes policy on minimum balance requirements and whether depositors have access to minimum banking or "no frills" banking services, commitment to the basic banking facility viz., acceptance of deposits and provision of credit and quality of customer service as, inter-alia, evidenced by the number of complaints received and the redressal mechanism in place in the bank for the purpose.

The actual location for opening bank branches/Off-site ATMs as also the mode of delivery of the services, i.e., whether through regular branches/Off-site ATMs is left to the discretion of the banks. However, as and when banks approach RBI for opening branches/Off-site ATMs in rural areas/underbanked districts, the same are generally considered favourably by RBI with a view to promoting financial inclusion.

Though a system of banks submitting Annual Branch Expansion Plans has been introduced since September 2005, banks are free to approach RBI any time during the year for any urgent proposals regarding opening of branches/Off-site ATMs, especially in rural and underbanked areas, anytime during the year, in addition to the approvals given under the annual plan, which would be considered on merits.

Banks are not required to obtain prior permission of Reserve Bank of India for setting up of On-site ATMs within the premises of the branches.

Resources for Infrastructure Sector

2876. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to seek the World Bank aid to tackle the slowdown in capital inflow and spur economic growth through higher investment in the infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the World Bank thereon;

(d) whether there is a proposal to mop up adequate resources from overseas markets for investment in the infrastructure sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide a stable and conducive investment climate for domestic as well as foreign investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has sought additional loan from the World Bank which will be over and above the net disbursement of the World Bank to India in the next three years. This additional lending will include assistance to the infrastructure projects.

(c) The World Bank has included additional lending of US \$ 3 billion in the Country Assistance Strategy 2009-12.

(d) to (f) Overseas resources are mobilized for financing of infrastructure through External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The Government has recently taken several steps to liberalize the inflows through these routes, which will increase the availability of resources from overseas for infrastructure sector.

Government has permitted ECB up to US\$ 500 million per borrower per financial year for Rupee expenditure and/or foreign currency expenditure for all permissible end-uses under the Automatic Route. The definition of infrastructure for the purpose of ECB has been expanded to cover more sectors.

For liberalizing the inflow through FIIs several measures have been taken which include, (i) increase of cumulative FII investment limits to US\$ 6 billion in corporate debt and to US\$ 5 billion in Government Securities, (ii) abolition of conditions of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) FII regulations pertaining to restrictions of 70:30 ratio of investment in equity and debt respectively, (iii) removal of restriction on issue of Participatory Notes by FIIs against securities, and (iv) grant of perpetual registration to FIIs subject to payment of fees.

The Government of India has also put in place various policy measures that include, inter alia, a liberal and investment friendly policy on FDI, reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, better infrastructure support, re-finance facility to National Housing Bank and Small Industries Development Bank of India.

[Translation]

Tax Concessions for backward regions

2877. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any provision for giving tax-concessions to facilitate development of backward regions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Tax concessions have been provided under Section 80HH in respect of profits and gains from newly established industrial undertakings of hotel business in backward areas and under Section 80 IB of the Income Tax Act in respect of profits and gains of certain industrial undertakings other than infrastructure development undertakings.

Apart from concessions to backward regions, there are exemptions available for certain regions like North Eastern States and Special Category States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland,

Sikkim, Tripura, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh under the provisions of Section 10C, 10(23BBF), 10(26), 10(26A), 10(26AAA), 80-IC, 80-IE.

Central Excise Duty Concessions and exemptions for new units and substantial units available in these areas are as follows:—

- Notification nos. 49/2003-Central Excise and 50/2003-Central Excise both dated 10.6.2003, as amended, are applicable for units in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
- Notification nos. 56/2002-Central Excise and 57/2002-Central Excise both dated 14.11.2002, as amended are applicable for units in Jammu and Kashmir.

Notification no. 20/2007-Central Excise dated 25.4.2007, as amended is applicable for North Eastern States.

Foreign Investment In Real Estate

2878. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes any ban on direct Foreign Investment in real estate; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

Education Loan

2879. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN :
SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN :
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL :
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether compound interest is being charged on education loans;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to change it to simple interest;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to reduce the interest rate on education loans;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to grant interest free education loan to deserving students for higher education and stand counter-guarantee for them; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (d) As per Model Education Loan Scheme circulated by Indian Banks' Association (IBA), simple interest is charged by the banks during the repayment holiday/moratorium period.

(c) and (d) The interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakh have been deregulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) since October 1994 and these rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards, subject to their Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and spread guidelines. However, as per extant guidelines on education loan scheme, interest rates on education loan upto Rs. 4 lakh should be BPLR of the bank and for loans above Rs. 4 lakh it should be BPLR+1 per cent.

- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.

Concession to Exporters

2880. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL :
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is considering to accord concessions to exporters;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether textiles, garments, gems, jewellery and leather sectors will be benefited by such concessions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) Government has taken the following measures to boost exports and benefit all sectors including textiles, gems and jewellery, leather sectors etc.

- (i) Interest subvention of 2% has been provided to the following labour intensive sectors — Textiles (including Handlooms), Handicrafts, Leather, Gems and Jewellery, Marine Products and SMEs;
- (ii) Export duty on export of Iron ore fines has been withdrawn and for iron ore lumps reduced to 5%;
- (iii) Additional funds of Rs. 1100 crores have been provided to clear the backlog claims of Terminal excise duty (TED)/Central Sales Tax (CST)/Duty Drawback on deemed exports;
- (iv) Additional funds of Rs. 1400 crores have been provided to clear the backlog of Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme claims;
- (v) Additional funds of Rs. 350 crores have been provided as export incentives;
- (vi) Financial support of Rs. 350 crores has been provided to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) for issuance of Credit Guarantee to exporters;
- (vii) Notification No. 33/08-ST dated 7.12.08 has been issued to provide refund of service tax even if drawback has been taken on export goods. Further, the refund of service tax on services provided by a commission agent shall now be paid upto ten percent of the fob value of exports instead of the earlier limit of two percent of the fob value.

Further, the Reserve Bank of India has also taken the following measures in this regard:—

- (i) The period of pre-shipment and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit has been enhanced by 90 days each;
- (ii) CRR, SLR, Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate have been reduced with a view to increase liquidity to the Banks;
- (iii) The limit of Export Credit Refinance (ECR) facility for commercial banks has been enhanced to 50% of the outstanding Rupee Export Credit;
- (iv) The time period of export realization for non-status holder exporters has been increased to 12 months.

Radiation-related health problems

2881. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the coastal areas of Southern India including the sea beaches of Kanya Kumari have high levels of natural radiation that emanates from minerals found on beaches;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its impact on human health; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to stop impact on the human health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. There are patches of high natural background radiation in the coastal areas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

(b) The high levels of natural background radiation in the area are due to deposits of monazite mineral containing thorium and its daughter products. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon and people have been staying there for ages with high natural background radiation. Studies carried out in the high natural

background areas of coastal Kerala and Tamil Nadu over the last 4 decades have now shown any significant impact on human health.

(c) Question does not arise. However, studies are continuing as the area serves as natural laboratory to study the impact of natural radiation on humans as well as on the environment.

[Translation]

Promotion of Sports

2882. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme for development/improvement of basic infrastructure for promotion of sports at the village/panchayat level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) to (c) The Government has recently launched a national programme titled Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Ahiyan (PYKKA), which aims at providing basic sports infrastructure in all villages and block panchayats in a phased manner over a period of 10 years and access to organized sports competitions at village and block panchayat level.

Under the scheme, each village panchayat and block panchayat would be given one time capital grant of Rs. 1.00 lakh and Rs. 5.00 lakh respectively. The State share in this will be 25% for normal States and 10% for special category States. In addition, while village panchayats would be given annual acquisition grant and annual operation grant at Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,000 per month respectively, block panchayats would be given Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 24,000 respectively. Each block panchayat would also be provided annual competition grant of Rs. 50,000 for holding block level competitions and each district will be

provided competition grant of Rs. 3.00 lakh for holding district level competitions. Further, prize money would also be provided to the winners (first three positions) in block level and district level competitions.

Density of vehicles on NHs

2883. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest details of registered vehicles in the country alongwith the number of vehicles plying on the National Highways (NHs);

(b) whether the Government has assessed the feasibility of the road conditions to withstand the processure of increasing number of vehicles on National Highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) As per the latest available data the total number of registered motor vehicles in the country was 7,27,17,935 as on 31st March 2004. Every registered vehicle can ply on any public road including the National Highways. However, no separate data is available for the number of vehicles plying on the entire National Highways.

(b) to (d) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. Various aspects are taken into account including the assessment for the projected traffic on National Highways while undertaking any development project. Further, the Government has taken several initiatives for development of National Highways in the country through various phases of development programmes such as National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) etc.

[English]

Bio-Diversity Act, 2002

2884. ADV. SURESH KURUP :

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY :

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some apprehensions have been expressed about the effectiveness of the provision of Bio-Diversity Act, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the present Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote/protect Bio-Diversity and traditional knowledge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A group of scientists from Kerala Agricultural University; Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Bangalore; and Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, through their two publications have expressed some apprehensions that the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 may curtail the scientific freedom on free exchange of specimens for taxonomic research in India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to which India is a Party, brought about a shift from the earlier concept of common heritage to sovereign rights over the country's biological resources. Pursuant to the CBD, India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 to inter alia, address the concerns relating to instances of biopiracy and misappropriation of genetic resources and associated

traditional knowledge. The Act provides for prior approval of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) before sending any biological material outside the country for research or for commercial use, or for biosurvey and bio-utilisation. The intent of the Act is not to hamper basic taxonomic research while at the same time ensuring that the people get benefits from any commercial use of the accessed genetic material and associated traditional knowledge.

Expansion of News/Advertising Agencies

2885. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the activities of Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Press Information Bureau and Directorate of Field Publicity, in the North Eastern Region during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total funds earmarked and released for this purpose during the said plan period, organisation-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the said organizations more professional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) makes efforts to release advertisements in print media and audio-visual media to North-Eastern States and also conduct exhibitions and outdoor publicity activities specifically targeted to the region.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) under its "Media Outreach Programme" held 30 Public Information Campaigns (PICs) in North Eastern Region from April, 2007 to November, 2008. Two press tours were also organized from Guwahati and Gangtok to Shimla. In February 2008, PIB also organized an All India Editor's Conference on Social and Infrastructural Issues at Aizwal, Mizoram.

Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) also organised various activities in the North Eastern Region.

(e) In order to make the DAVP, PIB and DFP more professional, their working has been streamlined by the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Funds for National Afforestation Programme and Forest Development Agency

2886. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the funds earmarked for National Afforestation Programme and Forest Development Agency (FDA) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the time frame followed for releasing the funds for annual work programme during the said period;

(c) the funds released/to be released during the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans;

(d) whether the funds to F.D.As in the States including Gujarat has been released as per schedule;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the funds are likely to be released to the States for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) The funds earmarked for National Afforestation Programme (NAP) during the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are Rs. 249.83 crore, Rs. 292.81 crore, Rs. 392.95 and Rs. 345.62 crore respectively.

(b) Funds are released to projects on receipt of appropriate proposals along-with satisfactory utilization of the funds released earlier and other requisite documents like progress report, audit report etc. The release is further subject to availability of fund with National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board during the financial year.

(c) An amount of Rs 1133 11 crore was released in respect of NAP projects during the Tenth Five Year Plan. An amount of Rs. 617.61 crore was released (as on 3.12.08) out of an allocation of Rs. 2000 crore for the scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(d) The funds were released to the Forest Development Agencies of all States including Gujarat for annual work programmes of the respective years subject to (b) above.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Opening of US consulate in Hyderabad

2887. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States proposes to open a Consulate in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Government of the United States of America inaugurated its Consulate in Hyderabad on October 24, 2008. The US Consulate in Hyderabad is expected to begin operations in December, 2008.

Marketing of India's Space Services

2888. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to market India's space products and services abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to export new products and explore new markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has set up a commercial wing called, Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL), to market Space products and services abroad.

(c) ACL explores opportunities for launch of suitable satellites from foreign countries by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV); markets data from ISRO's

Remote Sensing satellites; and establishes ground stations around the world for reception of the remote sensing data. ACL also responds to various queries received from time to time for supply of space products and services.

Norms for Setting up Non-Polluting Industries

2889. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the existing norms for setting up of non-polluting industries in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to relax the existing norms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The ambient and industry/process specific environmental norms, i.e. limits for parameters for water and air pollution, are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with rules notified thereunder. Various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are implementing such prescribed norms under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in respective States and UTs as per their jurisdiction to control pollution at source.

There is no nomenclature of a non-polluting industry, however, industries with low pollution potential are placed in Green Category. The Government in two separate notifications under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on restriction of locations of industries/mining operation and other activities in Doon Valley in Uttarakhand and Dahanu Taluka in Maharashtra has classified industries/process into Green, Orange and Red categories. The categorization is based on the consumption of water and fuel, discharge of effluents, number of persons employed and local conditions. Some of the SPCBs and PCCs have subsequently adopted similar type of criteria for granting the consents under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control for Pollution) Act, 1981 based on the pollution potential.

Film on India's Independence

2890. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to produce a film on India's independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

Spurious Drugs

2891. SHRI K.S. RAO :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the findings of the Indian pharma industry and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Government's assessment on counterfeit and spurious drugs affecting adversely the health of patients in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to establish a drug regulator to ensure sale of genuine drugs in the market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No scientific survey report is available on the extent of spurious drugs in the country. The ASSOCHAM had reported a very high percentage of spurious drugs in the country which was not realistic and based on the declining market share of the original manufacturers of drugs. Infact, a study of sample of drugs tested all over the country in last five year reveals that

only about 0.3% to 0.4% of around 40000 samples per annum fall within the category of spurious drugs. The report of Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an international organization concerning economic cost of counterfeiting and piracy, recommends increased enforcement of existing laws and tighter cooperation between Governments and industry to make policies more effective.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the menace of spurious drugs:—

1. Parliament has recently enacted amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 providing for more stringent penalties for those indulging in malpractices relating to spurious drugs by passing the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005.
2. The Central Government has undertaken a survey to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country based on the study designed by the Indian Statistical Institute, Hyderabad. Around 31000 samples collected from different zones from the five strata i.e. Metro cities, big cities, towns, districts HQ, villages will be analyzed to assess the availability of spurious drugs.
3. Specific training program for regulatory officials of State Governments on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions, etc. has been conducted with the assistance of FDA, Maharashtra.
4. Pharma industry and trade has been motivated to fight menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. Initiative taken by Pharma industry through their network would help in detecting and investigating more number of cases successfully.

(c) and (d) The Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) under the Central Government and the concerned agencies of the State Governments are already attending to this aspect. However, a Bill namely the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2007 has been

introduced in Rajya Sabha on 21.08.2007 providing for inter-alia creation of a Central Drug Authority.

Industrial Units without Environmental Clearance

2892. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of industrial units have come up without obtaining clearance from environmental angle during the last two years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against such industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, provides for mandatory prior environmental clearance for the categories of industrial units listed in its schedule. However, during appraisal of any project, under the EIA Notification, if an alleged violation is reported, the concerned State Governments are requested to take due action under Section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

A total of five cases of industrial units one each in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand were reported which have come up without prior environmental clearance during the last two years. The State Governments have been requested to take action, as above.

Surgical Injuries

2893. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of people die of preventable surgical injuries every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Health being a state subject, such information is not maintained centrally. However, in so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, surgical injuries are managed properly in each hospital. Deaths usually do not occur if injuries are of moderate or minor in nature. At Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi, a new trauma centre has been set up for treatment of trauma patients. Similarly, trauma centre at AIIMS, New Delhi is fully functional.

World Bank Loan for Coastal Zone Management in Orissa

2894. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned loan to State Government of Orissa to implement an integrated coastal zone management plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert group has examined the causes for the sea erosion in Puri sea beach and other coastal areas of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Funding for the Project Preparation Facility is available under a World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project for which Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal Ministry for preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans for identified stretches in three States namely, Orissa, West Bengal and Gujarat on a pilot scale.

(c) and (d) The Ministry and sponsored a study to the Institute for Ocean Management, Chennai for preparation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Puri-Konark stretch of Orissa. This study *inter alia* covers the health of coastal systems and the biodiversity, the promotion of sustainable use of the coastal resources including eco-tourism and the improvement of the livelihood securities of local communities.

Declining Population of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles

2895. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of olive ridley sea turtles is decreasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Orissa alongwith the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) and (b) Olive Ridley Turtles are migratory species visiting Indian coasts for nesting. Their nesting patterns vary year to year depending upon various factors. Though the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has indicated a globally declining trend in the population of the Olive Ridley Turtles due to factors like trawl fishing, destruction of habitat, global warming etc., there are no reports showing decline in the population of Olive Ridley Turtles in the country.

(c) The important steps taken by the Central Government for the protection of Olive Ridley Turtles are as follows:—

(i) Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) has been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them highest degree of protection.

(ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that are used for committing wildlife offences. Wide publicity is given on provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 against poaching.

(iii) The Central Government provides financial and technical assistance to the State Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The important steps taken by the State Government of Orissa for the protection of Olive Ridley Turtles are as follows:—

- (i) The main nesting grounds of Olive Ridley Turtles have been declared as Protected Areas.
- (ii) Fishing in the marine sanctuary area and restricted fishing zone is prohibited. Fishermen have been advised to use Turtle Excluding Devise (TED), which is mandatory, during trawling and to avoid trawling during nesting seasons.
- (iii) Regular patrolling in the sea is carried out by Wildlife Department in collaboration with the State Fisheries Department and Indian Coast Guard.
- (iv) Co-ordination meetings have been organized with local fishing communities regularly to gain their support in protection of Olive Ridley Turtles. Hoardings have been installed at important fishing bases for generating public awareness.
- (v) A Central Monitoring Unit in the office of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Orissa, is functioning with the responsibility of monitoring the operation carried out in each camp on a day to day basis. It is receiving and compiling information from the concerned Divisions.
- (vi) A High Level Committee has been constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Orissa for reviewing the sea turtle protection activities from time to time for coordinating among various departments and the Indian Coast Guards. In the current year the meeting of the above Committee was held on 29.11.2008. Further, the Assistant Conservators of Forests of coastal forest divisions have been declared as authorized officers under the Orissa marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1981 to check illegal fishing vessels entering in to the prohibited fishing zones in the Orissa coastal waters.

Indo-UNICEF Agreement on HIV/AIDS

2896. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement was signed between India and the UNICEF in order to check violence against children and to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS among adolescents in the next five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The 2008-2012 Country Programme Action Plan has been signed between the Government of India (Ministry of Women and Child Development) and UNICEF. The overall goal of the 2008-2012 Country Programme is to advance the fulfillment of the rights of all women and children in India to survival, development, participation and protection by reducing social inequalities based on gender, caste, ethnicity or region.

The Children and AIDS programme seeks to contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal number 6, Operating under the framework of National Aids Control Programme III and the GOI Policy framework for Children and AIDS, this policy was launched on 31 July, 2007 and outlines key Ministries and their respective roles. The Children and AIDS programme will seek to reduce vulnerabilities slowdown the rate of new infections and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS among children 0-18 years old; in addition, the emphasis in the area of prevention will be on the most at risk and especially vulnerable groups. This group includes young people who are already sexually active, sex workers, injecting drug users, children living in high risk areas, migratory population etc. young people up to the age of 24. The programme will work in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies in the achievement of United Nations Development Assistance Framework Outcome 1.5 to reduce the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among disadvantaged groups.

World Bank's Estimation on Global Poverty

2897. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank's latest estimation on global poverty has revealed that India has 1/3rd of world's poor as reported in the *Times of India* dated 27 August, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to address this issue in the light of World Bank's findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) A news item in the *Times of India* dated 27 August, 2008 has reported that "India is home to roughly one-third of all poor people in the world." The news item is presumably based on the findings of the "Policy Research Working Paper No. 4703" (of the Development Research Group, World Bank) entitled "The Developing World is Poorer Than We Thought, But No Less Successful in the Fight against Poverty" by Shaohua Chen and Martin Ravallion, released in August, 2008. According to this paper, the percentage of people living below the international poverty line of US\$ 1.25 per day declined from 59.8 per cent in 1981 to 41.6 per cent in 2005. The absolute number of people living below the poverty line increased from 420.5 million in 1981 to 455.8 million in 2005. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in the paper are entirely those of the authors and they do not necessarily represent the views of the World Bank and its affiliated organisations.

The Government of India does not use the poverty estimates made by the World Bank on the basis of international poverty line, since it does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country. The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.

(c) The central vision of the Eleventh Plan is to trigger a development process, which ensures broad based improvement in the quality of life of the people, especially the poor, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities, etc. The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set the growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the Plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. In order to reduce poverty, the Government is implementing a number of anti-poverty programmes, such as wage employment and asset generation programmes to raise the income of poor, in addition to the income generated from the general growth process. The Eleventh Plan has set monitorable target to reduce the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points.

[Translation]

CNG Propelled Vehicles

2898. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cities in the country where the CNG propelled vehicles are plying at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to encourage the use of CNG vehicles in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) A duty registered CNG propelled vehicle is eligible to ply throughout the country. However, as per the information available, operation of CNG propelled vehicles are mostly concentrated in the NCT of Delhi, Mumbai, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Pune.

(b) This Ministry has already notified the specifications of CNG kits as well as type approval, safety and

emission norms of CNG vehicles. It is for the vehicle owners to decide about the use of CNG as fuel.

(c) and (d) Doesn't arise.

Changes in MPLAD Scheme

2899. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring some changes in the list of works which can be executed under the MPLAD Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) At present, there is no proposal to bring changes in the list of works under MPLAD Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Exploration of Uranium Resources

2900. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Hyderabad, has carried out any survey and exploration of uranium resources in the country;

(b) if so, whether AMD proposes to conduct Airborne Electromagnetic Time Domain survey over some identified basins in a phased manner;

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

(d) the estimated quantity of uranium, resources in each of such locations; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to explore such resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the XI Plan Period, the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Hyderabad progress to conduct Airborne Geophysical Surveys including Airborne Electro-magnetic Time Domain Survey in the following locations:—

Activity	XI Plan Target	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Airborne (AGRS) Survey (Line km)	400000	16500	77000	115000	100000	91500
Basins/Areas/ States	Proterozoic and Phanerozoic basins of India	Mohar (Madhya (Pradesh) Albitite Line, (Rajasthan and Haryana)	Singhbhum Shear Zone and North Singhbhum Mobile Belt (Jharkhand and West Bengal) Bhima Basin (Karnataka)	Mahadek Basin (Meghalaya) Chhattisgarh Basin (Chhattisgarh and Orissa) Kaladgi Basin (Karnataka)	Aravalli Fold Belt (Rajasthan) Indravati and Abujhmar Basins (Maharashtra) Kaladgi Basins (Karnataka)	Cuddapah Basin and Srisaillampainad Basin (Andhra Pradesh) Vindhyan- Mahakoshal Basins (Madhya Pradesh)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Sonrai Basin (Uttar Pradesh)	Albitte Line (Rajasthan and Haryana)	Kunjardarjing- Kolhan Basins (Orissa and Jharkhand)	Pakhal Basins

(d) The airborne surveys are being planned in a phased manner and subsequent to the same, the data evolved out of the sad surveys are to be interpreted and detailed drilling activities are to be carried out to finalize the uranium occurrence. The surveys will hence help in demarcating the favourable areas for further detailed exploration by ground radiometric, geophysical and sub-surface exploration. Therefore, at present it would be difficult to estimate the quantity of uranium reserves likely to be available from the areas being covered by Airborne Surveys.

(e) Aggressive targets have been set for Airborne/geophysical survey by AMD departmentally as well as through other agencies. The XI plan envisages over 4.00 lakh line kilometers of airborne/geophysical survey

[Translation]

**Per Capita Allocation of Funds for
Agriculture and Rural Sectors**

2901. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita allocation of funds of the development of agriculture and rural sectors especially in the backward and rural areas of the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the amount demanded by the State Government

and sanctioned by the Planning Commission for the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) and (b) Based on discussions with the States, Planning Commission allocates the total Annual Plan Outlays of each State to various sectors such as agriculture, rural development, water resources, power, industry, transport, health and family welfare, social welfare and backward classes etc. Expenditure/Outlays by the States in their Annual Plans to the Agriculture and Allied Sector and the Rural Development Sector are enclosed at Statement-I and II. Since agriculture is performed predominantly in the rural areas, most of the funds under Agriculture and Allied Sector and almost entire flow of funds in the case for Rural Development Sector is meant for the rural areas. Outlay to these sectors is not made on per-capita basis.

The State Governments allocate outlays to the different regions such as backward areas keeping in view the specific needs of the States, availability of resources and the broad Plan priorities. For speedy development of the backward areas, however, Government of India is implementing Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF); which has replaced Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) from 2006-07. Amounts released to the States under BRGF/RSVY are given at Statement-III.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Actual Expenditure 2005-06	Actual Expenditure 2006-07	Revised Outlay 2007-08	Approved Outlay 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	477.91	515.80	847.49	2242.28

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	82.14	80.30	84.85	72.58
3.	Assam	121.18	96.88	212.68	426.67
4.	Bihar	146.34	273.05	282.21*	407.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	224.75	316.80	402.65*	936.92
6.	Goa	47.52	37.87	54.49*	61.06
7.	Gujarat	589.38	709.04	934.67*	\$
8.	Haryana	150.20	165.57	228.53	340.05
9.	Himachal Pradesh	185.34	200.00	221.92	251.97
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	305.65	218.78	91.52*	151.96
11.	Jharkhand	203.37	332.43	493.70*	481.00
12.	Karnataka	539.89	863.45	1255.04*	2491.63
13.	Kerala	178.18	375.88	383.29*	418.61
14.	Madhya Pradesh	331.03	419.52	538.61*	1167.63
15.	Maharashtra	367.47	732.27	775.82*	1022.79
16.	Manipur	43.79	33.05	34.59	39.76
17.	Meghalaya	61.23	64.69	95.60	150.39
18.	Mizoram	73.46	72.54	78.12	78.42
19.	Nagaland	60.62	78.44	84.48	107.60
20.	Orissa	55.34	145.33	241.25	464.45
21.	Punjab	69.97	142.99	200.09*	302.52
22.	Rajasthan	354.29	317.49	255.79	341.65
23.	Sikkim	29.27	34.66	46.45	71.17
24.	Tamil Nadu	479.06	843.69	1065.50	1465.47
25.	Tripura	46.44	57.51	92.23	173.99
26.	Uttar Pradesh	924.49	768.04	1719.41	3413.83
27.	Uttarakhand	324.89	333.22	384.19	525.25
28.	West Bengal	128.89	160.89	410.00	432.98
Total (States)		6602.11	8390.22	11515.20	18039.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
Union Territories					
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25.05	28.54	35.10*	46.58
30.	Chandigarh	4.63	5.92	8.40*	7.52
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7.21	7.57	7.50*	7.76
32.	Daman and Diu	7.47	2.30	2.36*	2.98
33.	Delhi	116.99	23.69	50.20*	17.20
34.	Lakshadweep	8.89	13.10	31.25*	42.08
35.	Puducherry	80.24	89.47	73.37	70.41
Total (UTs)		250.47	170.59	208.17	194.52
Total (States and UTs)		6852.58	8560.82	11723.35	18234.28

* : Revision not sought by States/UTs; Approved outlay repeated.

\$: Sectoral break-up not yet finalised.

Statement-II

Outlay/expenditure to the Rural Development Sector in the Annual Plans of the States/UTs

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Actual Expenditure 2005-06	Actual Expenditure 2006-07	Revised Outlay 2007-08	Approved Outlay 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	971.94	1456.86	1573.21	2900.99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.88	20.96	23.99	18.44
3.	Assam	122.46	303.46	320.51	617.80
4.	Bihar	759.26	820.07	961.82	926.25
5.	Chhattisgarh	445.36	296.21	453.13	605.14
6.	Goa	28.65	28.61	32.63	39.92
7.	Gujarat	394.91	610.36	513.16	\$
8.	Haryana	161.24	172.20	387.98	395.95
9.	Himachal Pradesh	36.80	56.51	103.87	116.56

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	91.91	143.76	156.25	87.80
11.	Jharkhand	955.40	434.10	772.56	905.00
12.	Karnataka	542.25	723.52	1209.80	1302.80
13.	Kerala	273.57	247.73	241.88	264.75
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1247.94	1301.29	1399.31	1679.44
15.	Maharashtra	1533.95	1215.45	1518.14	1420.13
16.	Manipur	35.76	31.17	79.60	42.30
17.	Meghalaya	63.21	99.52	100.45	145.93
18.	Mizoram	22.84	37.93	48.83	46.15
19.	Nagaland	42.09	41.98	40.62	85.02
20.	Orissa	154.01	164.04	145.82	233.54
21.	Punjab	344.27	839.84	350.87	540.42
22.	Rajasthan	646.43	659.30	885.95	1278.93
23.	Sikkim	48.57	77.05	124.29	141.48
24.	Tamil Nadu	763.98	1619.91	1671.65	1943.51
25.	Tripura	57.30	66.12	81.30	104.80
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1149.71	652.43	1665.45	2289.48
27.	Uttarakhand	165.22	235.72	317.81	320.87
28.	West Bengal	567.95	531.40	776.51	851.47
Total (States)		11646.00	12887.44	15957.47	19304.87
Union Territories					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	36.25	39.20	38.91	48.51
2.	Chandigarh	1.03	6.42	3.00	3.02
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.56	1.58	2.04	3.43
4.	Daman and Diu	1.49	1.65	3.06	7.38
5.	Delhi	105.61	130.43	130.05	151.10

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Lakshadweep	1.16	0.89	1.13	2.30
7.	Puducherry	28.03	32.78	27.87	53.91
Total (UTs)		175.15	212.98	206.06	299.65
Grand Total		11821.16	13100.42	16163.53	19604.52

\$: Sectoral break-up not yet finalised.

There may be minor totaling differences due to rounding off of figures

Statement-III

Release of funds to the States under BRGF/RSVY

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Funds Released 2005-06	Funds Released 2006-07	Funds Released 2007-08	Funds Released 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.50	82.50	421.18	87.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.50	7.50	7.60	7.50
3.	Assam	7.50	52.50	113.58	59.24
4.	Bihar	135.00	232.50	639.28	127.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	90.00	127.50	271.22	5.98
6.	Gujarat	15.00	37.50	8.10	21.05
7.	Haryana	15.00	22.50	25.80	3.23
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.00	30.00	42.85	0.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.00	22.50	15.30	15.00
10.	Jharkhand	142.50	315.00	105.60	305.27
11.	Karnataka	15.00	37.50	139.97	30.00
12.	Kerala	15.00	15.00	30.88	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	150.00	135.00	404.82	128.86
14.	Maharashtra	60.00	90.00	108.20	43.00
15.	Manipur	15.00	15.00	34.96	0.95

1	2	3	4	5	6
16. Meghalaya		*	15.00	7.80	45.04
17. Mizoram		7.50	15.00	34.17	2.00
18. Nagaland		7.50	22.50	32.19	3.00
19. Orissa		45.00	45.00	336.12	37.68
20. Punjab		7.50	15.00	7.60	7.50
21. Rajasthan		37.50	15.00	302.10	0.00
22. Sikkim		7.50	22.50	7.60	0.00
23. Tamil Nadu		75.00	30.00	23.10	16.32
24. Tripura		7.50	15.00	7.60	0.00
25. Uttar Pradesh		202.50	300.00	163.71	564.24
26. Uttarakand		22.50	37.50	30.30	22.50
27. West Bengal		45.00	60.00	275.87	88.86
Total (States)		1207.50	1815.00	3597.50	1622.27

*State Government's request for release of funds was not received.

[English]

Meningitis vaccines under Universal Immunization Programme

2902. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of Meningitis patients are increasing in the country particularly in rural areas;

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

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce Meningitis Vaccines under Universal Immunization Programme throughout the country;

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

(e) whether the WHO has also recommended to include Meningitis vaccines in the Universal Immunization Programme;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to check the spread of Meningitis disease in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per the information by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), the total number of cases reported due to meningitis in the country during the years 2006-2008 are given below:—

Year	Number of Cases	Number of deaths
2006	3438	312
2007	5067	311
2008 (till date)	2547	142

The number of cases of meningitis during the last three years does not show any definitive trend.

(c) to (f) World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends emergency immunization using polysaccharide vaccines of group A and C or A, C, Y and W 135 to control outbreaks of meningococcal diseases. It also recommends that the inclusion of conjugate group C vaccine in National Immunisation Programme should be considered in the areas where group C meningococcal disease is a substantial public health problem among young children.

There is no proposal under consideration for introduction of Meningitis vaccine in the Universal Immunization Programme.

(g) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to prevent the disease through IEC and to provide the required facilities including early diagnosis and prompt treatment. However, National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) provides necessary technical support to States to prevent and control meningococcal diseases. Efforts are made for contact tracking of the patients and providing chemoprophylaxis. NICD also monitors the situation of disease in Delhi and the surrounding areas and receives samples from hospitals. Under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project, mechanism has been instituted to strengthen surveillance activities and promote early detection of any outbreak for appropriate action to prevent and control communicable diseases including meningitis.

Memorandum from State Finance Ministers

2903. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Ministers of various States have submitted memorandum regarding Central Tax restructuring and reconsideration of Finance Commission report in the background of recent financial crisis in States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Finance has not received any memorandum from State Finance Ministers for restructuring Central Taxes

and for reconsideration of Finance Commission report in the background of any financial crisis in States.

Eye Banks

2904. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of eye banks in the county, State-wise;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for eye donations every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith assistance received by these eye banks during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) According to Eye Bank Association of India, Hyderabad, there are 577 Eye Bank in various States/UTs in the country. The State-wise details are as under:—

Sl. No.	States/UT	No. of Eye Banks
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	96
2.	Assam	4
3.	Bihar	7
4.	Chandigarh	7
5.	Delhi	16
6.	Gujarat	42
7.	Goa	2
8.	Haryana	16
9.	Karnataka	47
10.	Kerala	19
11.	Madhya Pradesh	31

1	2	3
12.	Maharashtra	94
13.	Mizoram	1
14.	Orissa	12
15.	Pondicherry	5
16.	Punjab	25
17.	Rajasthan	23
18.	Tamil Nadu	50
19.	Tripura	2
20.	Uttar Pradesh	44
21.	West Bengal	34
Total		577

(b) and (c) The target fixed every year for eye donation under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB). year-wise targets and achievement for eye donation and provision for non-recurring assistance to Eye Bank under NPCB since the year 2005-06 is as under:—

Year	Target for eye donation	Collection of donated eyes	Provision for Non-recurring assistance to Eye Banks
2005-06	40,000	28,007	150 lakh
2006-07	45,000	30,089	230 lakh
2007-08	45,000	38,596	240 lakh
2008-09	50,000	15,222	100 lakh
(Provisional)			

The scheme for assistance to Eye Banks under NPCB has been decentralized to States since the year 2005-06. The State Health and Family Welfare Societies are empowered to seek applications and grant assistance to eligible Eye Banks through District Health and Family Welfare Societies as per the prescribed guidelines.

Recurring assistance to Eye Banks @Rs.1500/- per pair of eyes and to Eye Donation Centres @Rs. 1000/- per pair of eyes is provided by the District Health and Family Welfare Society. As per the revised pattern of assistance under NPCB during 11th Five Year Plan, the provision for non-recurring assistance for strengthening/developing Eye Banks has been enhanced from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh per Eye Bank, w.e.f., 16th October, 2008.

Reclamation of Sea Land for Port Development

2905. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to reclaim sea land for setting up new ports and expansion of the existing ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of fund allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the expansion and development work is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Development and expansion of ports is a comprehensive activity which is carried out through addition of new berths, modernization of equipment, improvement of port connectivity and other areas of port operation. This development may involve reclamation of sea land as is being proposed in some Major Ports, such as Chennai and Jawaharlal Nehru Port. In so far as non-Major Ports are concerned, under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, their development is the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Polio Eradication

2906. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is on the verge of eradicating Polio P1 virus as per the Global Polio Eradication Initiative;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the prevalence of P3 virus has also been curtailed; and

(d) if so, the status of other strains like P2 and P4 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Progress has been made in polio eradication programme in India. A total of 63 Polio P1 virus cases have been reported this year so far as compared to 83 last year.

(c) A total of 472 P3 cases have been reported this year so far as compared to 797 last year.

(d) P2 was eradicated in India in the year 1999 and P4 virus does not exist.

[Translation]

World Bank Report on Poverty in India

2907. SHRI SURAJ SINGH :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a World Bank study has revealed that nearly five out of 10 Indians live on less than Rs. 55 per day as reported in *The Hindu* dated 25 August, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) A new item appearing in *The Hindu* dated 28th August, 2008, captioned, "World Bank's New poverty norms find larger number of poor in India" states that, "With an upward revision in its

international poverty line norm from \$1 a day, a World Bank study has revealed that nearly five out of 10 Indians are living on less than \$1.25 (approximately Rs. 55) a day." The news item is presumably based on the findings of the "Policy Research Working Paper No. 4703" (of the Development Research Group, World Bank) entitled "The Developing World is Poorer than We thought, But No Less Successful in the Fight against Poverty" by Shaohua Chen and Martin Ravallion, released in August 2008. According to this paper, the percentage of people living below the international poverty line of US \$1.25 per day declined from 59.8 per cent in 1981 to 41.6 per cent in 2005. The absolute number of people living below the poverty line increased from 420.5 million in 1981 to 455.8 million in 2005. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in the paper are entirely those of the authors and they do not necessarily represent the views of the World Bank and its affiliated organisations.

(c) The Government of India does not use the poverty estimates made by the World Bank on the basis of international poverty line, since it does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country. The central vision of the Eleventh Plan is to trigger a development process, which ensures broad based improvement in the quality of life of the people, especially the poor, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities, etc. The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set the growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the Plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. In order to reduce poverty, the Government is implementing a number of anti-poverty programmes, such as wage employment and asset generation programmes to raise the income of poor, in addition to the income generated from the general growth process. The Eleventh Plan has set monitorable target to reduce the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points.

[English]

Languages on the Currency Notes

2908. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the value of an Indian currency note is being inscribed in words, in all the languages included under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the facts in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of 22 languages in 8th Schedule of the Constitution, 15 languages have been included in the language panel of the banknotes, apart from Hindi which is displayed prominently on all denomination of banknotes.

Incorporation of languages in the language panel of the banknotes is a part of design of the banknotes which is changed very 7-8 years and updated from time to time taking into consideration space constraints.

Quality of Indian Traditional Medicines

2909. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding substandard quality of these drugs from any overseas country which imported Indian traditional drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have taken following steps to ensure the safety and quality of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines (ASU):—

i. Mandatory testing for heavy metals has been introduced w.e.f. 01.01.2006 for herbal Ayurveda,

Siddha and Unani medicines (ASU) which are being exported. This has been done to meet the regulatory requirements of importing countries.

ii. State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drug manufacturers with the provisions of Rule 161 (1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of any Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs, a list of all the ingredients along with quantities used in the manufacture of the preparation.

iii. Captain Shreenwasmurti Drug Research Institute for Ayurveda, Chennai, Indian Institute of Toxicological Research, Lucknow and Sri Ram Institute for Industrial Research, New Delhi have analyzed about 600 plants and it was found that lead arsenic and mercury levels were within the permissible limit.

iv. Good Manufacturing Practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug (ASU) manufacturing units in the country through an amendment of Schedule T of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

[Translation]

Status of the Setting up of SAARC University

2910. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status regarding setting up of SAARC University in the country; and

(b) the amount likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) At the Thirteenth SAARC Summit (Dhaka, November 12-13, 2005), Prime Minister proposed establishing a South Asian University (SAU). The Inter-Governmental Agreement amongst SAARC member states to establish the South Asian University was signed at the Fourteenth SAARC Summit on April 4, 2007.

It was agreed that the main campus of the University will be in India.

A Project Office headed by a CEO from the host country, India, has been established to work under the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee overseeing the project. Land for the project has been identified in the NCR and work is proceeding apace.

MPLAD Funds for Different Schemes

2911. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the funds under MPLAD Scheme granted for construction of schools, hospitals, madaras and graveyards during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether any complaint regarding mismanagement of MPLAD funds released for various purposes has been received; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) Funds under the MPLAD Scheme, are not released by the Union Government for specific works. The Government directly release funds to the nodal district authorities of the MPs, who examine and implement the eligible developmental works recommended by the Hon'ble Members of the Parliament.

(b) and (c) Some complaints regarding mismanagement of MPLADS funds have been received from time to time from individual MPs, members of the public and others. These complaints are sent to the respective State/UT Governments for investigation and report. If any irregularity is found in these reports, the Ministry recommends appropriate disciplinary action and/or recoupment of funds on case of case basis.

[English]

Trans-Arunachal Highway Project

2912. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the

Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to execute Trans- Arunachal Highway project; and

(b) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is too early to indicate the likely project commencement and completion dates as the Government is yet to approve investment on the highway in question.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9805/08]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the North Eastern

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Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9806/08]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9807/08]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9808/08]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Visakhapatnam, along with Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9809/08]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9810/08]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 811(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2008 approving the Kolkata Port Trust Employees' (Medical attendance and Treatment) Amendment Regulations, 2008 under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9811/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Drugs and Cosmetics (Second Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 592 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2008 under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9812/08]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2006-2007.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9813/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9814/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corpora-

tion Limited (Under Liquidation), New Delhi, for the period from 29-06-2007 to 28-06-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited (Under Liquidation), New Delhi, for the period from 29-06-2007 to 28-06-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9815/08]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

(i) S.O. 834(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.

(ii) S.O. 796(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.

(iii) S.O. 798(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.

(iv) S.O. 790(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 9 (Hyderabad-Vijayawada Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(v) S.O. 850(E) and S.O. 851(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 9 (Hyderabad-Vijayawada Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

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- (vi) S.O. 852(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 18 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vii) S.O. 853(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/two-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 154 (from Monacharra Bazar to Aenakhal) in the State of Assam.
- (viii) S.O. 1091(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 645(E) dated the 31st May, 2004.
- (ix) S.O. 1176(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 205 (Tirupati-Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu Border) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (x) S.O. 1548(E) and S.O. 1549(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xi) S.O. 1550(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Hyderabad-Bangalore Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 1570(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 630(E) dated the 18th April, 2007.
- (xiii) S.O. 1910(E) to S.O. 1912(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 9 (Hyderabad-Vijayawada Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xiv) S.O. 2079(E) and S.O. 2080(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 205 (Tirupati to Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu Border Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xv) S.O. 2129(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 9 (Hyderabad-Vijayawada Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xvi) S.O. 2153(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xvii) S.O. 2274(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Tamil Nadu/Kerala Border (Walayar-Thrissur Section)) in the State of Kerala.

- (xviii) S.O. 2426(E) and S.O. 2427(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different Stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xix) S.O. 1100(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.
- (xx) S.O. 1101(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 815(E) dated the 25th May, 2007.
- (xxi) S.O. 1163(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2008 declaring Highways specified in the Column 2 of the Notification to be a National Highway.
- (xxii) S.O. 1629(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.
- (xxiii) S.O. 1873(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.
- (xxiv) S.O. 1874(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 465(E) dated the 26th April, 2002.
- (xxv) S.O. 2297(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.
- (xxvi) S.O. 2298(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.
- (xxvii) S.O. 2477(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2008 regarding rates of fee to be recovered from the users of the part, mentioned therein, of National Highway No. 4.
- (xxviii) S.O. 2228(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 9 (Pune-Solapur Section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxix) S.O. 832(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Jaipur-Kishangarh Section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxx) S.O. 939(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 76 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxxi) S.O. 814(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Gurgaon-Jaipur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxxii) S.O. 1428(E) and S.O. 1429(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches National Highway Nos. 14 and 11 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 1836(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2008 regarding

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- acquisition of land for building (widening/six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 11 (Mahua-Jaipur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 2181(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Gurgaon-Jaipur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxxv) S.O. 805(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1818(E) dated the 25th October, 2007.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 815(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Vadodara-Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 816(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Bharuch-Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 1438(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1009(E) dated the 10th November, 2000.
- (xxxix) S.O. 2028(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 in the State of Gujarat.
- (xi) S.O. 2044(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 815(E) dated the 4th April, 2008
- (xii) S.O. 2154(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Bharuch-Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xlii) S.O. 2246(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 in the State of Gujarat.
- (xliii) S.O. 2313(E) and S.O. 2314(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 8 (Vadodara-Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xliv) S.O. 2196(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 11 (Mahua-Jaipur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xlv) S.O. 2440(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 in the State of Gujarat.
- (xlvi) S.O. 524(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 206(E) dated the 11th February, 2005.

- (xlvi) S.O. 1029(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 601(E) dated the 19th May, 2004.
- (xlviii) S.O. 1582(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31 in the State of Assam.
- (xlix) S.O. 1583(E) and S.O. 1584(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 31 in the State of Assam.
- (l) S.O. 1580(E) and S.O. 1581(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 31C in the State of Assam.
- (li) S.O. 2260(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 54 in the State of Assam.
- (lii) S.O. 1917(E) to S.O. 1919(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 31 in the State of Assam.
- (liii) S.O. 1920(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31C in the State of Assam.
- (liv) S.O. 1921(E) to S.O. 1924(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 52 (Baihata Chariali-Tejpur Section) in the State of Assam.
- (lv) S.O. 1031(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway Nos. 36 and 37 in the State of Assam.
- (lvi) S.O. 1177(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 40 in the State of Assam.
- (lvii) S.O. 2237(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31 (Naibari-Bijni Section) in the State of Assam.
- (lviii) S.O. 1030(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 54 in the State of Assam.
- (lix) S.O. 1178(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 221(E) dated the 10th February, 2005.
- (lx) S.O. 1443(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 regarding

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acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 (Jagiroad-Thekeraguri Section) in the State of Assam.

- (lxi) S.O. 1746(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31 in the State of Assam.
- (lxii) S.O. 1747(E) and S.O. 1748(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 44 in the State of Assam.
- (lxiii) S.O. 1744(E) to S.O. 1746(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 31 (Nalbari-Bijni Section) in the State of Assam.
- (lxiv) S.O. 2403(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Indore-Kalaghat Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (lxv) S.O. 2468(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2008 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 1401(E) (in Hindi version only) dated 9th June, 2008.
- (lxvi) S.O. 2601(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 75 (Gwalior-Jhansi Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (lxvii) S.O. 788(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxviii) S.O. 804(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for construction of flyover at Airport junction on National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxix) S.O. 933(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxx) S.O. 945(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxi) S.O. 946(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Krishnagiri-Thoppur Ghat Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxii) S.O. 1096(E) and S.O. 1097(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2008

- regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Thanjavur-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxiii) S.O. 1278(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 68 (Salem-Ulundurpet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxiv) S.O. 1444(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxv) S.O. 1445(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxvi) S.O. 1447(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxvii) S.O. 1448(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxviii) S.O. 1449(E) and S.O. 1450(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxix) S.O. 1495(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 66 (Pondicherry-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxx) S.O. 1496(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Trichy-Karur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxxii) S.O. 1497(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Thanjavur-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxxiii) S.O. 1498(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Thanjavur-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lxxxiii) S.O. 2107(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 265(E) dated the 22nd February, 2007.

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(lxxxiv) S.O. 941(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 66 (Pondicherry-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(lxxxv) S.O. 1052(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(lxxxvi) S.O. 1053(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(lxxxvii) S.O. 1073(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Trichy-Dindigul Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(lxxxviii) S.O. 1094(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 68 (Salem-Ulunderpet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(lxxxix) S.O. 1098(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway

No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xc) S.O. 1099(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xci) S.O. 1173(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Karur-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xcii) S.O. 1186(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirappalli-Viralimalai-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xciii) S.O. 1187(E) to S.O. 1191(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xciv) S.O. 1220(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1582(E) dated the 22nd September, 2006.

(xcv) S.O. 1229(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway

- No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xcvi) S.O. 1398(E) and S.O. 1399(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xcvii) S.O. 1483(E) to S.O. 1485(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xcviii) S.O. 1493(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1301(E) dated the 25th November, 2004.
- (xcix) S.O. 8(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45B (Madurai-Aruppukottai-Thoothukkudi Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (c) S.O. 22(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 629(E) dated the 18th April, 2007.
- (ci) S.O. 23(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 508(E) dated the 2nd April, 2007.
- (cii) S.O. 76(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ciii) S.O. 114(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 66 (Pondicherry-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (civ) S.O. 115(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Thanjavur-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cv) S.O. 257(E) to S.O. 262(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cvi) S.O. 263(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirappalli-Viralimalai-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cvii) S.O. 264(E) and S.O. 265(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.)

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maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (cviii) S.O. 266(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7A (Palayamkottai-Thoothukudi Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cix) S.O. 299(E) to S.O. 301(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cx) S.O. 302(E) to S.O. 305(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cxi) S.O. 306(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Krishnagiri-Thoppur Ghat Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cxii) S.O. 307(E) to S.O. 309(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of

different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (cxiii) S.O. 310(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1040(E) dated the 24th September, 2004.
- (cxiv) S.O. 311(E) to S.O. 316(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cxv) S.O. 317(E) and S.O. 318(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cxvi) S.O. 416(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (cxvii) S.O. 2834(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2008 declaring Highways mentioned in the Columns 2 and 3 of the Notification as National Highway.
- (cxviii) S.O. 1227(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 34 in the State of West Bengal.

- (cix) S.O. 1579(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/two-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 154 (Dhaleshwari-Bhairabi Section) in the State of Assam.
- (cox) S.O. 2258(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/two-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 154 (Dhaleshwari-Bhairabi Section) in the State of Assam.
- (3) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) to (vii) of (2) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9816/08]
- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:-
- (i) S.O. 797(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 entrusting the stretches, mentioned therein, of the National Highway No. 66 to the National Highway Authorities of India.
- (ii) S.O. 795(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 entrusting the stretches, mentioned therein, of the National Highway No. 3 to the National Highway Authorities of India.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9817/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9818/08]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library, See No LT 9819/08]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9820/08]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2007-2008 together with Audit Report thereon.

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- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2007-2008.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9821/08]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Plasma Research, Ahmedabad, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Plasma Research, Ahmedabad, for the year 2007-2008.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9822/08]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, for the year 2007-2008.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9823/08]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9824/08]
- (8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9825/08]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9826/08]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9827/08]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9828/08]
- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9829/08]
- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9830/08]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Civil Services Officers Institutes, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Civil Services Officers Institutes, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9831/08]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9832/08]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9833/08]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 9834/08]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government

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of the working of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9835/08]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Semi-Conductor Laboratory, S.A.S. Nagar (Punjab), for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Semi-Conductor Laboratory, S.A.S. Nagar (Punjab), for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9836/08]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9837/08]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Gadanki, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Gadanki, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9838/08]

- (17) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 726(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2008 making certain amendments in the Second Schedule to the Right to Information Act, 2005 issued under sub-section (2) of Section 24 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9839/08]

- (18) A copy of the Central Administrative Tribunal (Senior Principal Private Secretary) Recruitment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 74(E) in weekly Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2007 under sub-section (1) of Section 37 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9840/08]

- (19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Minister during various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha:—

TENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XXXVII Fifth Session 1992

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9841/08]

2. Statement No. XXXIX Thirteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9842/08]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. XXIX Sixth Session 1997

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9843/08]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

4. Statement No. XXXVIII Third Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9844/08]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

5. Statement No. XLI Second Session 1999
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9845/08]
6. Statement No. XXXVIII Fourth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9846/08]
7. Statement No. XXXII Eighth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9847/08]
8. Statement No. XXVII Tenth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9848/08]
9. Statement No. XXIV Twelfth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9849/08]
10. Statement No. XXI Thirteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9850/08]
11. Statement No. XX Fourteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9851/08]

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

12. Statement No. XIII Fifth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9852/08]
13. Statement No. XII Sixth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9853/08]
14. Statement No. XI Seventh Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9854/08]
15. Statement No. IX Eighth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9855/08]
16. Statement No. VIII Ninth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9856/08]

17. Statement No. VII Tenth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9857/08]
18. Statement No. V Eleventh Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9858/08]
19. Statement No. IV Twelfth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9859/08]
20. Statement No. II Thirteenth Session, 2008
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9860/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : I beg to lay
on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9861/08]
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9862/08]
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007 under sub-section (5) of Section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9863/08]
- (3) A copy each of the Customs, Central Excise Duties and Service Tax Drawback (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 817(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2008 under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with an explanatory memorandum.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9863/08]

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a person Resident Outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 575 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 2008.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 576 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 2008.
- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 577 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 2008.
- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Compounding Proceedings) (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 613 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9864/08]

(5) A copy of the Coinage of One Hundred Rupees and Ten Rupees coined on the occasion of "TER-CENTENARY OF GUR-TA-GADDI OF SHRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB" Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 750 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 2008 under sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9865/08]

(6) 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. 708(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 32/99-C.E. dated the 8th July, 1999.
- (ii) G.S.R. 709(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 33/99-C.E. dated the 8th July, 1999.
- (iii) G.S.R. 710(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/2001-C.E. dated the 31st July, 2001.
- (iv) G.S.R. 711(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 56/2002-C.E. dated the 14th November, 2002.
- (v) G.S.R. 712(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 57/2002-C.E. dated the 14th November, 2002.
- (vi) G.S.R. 713(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 56/2003-C.E. dated the 25th June, 2003.
- (vii) G.S.R. 714(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 71/2003-C.E. dated the 9th September, 2003.

- (viii) G.S.R. 715(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/2007-C.E. dated the 25th April, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9866/08]

- (7) A copy each of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008/26/142801 in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2008 under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, 1992.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9867/08]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9868/08]

- (9) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9869/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9870/08]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—

- (i) The Environment (Protection) Eighth Amendment Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 752(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 2008.
- (ii) The Environment (Protection) Second Amendment Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 280(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9871/08]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—

- (i) S.O. 1720(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2008 making certain amendment in the Notification No. S.O. 93(E) dated the 29th January, 1998.
- (ii) S.O. 1539(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2008 making certain amendment in the Notification No. S.O. 489(E) dated the 30th April, 2003

[Shri Namu Narain Meena]

- (iii) S.O. 1894(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2008 recognising the laboratories, mentioned therein, as environmental laboratories.
- (iv) S.O. 1634(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Sikkim and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary, mentioned therein.
- (v) S.O. 417(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Tamil Nadu and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary, mentioned therein.
- (vi) S.O. 737(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Arunachal Pradesh and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary, mentioned therein.
- (vii) S.O. 899(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Haryana and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary, mentioned therein.
- (viii) S.O. 1887(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Rajasthan and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary, mentioned therein.

- (ix) S.O. 2244(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Uttarakhand and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary, mentioned therein.
- (x) S.O. 1888(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Delhi and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary, mentioned therein.
- (xi) S.O. 898(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Maharashtra and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary, mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9872/08]

- (4) A copy of the Environment Relief Fund Scheme, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 768(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 2008, issued under Section 7A of the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9873/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9874/08]

- (2) A copy of the 38th Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 2007-2008 under Section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9875/08]

- (3) A copy of the Notifications No. G.S.R. 395(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2007 notifying the establishment of one more Debts Recovery Tribunal at Ahmedabad (to be known as Debts Recovery Tribunal-II) with effect from 1st June, 2007 and its area of jurisdiction, issued under Section 3 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, together with a corrigenda thereto published in Notification No. 783(E) dated the 20th December, 2007.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9876/08]

- (5) A copy of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of Presiding Officer) (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 777(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 2008 under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9877/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and

English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9878/08]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th December, 2008 agreed without any amendment to the National Jute Board Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st October, 2008."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th October, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th October, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th October, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(v) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th December, 2008 agreed without any amendment to the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th October, 2008."

12.03½ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

19th and 20th Reports

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee:—

- (1) Nineteenth Report on Ministry of Information and Broadcasting – Discontinuation of printing of Volume-II of the Annual Report; and

- (2) Twentieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fourteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) – National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.

12.04 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

78th to 80th Reports

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2008-09):—

- (1) Seventy-eighth Report on Action Taken on 42nd Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Allotment of Land to Educational Institutions by DDA".
- (2) Seventy-ninth Report on Action Taken on 57th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Undervaluation due to adoption of Lower Mutually Agreed Price"; and
- (3) Eightieth Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2006-2007)".

12.04½ hrs.

[Translation]

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

43rd to 45th Report

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur) : Sir, I present following reports* (Hindi and English Version) of the committee on petitions.

*The above Reports were presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 8th November, 2008 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha when the House was not in Session and the Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of the above Reports under rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

- (1) 43rd report on representations related to Ministry to Defence (Department of Defence).
- (2) 44th report on representations related to Culture, Rural Development, Civil Aviation, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise (Department of Heavy Industries); and
- (3) 45th report on representations related to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

212th Report

[English]

SHRI RAHUL GANDHI (Amethi) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Two Hundred Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the Central Universities Bill, 2008.

MR. SPEAKER : I compliment the Committee for responding to my request to give an early Report as much as possible. I am glad that they have complied with my request.

12.05½ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 70th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the Seventieth Report of the Standing

Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha. Present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexures to my statement which is laid on the table of the House. I would not like to take the time of the House and read out the contents of the annexures and hence I would request that this may be considered as read.

The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Demands for Grant of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2008-09 and presented their Seventieth Report to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on April 16 and 15, 2008 respectively. There are 14 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. The major recommendations mainly relate to

1. Under utilization of Plan funds under the Head "Professional Services".
2. Finalization of Eleventh Five Year Plan Proposals of the Ministry in consultation with the Planning Commission.
3. Progress in implementation of the Plan Scheme "Basic Statistics of local Level Development".
4. Steps taken by the Ministry to address the problem of shortage of manpower and attrition of trained manpower.
5. Identification of areas of core statistics, evolving of appropriate standard and methodology for collecting such statistics by the National Statistical Commission.
6. Action taken by the Ministry to complete the exercise of developing separate Urban and Rural Consumer Price Indices.
7. Recommendations made by the National Statistical Commission to deal with the deficiencies in Price Statistics.
8. Progress of implementation of the Plan scheme "India Statistical Strengthening Project" during the current year.

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library See No. LT 9879/08.

[Shri G.K. Vasan]

9. Progress in development of a suitable methodology and frame work for Natural Resource Accounting for different sectors.
10. Efforts made by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to obtain the approved completion schedules/anticipated dates of completion of Central Sector Project from the concerned Ministries and progress made thereon.
11. Efforts made by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to ensure that concerned Ministries monitor the implementation of their respective Central Sector Projects on a constant basis and take immediate corrective action to avoid time and cost over runs.
12. Action taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to ensure that there is no cost and time over runs in the projects pertaining to the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West corridor projects.
13. Action taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to obtain information from the relevant Ministries against those held responsible for lapses contributing to cost overrun of projects.

12.06 hrs.

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 204th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library See No. LT 9880/08.

of comments contained in the 204th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated 1st September, 2004.

The 204th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was laid in the Lok Sabha on 05.12.2007. The Report relates to the action to be taken by the Government on the comments of the Committee.

The present status of implementation of various comments made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.06½ hrs.

(iii) (a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 23rd Report of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Government's policy of appointment on compassionate ground, pertaining to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : Sir, the Departmentally-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had made 12 recommendations in its 23rd Report on the Government's policy of Appointment on Compassionate ground. These recommendations were duly considered in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and it was observed that effective implementation/action on these recommendations would require consultation, also with some other Ministries/Departments. Comments/inputs are

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library See No. LT 9881/08.

now awaited from two Ministries/Departments. The matter was accordingly taken up with the concerned Ministries/Departments. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has extended the time to furnish the Action Taken reply on the aforesaid recommendations upto 5.2.2009. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions are pursuing the matter with the concerned Ministries/Departments and the progress is being closely monitored for expeditious action on the recommendations made in the 23rd Report.

(b) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 189th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Department of Space.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 189th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants 2008-09 of Department of Space, in pursuance of Direction 73A of hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, issued under the provisions of Rule 389 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II (No. 456) dated September 1, 2004.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Department of Space on 3rd April 2008 while considering Demands for Grants for the year 2008-09. The Committee recommended the Demands for Grants of the Department of Space in its 189th Report presented to the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 2008 and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 29th April, 2008.

There were eight (8) recommendations contained in the Committee's Report. The 'Action Taken Report' on all the recommendations of the Committee was furnished by Department of Space during September, 2008.

The Committee, considered the Action Taken Report

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library See No. LT 9882/08.

and adopted the same in its meeting held in October, 2008. While accepting with satisfaction the action taken by the Department, the Committee have made further suggestions, which are continuing in nature. The Department has noted these suggestions for implementation. A statement indicating the action taken/status of all the recommendations contained in the Standing Committee Report is annexed.

12.07½ hrs.

(iv) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 20th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on External Affairs examined the Demands for Grants of the MEA for the year 2008-2009 and laid its Twentieth Report in the Lok Sabha on 15th April, 2008. The Report included 15 recommendations on which Action Taken Report was submitted to the Committee in July, 2008. Now, I am laying on the Table of the House the progress made in implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, as required under Hon'ble Speaker's above direction.

We are grateful to the Committee in acknowledging the healthy utilization of funds by the Ministry and its dynamic foreign policy. The Ministry is happy to report that the assessment of the present pace of expenditure and anticipated requirement of funds during the remaining part of the current financial year, indicate that the Ministry

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library See No. LT 9883/08.

[Shri Anand Sharma]

will be able to meet its commitments within the funds allocated in Budget Estimates 2008-2009 under the Plan Head.

The Committee had observed a few discrepancies in the figures in the Outcome Budget and the Demand for Grants documents. I wish to inform that the Ministry have made all the Heads of Divisions responsible to ensure that the information/data furnished for incorporation in documents to be submitted to the Parliament is flawless. The directions of the Committee for providing additional information relating to projects such as factor-wise cost escalation, time run-over, etc. have also been complied with.

As regards creation of posts, the Ministry is happy to report that the Cabinet's approval for creation of 514 posts-249 posts at Headquarters and 265 posts in our Missions/ Posts abroad has been obtained on 21st August, 2008. These posts will be created over a 10-year period after obtaining approvals of the EAM, FM and PM on an annual basis.

We thank the Committee for noting that the Tala Hydro Electric Project has commenced sale of surplus electricity to India and that the project has made a savings of Rs. 90 crores which is expected to increase upto Rs. 140 crores. I am happy to inform that the project has been functioning satisfactorily and 1020 MW of power imported from Tala Hydro Electric Project is allocated to various units within India by the Ministry of Power.

The Ministry has appointed Inland Water Authority of India (IWAI) as Project Development Consultant to ensure timely completion of the Kaladan Multi-Model Transit Project without cost escalation, as recommended by the Committee.

As regards Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project, the Ministry would also like to inform the Committee that the Government is committed to establish a long-term, cost effective and secure mode of transfer of gas from Iran to India. Besides official level meetings, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas had discussed the matter with

his Pakistani counter-part in April, 2008. The specific proposals discussed during the visit of the President of Iran to New Delhi on the pipeline, were thereafter shared with the Government of Pakistan by the EAM during his visit to Islamabad on 20-21 May, 2008. The EAM had also discussed the project during the Indo-Iran Joint Commission meeting in Tehran in November, 2008.

The entire gamut of our bilateral relations with Nepal were discussed and reviewed at the highest level during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India from 14-18 September, 2008. Both sides have agreed to further enhance the pace of economic development between the two countries through development of major projects such as road networks, rail links, hydel-power projects, integrated Check Posts etc.

It was decided to rename 'India-International Development Agency' as the 'Indian Agency for Partnership in Development' (IAPD). The Ministry have been actively pursuing the matter for early setting up of IAPD. The modified Cabinet Note on the proposed Agency as per the suggestions of the Cabinet Secretariat in the Cabinet Note submitted earlier on March 7, 2008, was resubmitted by the Ministry on September 23, 2008. As further inter-ministerial consultations were required, the views of Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have been sought on December 2, 2008. The Note for the Cabinet's approval will be resubmitted with the comments of the Department of Personnel and Training.

In line with the Committee's recommendations, the Ministry have been streamlining procedures for enhanced utilization of scholarship slots under ITEC/SCAAP and SAARC. Wide publicity on dedicated websites and online processing of applications are some of the new steps introduced by the Ministry to ensure optimum utilization of slots.

Passport Rules and procedures are regularly revised to facilitate speedier passport services. Revised rules and procedures are conveyed to all Passport Offices for compliance and are also displayed on CPV Division's website for the information of the public. As a part of the

implementation of Passport Seva Project, passport issuance procedures will be comprehensively computerized, CPV Division's website will be modified accordingly and national call centre for providing clarifications to the public would be set up. To ensure that only genuine applicants are issued passports under 'Tatkal' and post verification schemes, strict documentation norms are followed and system has been in place for careful scrutiny of documents. Ministry of Law have opined that the extra fee charged for 'Tatkal' Passport is within the competence of MEA as it would relate to the Services referred to in Section 5 of the Passport Act and would also commensurate with the expenses incurred in providing these services.

An Inter-Governmental Steering/Advisory Committee comprising of the representatives of the academic/planning/financial/foreign affairs mechanisms of SAARC member states has already been set up for the proposed establishment of SAARC University. The Committee has appointed the CEO of the Project office of the University, experts and conveners of the Task Forces to handle academic and administrative issues of the University.

The Government continues to take up the matter vigorously regarding release of fishermen and prisoners in Pakistan jails with the Government of Pakistan including at the highest level for effective implementation of the commitments given by Pakistan. Consular Access to fishermen and Indian prisoners is also provided from time to time.

The progress made in the implementation of the recommendations is detailed in the Annexure which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents but would request that this may be considered as read.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we would now take up important urgent matters. I have received 49 notices. So, you can well understand my position. I will try to accommodate as many as possible. I know you all are

eager, including Shri Gangwar, if the hon. Members will kindly hold patience and not try to disturb the proceedings. Please hold patience and see whether you are accommodated or not and then we can go on.

Shri Basudeb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I had given a notice for Adjournment Motion on 2G spectrum...
(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, this matter was raised the day before yesterday...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I wish you could stop him. I cannot stop him....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the biggest scandal since Independence....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see how long it goes on.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the way the spectrum G II has been allotted....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me see on what subject you have given the notice. The same matter cannot be raised during the same Session.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is right. I uphold his point.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : So what? You are raising the same matter.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East) : Sir, we had given notice for Suspension of Question Hour. You promised that you would allow....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am referring to the biggest scam since Independence which has caused a huge loss to the Government exchequer because of the way the allotment of the spectrum has been done...
(Interruptions)

Can the House not discuss it when it is being debated outside the House? But you will not give an opportunity to debate and discuss it in the House....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me explain. The trouble is, my appeal was not respected for even one minute. One by one you can do that. You know very well Mr. Acharia that I do not generally divulge what happens in my room. Nowadays, I cannot come early because of my personal indisposition. I came as soon as I was told that there are two motions for Suspension of Question Hour. One was given by Shri Acharia and the other by Shri Dhindsa. I said that I will allow both the matters after the Question Hour. Really speaking, I have not gone through these notices in detail and it is not incorrect when the point is taken....

...(Interruptions)

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi) : The whole country is watching.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is the biggest scam since Independence....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dhindsa.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very big scam. The Government should give its reply on this.

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : The Government should respond on this issue....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not for you to intervene. Please take your seat. I have called Shri Dhindsa to speak and only his statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you cannot do that. Nothing is to be recorded without my permission including the Minister's statement. You go on.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Dhindsaji, please sit down. I have called your name? I will give you time to speak. For the moment, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You talk of constituting J.P.C. here and when J.P.C. submits its report then you criticize the report. If it goes on like this, then the report of J.P.C. will also not come. Do you enjoy yelling like this?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are disrespecting. The way the Report that was tabled yesterday was criticised by some Members of the House, I can assure you that action is going to be taken. You are here and you are able to speak because you are a Member of this institution. You are deliberately denigrating this institution. See the way you are behaving towards the Chair; towards the whole House and towards the country. Important matters are to be raised.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Committees, after deliberations, prepare Reports. See the way it is being criticized and castigated even by Members who say that they have not read it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Of course, you have a right. Therefore, what is the charm about the Joint Parliamentary Committee?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you want a Joint Parliamentary Committee? Tell me. It is because your leader wants it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to ask for a structured debate. Last time I allowed you to raise it. You are raising an identical matter now. Therefore, this is not the way to get an answer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, you have been asking for a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Now, you want a debate. For a debate to take place, there is a procedure. I do not have to advise you. You know much better than I do.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All right, let's all.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We shall see that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, I will look into your notice for Adjournment Motion.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhusudan Mistry, why are you shouting?

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mistry, what are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mistry, I will have to take action. You are creating problem here. Take your seat.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, the Government is not responding....(Interruptions) In protest we are walking out.

12.10 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rupchand Pal and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dhindsa may speak now. Only Shri Dhindsa's statement to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to raise an issue which is related to our defence forces.

I would like to ask the Government that the defence forces of our country which have to protect our country.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There will be no luncheon recess today.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : All the Chiefs of Defence forces have met the Government against the Sixth Pay Commission. They said that great injustice has been done to them and then the Prime Minister constituted a committee. He had stated that it would present its report by 30th November. But that committee has not presented its report till date. Our defence forces are very demoralized at a time when our relations does not appear to be cordial with our neighbouring country. I would like to urge the Government to accomplish the task of pay commission for them as early as possible. Earlier, many commissions were constituted which presented the report in favour of one rank, one pension. Therefore, I request the Government to decide their case as soon as possible and remind once again to finalize the report of their pay commission.

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many mines of Manganese Ore India in Balaghat District. In Ukwa, Bharweli, Kartoli....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have got and what else you want?

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN : I got it with your blessing. During the past two months 3 such incidents have occurred in the mines of Manganese Ore India, in which 4 lives were lost. The security arrangement essential for underground manganese is not upto mark there. Due to the contract system corruption is deep rooted there. If this continues, then the lives of innocent labourers will be lost everyday.

Sir, through you, I would request the Ministry of Mines to ensure adequate security arrangements at the mines, may it be of manganese or coal. Balaghat has maximum manganese reserves and the management of this undertaking of Government of India is not functioning properly. Thirdly, this undertaking of Balaghat alone has made a profit of Rs. 500 crore. But out of this 5 per cent amount should have been spent on development of settlements, Manganese Ore India is not spending even 1 per cent on Environment, Road, Drinking water and Social Development. When the undertakings were in loss,

it was understandable that they could not afford to spend but when there undertakings have made a profit of Rs. 5,000 crore, rate of manganese is high in the whole world, rate of iron has also increased, then such a situation will lead to insecurity and I am afraid that this undertaking may run into rough patch further. Therefore, it is in the interest of the whole nation that the Government of India may consider this issue seriously. Since Manganese Ore India is functioning under Government of India, it should not be let loose in anyway to cause loss of lives almost every day. Other schemes of development of their settlements should also be undertaken. Post of CMD is vacant there for a long time and it has not been filled yet. Such persons have been appointed who were incompetent. Please review it. Please pay serious attention to the wages, security of labourers working in Manganese Ore India and also towards the development of the area of ten kilometers around the settlements. This is my request to you.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the value of our promise?

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN : Sir, today we are speaking in this Lok Sabha for the last time. 6 Members of Parliament belonging to BJP have become members Legislative Assembly. Thank you for giving me time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Those who are listening this last speech and those who are likely to become members, I congratulate them for that. You are also our member. You will have to come to me before going there.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut) : Sir thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

There is a welcome talk in the air that fuel prices may again be reduced. This is in the context of crude price dipping to \$ 47 per barrel from a high of \$ 147. Earlier petrol prices were reduced by five rupees and diesel prices by three rupees.

In such a scenario, it is unfortunate that no concession is given to the agricultural sector. Cotton and sugar producers got Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement. In this context to revive the whole agricultural

sector, immediate reduction in the price of fertilizers has to be announced. Fertilizer prices have been steeply increasing since the 1990's. The all-State average rates of fertilizer costs estimated at Rs. 228 per hectare in the 1970's rose to Rs. 534 in the 1980's, to Rs. 1,339 in the 1990's and Rs. 1,755 per hectare in the first half of the current decade.

Adequate availability of Factomphos and Urea and other fertilizers has to be ensured. In this context, I would like to say that the productivity of FACT located in Kerala which has seen drastic drop in production, has to be restored to the earlier production level.

With regard to credit to agriculture, a slab at 4 per cent interest is fixed for loans up to Rs. 10,000 only. Then, the interest rate goes up with every increasing scale of finance. Hence, the much-touted 4 per cent interest on agricultural loans should be implemented immediately for higher amounts of credit also. Also, I urge the Government to make available subsidised electricity to farmers as the electricity charges are going high.

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY (Howrah) : Sir, the Burn Standard Company is a public sector unit under BBUNL. Its Works are situated in Howrah and Bumpur. Now, the Government has decided to sell the public sector unit, particularly the handing-over operation of the Foundry Division of Howrah Works, to the private sector. We strongly protest the action of the Government. The management of Burn Standard Company Limited and the BBUNL are deliberately trying to cut down the production of the Factories in Bumpur and Howrah by not taking the orders of wagon from the Railway Ministry. The action on the workers is because the workers have demanded revision of wages. For the last 20 years, there is no wage increase for the workers of this Company whereas the officers are getting the upward revision of their wages.

So, through you, Sir, I would urge upon the Government to revise the wages of the workers, to procure orders from the Indian Railways and to stop the privatization of the Company by the backdoor by handing over the operation of the Foundry Division of Howrah Works of the BSCL.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bansagopal Choudhury associates. Do you want to say something?

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY (Asansol) : Sir, I want to say one or two words only.

For the last few months, we are trying for the taking-over of this Bumpur Unit by the Railway Ministry. But, unfortunately, as you know, in the last Budget Session, one unit of the Bharat Wagon has been taken over by the Railway Ministry. We have already met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Railway Minister. Yesterday also, we met the Railway Minister.

Through you, Sir, I urge upon the Government to take over the Bumpur Unit by the Railway Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : Next, Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I have got it. I think I have already sent it or I will send it to the Privileges Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, give me one minute time to speak....(Interruptions) You are our custodian. Member of Parliament belonging to our party, Chandrapal Yadavji....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me hear what he says. Shri Suman, you cannot raise matters concerning any constitutional body here without proper procedure. Therefore, do not raise any such issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Sir, I have a humble request about the treatment meted out to Shri Chandrapal Yadav, our party had submitted a list of 40 leaders to the Election Commission for canvassing. He has been harassed unnecessarily....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have sent it. We ought to respect the Election Commission of India. They are a very important organization entitled to fullest respect. Let me

go through it. I assure you in the presence of the House and the entire country that with all seriousness, I will look into it. Either I will send it to the Committee or I shall decide something. I assure you. If I do not do it within two days, you can come to me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : My humble submission to you is that please listen for two minutes. What Shri Chandrapalji has to say.

MR. SPEAKER : It does not make any difference. Chandrapalji, please stand up. I will look into the incident which has happened with you. I assure you about it.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my only submission before you 5.5 that on 22nd I and member of parliament from your party Hon'ble Akhilesh Yadavji had gone to Bijawar Legislative Assembly Area of Chhattarpur District for canvassing. According to the pre-scheduled programme, permission for the meeting was obtained and when we were returning after the meeting, the police officer incharge of the area blocked the way of our vehicle. He said that he would impound our vehicle. We requested him that Election Commission has been informed in writing by our party as per law that these persons will go to Madhya Pradesh for election campaign, therefore, they do not require any permission. But, despite this, when we started to move, he repeatedly used derogatory words against us in spite of being told that Member of Parliament from Jhansi was in the vehicle and he caught hold of the gun of our security personnel who was also beaten up. To cover up this incident, the police of the area registered a case of serious offences against us only as a safety measure....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV : After this the local police and Jhansi police together gheraoed our house. We are being continuously harassed, and insulted like this.

Hon'ble Sir, action is required to be taken in this matter because if any Madhya Pradesh puts his point....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are saying only one thing again and again.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, I will not allow any discussion on this now. I have said that if any hon. Member is wrongfully harassed or improperly treated, I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Sir, a case has been registered against us....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a case has been registered that we the station house officer....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will delete every thing and will reject your petition also. I have given the ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am going to look into it. It is a serious matter. There is also some element of the functioning of the Election Commission which is involved here. We cannot treat it lightly, as we do not want our matters to be discussed by anybody else. Therefore, I have only asked for some time. *[Translation]* I apologise to you. I have asked for some more time. Till now, I have not rejected your petition.

[English]

I will let you know what decision I take.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Don't record anything. He is speaking without my permission.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Is your name not Santosh Gangwar? You control the members of your party.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Today more than 50 thousand youths have assembled at Chikennake in Kishanganj to mark their protest against the ongoing infiltration from Bangladesh, which is a national issue. They are marching here. Their slogans is [English] "to save Eastern India and to save entire India tomorrow."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important problem which is discussed frequently in the House. Just two days back, you have allowed discussion on this issue, and the discussion did take place. As on date, about six thousand infiltrators are entering into our country daily from different places, be it Assam, West Bengal or Bihar. As per an estimate, more than three crore or Bangladeshi infiltrators have already entered into our country, but till now to effective action has been initiated by the Government. I would not take much of your time. I want that the Government take concrete measures to stop infiltration and their names should be struck off from the electoral roll after identifying them at different places and action should be taken to send them back to Bangladesh immediately. Bangladesh Government should be pressurized to co-operate in the above mentioned task and religious places should be searched to nab those who are involved in terrorist activities and the corridor joining the north-east i.e. chickennake should be got vacated from infiltrators and it should be controlled after making it a special security region.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is in your cognizance that yesterday a question was also raised on this issue. The answer given to the question is very much misleading. The Government said that works relating to fencing, floodlight, over posts have to be done. I myself have been to Tripura, Agartala

*Not recorded.

many a times. I saw that hundreds of Bangladeshi people are coming to our own country and the Government are helpless to stop them....(Interruptions) We would like the Government to take effective steps immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Home Minister, while replying to the debate on bomb blasts in Assam, had made specific observations on this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, Shri Uday Singh, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Shri Kiren Rijju, Shri Ramswaroop Koli, Shri Lal Muni Choubey, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri Prahlad Joshi, Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma and Shri B.K. Deo are associating with this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please give your names.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram) : Thank you very much, Sir, for the chance given to me. I would like to raise a very important problem faced by the women folk.

Sir, people feel very happy about the announcement of reduction of petrol and diesel prices by the UPA Government...(Interruptions) Of course, this was a long time expectation....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the Parliament of India? Is it the House of People? You can come anywhere, sit anywhere, shout anywhere, anytime, anything.

[Translation]

We will have to fight elections, people are watching us, you should understand. Do not take childish.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN : Sir, since the UPA Government is poor man's Government, people, particularly the women folk, are now in great expectation for the announcement of reduction of prices of domestic LPG.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Kalignar Karunanidhi, has written a letter to our hon. Prime Minister which contains the appreciation about reduction of petrol and diesel prices and it also emphasise on the reduction of price of domestic LPG.

Sir, when he became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the fifth time, he gave free LPG connections along with cylinders free of cost. You all know that Dr. Kallignar Karunanidhi is famous for his sacrificed life for the poor people. He always thinks about poor people. In 2006-07, he announced this scheme of free LPG connections to the poor people. Out of about 60 lakh, about three lakh people got the benefit of this scheme. They all belong to the poorer sections of the people. In 2007-08, out of 160 lakh, about 7.52 lakh people benefited of this. So, totally about 10.52 lakh people have now got free LPG connections. Now, the Tamil Nadu Government has planned to give free LPG connections to about eight lakh people out of this 160 lakh people.

So, my earnest request to the UPA Government is that it should consider and reduce the price of domestic LPG up to the price which was before the recent price hike.

Sir, we have come to know that the Petroleum Minister is considering reduction of price of domestic LPG, we feel happy about it and we expect a positive result as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa) : Sir, through you, I would like to say that as bomb-blasts have recently occurred in Mumbai. Naxalism is there, terrorism is there, and terrorism has engulfed the whole nation. Whenever an issue on internal security is raised, it is said that strength

of security personnel, NSG personnel is not adequate. I would like to say that the hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has 750 police personnel deployed in her security; the CM of Punjab has 1000 security personnel in his security. Today the country has about 17000 NSG personnel in our country out of which 32 to 40 per cent personnel are engaged in providing security to political leaders. I would like to say that when we represent common people and take responsibility of their security then why should the guardian of the family should move with security personnel and leave other family members without security. I would like to say that only such political leaders who really need security should be provided security. Today having z or y category security have become a fashion among our political leaders. These political leaders should themselves think about it as human beings or monitoring should be done to withdraw the extra security cover provided to them and a deploy them for the security of common man. I would like to thank that channel also, which has drawn attention towards this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Today is Ladies' day from now on.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I expect that you will take action about the people who have involved so many security personnel in their security just to show off. When it is a truth that life and death is in the hands of the Almighty, why should we be so anxious for our security and not about the common people's security? This should be pondered over.

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara) : Sir, the Central Cooperative Federation, NAFED, has invited tender to procure 10000 tonnes of palm oil for the sale through Public Distribution System outlets with a subsidy of Rs. 15 per KG. This is again the earlier decision of the Government. The import of palm oil and the sale of it through PDS would adversely affect the market of coconut oil. The farmers, particularly the coconut farmers in the State of Kerala, have already been facing serious crisis and the import of palm oil would further add to their woes.

Although the Kerala ports have been exempted from the import of palm oil, the procurement of the same can be done from Mangalapuram as import is allowed from Mangalapuram.

I urge upon the Government to desist from the decision of import of palm oil and the sale through PDS in order to protect the coconut sector and the farmers.

Thank you.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shrimati Sujatha.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly permit me to raise the issue of recent attacks on Andhra students in the United States on 16.12.2008.

The State of Andhra Pradesh churns out a large number of professionals in the field of engineering, medicine and information technology. They migrate to the US for further studies and job opportunities. Recently, many students from Andhra Pradesh have been either murdered or dying in accidents or under mysterious circumstances in the US. I will not take all the names but only a few. They are Allam Kiran Kumar, Komma Chandrasekhar Reddy, Ph.D. students, Soumya Reddy, electrical engineering student, and Lakshminivasa Rao Nerusu, computer programmer, Arpana Jinaga, techie. There are a large number of Indians in the US, especially from Andhra Pradesh. They took loans from the banks to pursue higher studies in the US. According to some reports, Indians are not only leaving US in droves, but no one is even stepping into America. It is the duty of the US authorities to provide security to the foreign students. I also request the hon. Minister to get compensation to the families of the victims who were solely dependent on their deceased children.

Through this august House, I urge upon the Minister of External Affairs to take up this matter with the US Government to protect Indian students in general and Andhra students in particular to put an end to this mindless killing by some elements.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur) : Thanks, hon. Speaker, Sir, in the memory of a great son of freedom struggle, Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar, our leader, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav laid the foundation stone of Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar University in Rampur constituency on 18 December, 2006 when he was the Chief Minister of the State. The university was named after brave commander of freedom struggle, Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar. When our leader, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had his Government in the State, a bill was passed in the Legislature of the State for the establishment of Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar University, Rampur. After getting the assent of his Excellency, the Governor it became an Act. But the requisite Authority letter from the Government could not be issued to the management of the university for starting the session. When the present Government came to power, the boundary wall of the campus of the Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar University was damaged out of revenge. An attempt was made to damage the building so that children of Rampur may not get education. Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar University needs authority letter to start the academic session. Therefore, I request you, that on behalf of the Union Government order should be given to the State Government to issue Authority letter. For providing education to the children belonging to minorities or Hindu or any community of our society, it is very necessary that the University gets Authority Letter. But the present Government is not ready to issue Authority Letter. We are very much concerned about the people dreaming about the education of their children. I am a parliamentarian and to realize the dream of education of children and to get Authority Letter, you may please issue order from here so that this university could be started.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have no power. [Translation] I am in no capacity.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, I would like to request through you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : If the order is issued from here, only then the work will be done. We have been trying for it for many years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will pass it on to the Government

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, your direction is needed.

MR. SPEAKER : Not direction, passing on.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government on a very important matter regarding the need to take effective steps to protect the interests of the ex-military personnel of the country and strict monitoring of the implementation of the DGR guidelines.

This is the apt time to analyze ourselves and to think it over whether we are paying much attention to the issues faced by our ex-military personnel who had dedicated a major portion of their life for the safety and security of our nation.

Sir, it is time that we had formed the guidelines by the Director General of Resettlement under the Ministry of Defence. All the major public sector undertakings are given directions to give priority in security-related jobs to these ex-service personnel.

One of the major public sector undertakings, BSNL, is providing security jobs to safeguard the telephone exchanges and mobile towers of the country. In the State of Kerala, about 4,500 ex-servicemen were appointed as security guards by BSNL authorities. But recently, in some of the districts, especially in the districts of Palghat and Pathanamthitta, these ex-servicemen guards have been terminated stating that there is a direction from the Corporate office to reduce the expenditure of the functioning of the BSNL.

MR. SPEAKER : One cannot be so long on every matter. How can we go on like this?

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : Sir, this issue has to be taken up by the Defence Ministry and the Ministry of Telecommunications. In Palkat District only, 42 persons have been issued termination notice. The DGR guidelines strictly direct that these persons once appointed should be protected; their jobs should be protected until the age of 58 or till they attain superannuation.

This attitude of the BSNL authorities stating that to reduce the expenditure of the BSNL, they are welcoming these measures, is not fair.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a debate. You are making all the issues. How can it go on? You just mention it.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : Therefore, Sir, I would urge upon the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Telecommunications.

MR. SPEAKER : This is also an art. To raise an issue is an art also.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : I would urge upon these two Ministries to take up this issue and reinstate those ex-military security guards who are already terminated and secure their jobs.

MR. SPEAKER : Although by no standard and means, Shri Hannan Mollah can be treated as an hon. lady Member, but since I made a promise to him, I allow him only one of his two matters.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You say thank you because I am recognizing you!

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the leaders of the Government and UPA Chairperson—all are here—that a conspiracy is being hatched to bring a part of the country in a big way in the milieu of a communal disturbance. It is a very serious conspiracy. Sir, you know that one communal organization has called for a *bandh* on the day of Christmas, the biggest festival of the Christians in the

world, in Orissa. On 25th December, a *bandh* has been called by a communal organization. We know that because of the attack on the Christians in Kandhamal and in various parts of the country, the communal forces are also very active. We are going to pass an Act. Communal acts also should be included in the Terrorist Act. Communalism is also a terrorist act....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a new event of 25th December. That is what he is raising.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I will tell you, your Chief Minister has announced.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, you do not get distracted by him.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : My point is that this is a serious matter. If a *bandh* is called, the Christians in Orissa may be attacked in different parts of the State.... (Interruptions) Like in Kandhamal, they may be attacked by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal and all these communal organizations.

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised it.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : The Government should look into this matter and take serious note that Orissa cannot be put to communal disturbance or the communal harmony in Orissa can be disturbed.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, rest of the matters will be taken up at the end of the day.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under rule 377 are treated as laid on the Table.

- (I) **Need to develop the historical city of Kalpi in Jalaun Parliamentary Constituency as a tourist place**

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Sir,

*Treated as laid on the Table.

through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency Jalaun-Garautha. City of Kalpi is situated in my Parliamentary Constituency Jalaun Garautha, which is known as birth place of Maharshi Ved Vyas and is a historical city. A Sun temple and Surya Kund are situated there which are considered Centre of the earth. Many foreigners and Indian astronomers come here to study solar eclipse with the help of telescope. The Pandavas had spent their period of hiding (Agyatvaas) here and this is the same city where Ghatotkach was born and Bhishma took a vow of life long celibacy. There are several ancient temples such as Pachpanda Devi, Kali Temple, Van Khandhar Devi Temple. This is the reason this place is centre of faith for thousands of devotees. Many stalwarts of freedom struggle like Chandra Shekhar Azad, Laxmibai etc. have spent time there. Emperor Ashoka had built 84 domes here. There is a Lanka as well on the lines of Qutab Minar.

I demand from the Union Government to develop these historical places of Kalpi tehsil as a tourist places.

- (II) **Need to open an Indian Institute of Technology in Jodhpur, Rajasthan and accord a Central University status to Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur.**

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHOI (Jodhpur) : Sir, I have been making demand for setting up of an IIT and a Central University in my Parliamentary Constituency, Jodhpur for long. Jodhpur is the crown of Western Rajasthan and has been leading in the field of education since independence. Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur has all the faculties. The poor, dalits and other backward class people live in western Rajasthan in large number who are unable to go to other places to pursue education. Jai Narayan Vyas University possesses all the qualifications for becoming an IIT and a Central University. I request the Government to issue orders for opening an IIT and a Central University here in the public interest.

- (III) **Need to accord the status of a Central University to Kumaon University, Uttarakhand**

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Sir, the Government of India has taken a decision to accord

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

the status of Central University to Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University located in Uttarakhand alongwith other Universities and the Central University Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23.10.2008. in this regard.

In the beginning, there was only one University namely Uttarakhand University under Uttar Pradesh State which was bifurcated later on for Garhwal and Kumaon. Uttarakhand State is divided into two geographical units. One is Garhwal and the other is Kumaon. These are two divisions. Both the Universities work within the jurisdiction of their division.

Everybody has welcomed for according status of Central University to the Garhwal University but it is the demand of entire Kumaon region to accord the status of Central University to Kumaon University as well so that there is no injustice with the Kumaon region and the local students may also have the benefit of high quality education.

I had raised this issue in the House on 23.10.2008 during the Zero Hour and requested the Government to add the name of Kumaon University by bringing a on amendment in the Central University Bill, 2008. A letter has been written by Uttarakhand Government also to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Human Resources Development according status of Central University to Kumaon University. But there is deep sense of resentment amongst the people of the area over indecision of the Union Government.

I, therefore, demand that the status of Central University be accorded to the Kumaon University and necessary amendment made in the pending Bill.

(iv) Need to set up an Indian Council of Veterinary Research in the Country

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, India enjoys first place in the field of livestock. Animal husbandry and veterinary Research play an important role in Indian economy, nourishment of rural and urban population and self employment. India is progressing rapidly in the fields of Milk production, Egg production, Meat production and poultry farming. Besides, India holds first place in the world

in milk production. Animal Husbandry contributes 30 per cent in the share of Agriculture to the Gross Domestic Product of India. The growth rate of animal husbandry and animal product is 6 per cent and despite the diseases like Bird Flu, the growth rate of poultry farming is 17 per cent whereas the growth rate of agriculture is stuck at two per cent. Today, the common farmers, unemployed youth of India are adopting animal husbandry as a means of livelihood and animal husbandry is establishing itself as an important alternative of agriculture.

At present, there is a need to set up an Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR) on the lines of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for better and new research in rural and urban areas, and also for economic development of country, in the interest of country and people. Therefore, presently there is a need to be serious towards animal husbandry and Veterinary Science. This is the reason for which time and again strong recommendations have been made by high level technical committees for setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR) so that an Indian Council of Veterinary Research, an independent body from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is set up, which is pending before the Government.

(v) Need to set up an Airport in Ajmer, Rajasthan

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, Ajmer is an important city from historical, religious, tourist and educational point of view. This city is connected through railways and national highways network but so far has no airlink. As a result thousands of national and international tourists face inconvenience in visiting this place. This city is not achieving all round development.

The Government of India is, therefore, requested to set up an Airport in Ajmer as soon as possible in order to provide air connectivity immediately.

(vi) Need to initiate necessary measures to save the Cashew Industry from the aftermath of global economic recession

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon) : The Cashew Industry

is facing crisis as the prices of cashew kernel is going down and the export of cashew have been reduced to almost about 50% due to the aftermath of global economic recession. Government of India may intervene to save this traditional industry by giving relief to the industry, promoting internal market and diversification. I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Commerce to convene a meeting of the concerned and initiate proper steps to save the Industry.

(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of West Bengal for the relief and reconstruction work in the flood-affected areas of the State

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN (Contai) : In the month of July 2008, the East Medinipur and West Medinipur districts of West Bengal faced severe flood. The area of Bhagwanpur, Patanpur, Chandipur, Ramnagar, Contai P.S. area within Purba-Medinipur districts and Sabong Pingla, Narayangarh P.S. area within Paschim Medinipur had been totally devastated due to heavy rainfall and sudden release of excess water from Jharkhand. People of the two districts fell in great distress in all respects. More than 50 people died and more than 10 lacs Kachcha houses were destroyed. Roads, village roads and connecting roads were totally destroyed and crops were damaged. The State Government had been trying for reconstruction. This is happening regularly every year or every alternate year. This flood can be prevented if the riverbed of Kaliaghai, Baghai and Kapaleswari rivers are cleared of silt and mud. In this regard a D.P.R had also been sent to the Central Government recently.

I draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources to give financial assistance to the West Bengal for the above works.

(viii) Need to review the sharing of Betwa river water between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi) : Sir, sharing of Betwa river water between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh was done long ago. Madhya Pradesh is not

able to consume the water of its share. This water can be seen flowing in canals passing through Bahina block of Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh but it cannot be used by the farmers of the villages falling in this block. A major area of Babina block is deprived of irrigational water. Due to shortage of water the farmers are annoyed. A fresh sharing of water arrangement is required after cancelling the old system.

I request that Betwa river water should be provided to the farmers as per their requirement and necessary guidelines issued for fresh sharing of Betwa river water.

(ix) Need to undertake repair work of National Highways in Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, condition of National Highways in Bihar is deteriorating day by day. The National highways in Bihar have not been repaired for many years. It is the responsibility of the Union Government to strengthen the National Highways and make them motorable by ensuring proper coordination with the concerned State Government. The deteriorating condition of National Highways is affecting tourism industry of the State adversely. It is also creating traffic problem. Entire North-East, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Nepal are directly connected to Bihar. Therefore, repair work of National Highways should be completed soon.

(x) Need to extend the Agriculture Debt Waiver Scheme to the financial organisations giving loans to SCs, STs and OBCs.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : The agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme of 2008 has enabled a considerable section of the farmers to get rid of the burden of agricultural loan. But the ground reality is that large number of farmers have also taken loans for purchase of tractors, power tiller and other agricultural machineries. Similarly, loans have also been availed by farmers for dairy units and other animal husbandry schemes. The Debt Relief and Debt Waiver Scheme 2008 has been applicable to all commercial banks, regional rural

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

banks, cooperative societies, cooperative banks and NABARD only. But the Apex Financing Organisations of the Government, such as, Scheduled Castes Development Finance Corporation, National Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation and other Government, owned apex Finance Organisations which provide finance to farmers belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs and other minority communities have not been covered under the scheme. As a result, the State level financing organizations which are directly catering to the credit needs of SCs, STs and OBCs are deprived of the benefits of the scheme thereby excluding the large number of poor farmers. It is, therefore, my sincere appeal that all such financing bodies which basically extend loans to agriculturalists of the socially backward communities of the country should also be covered under the scheme.

(xi) Need to review the commissioning of Hydro-Power projects in Arunachal Pradesh keeping in view its environmental impact on Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Attention of the Government is drawn regarding urgent necessity of making downstream impact assessment of all the rivers flowing through Assam valley, from Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan on which Hydro Power projects are commissioned. During recent years, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has given permission to large number of private companies and PSUs for setting up of Hydro-power projects without making any assessment in the downstream areas of Assam. In the past, neither adequate compensation nor any preventive measures for flood were taken up in the downstream of Ranganadi dam project. The sudden release of excess water from the Dam site during June this year, devastated huge downstream areas including Lakhimpur and Bihpuria town. The environment assessment for this project was conducted almost 13 years ago which needs reassessment. Meanwhile the channels of majority rivers are filled-up with huge silt deposition that blocked the main channel and diverted the course resulting in severe damage to cultivable lands in the downstream areas.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to make fresh downstream assessment of Ranganadi dam project before it is allowed to continue operation. Similarly the construction

of Lower Subansiri Dam Project should be stopped till fresh assessment is made. Government should also ensure assessment of all other newly permitted dam projects to be commissioned in Arunachal Pradesh in consultation with the affected people and Government of Assam. Adequate compensation should be made to the affected people who have suffered due to sudden release of water from Ranganadi dam to Dikrong and Rangandi rivers.

(xii) Need to expedite the process for the inclusion of Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi-Anglong and in North Cachar Hill Autonomous Districts in the ST (Hills) list of Assam

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : There is an urgent need to help facilitate the inclusion of the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi-Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous districts in the ST (Hills) list in the state of Assam.

On 10th February, 2003 while signing the new political agreement with the leadership of the erstwhile Bodo Liberation Tigers (B.L.T.) the Union Government had agreed to consider sympathetically the inclusion of the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi-Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Districts in the ST (Hills) list in the State of Assam. I would like to remind the Government that nothing tangible has been done so far in this regard even after the elapse of a long period of five years.

I would, therefore, like to strongly urge upon the Central Government, to take appropriate steps and effective initiatives to help speed up the process for the inclusion of the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi-Anglong and in North Cachar hills Autonomous Districts in the ST (Hills) List in relation to Assam without any furthermore delay.

12.52 hrs.

**UNORGANISED WORKERS' SOCIAL SECURITY
BILL, 2008 — Contd.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Item No. 23, the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a reply on a very important measure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right, you, Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, is associated with this matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, yesterday you had promised me to give an opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER : I am a breaker of promise!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded, except the hon. Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very important legislative business. I understand some of them are being supported by all. Let us do this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Government have proposed the enactment of a legislation, 'The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill, 2008' with the objective to provide social security to the unorganized workers. We have been benefited by the interventions of hon. Members. Almost 35 Members participated in the debate. I am overwhelmed by the support the Bill has got from hon. Members. I will attempt to address some of the issues raised by the Members during the course of their discussion.

I must also acknowledge the support given to the Ministry and to me by the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi who has been time and again asking me, "when are we bringing the Bill before the Parliament?", and for her guidance given to me. I also thank the Prime Minister for the urgency shown and the guidance given to me in bringing the Bill before the Parliament.

*Not recorded.

12.54 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

At the outset, I would like to draw the attention of the House to Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy regarding the concern for the poor. He said:

"I will work for India where poorest of the poor feel that this country and this nation belongs to them...the Swaraj, I dream is the Swaraj of the poor. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that Swaraj cannot be complete till the poorest have the guarantee of being provided basic necessities of life."

This philosophy must underline all our efforts for the socio-economic development of India.

We are extremely concerned about the problems that have been faced by the unorganized workers. We are also conscious of the need to provide social security to this section of the society. The commitment of the Government is reflected in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) which clearly outlines:

"The UPA Government is firmly committed to ensure the welfare and well-being of all workers, particularly those in the unorganized sector who constitute 94 per cent of our workforce. Social security, health insurance and other schemes for workers like weavers, handloom workers, fishermen and fisherwomen, toddy tappers, leather workers, plantation labour, beedi workers etc., will be expanded. "

The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 10th September, 2007. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Labour. The Committee submitted its Report to the Parliament on 3rd December, 2007. I would like to humbly inform Shri Santasri Chatterjee that it is not correct to say that we had not considered the recommendations of the Standing Committee. In fact, we were indeed benefited by the recommendations. A series of discussions thereon were held by the Government with various stakeholders. Pursuant to these discussions, we moved amendments in the Rajya Sabha incorporating a number of amendments

[Shri Oscar Fernandes]

based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee. These amendments included renaming of the Bill with a view to including such unorganized workers as are employed in the organized sector, making mandatory provisions regarding certain schemes, inclusion of definition of unorganized workers, provision for grievance redressal mechanism in each scheme and deletion of the term 'advisory' from National and State Boards setting up for workers' facilitation centres. With these official amendments the Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 23rd October, 2008.

Sir, one point has been made that we are delayed in bringing the Bill. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of the House that even before the Bill is passed both in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, we have started implementing certain benefits in the Bill already by extending health insurance cover to the unorganized sector workers below the poverty line. We have also extended the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana even before the Bill is passed in this House. We have also extended the benefit of pension scheme for the poor in the country even before this is passed. So, I do not accept the allegation or the charge that we have brought this Bill too late in the House and on the contrary I would say this much....(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : You have done very cleverly about all the eleven programmes. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Hannan Mollah, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. Mr. Hannan Mollah, I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Sir, I would like to say that what we have done before we could pass this Bill is also taking into consideration the welfare of the people

below the poverty line. But if you go by the size of the people that we are covering, thirty crores of people will be covered in a period of five years. This is not a small number. Nowhere in the world such a scheme has been accepted and we are implementing it. We have already issued ten lakhs of cards to the beneficiaries. This is a very big beginning....(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : What is the total number? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : The total number in each year is one crore twenty lakh families, that is six crores of people. It is not we alone. We are giving 75 per cent of the premium and 25 per cent of the premium has to be given by the State Governments. The North-Eastern States are to subscribe only 10 per cent. So, this scheme is a marriage of provision by the Central Government and the State Governments. Without the State Governments responding, I cannot assure you that the whole scheme will be implemented within a short period. We should get the cooperation of the State Governments.

I would like to say that we are not only doing this through this Bill to the unorganized sector but the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is also a scheme for them. Our hon. Minister for Rural Development is here. This is also for the unorganized workers. To an extent of Rs. 10,000 we are giving to the workers by providing 100 days of guaranteed employment. This is a millennium programme. Today if the Parliament passes this Bill and with the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, I am going to say that this is going to be a millennium scheme for the country passed by this Parliament for the whole people of this country. Even the NCEUS has said that the average income of our people is twenty rupees a day for many people.

13.00 hrs.

When the income of our people is Rs. 20, our Parliament through this Bill has given an income of two dollars a day to our people in the rural areas. Anybody can stand up and say that I want a job. You get a job of two dollars a day. What a jump it is from Rs. 20 to

* Not recorded.

Rs. 80, and to Rs. 135 in States like Delhi, Haryana and Punjab! This is a revolutionary thing. There are shortcomings. I do not say that there is no shortcoming. But we will not be able to cover everybody in one single go. If we have the benefit of the advice and support of the Members of the House, I am sure that within a very short period, we will try to cover every section of the people in the unorganised sector, given the support.

Sir, with these words, I would like to appeal to hon. Members, Shri Reddy, Shri Chatterjee and Shri Hannan Mollah, to kindly withdraw the amendments they have given so that we will be able to pass the Bill and see that the benefit reaches the people at the earliest and the dream of the people of this country materialises.

We have been discussing this for the past 60 years. Though we have been discussing it for the past 60 years, we have not taken the first step. Today, we have not only taken the first step, but this is also the biggest step that we have taken towards eliminating the difficulties of the poor people in this country.

Sir, thank you very much. I recommend that this Bill may be taken into consideration and passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:—

"That the Bill to provide for the social security and welfare of unorganized workers and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Definitions

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an Amendment No. 1 given by Shri Hannan Mollah. Are you moving your amendment?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 22,—

after "unorganised sector",

insert "including agricultural sector" (1)

With your permission, I would also like to say one sentence. Sir, you know that I am fighting for this Bill for the last 27 years in Parliament. Every year, from 1980 onwards, I have been fighting for this Bill. Now when it has come, I feel betrayed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you moved the amendment?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Because of that, I am saying that we had demanded two separate Acts. Shri Arjun Sengupta Committee also recommended that two separate Acts should be there – one for unorganized sector workers and another for agricultural workers. But one single Bill has been compiled and there are cosmetic things. Many things have been taken from the Private Members' Bill regarding its nomenclature, but the content of the said Bill is not taken properly. Because of that, I want that at least the 'agricultural sector' should be specifically mentioned. I demand that it should be mentioned specifically.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Sir, I would like to clarify that 'unorganised worker' means every worker in this country who is not in the organized sector. I have referred to 94 per cent of our people and this includes every agriculturist. Specifically, I would like to say that the migrant worker is one who does 150 days of agricultural work and then goes to the cities and works there as a mason or unorganized worker. So, the Bill covers totally the unorganized sector workers. Agricultural workers are also getting the benefit.

So, I would appeal to the hon. Member that since we have covered every section, including the agriculturist, he may kindly withdraw the amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Hannan Mollah, are you going to withdraw your amendment?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I am not pressing for a vote on this amendment. I will press for a vote on my third amendment and not the first and second amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already moved it.

I shall now put Amendment No. 1 moved by Shri Hannan Mollah to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an Amendment No. 2 given by Shri Santasri Chatterjee, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Hannan Mollah.

Shri Santasri Chatterjee, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore) : Sir, I beg to move:

"Page 2, line 29,—

after "less than ten",

insert "and in case of agriculture, the landholding is less than two hectares." (2)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment No. 2 moved by Shri Santasri Chatterjee to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Amendment No. 3 to be moved by Shri Santasri Chatterjee.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, for line 30 to 32, —

Substitute "(m) 'unorganised worker' means an unorganized sector worker and also includes worker in the organized sector not protected by the existing laws relating to social security.

Explanation : For the purpose of this Act, unorganized workers would also include any class of workers like Anganwadi workers who are not covered or protected or benefited by the existing laws relating to social security in the organized or unorganized sector." (3)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, my name is also there for the same Amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment No. 3 moved by Shri Santasri Chatterjee to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Amendment Nos. 4, 5 and 6 to be moved by Shri Hannan Mollah.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, for lines 30 to 32, —

Substitute "(m) 'unorganised worker' means an unorganized sector worker including agricultural sector worker, share cropper and also includes worker in the organized sector not protected by the existing laws relating to social security.

Explanation : For the purpose of this Act, unorganized workers would also include any class of workers like Anganwadi workers who are not covered or protected or benefited by the existing laws relating to social security in the organized or unorganized sector." (4)

Page, line 38, —

after "domestic workers",

insert "and agricultural labourers". (5)

Page 2, line 38, —

after "monthly",

insert "or daily". (6)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment Nos. 4, 5, and 6 moved by Shri Hannan Mollah to the vote of the House.

The amendment were put and negatived.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, the Ayes have it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, are you going to move Amendment Nos. 12, 13, 14, and 15?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, I press for the Amendments. I beg to move:

Page 2, line 2, —

after "means a",

insert "natural or juridical". (12)

Page 2, line 9, —

after "the District Administration",

insert "or any other body authorized in this behalf". (13)

Page 2, line 24, —

after "cultivable land",

insert "not more than two hectares or". (14)

Page 2, line 31, —

after "includes",

insert "Anganwadi workers and other volunteers working under various schemes of the Government as well as". (15)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment Nos. 12, 13, 14 and 15 moved by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy to the vote of the House.

The amendment were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I had demanded a Division. How can it be so?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN (Trichur) : Sir, it is a Point of Order....*(Interruptions)* How can you move forward when a Member is pressing for an Amendment?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he has pressed for a Division.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : Sir, he has demanded for a Division....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I demand a Division on this....*(Interruptions)* How can you call the next Amendment?...*(Interruptions)*

Clause 3 Framing of Scheme

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. The next

name is of Shri Santasri Chatterjee to move Amendment Nos. 7, 8 and 9.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3, after line 2, —

insert "(1A.) Besides the Schemes framed under sub-section (1), the Central Government shall provide to all the Unorganised Workers the following national minimum social security benefits within a period of three years from the commencement of this Act :—

- (i) life and disability cover for natural or accidental death of a worker in the following manner —
 - (a) on natural death prior to the terminal date, rupees thirty thousand;
 - (b) on death due to accident, rupees seventy-five thousand;
 - (c) on permanent total disability due to accident, rupees seventy-five thousand;
 - (d) on loss of two eyes or two limbs or one eye and one limb, rupees seventy-five thousand; and
 - (e) on loss of one eye or one limb, rupees thirty-seven thousand five hundred;
- (ii) health benefit for self, spouse and children below the age of 18 years and maternity benefits for women workers or spouse of men workers as under:—
 - (a) coverage for unorganized worker and his family (unit of five) with total sum insured of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis;
 - (b) cashless attendance to all covered ailments;
 - (c) Hospitalisation expenses, taking care of most common illnesses;

[Shri Santasri Chatterjee]

- (d) coverage of all pre-existing diseases; and
- (e) maternity benefits for women workers or spouse of men workers at home delivery at the rate of Rs. 500/- per pregnancy up to two births, and for institutional delivery in low performing States at the rate of Rs. 1,000/- (in rural areas) and Rs. 1,400/- (in urban areas); and in high performing States at the rate of Rs. 600/- (in rural areas) and Rs. 700/- (in urban areas); and

- (iii) Old age protection in the form of Old age pension of minimum Rs. 200/- per month for unorganized workers above the age of 60 years :

Provided that the value of the aforesaid benefits shall be revived every two years according to increase in the rate of inflation." (7)

Page 3, line 4, —

after "sub-section (1)",

insert "and sub-section (1A)". (8)

Page 3, line 4, —

after "sub-section (1)",

insert "and shall cover all unorganized workers and not be restricted to Below Poverty Line category". (9)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment Nos. 7, 8 and 9 moved by Shri Santasri Chatterjee to the vote of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Ayes have it. We want Division.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you demanding a Division?

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Yes, we all demand Division.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Lobbies be cleared —

13.11 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the Lobbies have been cleared and I will be putting the question to vote.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, this is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

The question is:

Page 3, after line 2, —

insert "(1A.) Besides the Schemes framed under sub-section (1), the Central Government shall provide to all the Unorganised Workers the following national minimum social security benefits within a period of three years from the commencement of this Act :—

- (i) life and disability cover for natural or accidental death of a worker in the following manner:—
- (a) on natural death prior to the terminal date, rupees thirty thousand;
- (b) on death due to accident, rupees seventy-five thousand;
- (c) on permanent total disability due to accident, rupees seventy-five thousand;
- (d) on loss of two eyes or two limbs or one eye and one limb, rupees seventy-five thousand; and
- (e) on loss of one eye or one limb, rupees thirty-seven thousand five hundred;
- (ii) health benefit for self, spouse and children below the age of 18 years and maternity benefits for women workers or spouse of men workers as under:—
- (a) coverage for unorganized worker and his family (unit of five) with total sum insured

- of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis;
- (b) cashless attendance to all covered ailments;
- (c) Hospitalisation expenses, taking care of most common illnesses;
- (d) coverage of all pre-existing diseases; and
- (e) maternity benefits for women workers or spouse of men workers at home delivery at the rate of Rs. 500/- per pregnancy up to two births, and for institutional delivery in low performing States at the rate of Rs. 1,000/- (in rural areas) and Rs. 1,400/- (in urban areas); and in high performing States at the rate of Rs. 600/- (in rural areas) and Rs. 700/- (in urban areas); and
- (iii) Old age protection in the form of Old age pension of minimum Rs. 200/- per month for unorganized workers above the age of 60 years:

Provided that the value of the aforesaid benefits shall be revived every two years according to increase in the rate of inflation." (7)

Page 3, line 4, —

after "sub-section (1)",

insert "and sub-section (1A)". (8)

Page 3, line 4, —

after "sub-section (1)",

insert "and shall cover all unorganized workers and not be restricted to Below Poverty Line category". (9)

The Lok Sabha divided:

DIVISION NO. 1

AYES

13.18 hrs.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Acharya, Shri Prasanna

Advani, Shri L.K.

Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.

Ajnala, Dr. Rattan Singh

Ananth Kumar, Shri

*Appadurai, Shri M.

Argal, Shri Ashok

*Audikesavulu, Shri D.K.

Barman, Prof. Basudeb

Bauri, Shrimati Susmita

Bellarmin, Shri A.V.

Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Bose, Shri Subrata

Chakraborty, Dr. Sujan

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

Chandrappan, Shri C.K.

Chatterjee, Shri Santasri

Chavan, Shri Harishchandra

*Choubey, Shri Lal Muni

Choudhury, Shri Bansagopal

Das, Shri Alakesh

Das, Shri Khagen

Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari

*Dhindsa, Shri Sukhdev Singh

Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra

Gangwar, Shri Santosh

Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram

George, Shri K. Francis

*Hamza, Shri T.K.

Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz

*Voted through sllp.

Karunakaran, Shri P.
 Khaire, Shri Chandrakant
 Khan, Shri Sunil
 Khandeiwal, Shri Hemant
 *Krishnadas, Shri N.N.
 *Krishnan, Dr. C.
 Kurup, Adv. Suresh
 Lahiri, Shri Samik
 Mahtab, Shri B.
 Mann, Shri Zora Singh
 Manoj, Dr. K.S.
 Mediyam, Dr. Babu Rao
 Mollah, Shri Hannan
 Murmu, Shri Rupchand
 Nandy, Shri Amitava
 *Narhire, Shrimati Kalpna Ramesh
 Nayak, Shri Ananta
 Nayak, Shrimati Archana
 Oram, Shri Jual
 Pal, Shri Rupchand
 *Panda, Shri Brahmananda
 *Panda, Shri Prabodh
 Paranjpe, Shri Anand
 Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
 Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
 Patel, Shri Harilal Madhavji Bhai
 Pathak, Shri Harin
 *Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.
 Patil, Shrimati Rupatai D.

*Pradhan, Shri Prasanta
 *Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
 Rajendran, Shri P.
 Rawale, Shri Mohan
 *Reddy, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar
 Riyan, Shri Bajju Ban
 Sai, Shri Nand Kumar
 Sai, Shri Vishnu Deo
 Salim, Md.
 Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
 Satheedevi, Shrimati P.
 Satpathy, Shri Tathagata
 Seal, Shri Sudhangshu
 Sen, Shrimati Minati
 *Seth, Shri Lakshman
 Sethi, Shri Arjun
 *Shivajirao, Shri Adhalrao Patil
 Shukla, Shrimati Karuna
 Sikdar, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee
 *Singh, Shri Lakshman
 *Singh, Shri Sugrib
 Singh, Shri Uday
 Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh
 Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.
 Surendran, Shri Chengara
 Thakkar, Shrimati. Jayaben B.
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
 Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore
 Veerendra Kumar, Shri M.P.
 Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

* Voted through slip.

* Voted through slip.

NOES

Aaron Rashid, Shri J.M.
 Ahmad, Dr. Shakeel
 Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar
 Ansari, Shri Furkan
 *Athithan, Shri Dhanuskodi R.
 *Baal, Shri T.R.
 'Baba', Shri K.C. Singh
 Babbar, Shri Raj
 *Bahuguna, Shri Vijay
 Barku, Shri Shingada Damodar
 *Barq, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman
 Botcha, Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi
 Chaliha, Shri Kirip
 Chaudhary, Dr. Tushar A.
 Chaure, Shri Babu Hari
 *Chidambaram, Shri P.
 Chinta Mohan, Dr.
 *Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.
 Delkar, Shri Mohan S.
 Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.
 Deora, Shri Milind
 Dhanaraju, Dr. K.
 Dutt, Shrimati Priya
 Engti, Shri Biren Singh
 Gaikwad, Shri Eknath Mahadeo
 Gandhi, Shri Rahul
 Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
 Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodliya

Ghuran Ram, Shri
 Gill, Shri Atma Singh
 Gogoi, Shri Dip
 Goyal, Shri Surendra Prakash
 Hanumanthappa, Shri N.Y.
 Harsha Kumar, Shri G.V.
 Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh
 *Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash
 Jalappa, Shri R.L.
 *Jayaprada, Shrimati
 Jindal, Shri Naveen
 Kader Mohideen, Prof. K.M.
 Kalmadi, Shri Suresh
 Kamat, Shri Gurudas
 Kaur, Shrimati Preneet
 Kharventhan, Shri S.K.
 Krishna, Shri Vijoy
 Krishnaswamy, Shri A.
 Mehta, Shri Alok Kumar
 Meinya, Dr. Thokchom
 Mistry, Shri Madhusudan
 Moorthy, Shri A.K.
 *Mukherjee, Shri Pranab
 Munlyappa, Shri K.H.
 *Nikhil Kumar, Shri
 Nizamuddin, Shri G.
 Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
 Pallani Shamy, Shri K.C.
 Panabaka Lakshmi, Shrimati

* Voted through slip.

* Voted through slip.

Paswan, Shri Virchandra	Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
Patel, Shri Jivabhai A.	*Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad
Patel, Shri Kishanbhai V.	*Singh, Shri Rewati Raman
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe	Singh, Shri Sita Ram
Patil, Shri Laxmanrao	Singh, Shri Suraj
Patil, Shri Pratik P.	Singh, Shrimati Pratibha
Pilot, Shri Sachin	Solanki, Shri Bharatsinh Madhavsinh
Raja, Shri A.	Subba, Shri M.K.
Rajenthiran, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani	Sugavanam, Shri E.G.
Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.	Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan
Rani, Shrimati K.	*Taslimuddin, Shri
Ranjan, Shrimati Ranjeet	Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.
Rao, Shri D. Vittal	Thummar, Shri V.K.
Rao, Shri K.S.	Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry
*Reddy, Shri A. Indra Karan	Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
Reddy, Shri Anantha Venkatarami	*Virupakshappa, Shri K.
Reddy, Shri K.J.S.P	Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar
Reddy, Shri M. Raja Mohan	Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh
*Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana	Yadav, Shri Anirudh Prasad <i>alias</i> Sadhu
*Sardinha, Shri Francisco Cosme	Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
Saroj, Shri Tufani	Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal
Shailendra Kumar, Shri	Yaskhi, Shri Madhu Goud
Shandil, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	
Sharma, Dr. Arvind	
Shekhar, Shri Neeraj	
*Shivanna, Shri M.	
Sibal, Shri Kapil	
Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra	

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Now slips are being collected. Some Members are using the slips. Please take your seat. I will ask hon. Members to either take their seats or go out of the House.

Shri Shivanna and Shri Topdar, please take your seats.

* Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

MR. SPEAKER : Subject to correction,** the result of the Division is:

Ayes: 90

Noes: 107

The motion was negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Santasri Chatterjee, are you moving your Amendment No. 10?

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am moving the amendment and if you allow me, I would like to say a few words.

I beg to move:

Page 3, after line 32, insert,-

"(3) The Central Government shall create a National Social Security and Welfare Fund for meeting the expenses on the Social Security Schemes covering National Minimum Social Security Benefits of the Central Government as specified under sub-section 1A of section 3." (10)

*Ayes 72 + S/Shri M. Appadurai, D.K. Audikesavulu, Lal Muni Chaubey, Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, T.K. Hamza, N.N. Krishradas, Dr. C. Krishnan, Shrimati Kalpna Ramesh Nair, S/Shri Brahmananda Panda, Prabodh Panda, Basangouda R. Patil (Yatnal), Prasanta Pradhan, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Survaram Sudhakar Reddy, Lakshman Seth, Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao, Lakshman Singh and Sugrib Singh also recorded their votes through slips = 90.

Noes 89 + S/Shri Dhanuskodi R. Athithan, T. R. Baalu, Vijay Bahuguna, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, S/Shri P. Chidambaram, N.S.V. Chitthan, Shriprakash Jaiswal, Shrimati Jayaprada, S/Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Nikhil Kumar, A. Indra Karan Reddy, N. Janardhana Reddy, Francisco Sardinha, M. Shivanna, Ganesh Prasad Singh, Rewati Raman Singh, Taslimuddin and K. Virupakshappa also recorded their votes through slips = 107

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That Page 3, after line 32, insert,—

"(3) The Central Government shall create a National Social Security and Welfare Fund for meeting the expenses on the Social Security Schemes covering National Minimum Social Security Benefits of the Central Government as specified under sub-section 1A of section 3." (10)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, we want a division.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, the Lobbies have been opened....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not opened clearly. First it is opened and then cleared.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, leave it, you are least concerned. Let them come and then there will be a division of vote.

[English]

Let the Lobbies be cleared.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

"Page 3, after line 32, insert,—

"(3) The Central Government shall create a National Social Security and Welfare Fund for meeting the expenses on the Social Security Schemes covering National Minimum Social Security Benefits of the Central Government as specified under sub-section 1A of section 3." (10)

The Lok Sabha divided.

DIVISION NO. 2	AYES	13.44 hrs.	Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra
Acharia, Shri Basu Deb			Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
Acharya, Shri Prasanna			Gangwar, Shri Santosh
Aditya Nath, Yogi			Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
Advani, Shri L.K.			George, Shri K. Francis
Ahir, Shri Hansraj G.			*Hamza, Shri T.K.
Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.			Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz
Ajnala, Dr. Rattan Singh			Jawale, Shri Haribhau
Ananth Kurmar, Shri			Joshi, Shri Kailash
Appadurai, Shri M.			Joshi, Shri Pralhad
Argal, Shri Ashok			Kanodia, Shri Mahesh
Barman, Prof. Basudeb			Karunakaran, Shri P.
Basu, Shri Anil			Khaire, Shri Chandrakant
Bauri, Shrimati Susmita			Khan, Shri Sunil
Bellarmin, Shri A.V.			Khandelwal, Shri Hemant
Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal			Krishnadas, Shri N.N.
Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh			Krishnan, Dr. C.
Bose, Shri Subrata			Kurup, Adv. Suresh
Chakraborty, Dr. Sujan			*Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna
Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh			Lahiri, Shri Samik
Chandrappan, Shri C.K.			Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra
Chatterjee, Shri Santasri			Mahtab, Shri B.
Chavan, Shri Harishchandra			Mann, Shri Zora Singh
*Choubey, Shri Lal Muni			Manoj, Dr. K.S.
Choudhury, Shri Bansagopal			Mediyam, Dr. Babu Rao
Das, Shri Alakesh			Mohan, Shri P.
Das, Shri Khagen			Mollah, Shri Hannan
Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari			Mondal, Shri Abu Ayes

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Murmu, Shri Rupchand	Salim, Md.
Nandy, Shri Amitava	Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
Nayak, Shri Ananta	Satheedevi, Shrimati P.
Nayak, Shrimati Archana	Satpathy, Shri Tathagata
Oram, Shri Jual	Seal, Shri Sudhangshu
Pal, Shri Rupchand	Sen, Shrimati Minati
Panda, Shri Brahmananda	Seth, Shri Lakshman
Panda, Shri Prabodh	Sethi, Shri Arjun
Paranjpe, Shri Anand	Shivajirao, Shri Adhalrao Patil
Paswan, Shri Sukdeo	Shukla, Shrimati Karuna
Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar	Sikdar, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee
Patel, Shri Harilal Madhavji Bhai	*Singh, Shri Kalyan
Pateriya, Shrimati Neeta	*Singh, Shri Lakshman
Pathak, Shri Harin	Singh, Shri Sartaj
Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.	Singh, Shri Sugrib
Patil, Shrimati Rupatal D.	Singh, Shri Uday
Paul, Dr. Sebastian	Sippiparai, Shri Ravichandran
Pradhan, Shri Ashok	Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh
Pradhan, Shri Prasanta	Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.
Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala	Surendran, Shri Chengara
Rajendran, Shri P.	Swain, Shri Kharabela
Rawale, Shri Mohan	Thakkar, Shrimati. Jayaben B.
Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh	Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
Reddy, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar	Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore
Rijiju, Shri Kiren	Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas
Riyan, Shri Baju Ban	Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.
Sai, Shri Nand Kumar	Veerendra Kumar, Shri M.P.
Sai, Shri Vishnu Deo	Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

NOES

*Aaron Rashid, Shri J.M.
 Ahamed, Shri E.
 Ahmad, Dr. Shakeel
 Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar
 Ansari, Shri Furkan
 Athithan, Shri Dhanuskodi R.
 Baalu, Shri T.R.
 'Baba', Shri K.C. Singh
 *Babbar, Shri Raj
 Bahuguna, Shri Vijay
 *Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar
 Barku, Shri Shingada Damodar
 Bhuria, Shri Kanti Lal
 Botcha, Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi
 Chaliha, Shri Kirip
 *Chander Kumar, Prof.
 Chaudhary, Dr. Tushar A.
 Chaure, Shri Babu Hari
 Chidambaram, Shri P.
 Chinta Mohan, Dr.
 Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.
 Chowdhury, Shri Adhir
 Dangawas, Shri Bhanwar Singh
 Delkar, Shri Mohan S.
 Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.
 Deora, Shri Milind
 Dhanaraju, Dr. K.
 Dikshit, Shri Sandeep

Dutt, Shrimati Priya
 Elangovan, Shri E.V.K.S.
 Engti, Shri Biren Singh
 Galkwad, Shri Eknath Mahadeo
 Gamang, Shri Giridhar
 Gandhi, Shri Rahul
 Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
 Ganesan, Shri L.
 Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya
 Ghuran Ram, Shri
 Gill, Shri Atma Singh
 Gogoi, Shri Dip
 Goyal, Shri Surendra Prakash
 Hanumanthappa, Shri N.Y.
 Harsha Kumar, Shri G.V.
 Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh
 Jalappa Shri R L
 Jayaprada, Shrimati
 Jha, Shri Raghunath
 Jindal, Shri Naveen
 Kader Mohideen, Prof. K.M.
 Kalmadi, Shri Suresh
 Kamat, Shri Gurudas
 Kaur, Shrimati Preet
 Kharventhan, Shri S.K.
 Krishna, Shri Vijoy
 Krishnaswamy, Shri A.
 Kumar, Shrimati Meira
 Kumari Selja

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Lalu Prasad, Shri
 Mehta, Shri Alok Kumar
 Meinya, Dr. Thokchom
 *Mishra, Dr. Rajesh
 Mistry, Shri Madhusudan
 Moorthy, Shri A.K.
 Mukherjee, Shri Pranab
 Muniyappa, Shri K.H.
 Nikhil Kumar, Shri
 Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
 Pallani Shamy, Shri K.C.
 Panabaka Lakshmi, Shrimati
 Paswan, Shri Virchandra
 Patel, Shri Jivabhai A.
 Patel, Shri Kishanbhai V.
 Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe
 Patil, Shri Laxmanrao
 Patil, Shri Pratik P.
 Patil, Shrimati Suryakanta
 Pilot, Shri Sachin
 Prasada, Kunwar Jitin
 Purandeswari, Shrimati D.
 Raja, Shri A.
 Rajenthiran, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani
 Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.
 Rana, Shri Rabinder Kumar
 Rani, Shrimati K.
 Ranjan, Shrimati Ranjeet
 Rao, Shri D. Vittal

Rao, Shri K.S.
 Rathwa, Shri Naranbhai
 *Reddy, Shri A. Indra Karan
 Reddy, Shri Anantha Venkatarami
 Reddy, Shri K.J.S.P
 Reddy, Shri M. Raja Mohan
 Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
 Reddy, Shri S.P.Y.
 Regupathy, Shri S.
 Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar
 Sajjan Kumar, Shri
 Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
 Sardinha, Shri Francisco Cosme
 Saroj, Shri Tufani
 Satyanarayana, Shri Sarvey
 Selvi, Shrimati V. Radhika
 Shailendra Kumar, Shri
 Shandil, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram
 Sharma, Dr. Arvind
 Shekhar, Shri Neeraj
 *Shivanna, Shri M.
 Sibal, Shri Kapil
 Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra
 Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
 Singh, Rao Inderjit
 Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad
 Singh, Shri Sita Ram
 Singh, Shri Suraj
 Singh, Shrimati Pratibha

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Solanki Shri Bharatsinh Madhavsinh

Subba, Shri M.K.

Sugavanam, Shri E.G.

Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan

Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.

Tirath, Shrimati Krishna

Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry

Velu, Shri R.

Venkatapathy, Shri K.

Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.

Virupakshappa, Shri K.

Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar

Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh

Yadav, Shri Anirudh Prasad *alias* Sadhu

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Yadav, Shri Jay Prakash Narayan

Yadav, Shri Mitrasen

*Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal

Yaskhi, Shri Madhu Goud

MR. SPEAKER : Subject to correction**, the result of the Division is:

Ayes - 106

Noes - 126

The motion was negatived.

*Voted through slip.

**Ayes 106 + S/Shri Lal Muni Choubey, T.K. Hamza, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Shri Kalyan Singh and Shri Lakshman Singh also recorded their votes through slips=111

Noes 126 + S/Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid, Raj Babbar, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Prof. Chander Kumar, Dr. Rajesh Mishra, S/Shri A. Indra Karan Reddy, M. Shivanna and Shri Ram Kripal Yadav also recorded their votes through slips=134.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sudhakar Reddy, are you moving amendment No. 16?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : I beg to move:

"Page 3, line 30,—

after "scheme",

insert "in a time bound and targeted manner". (16)

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 National Social Security Board

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : I beg to move:

"Page 4, line 2,—

after "workers",

insert "to be nominated by recognized national trade unions." (17)

Page 4, line 8,—

after "State Governments",

insert "by rotation". (18)

Page 4, line 25,—

for "recommend to the Central Government",

substitute "frame". (19)

Page 4, line 32,—

after "unorganized workers",

substitute "and ensure that all the eligible unorganized workers are issued identity cards in a time bound manner". (20)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendments moved by Shri Sudhakar Reddy to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 6 State Social
Security Board**

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : I beg to move:

"Page 5, line 25,—

for "recommend the State Government in formulating",
substitute "frame". (21)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendments moved by Shri Sudhakar Reddy to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 7 Funding of
State Govern-
ment Schemes**

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : I beg to move:

"Page 5, line 46,—

after "deem fit",

insert "and may create a revolving fund for the
purpose". (22)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendments moved by Shri Sudhakar Reddy to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 8 to 10 were added to the Bill.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not sure whether to say "Ayes" or "Noes".

(Interruptions)

**Clause 11 Power of Central
Government to give
directions**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Santasri Chatterjee, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Yes, I am moving the amendment.

I beg to move:

Page 6, line 40, —

after "this Act",

insert "and may also give directions to formulate a special scheme for migrant workers, including minimum wage guarantee, housing and education support.". (11)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put amendment No. 11 moved by Shri Santasri Chatterjee to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 17 were added to the Bill.

Schedules I and II were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : "As amended".

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Where are the amendments?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Oscar Fernandes still considers Shri Dasgupta as his friend.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the lobby is to be opened.

13.48 hrs.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY BILL, 2008*

AND

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION)
AMENDMENT BILL, 2008

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up the next item, which is very important, I believe. I am happy the Leader of Opposition is also present here.

Before we take up the consideration and passing of the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 as introduced in Lok Sabha, I have to inform the House that Shri P. Chidambaram, the hon. Minister in-charge of the Bill has communicated the recommendation of the President for consideration of the Bill under article 117 (3) of the Constitution.

*Moved with the recommendations of the President.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I request that both the Bills, the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 can be discussed together because they are companion Bills, if that is agreeable to you.

MR. SPEAKER : I believe the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The discussion can be common.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, the discussion will be common, but will be passed separately.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The amendments have not been circulated.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That will be done.

MR. SPEAKER : It will be done. Terrorists do not come after giving notice.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : These are two important Bills that we are introducing following the all-party meeting that took place on the 13th of November, 2008 and the consultations held with major political formations in this House....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Silence please. These are very important Bills. I am expecting that by the end of the day we shall finish both the Bills.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move:

"That the Bill to constitute an investigation agency at the national level to investigate and prosecute offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States and offences under Acts enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organizations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill further to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, be taken into consideration."

13.49 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Sir, I wish to take a few minutes to explain the salient features of the Bills so that the hon. Members when they speak can offer their valuable suggestions. The National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 is to set up an Investigation Agency to deal with only eight laws. I think this is important. This is not an Agency to deal with offences under all the laws. It is only about eight laws and the eight laws are mentioned in the Schedule.

Secondly, the Agency that is being set up will be set up under the Central Government. In Chapter III we have laid down the procedure, which respects the primary responsibility of the State Governments to investigate such offences, but takes the power only in exceptional circumstances. When information is received in a police station about offences in respect of one of those eight laws, the information will be given first to the State Government and the State Government shall send it to the Central Government.

The Central Government shall, within fifteen days, having regard to the gravity of the offence and other relevant factors – this is important – having regard to the gravity of the offence and other relevant factors, which we will state in the Rules, have to decide whether this is a fit case to be taken up by the NIA or not. If the Central Government does not take up the case with the NIA, the matter will remain with the State Government. But if the Central Government directs the NIA to take up the case, then, and then alone, that the NIA will take up the case. After taking up the case this is a very important section where it is expedient to do so, the NIA will ask the State Government to associate itself with the investigation. In fact, I may say that in many cases I expect the NIA to say that the State Government should associate with the investigation or after investigating the matter if the NIA finds that the matter is not so important, it can still be done by the State Government, it can return the case to a State Investigative Agency to be investigated by the State. So, we have struck a balance between the right of the State and duties of the Central Government to investigate the more important cases.

Sir, we have also decided to set up special courts. The important aspect of this special court is that the judge of a special court will be nominated on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the High Court. Then, when the judge is appointed, we have said, the attainment of the age of superannuation by the judge will not stand in the way of continuing with the trial and the Central Government can request the judge by an order to continue with the trial until a specified date or until the case is completed. Our experience is, because judges retire and judges change, these cases drag on for many years. We are anxious that the case should be tried on a day to day basis and should be concluded and we will ensure that the judge who is nominated by the Chief Justice concludes the trial within a specified date.

The usual provisions about the special courts and powers of the Supreme Court and High Courts are provided. There is no extraordinary provision.

Then, Sir, we have said that an appeal will lie and an appeal will lie to the Division Bench of the High Court and the Division Bench of the High Court shall dispose of the appeal within three months.

Sir, miscellaneous provisions can be seen. There are no extraordinary provisions and there are no unusual provisions. I have explained the broad features of the NIA. I would respectfully request all sections of the House to support the NIA. Let us allow this Bill to be passed. I know there may be reservations about one clause or another clause. But this is the time to demonstrate to the country that despite our reservations, we are all united. Let us pass the Bill. If in the working of the Bill, we find there are any deficiencies, when we will meet again in February, I can always come back to make any improvement which the hon. Members may consider necessary....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will there be another Session?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There will be a Session for Vote on Account....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I would like to know whether it will be in continuation of the current Session.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That I do not know. I am not saying that. I have only said that we will meet in February. So, my request is that the NIA Bill may be passed. The nation is watching us and even as I speak the nation is watching us. They want a Central Agency for the investigation. I am grateful to all sections to agreeing to the principle. So, despite the fact that one or two of you may have some reservation about this aspect or that aspect....*(Interruptions)* Let me finish and then you can ask. I will answer all your clarifications. I am here the whole day. I will answer all your clarifications.

The other Bill is, of course, a Bill on which there are very strong views on every side. I am not being judgmental at all. I want to assure the hon. Leader of the Opposition that I am not being judgmental. I recognize that there is one section which says, bring back POTA or bring back a law like POTA. There is another section even within my own Party, within the UPA, where there is a strong opinion that POTA cannot be brought back. There is one section which believes confession to a police officer must be made admissible. There is an equally strong opinion that confession to a police officer should not be made admissible. There is one section which believes that bail should be denied that jail is the rule and bail is the exception.

The other section believes following the Supreme Court judgement that bail is the rule and the jail is exception but you can put some safeguards. So, I have had the benefit of interacting with the hon. Leader of the Opposition and one of the representatives named by him for detailed discussion of the contents. I have had the benefit of discussion with the major political formations. We have discussed it within the UPA. Let me say with utmost humility that what is being presented here is a fair balance of all the views without compromising the ability of the agency to prosecute the offence and, at the same time, without disregarding what are considered fundamental, basic human rights. I have tried to make the best possible balance of these two competing, two equally important values and virtues which we cherish in life. Therefore, my request is: Please allow me to explain in three or four minutes the four or five features of this Bill. Again, my

appeal will be: Let us pass this Bill. If any improvements have to be done, we can always come back and look at the Bill when we meet again in February.

What does the Bill do? As the hon. Members are aware, Chapter-IV was introduced into the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Chapter-III deals with the unlawful associations. Chapter-IV adds terrorist offence. We have now bodily lifted the definition of the terrorist offence or terrorist act from the United Nations Resolution. This is universally accepted now. Universally, this definition is accepted. We have simply lifted that definition. There can be no quarrel about the definition. The important changes that we are making are: one, add terrorist funding. It is important that we strike at the root of the terrorist funding. So, we have included the provision on terrorist funding. This Section 17 which is being substituted. We are including a provision on organising terrorist camps. This is Section 18 (A) and punishment for that is provided in Section 18 (B).

Then, Sir, the other provision that we have introduced is the bail provision. Let me explain it. Section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code says 15 days automatic remand; 90 days in the case of punishment with death or imprisonment for life and 60 days in any other case. All that we are doing is 15, 90 and 60 are being replaced by 30, 90 and 90, that is, 15 becomes 30, 90 remains 90 and 60 becomes 90. In a terrorist case, we need this extra time. It is not possible to complete the investigation within the 60 days period for an offence where the punishment is not life imprisonment. Therefore, instead of making it one year as in POTA, we have made it 30, 90 and 90. I think this is a fair balance and I wish hon. Members will support it.

We have added a proviso. I want to explain the proviso. The proviso says that if it is not possible to complete the investigation within a period of 90 days, not on the say of the Public Prosecutor, not merely on the *ipse dixit* of the Public Prosecutor, but if the court is satisfied with the report of the Public Prosecutor indicating the progress of the investigation and the specific reason for the detention of the accused beyond of the period of

90 days, the court may extend the period up to 180 days. Not necessarily 180 days but they may give him one week more; they may give him 10 days more or they may give him 15 days more. This would be an exceptional situation only if the report indicates the progress of the investigation. Suppose a case has not progressed at all. Surely, the court will not grant extra time. At the end of 90 days, automatic bail will arise.

Then, we make an important amendment in the manner in which the bail application should be dealt with. POTA gave rather extraordinary weight to the word of the Public Prosecutor. In fact, if you read POTA carefully, it appears that the Public Prosecutor was dictating to the court rather than the court asserting its authority. Now, what we are saying is that the court can deal with the bail application but it must give an opportunity of hearing the Public Prosecutor.

14.00 hrs.

That means you cannot pass an ex-parte order, you cannot pass an order without hearing the Public Prosecutor.

Then, we say under what circumstance bail cannot be granted. This is one provision that I would like to draw your kind attention. We are saying that if on a perusal of the case diary or the report under Section 173 – that is the final report or what we call the challan – the court is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against a person is *prima facie* true, then and then alone can bail be refused. Please remember that in POTA and other Acts, it was the other way round. The court must come to the conclusion that the accused person is not guilty of the offence and that he is not likely to commit any other offence while in bail which really meant prejudging the case. So, what we have said is, you can refuse bail only under one circumstance, namely if on a perusal of the case diary or the report under Section 173 you come to the conclusion that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the accusations against the accused are *prima facie* true, only then the court can decline bail. Again, the High Courts and the Supreme Court have ample powers and this does not, in any way, bind

the High Courts and the Supreme Court. This will apply mainly to the trial court.

Then, we are introducing a provision on a rebuttable presumption. As hon. Members are aware and certainly the lawyer Members are aware....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Have you prescribed any time limit for this procedure to be followed?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The court will dispose of the bail application.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It will go on indefinitely.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : How can the court go on indefinitely? The court has to hear and pass an order. I cannot prescribe time limit for courts. That is never accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Radhakrishnan, you can have your say afterwards.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, whatever he wants to say, he can say afterwards and I will do my best to clarify.

Sir, as hon. Members are aware, there are three kinds of presumptions in the Evidence Act, namely 'may presume', 'shall presume' and 'conclusive proof'. 'May presume' means that the courts may or may not presume. In the second case of 'shall presume', although the word reads 'shall presume', the meaning of that is that if certain facts are proved, then there is an obligation upon the other side to show contrary facts to rebut any presumption that may be drawn, what we call, the adverse inference. All it means in common language is 'adverse inference'. If some fact is proved, then there is an adverse inference and then the other party against whom the adverse inference is drawn is obliged to let in evidence to rebut the presumption. So, it puts both on the same footing, but prosecution has the first duty, the defence has the second duty to rebut the presumption.

What we are saying is, if finger prints of the accused are found or if any other definitive evidence like DNA report,

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

blood stains etc., which suggests the involvement of the accused in the offence, are found at the site of the offence, if from the crime scene, I lift finger prints, I lift blood stains or if I have DNA report....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : It is not mentioned.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is all right. Courts are there. We are not deciding any case here.

If definitive evidence suggesting the involvement of the accused in the offence are found at the site of the offence, at the crime scene you pick up evidence which unmistakably points to the accused or if arms or explosives are recovered from the possession of the accused, unless the contrary is shown, the court will presume and the contrary can be shown that the accused can say that he was not there, these are not his finger prints, he was elsewhere etc. He can show evidence, but this is very important because otherwise in most cases the defence will stay silent. Usually, in terrorist cases, either the terrorist commits suicide or is killed. It is a rare case where a terrorist is captured alive like Mohammad Ajmal Amir. The accessories and abettor get away. We all know the Rajiv Gandhi case, many accused simply got away. Many of the accused in the lower order got away because they decided to remain silent and the court held that the evidence does not prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt. So, some presumptions have to be drawn. We have very carefully drafted this section. The presumptions to be drawn are from rather strong evidence, finger print, definitive evidence or seizing arms and explosives. These are the matters which point to the accused and then the accused has a duty to enter the box or let an evidence to say that I am giving contrary evidence.

Sir, these are the principal amendments we are making. One important safeguard I am making is that today the Executive registers the case, the Executive arm investigates the case and the Executive arm grants sanction for prosecution. So, what we are saying is let the Executive arm register the case, let the Executive arm investigate the case, but before you sanction

prosecution, the evidence gathered in the investigation must be reviewed by an independent authority. The independent authority must make its recommendation and only acting on that recommendation you can sanction prosecution. Therefore, there is a clean sanction filter which will filter out any case where the evidence does not warrant the prosecution of the accused.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : What about the onus of proof?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will clarify all that when he speaks. How can I answer each question now?

Therefore, we have introduced an important safeguard that prosecution cannot be launched without a filter, without a legally trained mind applying its mind to the evidence gathered and then saying yes, this is a fit case of prosecution or this is not a fit case of prosecution.

These are the broad features of this Bill. As I said in the opening, we have tried to balance various points of view. I respect every point of view. But I cannot accept one and reject another at this stage. We have tried to balance it. We have taken into account views expressed by human rights activists, lawyers, jurists, etc. We have also taken into account views expressed by people who want our laws to be strengthened to fight terror. We have put together a Bill which, I think, balances the interest.

My request is, please debate it thoroughly; I will do my best to answer every question. My colleague, Mr. Kapil Sibal, has offered to intervene in the debate and explain any aspects of the Bill. We will do our very best to satisfy your apprehensions. But at the end of the day, my appeal to you with folded hands is let us pass these two Bills and whatever improvements have to be done, we can revisit the Bills and make the improvements in course of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved:

"That the Bill to constitute an investigation agency at the national level to investigate and prosecute offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States

and offences under Acts enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organizations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration. ”

“That the Bill further to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, be taken into consideration.”

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this session was called on 10th of December. The House was adjourned on 10th December after paying homage to the former Prime Minister. Naturally, the formal proceedings of the House was to commence on 11th of the month. On the first day it self, we discussed Mumbai incidents. The entire House unanimously, has shown the world that this House that represents this country, stands united on the issue of terrorism. I am starting my speech by repeating the same what I had said at that line on behalf of my party and N.D.A. As far as the issue of terrorism is concerned, my party and N.D.A. would fully support the steps taken by the Government which, in our opinion are appropriate and necessary.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

14.10 hrs.

Due to this, I would like to mention the obvious shortcomings in these two Bills introduced today. But first of all. I would like to say that I support in principle, these two Bills. Now I have heard from the Minister of Home Affairs that the next part of this session of the House will start from February. I am of the opinion that it would have been better for the Government and even for the House and the country, if the Government had brought these Bills before the House after completing all discussion, with the persons required to be consulted, on the view points included in the bills. You have said yourselves that the bills are important. The purpose of constituting standing committees is that important bills should be referred to it for proper consideration on all points included in the bills. And there should be no problem particularly on a bill on

which the Government and the principal party in opposition agree in principle. Before today, I did not make a demand for it thinking there would be no further session of this Lok Sabha. But, today, I came to know about an official announcement of further meeting of this Lok Sabha in the month of February, I thought it would be better if the Government makes a reconsideration for referring them to Standing Committee for proper discussion instead of passing it after four or six hours discussion in the House, where views of different persons may be taken. In principle we agree to it. N.D.A. and you agree to it. There may be some reservations pertaining to shortcomings but in principle, I have no reservations on federal agency and also, not about anti terror law brought by you. It is jurisdiction of the Government to decide but I give my suggestions to you.

Today, I am satisfied. It is a matter of satisfaction that the stand of the Government has not changed during the last ten years. During the above period when they were even in opposition their stand did not dilute on this issue. It is not a matter of today. But now after passing of 10 years suddenly there is a visible change in their stand. Basically, today the change is in the stand that was taken when we have brought Prevention of Terrorism Act, first as an ordinance and thereafter in the form of a bill. When the bill could not be passed by Rajya Sabha it was placed before the joint session of both the Houses. It was not that the opposition at that time was against fighting terrorism. We both were in favour of crushing terrorism. We both wanted to uproot terrorism. But you were of the view that present law is sufficient to fight terrorism whereas we were of the view that it was not sufficient. We said this not only in the country but our the then Prime Minister had stated the same in America well before 9/11 about the severity of terrorism. He told them that we have suffered a lot due to the same because our neighbouring country has made terrorism the substitute of war.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our neighbouring country fought three wars against us. When Pakistan failed in these wars, after the war of 1971, when military took power there, they adopted the policy of proxy war through terrorism. In this experiment, first of all Pakistan chose Punjab and thereafter

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Jammu and Kashmir and then spread terrorism throughout the country. We are facing this problem since eighties. In America, terrorist attack took place in 2001. Our Prime Minister placed our opinion before the American Congress that America should not think that they will remain untouched from terrorism because America is far from other countries of the world. The terrorist incident of 9/11 took place and perhaps never before such a horrible incident had taken place in history and may God bless that such incident never get repeated. In that horrible incident, terrorists hijacked four aeroplanes and used them as missiles. This incident shook America and other countries of the world also. Even United Nations Security Council passed resolution 1373 on 28th September, 2001, in which it communicated to all the countries of the world that terrorism is a dreaded problem and the laws meant for normal crimes are not sufficient to deal with this problem. Therefore, special laws be framed for terrorism. I am mentioning this because I got astonished to see the Bill presented by you namely Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008. In the year 2008, you are amending the Preamble of the Act of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Bill. I do not remember any such example where an amendment has been made in any preamble in the past. This might have happened but I do not remember. I must like to say that the suggestion given by United Nations Security Council to the world was adopted by almost all the countries of the world including America, England, Germany etc. During this period, I got a chance to visit so many countries and I found that all the countries had already framed some laws and if I am not wrong, Pakistan had also framed law. When we framed the laws, you were in opposition and you attacked us in such a way as if we had committed any crime. We had not committed any crime by making Prevention of Terrorism Act. There is a rare provision in the Constitution of India that if Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Members have differences of opinion on any subject then it will be decided by calling a joint session of both the Houses. In the history of India, Joint session has been called two or three times. Today I see that

suddenly the Government feels the need of a special new law whereas it did not think to make this law during the last eight nine years. I said that I am satisfied but I could not express happiness. There is a proverb that it is never too late to mend. But if in the meantime something untoward happens, heavy loss is caused on that account then I must say the person strayed. Thus, by presenting this Bill and by supporting it and by saying that it has to be passed today, in a way you have accepted your mistake and you must accept that you were wrong ten years ago. In clause-2 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, you yourself have mentioned about United Nations Security.

Keeping in view the requirements of the country, we had passed 'POTA'. You considered it mandated. In such a way it is the mandate of UN Security Council.

[English]

"Whereas the Security Council of the United Nations in its 4,385th meeting adopted Resolution No...so and so, etc., etc... and whereas.. so and so...and whereas the Central Government in exercise of its powers conferred by section 2 of the United Nations Security Council Act has made the prevention and suppression of terrorism implementation of Security Council Resolution Order."

You have quoted all the Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council adopted in respect of terrorism.

[Translation]

A good job has been done. I say that I am satisfied with it but I would like to say that you have woken up from 'Kumbhakaran's deep slumber of 7-8 years....(Interruptions) There is nothing to feel ashamed. I want that you must accept that you were wrong in this regard. I was reading the press clipping of The Times of India given to me by somebody.

[English]

"This is old wine in new bottle." "UPA has returned to POTA." These are the headings.

[Translation]

You may deny anything. At that time I believe that we cannot face terrorism without a special law. I do know what are the views of our colleagues from Left Parties on it. They also understand this. I have personal experience that your Chief Minister told me many a time that this problem may remain dreadful until and unless the country takes stringent steps....(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Advaniji, please don't try to guess our opinion before hand. Ours is straight jacket.

[English]

POTA is the solution.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, you will get your chance.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : BJP and Congress also vote together.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Do not distract me.

[Translation]

Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta does good thing by interrupting during the speech. Tomorrow there will be a news in the newspapers that Left and BJP vote together. But we don't care for it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When there will be voting, then they will cover that BJP and Congress vote together.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Now, I do not believe in political untouchability as you believe. I do not.

[Translation]

If you say a right thing. I will support it. If you say something wrong I shall oppose it then if you are on my side.

[English]

I do not believe in political untouchability. You may believe in it.

[Translation]

I can give so many examples.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I will support your stand for sending it to the Standing Committee.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am grateful to you. At least, in this matter you have shed your political untouchability.

[Translation]

It is repeatedly said that it was opposed because it might be misused. Is there any law which cannot be misused. There are so many simple laws which are misused. Law Commission has described this point very effectively. They have quoted the Judgement of The Supreme Court in regard to Rajasthan versus Union of India.

[English]

The Mooly Commission had quoted that as part of a Law Commission Report. Law Commission's Report is there on Prevention of Terrorism Bill. [Translation] In which it has been said—

[English]

"It must be remembered that nearly because power may sometimes be abused, it is not ground for denying the existence of power. The wisdom of man has not yet been able to conceive of a Government with power sufficient to answer all the legitimate needs and at the same time incapable of mischief."

[Translation]

It means that there is a legitimate need to have victory over terrorism.

There is no such Government. Wisdom does not lie in it that powers against it are given to the Government and at the same time, it is ensured that it is not misused. Safeguards should be provided. When we brought Prevention of Terrorism Act, I told all my officers to incorporate safeguards because the objections that there

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could be misuse of it, have been raised in the Supreme Court regarding TADA and the safeguards were incorporated because it was against terrorism and disruptive activities. You have also incorporated some safeguards, that is good. I will not deny it but the thinking that a law can be misused, so it should not be brought, is basically wrong. Today, by bringing this Bill you have admitted that you have made a mistake, but you are not ready to confess it. Bringing special law is a must to check terrorism in India. But it has to be seen as to what provisions should be in special law. I will point out the inadequacies in the bill brought by you and let you know what should be there in it in my opinion. For example, I would like to say, as you said that if there is a confession before a police officer, it should not be accepted. This is not admissible because it will not be accepted if a criminal himself confesses and says that I have committed the murder, it is not conclusive evidence. The court has to decide the extent of corroborative evidence in it. The law gives right to confess, but at the same time, it gives right to retract also. One can say before the court that I retract. You are a lawyer and you know all these things better. I have been a student of law but never practised it, still I know as to why a confession before a police officer is treated as an admissible evidence. A terrorist has been arrested now, whether more evidence would be brought for him? Will his evidence not be treated as admissible as he did not confess before a police officer or a judicial officer or judicial magistrate? Yes, The level of officer should be prescribed before whom confession made would be treated as an admissible evidence, it does not become conclusive evidence. This is a concrete case that a terrorist has been arrested. Tukaram showed bravery and nabbed him. Even if he is ready to disclose everything, even then his evidence would not be admissible under ordinary law. So, I would like to quote observation of Law Commission. What is said in 73rd report, is very important.

[English]

Mr. Home Minister, I am sure you have read it. But even then I would like to draw your attention to it.

"The act of terrorism by its very nature generates terror and a psychosis of fear among the populace. It is difficult to get any witnesses because people are afraid of their own safety and safety of their families. It is well known that during the worst days in Punjab even the judges and prosecutors were gripped with such fear and terror that they were not prepared either to try or to prosecute the cases against the terrorists. That is also stated to be the position today in Jammu and Kashmir and this is one reason which is contributing to the enormous delay in going on with the trials against the terrorists. In such a situation, insisting upon independent evidence or applying the normal peacetime standards of criminal prosecution may be impractical."

These provisions have been included in most laws prepared all over the world to deal with terrorists. [Translation] To think, that this law is being made stringent because minorities are against it, you are defaming the minorities. [English] This is a law against terror; this is a law against terrorists that we enacted and which you are also enacting today.

[Translation]

You cannot now claim that, that was a communal law and this is secular law. I hope that you would not say like that. You have harmed the country a lot [English] by trying to see laws against terror through the prism of majority and minority. I said it that day I repeat it today. [Translation] I repeat again that at the time of partition, constituent assembly of India started contemplating on Constitution, the Congress did not want the partition, the country did not want it and it took place on the basis where Hindus were in majority or Muslims were in majority and in such circumstances, Pakistan declared itself a theocratic State. If India declared itself a secular country, it is such a thing that no nation of the world can forget and even India cannot forget that it has taken a right step and on the basis of which the country was run for 60 years. But it would not do any good to the country or to the minorities for looking through this prism for so long. You are doing a great harm to them also. So do not try to see through this prism. Now,

see independently as to what laws can check terrorism. Generally, no interception of messages, telephone talk is an admissible evidence. We have made provisions under which *[English]* interception of telephonic talks and messages coming from, say, abroad to here, to the terrorist concerned, that became an admissible evidence can be given. *[Translation]* I would like to request the hon. Home Minister that all the provisions relating to interception of messages should be incorporated in this new law. It's admissibility may be accepted. There as a provision that it would be admissible, interception of communication. I would like to submit that like a confession report, admissibility of interceptive information should also be treated as an admissible evidence, of the police officers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware that laws used to be misused. TADA was also misused. I would not deny it and I remember that Chidambaramji had brought TADA. Chidambaramji has left the House now. When TADA was enforced, he was the Minister of State for Home Affairs and I remember how this law was misused. Police used it as per their convenience against the people whether it was a trade union agitation or some other agitation. I had been to Gujarat, to address a farmer's agitation; two of my colleagues are sitting here, and this was for the first time that I spoke against TADA there. TADA was used to suppress that agitation of farmers. But I never said at any stage that TADA should be scrapped. Because TADA was being misused, so I kept on opposing it. But we never said at any stage that TADA should be repealed. I hoped that they would also support us on bringing POTA, and say, it is all right but it should not be misused and if it were misused, they would object to and criticize it. But they followed a self-orchestrated theory that *[English]* terrorism is a law and order issue. *[Translation]* Let the State Government tackle it and the Centre need not interfere *[English]* I can quote Shrimati Sonia Gandhi on this and I can also quote the Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil, who is no longer there as Home Minister, on this. But everyone from Prime Minister to Home Minister to the Congress Party President has taken the stand that the present set of laws is totally adequate to deal with terrorism.

And let them deal with it as law and order is a State

issue. *[Translation]* We will fully support it. *[English]* This is the basic flaw that has been your thinking till today. Today, suddenly when you have staged a 'U' turn,

[Translation]

I am very happy, naturally very happy because I used to argue since we had formulated the law. In respect of terrorism, it was the only major agenda in the UPA's programme to scrap POTA. *[English]* It was the only thing, that finds mention in the UPA's Common Programme.

In fact, I have with me a quotation from the Prime Minister. On September 3, 2005, Prime Minister Mr. Manmohan Singh a Chennai had said that:—

"His Government had fulfilled its promise to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which has caused unnecessary harassment to every section. Our Government had made a commitment to repeal POTA, and we have faithfully fulfilled the promise made at the time of last Lok Sabha elections."

[Translation]

The hon. Home Minister has outrightly rejected the proud declaration of Hon'ble Prime Minister....*(Interruptions)* We had fulfilled such a great promise and they, in a way, repealed it totally. Why? Please think over it. *[English]* Mr. Home Minister, it is not easy just to nod your head and get away with it. It is not only because of Mumbai. *[Translation]* Earlier attack which took place before the Mumbai attack was not of such a large magnitude. I would like to talk about it. It often comes to my mind why local trains of Mumbai were targeted two years back. It was a big attack and the first statement, which was released after that, said:— 'Pakistan is behind the attack' but after some time the Hon'ble Prime Minister suddenly stated that 'Pakistan itself is a victim of terrorism.' Some incidents have occurred in Pakistan also and its President and other people were attacked. *[English]* But to describe Pakistan as a victim of terrorism and that too by the Prime Minister and to announce two days later that a joint-mechanism between India and Pakistan be set up to fight terrorism, I was shocked and amazed. *[Translation]* As it took us so long to convince the world that the terrorism in our country

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is not homegrown. *[English]* It is cross-border terrorism. *[Translation]* And the world was convinced that we are right. Recently two days ago it was said that *[English]* "Pakistan is the epicentre of terrorism." *[Translation]* I feel that there is some reality behind all this change. The attack on Mumbai is different from other attacks as prior attacks did not last more than a few hours. But this time the whole incident lasted for three days and although I agree with the fact that there should be a code of conduct for showing live telecast of such attacks, but I feel that the television has done a great job because they themselves sensed that whoever watched all this. *[English]* He felt outraged *[Translation]* on what is going on there? How all this is happening here and why? Coverage of this incident over television raised the concern of the people about it and generated anger among them. They have not directed their anger against any particular party or any Government but against the entire political community. The reason behind it is that they are not willing to enact a special law for the last ten years and if any such law was enacted by someone, the Government made it an article of faith to withdraw it. We faced the consequences of this attitude on that day. People had started believing that all politicians are secure as they all have commandoes or some other kind of security around them but the commonman has no security and is perturbed. Therefore their anger is justified. This anger is due to the Government's stand that there is no need for any special law as ordinary laws are adequate. *[English]* It is a State issue, essentially a law and order issue. It is not a law and order issue. It is a very special evil. *[Translation]* And this evil has afflicted and is still afflicting the whole world. I would like to tell him that we have to enact various laws America has enacted various laws including American patriot act. It has set up a home security department. I do not want to discuss all these things now. It is not necessary that we should discuss first and then think as to what should we do? Basically we should accept that terrorist organisations like Al-qaida's biggest enemy is America, second biggest enemy is Israel and third may be India. Their biggest enemy is America not India. But still, after the incident of 9/11 not a single incident has taken place in America whereas after 2004, several terrorist attacks have taken place there.

There are several such incidents. But I do not want to go into it *[English]* I do not want to hammer the same point today....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I do not want to go into it. I would only like to say *[Translation]* that we should have a legal framework to fight terrorism and today we have taken first step in this direction. And the inadequacies I find in it are *[English]* in respect of confession *[Translation]* I feel that the provision of intercepted information, which was in the POTA, and several other provisions are there. And I do not disagree with what you have said about intercepted information admissibility and presumption of office. But I would like to state here that the attitude of American Administration and American Society is important. The attitude of Indian Government and Indian Society has also great importance. When I talk about attitude it means that after the incident of 2001. If somebody lands on the soil of America by air even in the year 2008, he is frisked thoroughly and they can even ask one to unfold one's socks and put off shoes. If this is done here, our countrymen would not be ready to accept it? People will create trouble here. I am talking about our country and I know why all this has happened there till now. On 13th December, 2001 terrorists attacked Parliament of India. The court gave its judgment in 2002-03. The person involved in it was arrested and death sentence was awarded to him but he appealed against it in the Supreme Court, and the sentence was endorsed but was not implemented. And nobody knows the logic behind it as to why it was not implemented. These incidents indicate that our country has lackadaisical approach towards taking action against all terrorist groups. *[English]* You can get away with it. *[Translation]* I would also like to quote another provision. You have also mentioned about that provision which was recommended by Moiley Commission. The Moiley Commission had made a recommendation regarding banned organizations.

[English]

The Law Commission in its 173rd Report also

recommended that memberships of banned organisations should be construed as a terrorist act. This is a very serious matter. Therefore, we had incorporated that in our Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act. It is a recommendation of the Law Commission.

Today, particularly before this Mumbai incident, with regard to the various incidents that took place in Jaipur, in Delhi, in Ahmedabad, it was said that it is home-grown terrorism now because it is SIMI mainly. This SIMI is a banned organisation, which in a way got away for a brief while because the Home Ministry failed to give the necessary evidence to the Tribunal. Subsequently the Home Ministry got it stayed and the ban was re-imposed. Today SIMI is a banned organisation even though Members of the Cabinet itself keep on defending it all the while. It is a very strange situation. Therefore, I would recommend that this recommendation of the Law Commission also should be reconsidered when you are thinking of all the inadequacies and shortcomings in the law.

By and large, I would once again say, it is no different from a war. It is a war that we are facing. To succeed in this war there has to be unity. Above all, there has to be a will to win this war. That will has been lacking. Today, if your two laws are an index to show that you have decided to turn a new leaf, to take a U-turn, I would be very happy.

I started thinking as to why the Government has changed its tune somewhat immediately after the Mumbai incidents. Some of the reactions that came immediately after Mumbai and then in the form of these two Bills, and the statements that have been made from the Government side, are different from what was being said earlier. First I am happy that no longer is it being said that an anti-terror law would be an anti-minority law. That is perhaps because you think that you are in power, therefore, it cannot be anti-minority.

Secondly, these terrorists selected three places. Why did they do it? There is a dimension to the Mumbai incidents which should be taken note of. The world must have taken note of it. They selected the Oberoi, they selected the Taj, they selected the Trident, which is

adjoining the Oberoi. They were sure that in these five-star hotels there must be foreign nationals also. So, our attack should not be only on the Indians, it should identify foreign nationals also and attack them. Then they chose Nariman House. I do not know but I am told that one Minister of ours omitted to mention Nariman House. It was reported in the Press. I do not know. If it is so, it is unfortunate.

Nariman House was selected by them after having done surveillance that this is one place where people from Israel, or all Jews living in Bombay assemble. In fact, the Israeli Ambassador when he met me told that it was a Wednesday; if it had been a Friday, on Friday night on the eve of Saturday, which is their Kosher Day, if all the families in Mumbai had assembled there, the tragedy would have been much bigger, much larger.

Foreign nationals were being targeted; Indians, of course, were targeted. So many people on the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, coming from trains from all parts of the country, two terrorists with AK47 in their hands, went on mowing them down, killing everyone. The whole thing was horrible. Is it that we have woken up because it is not merely the people in India who think that India has become unsafe because of this soft attitude to terrorism, but the whole world thinks that India is now unsafe to the attack of terrorists? Is it this that has made us react in the present manner? I would think that the Security Council Resolution of 2001 was a very sound Resolution and those who followed it, did something in the interests of their own country, in the interest of humanity and the right step against terrorism. I am sorry that we should have been criticized because of following this particular UN Security Council Resolution in letter and spirit and enacting a special law to deal with terrorism.

With these words, I am grateful to you, Sir, for allowing me to initiate this debate.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : With your kind permission, I want to give a clarification because it was I who represented India in the Security Council....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : His name was taken and he is entitled to give a clarification.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I did not take any name....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You did not take but it was quite audible to the hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : It was a newspaper report. It is my duty to clarify the position. I, as a matter of fact, was only performing the duty, reading out the speech prepared by the Government of India. It is not my making. Of course I did contribute to the language. There, we did not mention any community or place – Taj, Trident – nothing we have mentioned. We have only mentioned two hotels, one café, and railway station and public places. We did not refer about only Indians and foreigners. It was not with any deliberate intentions; if they construe like that, I am very sorry because as an Indian, it is my duty to defend every Indian and every foreigner in India. I did not just distinguish that. I may have differences somewhere but in this case we are all one. Therefore, there should not be any misunderstandings. I hope I had dispelled them with my clarifications.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : Thank you very much for giving this opportunity.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : Please speak in Hindi, so that all of us can understand it.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Shri Advaniji for supporting the two bills moved by the Government. We would like to congratulate him for his. When Advaniji was speaking, a thought came to my mind that today there should be

a new beginning. The entire nation is listening to this discussion. There should be a new beginning which could convey this message that we are united against terrorism and we will fight it together and today we will not discuss any political issue. I was expecting this from him, but it is sad....(Interruptions) It is sad that he wants to give this message to the world on every issue that India is weak and cannot protect its people and that is why the entire world believes that India is weak and the Government here is unable to take any decision. Today when we are discussing such an important issue....
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Your leader has put the matter in such a high pedestal consistent with the demands of the situation. You pay respect to him at least. You listened to him with rapt attention and everybody is appreciating. Do not go on making running commentary on this.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : At least today, I was expecting to listen from Shri Advaniji that he will not raise any political issue, let us pass this Bill and political issues would be taken care of later. Earlier also many such instances came up and many times, I pinned my expectations on Advaniji [English] You never lived up to my expectation....
(Interruptions) You never....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly listen to him. He cannot speak according to your wishes only. Nobody can speak, for that matter. Therefore, you have to listen to each other. You have a right to criticize, of course.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : But unfortunately you have not lived up to our expectation. [Translation] I would like to remind him about the incident when terrorists high-jacked a plane from Amritsar and took it to Kandhar, does he remember....(Interruptions)

You might agree that we had never witnessed such a scenario in India before....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If the subsequent speakers from your Party are disturbed, then you should not tell me anything. Please do not do that.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : I wanted to remind that we had never seen such a scenario in India. A very important Minister of the then Government escorted three terrorists of Kandhar and he might be aware that POTA was in force then. The most important thing is two were those three terrorists- one was Maulana Massod Azhar, Second was Omar Sheikh and third one was Zardar. He must be aware that after they were released they went to Pakistan and Maulana Azhar Massod formed a terrorist organization there namely-Jaish-E-Mohammad and all of them joined that group. The said organization i.e. Jaish-E-Mohammad attacked our Parliament. Parliament was attacked just because they set those terrorist free....(Interruptions)

You listen the truth....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can you expect that everyone will speak as per one's liking?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need to have a discussion then. If there had been a consensus, what was the need for any debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There will be differences of opinion.

Please listen and reply. I earnestly appeal to all of you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not right.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not try to dictate.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I meant to say was that had they not released Maulana Massod Azhar, there would have been no attack on Parliament.(Interruptions)

He was the Home Minister then and he has himself stated, that he was not aware that one of the Ministers had escorted them to Kandhar. It is a matter of regret and I think that he should have sought an apology from the public and Parliament on behalf of NDA Government for the blunder they had committed....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please continue with what you have to say.

15.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All of you please take your seats. [English] You may sit down. Please take your seats. This is not right, Please cooperate. Shri Ashok Pradhan, what has happened to you today?

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Where is your seat? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me listen to his point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, I want to apprise you that at that point of time in Kandhar....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : To give information, is not a point of order.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee had called an all party meeting. I can give proof in support of this....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a point of order. No, I would not allow it. There is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate. I thought after the unanimous Resolution of this House — to the passing of which the Opposition has made a very significant contribution — today also the way Advaniji has spoken, there would be a healthier discussion. For every sentence if you go on making running commentary, I do not like it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded. There is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing except Shri Sibal's statement will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Advaniji had initially stated that if Bill is to be introduced during the session of Parliament scheduled to start on 22nd February, 2009, then why cannot this Bill be referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee? This was the first thing he stated here and he emphasized that it would have been better had we first referred the Bill to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for proper deliberation on it and thereafter passed the Bill. Through you, I would like to state that their Government brought an Ordinance to introduce POTA. Why it did not occur to them at that time that they should not bring an Ordinance for such an important Bill. Instead, they should have got it passed after a proper discussion in the House. They have always adopted such practices. I am just putting up one instance before you....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a matter of regret that you are not paying attention to him. What are you doing....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Shri Advani was speaking we gave him all our attention, but they are interrupting repeatedly....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would you like to be disturbed like this when you are speaking?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : The second point I wish to make is and you made it really the central point of your speech. You kept on saying that after ten years we have done a turn around. And after ten years we have suddenly realized that what we had done before was not right. You are happy at the fact that we have done a turn round. But you must remember Advaniji, [Translation] if anyone has countered

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

terrorism it is the Congress Party, you should be aware of this. We introduced TADA....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. I would stop the debate and go on to the passing of the Bill. You are interrupting deliberately. You cannot go on speaking like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing? *[English]* I have not allowed you to speak. If nobody wants a discussion then I will move to the passing of the Bill.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : The point that I was making was: as in life so also in politics, nothing is static. You always live to learn. Ideologies also change many a time. When we introduced TADA for the first time, it was a very drastic terror law and we wanted to deal with terror in a very strong way, that was the Congress position at that point in time and you did not dispute that. We realized in the course for implementation of TADA that a lot of atrocities had been committed.

Ultimately, you must remember that two of our greatest leaders in this country lost their lives because of terrorism. You must understand that and to make an accusation against a party which ultimately sacrificed two of its greatest leaders in this country post-Independence and to then charge that Party as not being able to fight terrorism, I think is very unfortunate and unfair. You must recognise the facts of history. You may misinterpret history. That is your choice but you must recognise the facts of history.

[Translation]

When we found that TADA was being misused we allowed that law to lapse. We did not introduce a similar law again. What happened thereafter? They came to power in 1998 and decided to introduce a law like POTA, but before that you were already in power in Maharashtra. First of all, they enacted 'MCOCA' in 1999 in Maharashtra and MCOCA was exact replication of TADA, MCOCA

contained the same provisions as TADA, hence they did not introduce any new legislation on their own. They are misguiding the people by saying that they introduced 'POTA'. POTA is based on MCOCA which was the true replica of TADA. All right, they copied TADA. MCOCA was enacted in 1999, thereafter in 2001, they brought an Ordinance to enforce 'POTA', but if we go through MCOCA and POTA, we find that at several places the provisions of MCOCA have not been adopted in POTA. I would like to ask them why they left those provisions out? For example, there is a provision in MCOCA that if an accused submits a petition for bail, public prosecutor will have a right to oppose his bail application and the accused can be granted bail only if the Public Prosecutor consents to it. Secondly, it can be given if the court comes to the conclusion that the accused is not guilty at all and thirdly, the court concludes that in case the accused is released on bail he will not commit any offence. They incorporated these three provisions in MCOCA. It was their Government in Maharashtra, not of ours. While enacting POTA, they did not include these provisions in that. I would like to know from them why they did not include the said provisions in POTA? They make much hue and cry about terrorism and talk for a tough law, then why did they not include those provisions in POTA. Because, they thought that this law....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Will you yield for a minute?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : I am not yielding to you, Sir....*(Interruptions)*. Sir, I am not yielding to you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sibal, let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is the rule.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think you want to give some clarification.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, I just wanted to say that when we were framing the POTA, I told all my colleagues in the Ministry of Home Affairs that we must see that whatever

[Shri L.K. Advani]

the Supreme Court has said in respect of such laws, all those safeguards must be provided in POTA. Therefore, it may be one of those but I do not know.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : If you do not know, I may tell you that it is not the case. The constitutional validity of TADA was upheld by the Supreme Court *in toto*...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : As regards MCOCA, your Government is there and yet three State Governments which have passed similar laws have not been permitted...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, the point I was making was that they copied TADA but when it came to POTA, they did not include the provisions of MCOCA even in POTA.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It was good.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : It was okay because as per your experience such provisions should not have been in POTA.

For example, there is a provision in MCOCA that confession to a police officer can be valid against the accused and his co-accused as well. This provision was included in MCOCA but when POTA was introduced, they excluded co-accused from it. Why co-accused was excluded? Because....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara) : ...(*Interruptions*) What happened?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You are requested not to interrupt, let his point be made by him only.

[*English*]

He has not used anything unparliamentary that I will delete it. He will not speak to suit your wishes.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, the point I was making was that laws are not static; ideologies are not static. You learn from your experiences and just as you learn from your

experiences, we also have learnt from our experiences, but that does not mean that we have come back home after 10 years. Even this particular law is not a replication of POTA. I will just explain that to you. It is not. You are under a misapprehension.

What are the three basic provisions that we were opposed to in POTA? The first basic provision that we were opposed to in POTA was confession to a police officer. It is on the basis of that confession that many innocent people have been convicted. We were totally opposed to that. We saw what was happening in Gujarat and how confessions were being taken. In this law there is no provision for the admissibility of confession to a police officer.

[*Translation*]

You said that confession should be made admissible. However, already admissible. It is not that there is no provision in criminal procedure code regarding confession in the court. It is there under section 164 of CrPC. Confession is admissible under that section. That confession can be used but police and some State Government think that there is no need to take confession in the court. Just beat them, record their confession and fulfill your political agenda and move ahead. This is politics. ...(*Interruptions*) I mean to say that [*English*] for you POTA is not Prevention of Terrorist Acts. It is a political tool and an agenda to taking your politics forward. That is what POTA is for you. That is what it is. The Politics of Terror Agenda is POTA for you.

Sir, now let me come to the other provisions.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : What is this kind of a statement?
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : We are supporting this Bill...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record any interruptions.

You may please sit down with disappointment. You are disappointed, but you may please be seated.

Shri Sibal, you may please continue.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, the second provision is the bail provision. The provision under POTA was the following that the Public Prosecutor will be heard and the court will grant bail if the court comes to the conclusion that the accused is not guilty of the offence. Now as you would know, before the trial no court can ever come to the conclusion that the accused is not guilty of the offence. Therefore, no bail could ever be granted. We have deviated from that in the present law. We have not accepted that in the present law. The present law says what the Code of Criminal Procedure says that the Prosecutor will be heard but bail will only be granted if the court comes to the conclusion that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is a *prima facie* case against the accused. So, there is a departure. They seem to be under some misapprehension that after 10 years we are again adopting POTA. That is not right.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : After 10 years you are having a special law.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : This is an amendment to the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. We in Government, we in politics learn from experiences just as they have learnt. Therefore, we do believe that in given circumstances, in the context of the situation that is currently there it is important for us to amend certain provisions of bail to make sure that you cannot tell the public at large that look this Government is not doing anything about dealing with an emergent situation that faces the nation. That is the kind of politics you play. We want to tell the country that we as a political party, the UPA as an entity are definitely tough on terror but at the same time we do not want to throw in the dustbin valuable Human Rights and the balance of the two is important for formulating any law in this country. That is the basis on which we have moved forward. We must take care that human rights are not infringed and at the same time, we must make sure that we shall have enough laws in hand to take care of terror.

The third point that I wish to make is, after POTA was introduced by you as a law in 2002, how many terrorists acts were you able to prevent? Not a single terrorist act could be prevented because an Act is not meant to prevent terror. An Act is meant to punish terrorists. These are

two different things all together. POTA will not prevent terror or the Prevention of Unlawful Activities Act will not prevent terror. So, whether a terrorist act takes place or not is not because there is POTA or there is no POTA. Ajmal Kasab came to Mumbai even though there was MOCOCA. And MOCOCA was worse than TADA. But he came there. MOCOCA did not prevent him from coming there and doing what he did. Laws have nothing to do with terrorism but certainly we must have laws in place to make sure that if we actually catch a terrorist, he must not get bail easily, that there must be enough provisions of the law to convict him. It is with this in mind that this Government has formulated an amendment in the Prevention of Unlawful Activities Act and not with a mind of coming back home after ten years, as you said.

[Translation]

That it is never too late to mend. Advaniji, the point is that when you stood and talked about secularism, I was very happy because for the first time you said that secularism is the tradition of this country, it must be so. But if you talk about secularism you should follow it also. ...*(Interruptions)* You should not only talk about it but should follow it also....*(Interruptions)* You feel much pain, I have also heard that you felt pain when some people narrated to you that they were tortured and were denied bail. You felt pain and rightly so. We want that nobody should be tortured. But I want to put forth one point before you. Perhaps you will accept it....*(Interruptions)* We all know about the Godhra incident. When Godhra incident took place in 2001, some people were taken into custody and even today, their number is around 90 to 100 who have not been granted bail till date. It means that they will be completing seven years in jail 27th February, 2009 as on but nobody has been granted bail. Cases have continued. It is because of you as you had set up a state review committee under the POTA. The State Review Committee is empowered to review the evidence against anybody and if it points that POTA was not applicable in a particular case, it should be accepted. Such State Review Committee was set up in the year 2005. I want to read out the decision of the State Review Committee. On 16th May, 2005 the *[English]* this is what the State Review Committee has said. I would like the relevant portion from it.

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

"In our opinion, this is a simple case of unlawful assembly committing various offences under the Penal Code and other special Acts but certainly not the provisions of POTA."

...(Interruptions) I am reading from the Statutory Committee's Report. It is not what the UPA Government has done.

"This incident has taken place on the date, time and place as alleged by the prosecution but certainly not as a part of conspiracy envisaged under the provisions of POTA."

[Translation]

This verdict had come in 2005. Your public prosecutor had filed a petition in the case and stated that it is the opinion of the State Review Committee and that he did not accept it and you were also not required to accept it. Though, it was the judgment of the Gujarat High Court that the opinion of the State Review Committee was binding but your public prosecutor said that that they did not accept it, so the court has not accepted it....(Interruptions) no, I will not name anybody. Then, matter was referred to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court gave the verdict on 21st October, 2008, which I am reading out to you:—

[English]

"We, therefore, hold that once the Review Committee on reviewing under Section 2 (3) of the Repealing Act expresses the opinion that there is no *prima facie* case of proceeding against the accused in cases in which cognizance have been taken by the court, such cases shall be deemed to have been withdrawn."

[Translation]

Deemed to have been withdrawn means on 21st October, 2008. When the decision of the State Review Committee was given in 2005, they are deemed to have been withdrawn since 2005. It is the decision of the Supreme Court and those people are in jail even today under POTA. Who will take the responsibility for the innocent people who have been in jail. They are going to complete seven years

in jail but they have not been granted bail till date. That is why we oppose such provisions....(Interruptions) Therefore, we have not adopted this provision. We have opposed it because we thought the way it was being misused....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kapil Sibal, please carry on.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : We will not enact such a law for you. This law is in force in some of the States presently under your rule. We are not in favour of that....(Interruptions) Mr. Advaniji, you have made some other points also.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Those who are feeling unduly disturbed may go out for a little while.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Advaniji you have made some other points, also....(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Whenever you speak, these people will also interrupt you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : It is very good, if they interrupt....(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : You said that when 9/11 happened, what did America do?... (Interruptions) They enacted a number of legislations, thereby preventing any repeat of 9/11 there. Perhaps you know that their patriot Act is not against their own citizens, it is only against foreigners. Their Patriot Act is against non-citizens, it is not against a citizens. It is mandatory over there to get a person produced before a magistrate within 24 hours. It is being practised today also even after 9/11. In the case

of non-citizens the law mandates that a person would have to be produced before a magistrate within seven days, which can be extended if a certificate from the Attorney General of America is obtained to the effect *[English]* that he is a danger to America. *[Translation]* If that certificate is not obtained, he can move the court after seven days. Which American law you are talking about? It means that there is lack of knowledge. But you are telling the people that America has enacted this law. Let me tell you about the law in the United Kingdom. Let me tell you about the provision. As per the Terrorism Act of 2006 in the United Kingdom, a person can be detained — for 28 days only. He has right to move the court after 28 days. In the year 2008, the present U. K. Government had introduced a Bill in the House of Commons in respect of a Counter Terrorism. The House of Commons passed it by 315 against 306 votes. It was a very small majority. But it was rejected in the House of Lords. It had been passed with the provision to extend the 28 days custody to 42 days. But the House of Lords did not accept even that. It remained 28 days, however, it is 180 days here. We have made a provision of 180 days under this law. Our laws are more tough than that of America and England. Can you give me the example of any other country, where such laws exist?

I want to say that do not be under the illusion that other countries have also introduced such bills which are tougher than this one and that this Government is a weak. Government A Leader of Opposition should not make such a point in the House. A Government is ultimately a Government whichever party it may belong....*(Interruptions)* Then again, you say that you do not want to play politics. I was involved in the Delhi's election and I know what was happening over there. Advertisements were being published in Delhi's Newspapers that if you want to combat terrorism, vote for the BJP.

You talk about nationalism. You say that you rise above party, lines to put forth your point. To pay lip service is a different matter, but, I am surprised with what you have put forth before the House today. Instead of indulging in confrontation today, we should have sent a message to the world that we are united in this fight.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur) :
What are you doing now?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : I am replying to your question.
...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : He is saying that one should practise what one says.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Sibal, please speak in the favour of the Bill. Being in opposition, it is our right to tell you about your shortcomings. You please speak only in the favour of the Bill....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sibal, please speak with the Bill in your hands.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxar) : Sir, please tell Mr. Sibal that it is not a court....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is higher than the Court. It is the court of the people, thus it is the highest of all Courts.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY : I am requesting you to impart justice....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What sort of justice can I mete out? I can only make an appeal to all of you.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I would request him to be present when our turn comes to speak.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot compel anybody to remain present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, just to complete the point, the law laid down by the Supreme Court in several judgments is known to all. I do not want to go into that matter. But as late as 2005 in a case *State vs. Navjot Sandhu*, (2005) 11 Supreme Court Cases 600, they discussed the entire law in *Kartar Singh* and POTA. This is what the judge said and I want to quote this. I am quoting paragraph 54.

"The Constitution Bench judgment is binding on us. In fact, the ratio of that judgment applies with greater force to POTA, as the guidelines set out by the Constitution Bench are substantially incorporated into Section 32. It is perhaps too late in the day to seek reconsideration of the view taken by the majority of the Judges in the Constitution Bench. But as we see Section 32, a formidable doubt lingers in our minds despite the pronouncement in *Kartar Singh* case. That pertains to the rationale and reason behind the drastic provision, making the confession to a police officer admissible in evidence in a trial for the POTA offences. Many questions do arise and we are unable to find satisfactory or even plausible answers to them."

This is Supreme Court itself on *Kartar Singh*. So, there is a genuine debate going on in this country. There is a genuine debate going on in the Judiciary whether confessions to a police officer should be allowed or not and it is in the context of that that we have formulated our law. As the hon. Home Minister has rightly said, we want to bring about a balance in the law to make sure

*Not recorded.

that it is not an instrument in the hands of those who want to abuse it. At the same time, we want to make sure that there is enough teeth in the law to deal with terrorists. It is with that in mind that we have moved forward.

15.31 hrs.

[SHRI VARAKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

Secondly I would like to talk about the National Investigation Agency and I thank the Government for bringing this Bill. As you must be aware that Mr. Advani kept on talking about Federal Agency for many years when he was Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. He had prominent leaders with him with great knowledge of law but still he was not able to constitute a federal agency in 6 years. He could not constitute a federal agency in spite of being hard on terror and tough on terror. We did this in two weeks which they could not do in 6 years. I will tell you the reason for us doing the same work in two weeks. We thought that terrorism is just a law but there are several other laws that require a federal investigation agency and they are included in the schedule, like Atomic Energy which needs a federal investigating agency. It cannot become an issue of law and order of the state. Anti Hijacking Act, is needed for what happened in Kandahar, only State law is not sufficient for that. They should have done this. Why didn't they do this in 6 years?

[English]

The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982. The SAARC Convention on (Suppression of Terrorism) Act 1993. The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act 2002.

[Translation]

We thought that there are certain laws in the country where a federal agency alone can do the investigation. So we brought this law. It is not only for the unlawful activities act, it is also for many other acts. I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Home Minister as section 18 of the Act States that—

[English]

"The trial under this Act of any offence by a Special Court..."

[Translation]

because it is a scheduled offence. Any National Investigation Agency would investigate any scheduled crime under the scheduled offence. It has been stated in section 18 that—

[English]

"The trial under this Act of any offence by a Special Court shall be held on day-to-day basis on all working days and have precedence over the trial of any other case against the accused in any other court..."

[Translation]

Trial has not been started yet in Godhara case even after 7 years. Even charges have not been framed so far. If the decision of the State Review Committee is right that they have completed their jail term as a punishment is true then they have not been granted bail till date then, they did not do the right things but we did. We brought the change and we are still learning from this. Just as this has taught them and in near future I think they will learn more. We learn from each other and we should do that. If they will learn about secularism, the country will make the progress much faster. We would like them to understand this as soon as possible, understand the true meaning and inspiration behind it and proceed.

[English]

So, the point that I was making was that we have tried to make a Federal Investigation Agency to make sure that the implementation of the law is also equally efficient.

The hon. Home Minister has, in fact, set out in this law, the UPA Government has set out in this law that not only will there be Special Court but also in fact Special Judges will be appointed. In other words, assuming there is a schedule offence in Gujarat or a schedule offence in Madhya Pradesh or in Delhi, immediately within 7 days of

that offence, the Chief Justice of the High Court will be requested and within 7 days he will have to give a Judge. That was not something that was there in the POTA. The point I am trying to make is that we have tried to bring about a lot of improvements. Where we have gone with the previous POTA was only in respect of Section 167, namely, custodial interrogation even up to 180 days.

That is the only provision where we have gone with the POTA. But for the rest, it is entirely different because we have learnt from experience, we have learnt from your experience, we have learnt from our experience and it is a good thing and for you to say that.

[Translation]

To say that after ten years we are rectifying our mistakes now is not at all correct. I can only say that the people from the other side have still not learnt from their experiences. We want that they should accept their mistake and should learn from that mistake before it is too late or they will have to remain groping in dark as it happened in Delhi and Rajasthan.

[English]

Sir, I want to mention one more thing. The war on terror is never ending. We can see what is happening to the United States of America in Iraq. Despite all the strong laws, despite the big army, American soldiers are dying everyday in Iraq because the war on terror is never ending. That was, in fact, forecast at the opening of *The Iliad*. When European Armies first attacked Troy, then Apollo, with his silver bows, rained down his arrows on the Greeks for 9 days killing thousands with the plague. The funeral pyres of the dead burnt day and night until this divine bio-terror was placated by the antidote of sacrifice and the conflict continued.

Terrorism will be with us. What we need to do is to try and limit it, what we need to do is to try and prevent it, what we need to do is to stand together and try and meet the challenge of terrorism. It will not be done by scoring political points in parliamentary debates; it will be done if we stand together as a nation. It will also not be done by just passing these two laws; it needs much more

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

than that. Let us come together, let all State Governments come together, let us reform the police system in our country, let us empower policemen in our country, let us empower people in our country and let us, at least, agree on certain issues which are national issues.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing. Terrorism, they say, is like a soccer game. You may save a hundred shots, but people will only remember the one shot that goes through. The saves, people will not remember. That shot went through in Mumbai and we need to rise, gather together and mourn that one shot that was fired at us. Please let us not reduce this debate to polemics; let us stand together today as a nation, forget the past, look forward to the future and be together in our march in the 21st Century.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 11th of December, when there was a discussion in this House after the horrific incidents in Mumbai, we saw a rare unity in the House, which is indeed required to combat terrorism. We see that unity among the people today, whether one is a Hindu or a Muslim or a Christian or a Jain. We have seen that rare unity among the people of our country and the pledge to fight against terrorism unitedly.

Sir, these two Bills are very important Bills. The proposal was made in the meeting of the Leaders of all Political Parties in the aftermath of Mumbai incidents. But as these two Bills are very important, our suggestion is that these Bills should be referred to the Standing Committee. The hon. Home Minister has explained that there is urgency. The Government wants to show the people of our country that it is serious enough to tackle and combat terrorism. As we will have another Session, as has been indicated by the hon. Home Minister, if not two Bills, at least, one, that is, National Investigation Agency Bill, should be referred to the Standing Committee for scrutiny and for making a better Act. Instead of bringing it, even after introduction, yesterday, it has been brought today. The question is whether any touch Act will be able to prevent the terrorism in our country.

Whenever any incident takes place, the first reaction that comes from the main Opposition Party, that is, BJP, is that there is no POTA and that is why the terrorism action has taken place or that incident has taken place. I would like to draw the attention of the main Opposition Party that when this stringent, draconian law was there, we opposed it. We opposed it because there were a number of provisions which were draconian and that is why in 2004 election, the UPA pledged before the people that if they would come to power the first thing that they would do is to repeal POTA. The people of our country voted NDA out of power.

We used to support the UPA Government and the Left Parties demanded that the first thing the UPA Government should do was to repeal POTA, to remove the draconian provisions of POTA. There were consultations with our Party. We suggested that the draconian provisions of POTA should not be incorporated in the Unlawful Activities (Amendment) Bill 2008. There are three-four such provisions which were there in POTA. Those provisions have been brought back.

Why were we against such a draconian Act? We were against it because POTA was misused. I can give an example. Jharkhand is a small State where 600 people, in the ages of 14 years to 85 years, belonging to a particular community were arrested. Without trials, they were kept inside the jail. We have seen how POTA was misused or used after 2002 Gujarat carnage. The question is that after the enactment of this legislation whether this legislation will also be misused. In case of TADA also, when TADA was enacted, what the Leader of the Opposition said? In spite of misusing, when TADA was used against farmers' agitation, he never asked for repeal of TADA because that draconian Act was used against a particular community, minority community. That was why though TADA was misused against farmers' agitation, they did not ever ask for repeal of TADA. TADA was allowed to lapse.

An Act may be stringent or draconian but it cannot prevent the occurrence of incidents of terrorism, as we have seen during NDA regime. We have seen attack on Parliament House; we have seen attack on Akshardham

Temple; we have seen attack on Raghunath Temple. We have seen a number of terrorist incidents in our country when there was POTA. What is required is political will. That is lacking.

What is the situation today in our country? When we talk of police forces, just now Kapil Sibalji stated that our police force should be modernised. What is the situation? UNO's Resolution is that there should be 220 police personnel in one lakh population. What is the situation in our country? It is only 176 in one lakh population. There are some States where, in the past, and today also, a number of incidents have taken place like Assam where in one lakh population the number of police personnel is only 86. There are a number of Commissions, five-six Commissions like Ribeiro Commission. These Commissions recommended for reforms in modernisation of police force, but none of the recommendations of these Commissions have ever been sincerely implemented. What have we seen in Mumbai in Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus? We saw the police force hiding behind the pillar with 303 rifles. So, we have to strengthen our bottom line.

I would like to know from the Home Minister, after taking over the Home Ministry from Finance Ministry, what are the concrete proposals before the Home Ministry in regard to strengthening the police forces in order to modernise the police forces.

Sir, a Group of Ministers was constituted in 2003 to examine our intelligence system when NDA Government was in power. Four thousand posts in the Intelligence Bureau were sanctioned. All these 4,000 posts remain unfilled. No recruitment has taken place.

The law will not be able to prevent these incidents. If the draconian provisions of POTA are brought in the proposed legislation, then there is a likelihood of misusing those provisions. This is our experience.

Sir, we have submitted our amendments in regard to the Unlawful Activities (Amendment) Bill, 2008. What is there in Clause 43(D)? I am reading it. It says:

" (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code or any other law, every offence punishable under this

Act shall be deemed to be a cognizable offence within the meaning of clause (c) of section 2 of the Code, and "cognizable case" as defined in that clause shall be construed accordingly.

(2) Section 167 of the Code shall apply in relation to a case involving an offence punishable under this Act subject to the modification that in sub-section (2), —

(a) the reference to "fifteen days", "ninety days" and "sixty days", wherever they occur, shall be construed as references to "thirty days", "ninety days" and "ninety days" respectively; and

(b) after the proviso, the following provisos shall be inserted, namely:—

Provided further that if it is not possible to complete the investigation within the said period of ninety days, the Court may if it is satisfied with the report of the Public Prosecutor indicating the progress of the investigation and the specific reasons for the detention of the accused beyond the said period of ninety days, extend the said period up to one hundred and eighty days: ..."

Exactly what was there in POTA has been brought in this Bill. Nowhere in the world, Sir, there is such provision in any law. In the case of a murderer also, under Section 302 of IPC, a person can be detained for a maximum of 90 days, and bail will not be allowed. But why it has been increased to 180 days here? So, we have suggested an amendment that whatever provision is there in IPC, it should be retained in this legislation also. Otherwise, this legislation will be the repletion of the provision existing in POTA.

While speaking on the discussion regarding the bomb blast in Guwahati, I had said that if the Government brings a Bill, we will support it.

But if you contain the same draconian provision in the Bill, which was there in the POTA, we will not be able to support that provision; we will rather oppose it. What was the need for extending it from 90 days to 180 days just to keep the provision of POTA? The hon. Home Minister should explain it.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, we have also suggested other Amendments in Clause 43E and 43F. In Clause 43E, in place of line 44 we have suggested: "the Court shall presume such offence." So, our contention is that there should not be any provision in the Bill, which we consider to be draconian. There is a need for unanimity and consensus in the House. In the name of combating terrorism, if such draconian provisions are brought within the Bill, we will not be able to support it.

Similarly, in the other Bill – National Investigation Agency Bill – we categorically told our Home Minister that initially we are not in favour of any such Central Investigation Agency, but the incidents of terrorism, which are taking place today, it is not possible for the State Governments to investigate and take action, therefore, there is a need for such an Act. But we also told that the State Governments should be involved while investigating certain matters, which are within the domain of the State Governments. That is why we have suggested that the Schedule should be divided into two – Schedule A and Schedule B. In Schedule A, the Acts, will be there, like the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982, Suppression of Unlawful Activities Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Acharia, your allotted party's time is over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have just started...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 20 minutes. Let me finish as early as possible.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, Mr. Salim also will speak....(Interruptions) I have just started. I have only taken five minutes....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Five minutes! ...(Interruptions) You are not listening what the Chairman is saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Acharia, you have already taken 20-22 minutes, whereas your party's time allotted was 19 minutes.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You have already taken 22 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we are discussing two Bills together.

Under Schedule B, Unlawful Activities Act, 1967, Offences under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code and B Section 489A and 489E both inclusive of the Indian Penal Code, may be there.

16.00 hrs.

So, we have suggested that clause 7 should be amended. 'While investigating any offence under Schedule-A of this Act, the agency having regard to the gravity of the offence and other relevant factors may ...' this is the amendment we have suggested. We said that there will be a new clause, Clause 7-A wherein it may be stated that –'while investigating any offence under Schedule-B of this Act, the agency shall associate the State Government with investigation'.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has agreed when I raised the point that the State Government should be involved in investigation of certain crimes under certain Acts. He agreed; but in spite of that, that has not been incorporated in the Bill. That is why we have suggested that the Schedule should be divided into two – Schedule A and Schedule B – because there will be every likelihood of encroachment upon State power.

We have to fight terrorism together, the Central Government, the State Governments and the people of the country together. We know that. But unless certain measures are taken like strengthening our police forces, strengthening our Intelligence Department and with a political will, then only we will be able to take action. We will not be able to root out, but we will be able to minimise the number of incidents.

What is required today is the unity of the people. The people today are united. A few months back when the hon.

Prime Minister went to USA, President Bush introduced his wife saying that 'there are 150 million Muslims in our country, but not a single Muslim belongs to Al Qaeda'. Such is the tradition of our country. But when we find that certain political parties try to divide and try to blame one section of our people whenever such an incident takes place, when they try to straightjacket a particular community and when we find that the main Opposition Party, after such horrific incident, it happened in Guwahati and it happened in Assam, the hon. Leader of the Opposition states that the people of Assam will reply to this incident at the time of Lok Sabha elections.

So, Sir, we should not politicise and we should not try to gain out of such incidents. We are to fight unitedly. But that cannot be done when you oppose altogether. Altogether we opposed the draconian Act, POTA. The people of our country demanded repeal of POTA. If you bring back certain provisions, such draconian provisions which were there in POTA, what will happen? What did you pledge to the people and on what ground we opposed the draconian and stringent provisions of POTA? We will have to think over how it was misused in Gujarat and in other parts of our country.

We are bringing here a law to combat terrorism. But terrorism and communalism are the two sides of the same coin. We have seen what happened in one district of Orissa – Kandhamal. We have seen Malegaon.

Sir, a terrorist has no religion, no caste and no creed, but if the incident of terrorism is communalised, we will not be able to fight terrorism in our country. That is the need of the hour today. We feel that there is a need of a law. You have a special legislation because Unlawful Activities Act was enacted to replace POTA. That is a special law. Now that law is being amended and more stringent and draconian provisions are being brought in the Bill. We will not be able to support those provisions. That is why, I have suggested that instead of bringing this Bill to this House, it should have been referred to the Standing Committee as we had decided at the time of setting up of Standing Committees that all the important Bills would be referred to the Standing Committee. I know the urgency, but by bringing and introducing the Bill, you can show to

the people your urgency and your seriousness. But referring it to the Standing Committee would have enabled the Standing Committee to scrutinise it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, I want to ask you only one question. Is this Bill more stringent than POTA, according to you?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have already stated. I have also with me the anti-terror laws of various countries. If you compare it with other countries, you see what you did. We know your track record during the six years of NDA regime. *[Translation]* today you are saying that we are not paying attention to it, where were you at that time?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken half-an-hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You had freed three dreaded terrorists.

[Translation]

You treated them as your guests and then freed them, why did not you think about it at that time? Where were you then? What had happened to your Iron Man, Mr. Advani....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Do not give the statement. Do you have the courage to do so?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, I do have the courage. Why don't I have the courage?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Then, you make a statement here that we should have allowed those 150 passengers to be killed. I think, you are a courageous person. You make a statement here....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why? You will demand and I will make the statement....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Do not be so clever.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have already taken more than 30 minutes. Your time to speak is over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You had freed three dreaded terrorists. You have no moral right. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is no time-limit, I cannot sit here. You have taken 30 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You had stayed in power for six years. You brought a draconian Act. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You wanted to divide communally this country and weaken the united fight against terrorism.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Mohan Singh will speak.

Hon. Members, if you kindly cooperate and keep the time schedule, we will have a very meaningful exercise. Otherwise, it will be prolonged like anything. So, you please keep the time schedule. Then, the discussion will be all right. Let there be some beautiful expressions of ideas also. If you lengthen your speech like this, it will take us nowhere.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Sir, you don't ask the Members to be brief who do not speak briefly. I will speak less today due to my illness. I stand here only to support these two Bills.

Here one thing was mentioned repeatedly and all the speakers stated that the people should fight terrorism

* Not recorded.

unitedly. If the people fight terrorism unitedly and the leaders in this House keep on maligning the images of one another, these two things can hardly go together.

16.11 hrs.

[DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA in the Chair]

That is why after the terrorist's attack in Mumbai city, only leaders were blamed and some channels started saying abusively that... We think why people are making abusive comments on us. However, today's mud slinging act has made me think whether we possibly deserve such comments. If we do not support vigorously the laws to tackle terrorist activities and terrorism unanimously, I assume that it will reflect our weakness in efforts to thwart the terrorist activities and crush the morale of perpetrators. It is not so that suddenly a Bill relating to the National Investigating Agency was brought before the House. The Government of India had been trying for the last two years that there should be a Federal Investigating Agency and this Bill was discussed in the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Home Affairs several times. Members from all the parties, ruling and opposition parties had given their advice and I was among those people who had endorsed this kind of investigating agency. Later, the Government of India had circulated its Bill relating to the investigating agency to all the State Governments. Majority of the State Governments turned down the proposal on this basis that it would affect the federal structure of the Constitution of the country, it would affect States' powers for investigation of crimes, and therefore, the Government of India should not form such an agency. I would like to say it politely that acts of terrorism are more serious than the ordinary crimes and there is lot of evidence before the country as well as the whole world that the sponsored terrorism in India is not merely indigenous. Though, there exists a kind of terrorism that originates and flourishes within the country as well but the serious terrorist activities due to which a lot of loss has been incurred is sponsored by the neighbouring countries. Each country in the South Asian sub-continent has tried to export terrorism to India. Bangladesh was especially mentioned the day before

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

yesterday. Terrorism is sponsored through Nepal route also. Many such activities occurred. Pakistan has become the biggest place to export terrorism to India. In such a situation when it has engulfed several nations and states, police of a state alone can not investigate these incidents properly in anyway. We will have to train our investigation police as multilingual and give training to use state-of-the-art investigating equipments. It is a shortcoming that we have only one investigating agency at central level in our country which is known as CBI.

Whenever any minor incident occurs as somebody is killed by a beast and some other person has plotted it, a demand is raised to get the incident investigated by CBI, otherwise its investigation will not be done impartially. Our CBI has become overburdened. Recently, it was discussed in the Supreme Court whether a High Court has power to give direction to CBI to investigate into a crime of a State. The Supreme Court has given direction that every High Court has power to give direction to CBI for investigation into a matter. When power is shifted in the States, there are many such incidents which are politically motivated and these incidents are investigated by CBI. This brings bad reputation to CBI. People have common perception that the Central Government uses or misuses CBI politically keeping in view its vested interests. In such a situation an investigating agency could have not made investigation into such grave criminal offences.

Sir, there are two intelligence agencies in our country- one is IB and second is known as RAW. RAW was set up as an agency empowered to gather intelligence information regarding anti-India activities going on in any foreign country and provide necessary information to the police force. At that time, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was in power at the Centre and Kaw Saheb was a senior and competent officer of the then police administration who was appointed as Director of the RAW. However, gradually the reputation of the RAW declined. One feels quite demoralized to read news items in newspapers that some officer of RAW went to foreign country to get intelligence input for India, however, betraying India, he switched his loyalty, adopted the citizenship of that country and became the agent of that country. The reputation of the RAW has

badly maligned after publication of such news in the newspapers. I would not like to make any comment regarding IB, however, it is very unfortunate situation that such foreign sponsored serious incidents take place and the major intelligence agencies of our country which are supposed to extend their cooperation to the country with firmness and efficiency, fail to do so. Often, action is taken against leaders, the Minister of Home Affairs is removed, however, no action is taken against the officers who are responsible for such administrative lapse. I feel that this also exposes the weakness for the Government. So, the Government should fix accountability of such responsible officers.

Sir, it is repeatedly mentioned that ISI is an independent agency in Pakistan. It is not under any one's control. We can roughly say that Pakistan is not a democratic country in that sense. India is a democratic country in the real sense, because none of the institutions are independent here in that way. Every institutions is answerable to one another. This is the speciality of our system. If we are accountable to all and so is the position in the case of Minister of Home Affairs and the Chief Minister of a state and we can seek any explanation from them. I would like to assert that fencing along the Pakistan border from Gujarat to Kashmir and at most of the places along the Bangladesh border has shown positive results for the country in the form of substantial reduction in the import of terrorism and smuggling activities from across the border. Why our agencies failed to foresee that our open borders be it through Nepal or the sea route could well be an infiltration route for the terrorists and smugglers. We should exercise close surveillance there. The Government of India must hold an enquiry as to who is responsible for this failure and responsibility for this should be fixed.

Sir, I would like to raise second point that as far as enactment of this legislation is concerned, it is a fact that when ever an Act like this is enacted in our country, a voice in favour of human rights has been raised, history of this country is witness to it that we are a vibrant nation and whenever such stringent Acts were enacted in the modern history of our country, their misuse had to meet strong opposition. All know that our country witnessed

[Shri Mohan Singh]

misuses of various Acts like the Rowlett Act, The D.I.R., the MISA and the Preventive Detention Act and possibility of their misuse can not be ruled out. That is why such Acts are always opposed in our country which supports human rights.

Sir, great men like Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviyaji, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Pundit Motilal Nehru had strongly opposed the Rowlett Act when it was introduced in this very House and Gandhiji had sent them a telegraphic message wherein he had termed that Act as 'devilish' and exhorted them to oppose it. After the Second World War the D.R.I. Act was enacted and the British Government, as all are aware, used it against the freedom fighters and having learnt from that experience our constitution makers had avoided the Preventive Detention Law while framing the Constitution but soon after our independence the movement of Telangana was in its full swing and the country witnessed highly violent incidents. Therefore, the Constitution of India was amended for the first time to incorporate the law of preventive detention. While opposing this amendment Gopalan Sahib had filed a petition of Habeas-Corpus in the Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court in its verdict on that petition declared that law as null and void. The law of preventive detention again came into force as a result of the subsequent amendment.

Sir, in order to check smuggling, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had brought in the MISA and after that POSA but these Acts were fully utilized against political workers by her Government during the period of emergency. I can say on the basis of my experience that when the TADA was enacted two hon'ble Members of this House – Shri Kalpnath Rai and Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh remained behind bars for one and a half year and at last the Supreme Court of India had to intervene and give a ruling that no police officer had the power to misuse such an Act against these two Members and after that they were acquitted by the Supreme Court. When we enact such a legislation and if it is misused against a person like Shri Kalpnath Rai or against the Members of Parliament like us and they could be imprisoned for 21 months, the possibilities of its

misuse may become even stronger. But on this pretext we cannot avoid such stringent Acts meant to punish the people who aid and abet terrorist activities in the country. We, therefore welcome the amendment to this Act moved by the Government of India.

Sir, it contains two things that under most of the criminal laws of India a period of 90 days is fixed to file a charge sheet and hold investigations against any individual. We can say from our personal experience that most people do not get bail from the court even after expiry of this period of 90 days. If under any section of the criminal procedure code, there is a provision for imprisonment upto a period of six months, I know a number of such under trials who are not tried even for six months and they remain confined to the jail. Therefore, having a provision is one thing and some safeguards should be laid down to prevent misuse of the provision.

Sir, the earlier when the preventive detention Act was enacted a board under that Act was constituted by the Government of India, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and every State Government to hear the cases of those accused who had been arrested under this Act and the boards were to hold a scrutiny whether the arrest was justified and in accordance with the provisions. It was an arrangement at that time. We have not been seen any such arrangement in the Bill which has just been introduced and therefore, we request the Minister of Home Affairs to put in place a mechanism of safeguards against misuse of such a suppressive law which we are also supporting. I understand that if it is done, the possibilities of its misuse will be lesser.

Given the kind of police machinery we have in our country, laws have been misused and will continue to be misused. An objection was raised that you have fixed a period 180 days for filing a charge sheet against someone but if you go through the Act of National Investigation Agency, which states that if any incident takes place in any area, the accused will first of all be arrested by the local police station and after that an entry will be made in their diary that it is not an ordinary crime but a crime related to terrorism. The police station will refer that case

to the Government of that State. After that reference, the case will be reviewed by the State Government and then the case will be forwarded to the federal investigating Agency or the National Investigating Agency and when the Agency will be convinced, it will take up the case for investigate the case. I understand that the provision of 180 days has been made with an intention that it may take months together, two months, three months and, therefore, the provision of 180 days is quite justified and those who have drafted this legislation deserve appreciation from our side.

With these words, I would like to make some points before the Hon'ble Home Minister as a suggestions enough is enough. In this country, terrorists are arrested and then they some how pressurise and blackmail the Government to get some of their accomplices released. Such incidents have occurred in the country three-four times. A few days after the formation of the V.P. Singh Government, the daughter of the then Home Minister was kidnapped, and some terrorists lodged in various jails of the country for a long time had to be freed in exchange of her release. I do not want to enter into debate about the whole action. In the Kandahar incident terrorist were treated like relative and taken to Kandahar. Subsequently, statements were made that the Home Minister and the then Defence Minister were not aware of all these developments. Provisions should be made like SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act and Dowry Prevention Act. As there is a provision in these two acts that if any investigation officer deliberately releases any person, he himself will be booked under the same sections of the Act. I want to make it very clear that if any criminal is released by any Government after being blackmailed by anybody, the Minister concerned should also be booked under the law. I want to make this point seriously.

It is said that what was done by the Government after the Mumbai attack. I don't want to sink in the quagmire as to what was done after that. I distinctly remember, when the Parliament was attacked, I was watching television and the then Home Minister had said that Pakistan would have to pay for that. How will Pakistan have to pay for it? Army from all bordering areas was deployed on Indo-Pak border and the whole world was watching that India was about

to attack Pakistan. Three days, we come across the statements of the same leaders that India should attack Pakistan. The Army from all over India was deployed on the Western Frontier border for over a period of one year and nobody asked as to why the army was deployed there and as to why it was sent back to its barracks after one year and one month. Thus, billions of rupees were wasted 'Aam ko lakuvi Sagun batave, apne kukran se pitvaven'. You declare mango as something auspicious, budget it wasted by dogs.

Terrorism can never be combated by this kind of laws is this country. It can be tackled with will power but we always lack it. I want to say this thing with a heavy heart. Therefore, Government of India must show its will power of fight terrorism and at the same time it a message should go that all political parties, all political leaders and the entire populace are united to fight terrorism.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Sir, today, National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 are being discussed in the House. The entire country should have shown rock solid solidarity on these two Bills. It should be crystal clear that all people of the country and the entire house are united to fight terrorism. When the discussion on terrorism was going on, on 11th of this month, I had noticed this kind of feeling in the hon'ble leader of opposition. But God knows as to how he has gone to his hidden agenda today. Therefore, I will have to mention about all those things. In such a situation when we have to fight terrorism and wipe it out and people all over India have to take a pledge to fight terrorism in the country, it is very unfortunate to bring a hidden agenda.

I would like to say that fidayeen are outsider terrorists. These outsider terrorists become so powerful and so strong that they manage to flee after sneaking into the country, whereas some of them are killed. They destroy the internal security of the country and the security of the citizens as well. They attack our institutions also. So, I would like to say that these terrorists are outsider fidayeens. There are two types of things here. The country will not stand united unless communal harmony within the country is strengthened. Whether we are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians

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or from any other community, we have to be united. Who is dividing them and who is communalising India. This is the issue to be discussed today. Strengthening of communal harmony is essential to counter terrorism. It is our first duty. It would be difficult to fight terrorism without strengthening communal harmony. Therefore, I am raising this question as to when terrorism made an onslaught in the country first time. Today we are discussing on this important Bill. That communal feeling and communal virus was born when Babari Masjid was demolished. The Hon'ble Leader of Opposition was in charge of Jammu and Kashmir and also Minister of Home Affairs at that time. What happened in Jammu and Kashmir at that time? Where the incidents of terrorist attack took place? Not to speak of attack on legislative Assembly, Raghunath temple and Red Fort, even Parliament could not be protected. The Parliament was also attacked by the terrorists and you are aware that the Red Fort could not be saved. That is why I would like to say that most of the terrorist attacks started from 2001. It will become clear if it is observed thoroughly. Was there no POTA at that time? POTA was there. But despite POTA, all this happened so. We came to know that in many states including Jharkhand POTA was imposed on 80 years old people, POTA was misused on a large scale. Even 80 years old people were not spared and the children aged 9, 10, 11 or 15 years were also put behind the bars under POTA. POTA failed because of this and it was scrapped. POTA was used to target a particular community in this country....(Interruptions) It created a different feeling in the country....(Interruptions) Today is the day to speak on this issue. You have disclosed the agenda. You are targeting then so I want to say....(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to address you. Uday Singhji interrupts again and again, I want to say that the Minister of Home Affairs should inquire today as to what is the relationship between ISI and Sangh Parivar. It should be inquired into as to how incidents like Malegaon take place and who are the people responsible for it? It should also be inquired into?

When we are discussing terrorism in its totality then

how can we leave the incidents of Malegaon and the people involved in it. Shri Hemant Karkare, who was Chief of ATS sacrificed his life and who were the people who had given a call for Maharashtra Bandh against him. Two days later, he was killed and which party had given a call for Maharashtra Bandh two days before? What kind of force was there in the country which had given such a call? Was it Bajrang Dal, RSS, or somebody else, please tell us this.(Interruptions) Whether it was BJP, Vidyarthi Parishad, who was it is also needed to be found out, I think that the debate will remain inconclusive without discussing about such forces. If the Government want a to uproot terrorism completely, then the Government will have to bring such elements under the purview of this Bill too, who destroy the secular fabric, who are fundamentalist and all fundamentalist organizations. Without banning Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, RSS Justice can not be done, we will not be able to fight terrorism in totality....(Interruptions)

When I had said this that day then a few hon'ble members had felt uncomfortable. Nowhere in the country patriotism arose, when the incident took place in Mumbai and ATS Chief Shri Hemant Karkare sacrificed his life, not even a single Chief Minister in the country has shown patriotism, but the Chief Minister of neighbourhood State Gujarat has shown patriotism and he reached there with a bag full of one crore rupees. Firstly, some people rejoiced that Karkare had been killed and they would be saved from being linked to the terrorist act of Malegaon....(Interruptions) It is a shameful act. When he reaches at Karkare's house with a bag, his wife refuse that offer as she is a brave and wife of a devoted officer. She said that she does not need one crore rupee compensation in lieu of patriotism.(Interruptions) She refused to accept the money of rejoicing people. I want to mention this thing today because what had happened in Kargil? ..(Interruptions) Since discussion is going on, on terrorism then it cannot be done while leaving Kargil issue behind. Whether the terrorists are Pakistani, Afghanistani, whether we talk about Pakistan and India....(Interruptions) I am not yielding... (Interruptions) I am not yielding. Mr. Chairman Sir, how permission can be granted....(Interruptions) How can you speak....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEV (Kalahandi) : Sir, the hon'ble Member is saying that celebrations took place over there, I want to say whether death of anyone is celebrated?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Another Bill is needed to be introduced in February by making amendment in it, in which these points will be required be added....*(Interruptions)* This Bill is incomplete....*(Interruptions)* You please sit down....*(Interruptions)* I will speak on the Bill only....*(Interruptions)* I am speaking on terrorism as to how it should be checked....*(Interruptions)* Terrorism is not going to be checked simply by making laws. I want to say that poison which is prevailing in the society is also needed to be checked, to curb terrorism. Terrorism cannot be checked by making laws....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : When your turn will come then you can speak....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Because of this I said that this Bill is incomplete, some points are needed to be added to it....*(Interruptions)* What had happened in Kargil? Just now our friend Mohan Singhji said and he had mentioned the other day as to how terrorists were released in Gandhar and he did not want to repeat it....*(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : It is not Gandhar, it is Kandahar....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You read history, there it is mentioned as Gandhar, it has become Kandahar now, previously it was Gandhar....*(Interruptions)* Read history. Is the BJP not having even knowledge of history? I mentioned the name which is in Indian culture....*(Interruptions)* Do not you have knowledge of Mahabharat? Have you not heard the name of Gandhari in Mahabharat?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't discuss among yourselves. Please address the Chair. If you speak on the issue then it will be better....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the terrorists in Kargil, whether they were from Afghanistan or Pakistan were mercenaries who intruded there. They freed one terrorist there and other terrorists entered here. Bombing was going on continuously for one and a half months at Kargil. Not even a single such example one can find in the world history that bombardment had been going on in a part of the country and the then Government was not taking any action. What was the result of that bombardment? Now, it should be explained whether bombardment had taken place even in a single terrorist camp outside the country? They kept on bombarding at Kargil continuously for one and a half months. Many soldiers were killed in that attack. The then Prime Minister said emphatically....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not do the prompting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : When Kargil issue came up, they had said that it is a fight to finish. This resulted in letting in terrorists in our side and releasing them in foreign country. Was that the fight to finish. What was the result of the fight to finish. It resulted in letting the terrorist free in foreign country and allowing them infiltrate in Kargil. This was the fight to finish....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please confine yourself to the Bill. It would be better if you speak on the Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : All right, Shri Laluji has said that the infiltrators have left. I leave aside his views.*(Interruptions)* I mean to say that....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the majority becomes terrorists, as I had said, then no army of the country or of the world could stop terrorism. This is my firm view. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had said this on this very house in 1962-63. He had said this clearly in Hyderabad also. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was a philosopher and thinker. He had said it clearly....*(Interruptions)* He used to speak on secularism which is part of our constitution. Our Constitution is secular. If the majority population of our country becomes terrorists,

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

then no army in this country can control it, therefore there is a need to think about the majority....(*Interruptions*) They are spreading hatred among the majority population, the majority of this country is not terrorists....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted to your party is over. You please come to the subject and conclude your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am yet to speak....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If he takes all the time allotted to the party, then how would you get the time to speak?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will discuss about the Bill also. In the beginning, they have mentioned about terrorism. So I had to speak about the ways to curb terrorism. Terrorism would never end by simply enacting laws. It would not end by simply passing a Bill. Determination and will power are needed for it. That is why I want to tell all then.

. You have stated that you are against the ISI, Fidayeen, Mujahedins and all other terrorists living in Pakistan or India. Our party, Rashtriya Janata Dal is not against the people of Pakistan. We are with the people of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan and India are one. But the terrorist activities are being carried out from there and as our hon. Member had rightly mentioned Pakistan has many faces. There are Fidayeens in One Pakistan, terrorists are given training in another Pakistan. Then occupied Kashmir is a different Pakistan. The ISI and the Mujahedins have got their own Pakistan. It is all astonishing. There are certain democratic people too in Pakistan. Pakistan also belong to the President Shri Zardari. We have no dispute with the people who believe in democracy in Pakistan....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say only this much about the Bill that it is an incomplete legislation. I want to submit that the period of custody has been increased to 180 days from 90 days. I want to say that if you want

to bring any amendment in this regard, please bring it.

It is right that the Hon. Minister has said it very clearly that the State Government too would be involved in the investigation and punishment would not be awarded till the charge is proved. But there was no need to extend this period further. When we have resolved to fight terrorism, then why the evidences can not be collected within the stipulated time? A time of one year has been provided for this, there is a need to make some amendment in this regard. The person concerned would get bail after 180 days. If someone takes lift in a vehicle, or takes water offered by someone or his mobile number is taped by any one. Anyone can get the mobile number of anybody in the world. Will he be considered as involved in it? These shortcoming should be looked into because the human rights of the people should not be violated and suitable safeguards should be provided in the Bill. The culprits should be punished by all means and there should be no laxity in this regard. If the charge is proved *prima facie*, action should be taken against the culprit and stringent punishment should be awarded. We cannot make any compromise with terrorism but we should treat all the citizens of our country as equals without making any discrimination and we should fight terrorism unitedly. We support this bill because it has been introduced to curb terrorism and punish terrorists and as I had mentioned in the beginning terrorism and communalism are two sides of the same coin. Therefore, we will have to take care of both of them.

With these words I conclude my speech by supporting this Bill.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Sir, the entire country is anguished over the terrorist attack on Mumbai and resentment among people has increased to such extent that the Government has also started feeling the heat. Therefore, the Home Minister, on behalf of the Government, has introduced two Bills namely National Investigation Agency Bill and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill in the House. Today, discussion is being held on both these Bills.

Sir, I would like to cite some examples of resentment of the common man. I and some other Members of Parliament have received some letters at our Mumbai and Delhi addresses. A majority of these letters have been written by women. I have brought some letters to the House, which have been received by post. While going through these letters, we can feel that the common man is in anger....*(Interruptions)* If they have objection about women, then the discussion would be meaningless. I am going to place these letters before the House.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :
What your Sena has done?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am going to tell you about that also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a letter and I read the last sentence of the letter. *[English]* "Attack Pakistan before they will again attack" *[Translation]* Attack Pakistan before they will again attack. Below this line it is written. *[English]* From India's daughter, Rupali Kadam. *[Translation]* It is a matter of courage that she has given her mobile number. It is not an anonymous letter. Another letter is written in Marathi. It has also been written by a woman. I read it in Marathi and later on I will tell you in Hindi. This letter is of two lines only. It is written in Marathi....*(Interruptions)* It reads that there are different languages, religions, castes and sects in our country, the people of the country want peace and violence-free atmosphere. In the backdrop of terrorist attack, we should attack Pakistan. She has expressed her feeling in the letter. Her name is Supriya Veera Katkar and she has given her address as Thane and she is a resident of Wagle state. She has also given her telephone number. Another person Umesh Patil has also written a letter of two lines. *[English]* "I am supporting our Government to attack Pakistan and my wishes to our soldiers. Jai Hind." *[Translation]* All these letters are of the same nature. A woman named Suchita Patil has also written a letter. Now, I read the names of those who have written letters. It is a letter written by a woman Vira. It is a letter written by a woman Ashwini Vira. There is so much resentment among the people of the country. Therefore, when we have discussed the terrorist attack, the entire

country has got united. In the same way this House has also got united. Discussion was held in the House and we passed a resolution unanimously. We condemned terrorist attack and Pakistan and paid tributes to those who sacrificed their lives.

When hon. Advaniji initiated this discussion today, he expressed his view keeping in view the statement made by him that day. Hon. Member Shri D.P. Yadav was repeatedly saying that there is no need for a law to combat terrorism. Law can not do anything and we can not fight them off with the help of law.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : We need resolve.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : We do need resolve but the question is whether the steps taken by the Government by introducing these Bills is a wrong step? Do you think that it is a wrong step? He's the Government committed a mistake? Do you like to oppose this step of the Government?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Even when this law comes into force, fidayeen can come. A dying man leaves nothing to change. A dying man can do anything. We should have resolve.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Resolve? About What?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You address the Chair. Do not resort to cross talking.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The Government should have resolve. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the Government. During the discussion on terrorist attack in Mumbai, the hon. Home Minister said that the Government would enact two new laws and the Bills in this regard would be introduced and passing during this session itself.

When the hon. Minister introduced the Bill in the House today morning, he demanded that it be passed itself. It reveals its importance. If there is no importance of law then the discussion is meaningless. Whatever you call it, I say it is a mini POTA. Today, after ten years, at least the

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

Government has realized that there is a need for stringent law of fight terrorism. God forbid, such a eventuality should not arise when the Government are compelled to say that there is need for a law more stringent than POTA....*(Interruptions)* You will come to know as to what the Shiv Sena has done. It is not the issue of today. Go to the blood banks of all the hospitals of Mumbai and ask who have donated the blood....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Go to the hospitals of Mumbai and see who have donated blood for the injured.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Geete.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a need for enacting a stringent law, and at the same time the Government should resolve to enforce it effectively. It is surprising that the attack on Parliament took place and the entire episode was investigated and the Supreme Court in its verdict awarded capital punishment to the guilty. The treasury benches say that why Azhar Masood, a terrorist, was released in Kandahar. By talking about Azhar Masood, do you want to support those terrorists who carried out attack on the Parliament in which our watch and ward security personnel were killed? Do you want to support the incident of Parliament attack? If that was the mistake of the then Government, then you can now rectify that mistake. If the Government had committed mistake at that time, then do you want to cover up your mistake under the pretext of that mistake? I have an apprehension that Afzal's file has been lying with the cabinet since a long time. Why is he being protected? You are referring to the law but why the file is being lying pending with the cabinet to protect the person who has been punished by the law? Do the Government have the answer to it?

Sir, this is a terrorist attack. On that day also, we had said that of the first time the Government had admitted that this was an attack not only on Mumbai but on the

nation itself. We have thanked the Government for the same. We had also demanded that we should treat it as a war because this was not only a terrorist attack but also a war being waged by Pakistan against us.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, here I would like to mention one thing because the terrorist who is alive in the jail has become a subject of discussion outside this House. No lawyer is coming forward to plead his case. Most of the people are saying that it should not happen, he should be provided with a lawyer and somebody must come forward to plead the case. No lawyer of the country is ready to plead his case. This is not an issue of just pleading the case. The ten terrorists who entered Mumbai, had come from Pakistan, by a boat, even if this boat was stolen from Gujarat, they came by a boat named Kuber brought with them hand grenades, AK-47 rifles, arms and ammunition. They attacked our country after reaching here from Pakistan. He is not only a terrorist, but the terrorist who is in our custody is also a war prisoner. So, he should be treated like a war prisoner. They had waged war against our country. They had come with stenguns, AK-47, hand grenades.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now your party's time is over.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I want to say one thing more. There is a news on television. Our Minister Shri Antulayji is sitting in the House, his statement is being telecast a television which surprised us because he is a Minister of the Government. According to the statements made by the Hon. Home Minister, Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of External Affairs in the House, ATS Chief Hemant Karkare, Ashok Kamte, Vijay Saleskar, Unnikrishnan and 35 police and security personnel were killed in that terrorist attack. This statement was made by the Government in the House and it had been laid also in the House. Today it is being telecast on the television that Antulayji, who is a Minister, has been making allegation expressing suspicious whether Hemant Karkare was shot dead by the terrorist or somebody else, this needs to be investigated. Why is he talking like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : As you have specified the name of the Minister, you should listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : Why is he so much agitated, I do not understand this and this is something to be understood.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly use proper language.

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY : The world knows that indiscriminate firing was taking place at the Taj, Nariman House and Oberai. I hail from Mumbai. All this happened near my residence. Shri Geeteji knows this. I did not say that they were not killed by terrorists, why is he putting such words in my mouth, I do not understand.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You have made a statement on television and it was telecast live. You get that cassette from Doordarshan. You cannot mislead the House. You got it from Doordarshan....
(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : He is speaking live.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him speak.

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY : The whole world knows that Antulay is not a coward person. He adheres to whatever he speaks and never backs out on this words. This is the principal of my life. The whole India and the people of Maharashtra in particular, know this very well. I will just tell you what I said. I have said that and, I stick to my words even now.

It felt good. For this I thank Shri Geeteji because he gave me an opportunity to speak. Otherwise, I would not have got any opportunity.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Please repeat what you have said on the T.V....(Interruptions)

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY : I am on my legs and I am thankful to you for this. I said, that had this brave man gone to Taj, Oberai or Nariman House, the situation would have been different. I am honest, I am a God fearing person, and I suppose he would have been asked to go towards Cama Hospital. I am not saying that nothing would

have happened in Cama Hospital. How many people have heard the name of Cama Hospital in connection with the terrorist attack? One or two incidents might have taken place in Cama. But how many people have been killed in Taj etc.? Ten boys came and fired indiscriminately for three days holding this country Lostage. This is something we should be ashamed of....(Interruptions) All his colleagues accompanied him in one vehicle, which goes against the protocol. They might have been asked to do so but I do not know who directed them to do not do I assert myself in this regard. I don't know why they are apprehensive....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, it is telecast live on the T.V....(Interruptions) He shall have to apologize in the House....(Interruptions) He is making a false statement in the House....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please down, we have to take up debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will say if he has to.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, it is still being telecast live on the Television.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. This will not do.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY : I have simply reiterated what I have stated earlier and I don't make false statements.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Athawaleji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak from your seat whatever you have to say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY : I can say that under oath. I have simply asked who sent him in a separate direction in a distinct way which led to the sad killing of that brave officer upon whom we always take pride and will continue to have a sense of pride....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a subject of investigation.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY : Geeteji was not present before me. My friend was not there. I demanded a probe into the matter. What is wrong in that? I still hold on my demand that investigation should be instituted....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Satpathyji, this is your turn now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, he is interrupting. I am going to conclude. I never expected Shri Antulayji to misguide the House. His statement is still being relayed live on Television....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't discuss it here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The statement is still being telecast live. Antulayji is speaking. Caption is not figuring. Antulayji is speaking and that is being shown on TV right now....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Geeteji, we have to discuss it together.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise this point because intense efforts are being made in the House from day one to keep communal harmony intact across the country and prevent every effort aimed at destabilising harmony....*(Interruptions)* This is the reasons why we have risen in support of this issue with unanimity of voice and heart, and have condemned the move and are here to extend our support to this legislation. At this point of time the issue of dismantling the fabric of communal harmony being pronounced by Antulavji is very shameful.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is in the Government and the Government is not supposed to make such statements. What is stated in the House is deemed to be correct. That's why in this connection....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. You hold a dignified position. Please don't undermine your position by interrupting.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should give a clarification on it. He has made a statement in the House and the statement made by Antulay Sahib is being shown on the Television and he is backing out of his words. In this way he is misleading this House again.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the National Democratic Alliance, Advaniji has assured the House that we will extend our support for passing this legislation. We will continue to be with the Government and will rise in support of the steps to be taken by the Government to tackle terrorism....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdasji, please take you seat. Nothing will go on record. The statement of only that Member will go on record who has been allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting? Ramdasji, you have been asked to take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN : You need not support

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the Hon'ble Members not to discuss among themselves. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not supposed to discuss things among yourselves.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is there any tradition of whispering? You may address the Chair. You will be given an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the behaviour of the Members of this House while discussing such an important Bill is definitely sad and the people of this country are frustrated with the unruly character that we portray here in this House. I regret that this is the image that we are sending out to the people. But everybody is an elected Member here and I have the highest regards for all of them.

Sir, while discussing the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008, the Central Government has to take note of the dire situation that is prevailing in this country. I welcome both these Bills. Like the hon. Leader of the Opposition Shri Advani said earlier today, across the board, I think, everybody in this House welcomes both these Bills.

But while welcoming these Bills, we also have many misapprehensions and apprehensions. There is a longstanding issue of State autonomy and at a very cursory glance, if we see the National Investigation Agency Bill, in our desperate effort to ape the United States of America, we are probably forgetting that we all belong to a nation called India, that is, Bharat and that we have certain shortcomings that we should take into account while we deal with the legalities in this nation.

Sir, in Chapter-III, Clause 6, paragraph 5 of the Bill says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section, if the Central Government is of the opinion that a scheduled offence has been committed which is required to be investigated under this Act, it may, *suo motu*, direct the agency to investigate the said offence."

Later on, in Clause 7(A), it is said:

"While investigating any offence under this Act, the agency, having regard to the gravity of the offence and

other relevant factors may, if it is expedient to do so, request the State Government to associate itself with the investigation."

Sir, the Home Minister had particularly mentioned about this provision earlier, but he did not point out that the words '*suo motu*' were used here and nor did he point out that if the agency or the Central Government find it expedient to do so. That means, it is at the sweet will of the agency or whoever may be in power at the Centre at a particular time to decide whether to involve any or all State Governments in investigations which come under this Schedule.

Sir, we, at the outset, have to accept that terrorism is not something special to India and it is also not limited to any geographical boundaries within India or outside India. Terror, today, is something that is enveloping the whole globe and all of us should have awakened to these realities long before. But like it is said on the Highways of India, 'it is better late than never', so we welcome these two Bills. Although they are late, they are to be supported.

As of now, in my knowledge, there are about three intelligence agencies in this country. There is the Intelligence Bureau, there is the Research and Analysis Wing and there is also a Military Intelligence Wing. Apart from these, we have the State Governments having their own State intelligence bureaus. Unfortunately, with, at least, four different known layers — I do not know if the Government has any other unknown layer — of intelligence gathering there is absolutely no advance information of any incident that is happening in this country today, whether it be a blast in a train where common poor people are killed or whether these are murders that took place in a big luxurious 5-Star hotels. We never had any previous information. But after the incident, always the intelligence agencies and some wings of the Government come up and say that prior information was available. But they were not properly utilised.

In Oriya, there is a saying [Translation] Maar Maar, Bhandriya ko maar. [English] That means, when you have to hit somebody, hit your barber because the barber is a poor fellow, he is cutting your hair, he does not know Adam

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

or Eve. So, if you are angry, hit him. Similarly, here the Bhandariya became the former Home Minister, Mr. Shivraj Patil. I may not be a great admirer of Mr. Patil, but I definitely feel sorrow for this Patil and the other Mr. R.R. Patil of Maharashtra. Are they really to blame for these incidents? Are we supposed to take their scalp just because we could not act? Is it time we woke up and faced the reality that the system that the bureaucratic set up in this country is completely non-functional, it does not perform its duties?

Can a Home Minister, sitting in Delhi, possibly find out every single intelligence input that comes into the knowledge of the officers? He cannot. But here we go, we took his scalp. The Party bosses thought it fit and the people also came up with placards which said 'enough is enough.' Is it not time that we also educate our people that there is no enough of terrorism. Terrorism has no end. It is not limited to any religion. It is not limited to any country. It is a global phenomenon and while I am saying this, I must take note of the fact that the dead terrorists were not allowed to be buried in any of the Muslim burial grounds of Mumbai because the community there detested those people and oppose their burials as a mark of hatred towards the terrorists. So, we have to commend that in the burial grounds they did not want their near and dear ones to be sharing the grounds with these criminals, with these low down people.

So, it is not a question of any religion. It is not Hindus who are terrorists and it is not Muslims who are terrorists. Terrorists are a religion by themselves.

But, here we have all these multifarious police and intelligence wings which do not share or coordinate information. Therefore we are always at a loss as to what we are supposed to do. When I see these two Acts, I find these are basically the Acts that are seeking *post mortem* reports. Once a person is dead, once a terrorist activity is completed, over and done with, when something like the NSG takes more than nine hours to reach Bombay from Delhi, all these failures get covered up with your special court and your special laws. I would expect the Minister

shahib to please pay attention; with all these things, we are only seeking a *post mortem* report. For how long, shall we have this *post mortem* being done to us?

Since Lal Bahadur Shastri set the trend when the train accident occurred and he resigned, that hatred towards politicians and taking the scalp of politicians has commenced. But we are at no point of time taking into account the failure of the bureaucrats.

It is time that we also make the people of this country aware that they have a certain role to play. It is not enough for people to go out to the streets and say that let there be war against Pakistan. Those are people who need to be made conscious that in the 21st century world, in a war by a country like India against any other country, leave alone Pakistan which is a very determined State, even a small country like Maldives or Sri Lanka, there cannot be a conclusive victory for India. Therefore, it is pointless to say that we should go to war. What we should be thinking about is what we are doing to stop recurrence of such incidents. Are we coordinating the intelligence network? Are we coordinating the Armed Forces? Are we able to coordinate the special police forces? Lastly, are we able to make the people conscious?

Here, it may be very proper to mention that a small State like Israel which is cordoned on one side, on the northern side, by the Mediterranean but on all the other three sides by extremely inimical States has managed not only to survive but to thwart most terror activities and has beaten its enemies black and blue. That has been possible because the Government is responsive. It is not responsive just by passing laws and Bills in Parliament and making a mockery of themselves by shouting at each other, not understanding the seriousness of the issue, but by coordinating Government action, police and military action with the common citizens. It is therefore my humble prayer and request to the Government that while they pass this Bill, they have to take into account that there will be mischievous people in power now or later. And to destroy the autonomy of the State, by having such an agency which can operate on its own, and which may, if it so thinks expedient, request the State Government to participate in

the investigation, we are endangering the very fibre of our democratic setup. When we have to protect democracy, we also have to think that democracy means nothing if the people of this country are endangered. So, protecting the people being our first concern, we have to think that with the existing Armed Forces, with the existing intelligence what we already have at our resources, how best we can make sure that instead of a *post mortem* Bill we bring this nation to a level of utter preparedness where we can face terrorism and all kinds of terror activities at the very outset and not wait till the time comes when we have to decide whether this lone terrorist will be hung in a public square in Bombay or whether we will have special courts. It is time that all of us join hands. We all support the Government in this activity. But I hope the Home Minister and the Government will wake up to realities, take care of the autonomy of the States and also protect the lives and properties of the citizens of India.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing two most important Bills, as the hon. Home Minister has said while moving these Bills for a discussion.

Let me at the outset very clearly say that the country is one and all together in the fight against terrorism. Secondly, we have not rejected the idea of having a Central Investigating Agency. We have not rejected it. Thirdly, we have not disapproved the idea of strengthening the legal superstructure to take care of terrorism and to bring to book the terrorists, more so the abettors because the terrorists form a suicide squad.

While saying so, I must say that the laws, however stringent they are, they are not in any way deterrent to terrorism only. However stringent the laws may be, they are not deterrent. Law must not be draconian. I am choosing my words carefully. The laws must not be draconian. The laws must be consistent with the democratic fundamentals of the country. The two important ingredients in our uncompromising battle against terrorism are (a) democracy and (b) people. Without democracy, without the support of the people, and without the unity of the nation, however laudable might be the speech of our Ministers, we cannot face terrorism.

Sir, the point is this. Why has the House of Lords refused to extend the retention period beyond 28 days? Is it that the House of Lords soft on terrorism? Why has America refused to extend the period of detention? Are we to believe that America does not want to fight terrorism? The basic point is that democracy must not be impaired upon while fighting terrorism. Let me give two examples. You have 180 days' retention without charge-sheet. Is it conducive to democratic principles? Is it in lines with the ethos of democracy that India stands for?

Secondly, the onus is with the accused to prove his innocence. The charge has to be established by the prosecution. Here, it is just a reverse. Innocence has to be proved by the accused. Yes, it is there in some cases. Let me read. Is it, Sir, in tune with the high ideals of democracy and secularism that India stands for?

Sir, the point is this. We think that these two provisions of the Act are anti-democratic and unheard of. This is absolutely unacceptable to us. BJP has demanded POTA. Shri Chidambaram was listening to him carefully. He was demanding POTA. Shri Chidambaram has gone half the way. It is half the way POTA. BJP should be complimented for dragging the Government to its own line of action and thinking. BJP has dragged them really. If there has been no 'U' turn, at least BJP has been able to drag the Congress Party to near to their position. It is half the way POTA. It has been done to silence BJP because election is near. You do not like to face the people with the canard that you are soft on terrorism as if by having a stringent law you can convince the people of your intention of fighting terrorism. There is no other way. It is the solitary, single superlative action that the Government has taken.

Mr. Kapil Sibal has been very candid. He had said: "We could have gone more further; harder could have been done. We have not gone to that extent." Thank you, Mr. Kapil Sibalji. What more you could have done? You could have said 'punishment without trial, without evidence.' At least, that hard step would have taken. You have not taken that step. Thank you for that. Thank you for being a little more democratic than they are.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

Sir, the point is, making the State a police State is too dangerous. Too much of power to people is prone to abuse seriously. It is Mr. Chidambaram, who will apply the law; it is not Mr. Kapil Sibal, who will have the will in his hand. In the Administration down below, there is a bias. There is a bias in the country. While having the bias, it is not unlikely that the superlative power that you are giving to them is prone to misuse. If one single soul is victim of unreasonable behaviour of the State, that constitutes the shame for the country.

Sir, too much of power to the police means autocracy and not democracy. Pakistan is an autocratic State. It is a totalitarian State; it is a police State; it is a military State. Has Pakistan been able to tackle terrorism in their own country? Let us not go too far. Look at Pakistan. Look at Bangladesh. Military is repeatedly taking over. Has the Military Rule been able to take care of the *Jehadis*, who are firing guns on their own people? Therefore, it is experience. Let us not impair upon democracy while fighting terrorism. That is the lesson of history and that lesson cannot be forgotten by going half the way in the direction, the BJP wants him to drag.

I am amazed. Sir, I am amazed on the argument of Mr. Advani. What was he speaking of? He was speaking of evidence before a policeman to be taken into consideration. I was really trying to find out whether I was listening to an Indian or somebody else. Confession in front of a policeman to be taken as an evidence in a criminal case! I am unperplexed. Is it the voice of the Prime Minister in waiting? Is it the voice of the Leader of the Opposition of the House of People in India? Even Mr. Advani has said that the messages that can be intercepted should be taken as a basis of evidence. How far would you like to go? Which direction would you like to take the country to? Not only democracy will be safe in their hands, the future of the country will be unsafe in their hands if the leader says that the confession before a policeman is to be taken for granted. Even in Hitler's Germany, if it was like that, I do not know. I do not know whether under fascism, it was

like that. I do not call anybody Hitlerite. But I am only saying that it is too dangerous. It is too dangerous to be speaking like this most shamefully in the House openly in defence of draconian measures. It is a shame.

Sir, only law is not sufficient. Our preparedness is important. Our preparedness means unity of the people, galvanising the will of the people. Our preparedness means preparedness of the State.

Our preparedness means coordination between different agencies of Intelligence. Our preparedness means that the security forces will act on the information that the Intelligence will supply. Our preparedness means a better functioning of the Home Ministry that we have been seeing. I compliment Shri P. Chidambaram that he has agreed to go to Orissa before 25th of December, on the day of Christmas when a strike has been called by the chauvinistic forces. This is the India that we are living in. Terrorism does not lie only in the attack on the common people. Terrorism lies in the attack of chauvinism. Terrorism lies in the attack of communalism. Terrorism lies in the attack of the divisive forces. Terrorism has a multi-dimensional face in our country. It is to be fought.

Therefore, the Home Ministry has to be a little more active than what it had been. There has to be a probe. We must know. Is it true that three messages were intercepted? Is it true that the Chief of the Naval Defence had said that it is a systemic failure? Is it true that Mr. Antony had said that our sea border is unsafe? Is it true? If it is true, who is to be blamed? You can hang the terrorists. You can put a person in detention for six months. But, whose lapse is responsible for the dastardly crime that had taken place in Mumbai? Whose lapse or whose short-sightedness is responsible? We must find it out. It is not enough to know that the Government is after a very stringent Act. The Government must come clean. We must know what is there. If it is not, I will feel that this is a mock trial in the House. The sincerity of the Government will be proven if the Government comes clean on the question that it was unprepared, on the question that not enough was done, on the question that Intelligence reports were not acted upon.

It is not only law, but if terrorism is multinational, the counter-terrorist strategy has also to be multinational. We cannot feel safe if only this Bill is passed. Is it all safe if 180 days' custody is granted? Is it all safe if a Central Investigative Agency comes up? No, it is not. What are the other steps? Have you taken them?

Therefore, with a heavy heart, while associating myself with the move of the Government to have hard laws, I must frankly submit that we oppose 180 days' detention without charge sheet, we oppose that the accused has to prove his innocence. Finally, I believe that it is only the people, the unity of the people, it is the political sense of the people that can be there. After all, it is Mother India which can protect India, not some laws that the Government is bringing.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : Thank you, Sir. On behalf of DMK Party, I support the consideration and passing of the two Bills, namely the National Investigative Agency Bill and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, being brought by the UPA Government. About the incident that happened in Mumbai, the entire country was very much worried and the entire people of India were agitated and they were angry. They were exclusively angry towards the politicians. The public think that the entire responsibility goes to the politicians and they have given statements on television that damaged the politicians. They scolded the politicians. They gathered against the politicians.

Sir, it is the need of the hour to bring this law to prevent our country from the attack of terrorists. I appreciate the background when these two Bills have been brought forward by the hon. Minister to fight against the terrorists and to effectively deal with such menace.

Sir, this is the first Bill to constitute a national-level investigation agency for the offences related to terrorism. We are all aware that CBI cannot take over the investigation *suo motu* in relation to a law and order situation but with the consent of the State Government. Clause 6(5) of the Bill provides for *suo motu* take over of investigation of the offences enumerated in the

Schedule. This would, of course, avoid all complications in taking over investigation, even without the consent of the State Government.

Sir, I respectfully submit that we have certain reservations in taking over investigation in respect of overall offences covered under the Unlawful Activities Act. We have no objection to the Central agency taking over any offence relating to actual terrorist activities committed. The wording of clause 9 is vague. It is not clear. It says: "The State Government shall extend all assistance and cooperation to the Agency for investigation of the scheduled offences." The words 'assistance and cooperation' seem to be vague. It should be interpreted properly and it should alleviate the practical difficulties currently faced by the Central agencies like CBI. There should not be any clash, altercation or deadlock between the Central agency and the State Government agencies since it involves swift action. Practically, as an advocate, I come to know that in many cases, the CBI does not get assistance of the State Governments for several reasons. So, delay in cooperation should not be there. In this, it should be very clear.

The minimum punishment provided in section 18 of the principal Act of Unlawful Activities is five years for the person who conspires or attempts to commit, or advocates, abets, advises or incites or knowingly facilitates the commission of a terrorist act. The punishment now given is five years. It should be raised to a minimum of ten years because it is a very serious offence. Not only in Section 18, but also in Section 18B, it should be enhanced to ten years.

Today the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani, said that this is old wine in a new bottle. I am sorry and I disagree with him. I say that this is fresh wine which is added to the old bottle because this is a new law. You cannot compare it with POTA. Sir, you know very well that POTA was misused in many corners of this country, particularly in Tamil Nadu. It was misused by the then State Government of Tamil Nadu for their political ends. Even a confession given by an accused to the police officer under duress was taken as admissible evidence, with which

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

many innocent persons, especially people belonging to minority community were targeted. After the UPA Government came to power, it repealed the POTA. But seeing the serious terrorist attacks being made by extremist and terrorist elements from the neighbouring country, the Government has come forward to bring a Bill to deal with such a menace effectively. At the same time, they have taken care to see that the views of human rights' activists and jurists are also taken into account so that it is a balanced one.

I support the Government on this Bill as we are sure that such misuses will not happen through this Bill. On behalf of the DMK party, I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today, National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 25,008 are being discussed in the House. I and my party have certain reservations thereon.

This is because we have already a number of agencies like IB, CBI RAW and Military Intelligence etc. States also have certain task forces like Anti-terrorist squad there are a lot of agencies. This Bill has been brought in the backdrop of the tragic incident which has taken place in Mumbai recently. People of the entire country spoke in one voice to bring a stringent law in this regard. Consequently, the Government has introduced the present Bill.

The Government has already sought the resignation of the Home Minister as well as the Chief Minister of the State but I would like to ask what about those agencies that have given different versions on it? Some agencies says that it had given information in advance. Some other says it did not get any information. Has any action been taken against any agency or responsibility fixed against any officer?

Besides, as Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has said that he is deadly against terrorism. I associate myself with him

since we have faced as much plight of terrorism in Punjab, as, I think, no other state has faced. So we are against terrorism. But the purpose of this is not that immense powers should be given to an agency or to the police as we saw in Punjab for nine years where a number of innocent people were killed and a still large number of them were sent to jail by the police. We have seen and faced all this. I would like to request the Hon'ble Home Minister not to give enough powers to any agency otherwise that power would be used against innocent people as has also been stated by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. It shouldn't be done. Therefore, my party is against this Bill.

Secondly, I would like to ask the Government whether there is any coordination among the agencies that are being raised? We have seen the level of co-ordination between the state and the centre in case of the Mumbai incident. Firstly, we should look into the level of co-ordination between the state and the centre and also between the central and state forces. There is a need to ensure co-ordination among them. Further, it will be a futile exercise to introduce Bills after Bills and Acts after Acts without ensuring co-ordination. I have some apprehensions. As has also been noticed during the discussion today, it is said that the entire House is against it but do the speeches that we have listened suggest that this agency will be able to deliver the goods as per the expectations of our country. Will the leadership not use this against each other? We have all witnessed it today. So, I and my party are against it. If this agency had to be set up, you should have convened a meeting of all the Chief Ministers of States and evolve a consensus among them because states will be affected by it. But that was not done. Except the BJP and the Congress, I think, everybody is against its formation irrespective of the fact whether he belongs to an ally of UPA to NDA. Regional parties favour federal system. This federal system should exist in the real sense of the term and states should be given powers. No interference should be done in the working of the states. It is laid down in the resolution of Anandpur Saheb....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't disturbed, you may continue to speak.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : We stick to that because it is clearly stated in the resolution....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't speak without the permission of the Chair.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : The resolution says that there are four subjects and except those four subjects, the rest should be given to the states. Anandpur Sahab Resolution clearly states that. I say that our resolution can also be misused. There should have been a consensus on it....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record without my permission.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Consensus should have been arrived at. Why don't they do it? The Center has the powers, but why doesn't the Centre help the states to strengthen the states-forces. Assistance, power and funds should be given to states as well so that they can fight terrorism. The security forces should also be provided new technological edge and resources. If they wanted to do this without calling a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the States, then, at least, they should have referred this issue to the standing committee for threadbare consideration. Therefore, the same could have been referred to the standing committee.

Sibalji was taking about Godhra. When the riots of 1984 broke out, three-four thousand Sikhs were killed in those riots. During the discussion I raised this issue that no one was punished in that regard. If punishment had been awarded at that time incidents like Godhra could not have taken place but nobody viewed it seriously. The incident of Godhra occurred under the nose of the Government and such incidents can happen in future as well because people have the impression that nobody is bothered here and no one gets punishment. Such things would happen....(Interruptions).

Sir, Yadavji was saying that he is my friend, well, that time people had enough resentment and they were asking for launching an attack on Pakistan, but I am not in this favour. Democracy has made its way in Pakistan after great

difficulties. They have their own difficulties. ISI and Defence forces have mounted enough pressure on them. On different occasions, they have given different statements. They are afraid if something goes wrong, Pakistan will again be in the grip of military regime. I don't favour it. As Yadavji was saying and I support his views that interaction has started on a slow pace between the people of Pakistan and India. If war takes place, the dialogue process, which has been on during the last ten-twelve years between the two countries, will come to a halt. Problems should be solved on political and diplomatic levels and by mounting international pressure and other pressures. This problem is not going to be solved with an attack or war. We have faced the scourge of terrorism to a great extent and we don't favour it. We say that the menace of terrorism should be wiped out of the whole world. My party supports it, but my view about this legislation is that it should be so framed that innocent people do not go to jail or they are not killed. The hon'ble Home Minister should pay attention to it. We have experienced that a lot.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, like the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I support both the Bills. The first one is the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008, and the second one is the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008. During the course of the debate, most of the hon. Members from the Ruling Party made a point, very ably led by one of the most eminent lawyers of this country, Mr. Kapil Sibal. I am happy that he is here to listen to my replies to what he has said.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : You had requested him to be present.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Generally he does not do that. But after making the speech he always vanishes. So, I am happy that he is present today.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : Sir, I object to that. If you look at the records of this House, I never left this House after I have spoken in this House.

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

This is for your information, Sir, I have seen you walk away many times.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need to accuse each other.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The entire House knows as to who stays and who goes. So, I need not elaborate upon it.

He said, and he was ably supported by Devendraji and others, that everybody should be united in the fight against the scourge of terrorism. What do they mean by that? Do they mean that in order to show our solidarity we will simply go by whatever the Ruling Party says and we will not oppose this Bill? Is this the meaning of unity and integrity? In that case, what is the Opposition here for? If we do not point out the lacunae that are present in the Bill, what are we here for? So, when we say that we support the Bill we also say that if the people of this country bring us to power after some time, we will replace the lacunae contained in this Bill. But, for the time being, we support this Bill.

Hon. Kapil Sibal made a very pertinent point at the fag end of his speech. It was repeated by Devendra Prasadji. They said that terrorism will not end with the passage of these Bills; it requires will power. Very good! Will power! The UPA Government has been in power for the last four and a half years. There have been terrorist attacks on this country twenty five times in that period. I put some simple questions to the Government. How many terrorists have been apprehended by now? How many of them have been prosecuted? How many of them have been tried in the court of law and how many of them have been convicted? If there is will on the part of the Government, in these last four and a half years how many terrorists have been caught?

Now, all of a sudden, the Government says that they have brought in this Bill because they have got the political will. Why has this Bill come all of a sudden just three-four months before election? That is because firstly the election is very near, and secondly because the entire nation is bubbling in impotent anger. I deliberately use these words 'impotent anger'. Their anger is impotent because they find that the Government has failed to protect them; the Government has failed to protect their lives; the Government has failed to provide them safety. This is the basic reason which has hit them. Because election is round the corner, the Government has all of a sudden brought this Bill.

Mr. M.K. Narayanan is the National Security Advisor. How many times has he said that this country needs a special law to counter terrorism? Will they answer that question? They have summoned all the Directors-General of Police several times. The DGs have demanded that there should be a special law to fight terror. It had fallen on the deaf ears of this Government.

Now, they referred to Mr. Veerappa Moily, Chairman of the Administrative Reforms Commission.

18.00 hrs

What has he mentioned? He has said in the Report that the anti-terror laws in this country have become toothless. Because they are toothless, terrorists are finding many loopholes and they are getting away. This is what the Administrative Reforms Commission have recommended. The DG, Police, the National Security Advisor, the Administrative Reforms Tribunal – all of them which belong to this Government - have recommended, not one month or two months before, since years. And they did not listen to it. Now, Shri Kapil Sibal says that they are learning with experience. Even they say and the people say ideologies – you go through his records.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Swain, it is 6 O' clock. If the House agrees, the time for this discussion will be extended by two hours.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : All right, you extend the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Six hours have been allotted for this discussion. Now we are extending it by two hours that means the discussion will continue upto Eight O' clock. Does the House agree to it?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs may be allowed to reply by seven thirty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is alright, but I seek the sense of House for extending the time of discussion for two hours i.e. upto Eight O' clock.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : All rights, you extend the time.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the time of the House should be extended till the discussion on this Bill is completed as this is a very important Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The discussion on this Bill should continue as the House has agreed to extend the time of discussion.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : During the course of his debate, Shri Sibal, along with Shri Devendra Prasad, and Laluji was also sitting there in front of him, many times they repeated. Not only today, they have also been repeating it several times that the NDA Government had let off the terrorists at Kandhahar. Yes, we did it. Several times, I have asked Shri Sibal, that by telling these things do you mean to say that we had committed a mistake and we should not have let them off. We should have retained them in the Indian jails; we should not have allowed them to go in exchange of the people who were hijacked. Then, what is the meaning? The meaning is, if we do not leave them, there are only one alternative – to let 150 or 160 passengers who were hijacked to get them killed. I told them several times. Yes, Mr. Minister do you want some such thing?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Swainji, you continue to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : The point is, I had to go out.... (Interruptions) What I can do behind you, I can do in front of you....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If possible, do come back.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I did not say anything. These hon. Members told. You can go. I will be happy. I am not preventing you. It is not mandatory for you to listen to me.

I am putting this question. If they are so adamant in repeating the same thing again and again that the NDA Government had committed a grave injustice and mistake by just letting off those terrorists at Kandhahar, then, let them say make a simple statement on this floor of the House that we should have allowed these 160 people get killed and we should not have allowed these three terrorists to go off. Will they do it? I have posed this question several times. No answer was given.

They had learnt a very good lesson from their Left friends because in the 'red book' it is written that a lie repeated 10 times, it becomes the truth. They go on just repeating because they were with them for a pretty long time.

So, they just go on repeating the same thing again and again, thinking that it would automatically become the truth.

But any number of times, you raise this question, I will again put the same question to you –you declare on the floor of this House that it would have been better to have all those people killed....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Salim Saheb, please sit down. Whatever has been said without permission should not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : As regards me or many of the persons in my Party, we do not find any third alternative. When Md. Salim becomes the Defence Minister or the Foreign Minister or the Home Minister of this country, he would find out a third alternative. At that time, we would listen to him....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You people should not talk while sitting.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : One of his colleagues, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta asked as to why 180 days. Why did you keep it for 180 days? Are these the canons of democracy? He is a great votary of democracy and a great votary of Nandigram. They are talking about democracy; providing the benefits of democracy, but to whom? Is it to provide values and benefits of democracy to the terrorists, who want to kill the process of democracy?

Shri Kapil Sibal is talking about human rights, but human rights to whom? Is it to the terrorists? He is talking about the human rights to terrorists. Why these things happen in this country? If you want to listen, please listen from me because this is our point of view. The reason why terrorist attacks are taking place in India again and again is this. What crime have we committed?

They say that there are softer laws in the USA and the UK. But why did only once the terrorist attack take place in the US? A country like the USA has totally finished two Muslim countries and there is no second attack! What crime have we committed? What mistake have

*Not recorded.

we committed, to have the terrorist attacks again and again?

I will just read from *The Times of India*. It is dated 14th December, just 2-3 days back. It is written by Indrani Bagchi has written:

"What is the strategy of LeT? If you look at the LeT strategy, it is to weaken India and to help establish Khalifat which is a part of their ideological programme."

This is not a communal paper. This is 100 per cent a secular paper. It is not *Pioneer*. It is *The Times of India*.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing irrelevant will go on record.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Shri D.P. Yadav is present here. What was his argument? He said that there was no distinction between communalism and terrorism. What is its meaning?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Swainji, please change the way you look at Newspapers....(Interruptions) I had not said like that. I had said that these two are twin sisters.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why have you called them sisters.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : He meant to say that because of Parties like BJP, Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Sangh Parivar, the Muslims or Islamic terrorists are attacking India. There is a meaning in this. Now, he has also said that there is no distinction between the people of India and the people of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan are one with the people of India.

There was a coup in 1999 when Shri Pervez Musharraf drove out the then Prime Minister Shri Nawaz Sharief from power. When he drove him out he was broadly supported by the people of Pakistan. He was democratically elected Leader and was driven out but the people of Pakistan did

not support him. It is only because it was Nawaz Sharief who brought back the Army from Kargil. It was Shri Pervez Musharraf, who was a hero....*(Interruptions)* Give me some more time. I am the only speaker. This is the mind set of the people.

I would like to quote from Times of India of 14th December a report by Ayesha Tammy Haq, a Pakistani. "Social worker Anila Shah says India should address issues raised in the Sachchar Commission Report. We need to deal with our problems at home". What does this mean? Is it that the Muslims are being tortured in India? The Government of India had set up the Sachchar Commission which reported that the condition of Muslims is very poor in India and that is the reason why they are in favour of terrorists. This is what the people of Pakistan say.

The major point that I would like to point out is, even though this Bill has been brought in, my apprehension is that this will not be implemented. It will not be implemented because the Government does not have the will power. The Government does not have the will power because for the last many years it thinks that if it investigates against the terrorists, apprehend them and put them behind the bar then the Muslims of this country will be annoyed and they would not vote for it. This is the only reason why the Government has not tried to apprehend any of the terrorists. Just because the election is coming, all of a sudden the Government has brought in this Bill.

There is always a sense of persecution mentality. Most of the Muslim intellectuals in this country are of the view that there is a perceived sense of persecution, very ably supported by all these secular members. They think that because of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad the Muslims of this country are being persecuted. You have said the Muslims of this country are not terrorists. We also say this....*(Interruptions)* We did not say that every Muslim can be condemned as a terrorist. When there was Batala House incident, where two of the terrorists were killed, most of the Muslim leaders including the Congress Party said it was wrong. They said that the police encounter was false. They even said that Mohan Chand Sharma, the

Police Inspector who was killed, was not killed by the terrorists but by his own colleagues. What are you going to achieve by this? Are you not raising the false sense of persecution mentality among the Muslims in this country? Are you not inciting it? Mr. N.K. Narayanan, your own National Security Adviser said that the Police encounter was correct.

Now the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Jaiswalji is sitting here. He first made a statement in the Rajya Sabha that 50 lakh Bangladeshis have infiltrated and then he withdrew his statement.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my name has been mentioned. Why do you make false statement....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : You are a Minister, why do you make false statement?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : No false statement has been made. If there is some technical mistake, will it be considered a false statement?

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : There are three crore infiltrators....*(Interruptions)* you recollect, there are three crore infiltrators, not 50 lakh.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : You are misleading the entire country by making such statements.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Things said without permission will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Now everybody knows Huji and ISI. It is mostly entering into India through the porous border of Bangladesh. Everybody is saying that this is happening. Again I would say that the Muslims are not

*Not recorded.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

to be branded as terrorists but just one day before when Prof. Kader Mohideen who is an hon. Member of this House from Tamil Nadu was speaking, he said that there is no Bangladeshi infiltration. An hon. Member from Assam who was sitting at the back bench was telling that all the Muslims in Assam have come to Assam prior to independence or 100 years back and there is no infiltration. So, when you are making a statement like this, are you not inciting false sense of discrimination against Muslims? Why should an Indian Muslim allow a Bangladeshi Muslim? If you say that the Muslims and Muslims should enjoin, then why there are separate countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan. Why do they just not join together?

MD. SALIM (Calcutta – North East) : Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 356.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your Pointed Order?

[English]

MD. SALIM : It is regarding irrelevance and repetition and things which are not connected with these two Bills. How can you allow a Member to repeat? We are discussing two Bills but they are not connected with what he is referring to, i.e., Muslims and Muslim intellectuals, etc.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This applies to all.

[English]

MD. SALIM : Sir, you should give a direction that he should restrict his speech to these two Bills.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. I got it, you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : When a prominent Member of the Muslim community like Mr. Salim says like

this, in a very subtle way he is justifying the terrorists...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MD. SALIM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, day before yesterday hon'ble Advaniji said that this issue should not be dealt with a conservative approach. You are speaking contrary to your leader....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not allow this, you should address me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will expunge the unparliamentary words. You please sit down.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, the terrorists are very cunning. Deliberately they have not attacked West Bengal because they know that....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Salimji, if you have to speak, take the permission.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, they are the facilitators of the Bangladeshi ISI agents and HUJI agents. They have made them their voters and because of their votes they are winning elections for the last 30 years...
(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : Sir, what is the basis of making such statements?... (Interruptions) How can he make this charge?... (Interruptions) He has to apologise....
(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If something wrong has been said by hon'ble Member, it will be expunged from the proceeding.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will see if there is any unparliamentary remark. Please take your seats now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will be recorded. Please take your seats now. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Swainji, you please sit down for a minute.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, I am on a point of order. There can be arguments and everything but making very serious allegations against any Member is very unfortunate. Please delete any such remark from the records.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything unparliamentary will not go on record. We will see to it. Nothing irrelevant will go on record. [Translation] The allegation levelled will be deleted from the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MD. SALIM : Sir, he must apologise...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record. I am not allowing anybody. [Translation] I am not allowing anybody to speak.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record. Your speech is of no use.

...(Interruptions)

18.25 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. First of all, I will listen to Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, the objectionable statement which has been made by the hon. Member should be deleted from the proceedings.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That has already been done.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, making this kind of a statement is totally against the general sense of the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That has already been expunged. Please sit down. Anything spoken without my permission will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, the hon. Minister, Shri Kapil said as to why should there be a confession. Why confession made in front of the police should be accepted as an evidence? What does he mean by that? Does he mean that the terrorists will come and given evidence against them? Will they confess it? If you just go on telling goody-goody words, will they confess what they have done? It is very natural that for confession, they will have to be put behind the bars. It is very natural. And the Government did the right thing by doing this. How can you say, why 180 days, why not 90 days and so on? It should

*Not recorded.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

have been more like three years. Don't we have value for our lives? They speak like this because West Bengal has not been attacked at any time and because Kerala has not been attacked. They speak as though other people do not have any value for their lives....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. Nothing is going on record. Only the statement of Shri Swain should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I will just come to my last point. We are going to have an institution called the National Investigation Agency. We are going to form the National Investigation Agency. It is a very good thing. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That has not been recorded. What you are saying is not going on record. What he is saying is also not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : We are having an agency called the CBI. It is a highly respected agency in this country. Whenever there is some trouble, everybody says "Let the CBI investigate it". But when the UPA Government has come to power, to what level have they brought it down? Take the case of Taj Corridor and the disproportionate assets case. I am not taking names. CBI said something when the Bahujan Samaj Party was with them and they wanted that the Taj Corridor case should not be investigated. Now, when another party has come to their support, that is, the Samajwadi Party, the CBI goes to court and says that the Government of India has asked them to go slow. They have entirely denigrated the prestige and

integrity of CBI. I have a very strong doubt that if this Government remains in power, they will behave in the same manner with this Agency also and they will denigrate the National Investigation Agency and they will make it the agent of the Government.

People of this country are listening to us and to them also. Let them decide who is for the nation, who is for the country, and who is for the people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : More than twenty hon. Members are to speak on these Bills. So, I would request all the hon. Members who wants to speak to take only five minutes to make their suggestions on these Bills. Otherwise, it may not be possible to conclude the debate today.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I rise to support these two very important Bills which have been brought by the new Home Minister, the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008.

The Bills are very timely. Since we are discussing both the Bills together, I would like to speak first on the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008. I compliment the Home Minister for the creation of this new institution. This, I must say, has been our long-standing demand of most of us who have faced the menace of terrorism for quite some time now. As has been rightly pointed out, our friends on the right have been harping on fighting terrorism day in and day out, but they have not done anything effective. Today, at least we have created an instrument through which the Central Government is given certain teeth to fight anti-social forces, to fight the menace of terrorism in a more effective manner. The State machinery and the State police apparatus have proved to be inadequate in many respects over the years now.

It is a fact that the terrorist network and the terrorist outfits have national and international connections. To fight them, the State police or the concept of the law and order being the State subject, has not been yielding results over the years now. Our experience shows that a national

*Not recorded.

agency which can override State differences, which can look into the international and national connections solely from the terrorist angle is needed. I think the National Investigation Agency that is being created will go a long way in tackling terrorism in the right manner. I have found it to be having a very close balance between what is sometimes called by our friends here as 'authoritarian' and sometimes by our friends on the other side as 'liberal'.

I think this is a very appropriate Bill. Clause 5, Chapter III, gives the Centre the power to take *suo motu* cognizance of an offence. It is very important because in many cases certain things occur in a particular State, which may have its origins in some other State. Unless some agency has this kind of power, it is totally ineffective. Similarly, empowering the National Investigation Agency to look into any other offence, which includes financial offences and offences of smuggling, drugs, etc., which has got connection with insurgency and terrorism, is also a right step.

The best thing is that by giving these powers, we are not taking away any power from the State Governments because the State Governments continue to have the inherent power to act in these cases. What this Agency is doing is only supplementing them. It is only an additional action against terrorism. I think that is the beauty of this new Bill.

Sir, on the judicial side also, the steps taken for the speedy trial of the cases and also feeling the extremists' pressures, by protecting the weaknesses and similarly empowering the judges and ensuring their continuity are welcome steps and the fact that the High Court has been given power is extremely pertinent to say the least.

Sir, similarly, the National Investigation Agency cannot act without the changes that have been brought in the *Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill*. Both of them are complementary. Now, at least, you have an effective machinery to tackle terrorism to the best extent possible. I am not saying as some of the friends from the Opposition have said; the Government side is not saying that this Bill is the end of everything and this Bill will solve terrorism as a whole. Nobody is saying that. But we have

taken a good step and a strong response is being given to a very urgent situation which has developed and we should all welcome it.

Sir, I must say a few words to the attribution of motives to the Bill and to the *post mortem* that have been made by some of those people who have been thinking that perhaps terrorism will become a very good instrument to gain political support and perhaps to gain power in spite of all the evidences to the contrary....(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I will just give two or three instances which come to my mind immediately. I do not think that terrorism should be politicized. It is only the victims of terror know what the terror is. You can politicize terror, but it is important that while politicizing terror, while seeking votes from them, you should also be sensitive about terror.

Sir, there is one national leader who went to Assam. I am extremely sorry to say this as I have never said it before. When the dead bodies were lying, the next day he said that the people of Assam must give a befitting answer through the election. Was seeking votes by a national leader of a national political party when terrorism were affecting people and killing people a right thing? My friend, Shri Kharabela Swain has said just now about terror. Terror can also hit you tomorrow and terror which has been hitting us; please do not play politics with that. He said that people will give them votes and will throw out this Government. Whether this Government or that Government, we have to fight terror unitedly....(*Interruptions*) We are not absolving you from the responsibility of playing the role of the Opposition. But there are moments when you have to rise above vote bank politics; there are moments when you have to emerge to secure the lives and property of every Indian national whose lives are endangered because of terror. Terror is not something on which you can seek votes....(*Interruptions*) The Government changes or the Ministers lose their posts, but terrorism is more dangerous.

Sir, I would not like to go beyond this except saying my last sentence. A number of objections have been raised about some of the laws being a little soft in the case of onus and in the cases of giving bails. What I am saying

[Shri Kirip Chaliha]

is that if we object to certain things about *Batala House*, we should not do the same thing in case of Malegaon. We become very sympathetic if some *Sadhvi* is arrested for Malegaon and kept in confinement. We make big speeches; we make big protests and we attribute all kinds of motives for *Batala House*. Double standard does not pay. That is the lesson one must learn. Till we learn that lesson, no fight against terrorism will be complete. It will always be a mock fight.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would request Prof. M. Ramadass to speak now. Kindly take only five minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry) : Sir, on behalf of my Party, I rise to support these two Bills.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have taken a decision. I think the opinion some of the hon. Members is like this. The parties' time has already exhausted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No time will be given to those national parties which have already exhausted their time limit. Time will be given to the regional parties.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, how this can happen?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will definitely call those parties which have time left but not those which have exhausted their allotted time. Prof. Ramadass, you please continue.

[English]

Those hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches can lay them on the Table of the House. They will form part of the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Ramdasji, you please continue.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, on behalf of my Party, I rise to support these two Bills which are before the consideration of this august House.

At the outset, I would like to appreciate and congratulate the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh and ably guided by Madam Sonia Gandhi for piloting these two Bills which taken together would act as a deterrent to the terrorist activities in the country which have come to pose a grave and great challenge to the sovereignty and integrity of this country. When these two Bills go into operation, the people of this country as well as the people all over the world would come to realize that the UPA Government is not soft in containing terrorism but tough in containing and combating terrorism in this country. In fact, these two Bills try to safeguard the liberties of individuals and the sovereignty of the nation without trampling upon the democratic values as well as the human rights of individuals. They will protect the country and its citizens by righteousness.

We have been hearing conflicting views on containing terrorism. But we cannot have both these extremist views in containing terrorism. The solution lies in the middle path of having both the views, the advantage of both the views of having POTA or not having POTA. Therefore, I would feel that this Bill strikes a balance of views. As the hon. Home Minister has said, it strikes a fair balance of conflicting views with regard to the containment of terrorism in the country.

For instance, a lot of legal dexterity has gone into the making of these Bills and we should appreciate the hon. Home Minister for his masterly craftsmanship of these two Bills. Both the Bills are based on certain well-defined objectives. They have been brought forward on the basis of the recommendations given by the Administrative Reforms Commission.

Coming to the National Investigation Agency Bill, I must say that this Bill straightaway goes into the constitution of an institution at the national level which would investigate and prosecute the terrorists in the country. These offences are clearly specified in the Schedule to the Bill. Since this Bill will not deal with the offences of law and order, it will not go against the provisions contained in the State laws. In fact, it will help the States. It will supplement and supplant the efforts of the States in investigation. In fact, the Central Government would order this Agency only on receipt of the report with respect to the occurrence of an event in a particular State. Therefore, there is no question of the Central Government encroaching upon the authority of the State Government in dealing with the law and order situation. Actually, this Agency will not deal with the law and order matter but it will deal with only offences which are committed against the nation, against the State, against the international institutions. Therefore, there need not be any iota of doubt in the mind of anyone that this will create Centre-State friction in the implementation of this Bill at the State level.

The second merit of this Bill is that it provides for speedy trial and execution of the terrorists and various provisions in this Bill show how the speedy trial will take place. For instance, a special court will be constituted by the agency and a judge will be appointed within 7 days of the receipt of the communication from the Government of India. This shows that the Government would earnestly take up this matter and finish it as quickly as possible.

Secondly, the special courts will hear the matter on a day-to-day basis and precedence will be given to this case over other cases and the special court will have the powers of a Session Court which means that after the case is tried there, the appeal will lie with the High court and then it will go straight to the Supreme Court and there will be no other intermediary stages by which it can be taken up.

Thirdly, the appeal will also be disposed of within a period of 3 months. With all these merits, I would like to indicate to the hon. Home Minister that this Bill does not have two provisions which are normally given in any Bill. For example, if officers do anything in good faith, they will

be protected. This is given in many of the Acts, but this Act does not have that provision. Then, the penalty for the misuse of this Act by the officials is also not provided. Then, the Financial Memorandum does not give as to what would be the annual expenditure on this agency. The hon. Minister has probably estimated only for the remaining part of three months of this financial year, but this also can be taken up.

With regard to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, I would like to say that the Bill places the burden of proof on the accused under two specific conditions. If arms or explosives are recovered from the possession of the accused and there is reason to believe that such arms and explosives were used for the commission of the offence, finger prints or any other definitive evidence are found at the site of the offence, under such conditions the courts shall presume that the accused has committed such offence unless contrary is shown. This is more stringent than the provisions of the POTA which stated that the court shall draw adverse inference against the accused. There are three broad parameters for judging guilt. Most laws require the evidence to be proved beyond reasonable doubt. This Bill assumes guilt unless innocence is proven.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly welcome these two Bills and I would like to inform the opposition parties that the entire nation is behind the UPA Government. If any doubt is lurking in the minds of Mr. Swain and others, they can look into the verdict in Delhi, the verdict in Rajasthan and the verdict in Mizoram where the people have clearly voted for the UPA Government for its achievements in the last 4½ years. These two Bills add to the feather of the UPA Government and therefore, I fully support these two Bills.

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam) : Respected Sir, We welcome the Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative to bring this new Anti-Terror Bill. This Bill is really a moral booster to the citizen's of this country and the forces looking after the security of the Nation. Earlier our Government under the auspicious guidance of Hon'ble Madam Sonia Gandhiji after assuming power at the Centre

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

and under the leadership and stewardship of Dr. Manmohan Singhji, we had withdrawn the Draconian Law the POTA.

India's economy is booming in all spheres, particularly in Technology. India is the 3rd Country in the world to send its Satellite CHANDRAYAN to Moon, well advanced in technology, self reliant in food and other necessary required items for Nation Building. The neighbouring Nations and the World powers do not want India to become super power militarily and economic power financially. Sir, in this recent recession affecting the economies around the globe, many American and European Banks have lost their credibility. Those Governments have bailed out billion of dollars Government money to save them. Sir, Indian Banks are moving in the right direction under the proper guidance of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji.

In the recent Election the opposition parties particularly the NDA, (who) are always very happy when ever a bomb blast occurs that too before Elections. Our great charismatic leader, who took this country forward in IT and all other fields Shri. Rajivji, was assassinated by human bomb by the banned outfit LTTE at Sripierumbudur. The Nation and the world shed tears which ran like rivers.

We have to safeguard our important tourist destinations, pilgrimage centers and historical places. Every individual in this country is welcoming this new anti-terror law which has been proposed by our Hon'ble Prime Ministerji and Home Ministerji. This type of unanimity among the public, parliamentarians, and political parties cutting across party lines, industrial giants and social activists has never been seen before.

Terror has no caste and religion. Whosoever having links with any terror outfit has to be dealt firmly. The Malegoan blasts have opened the eyes of the people of this country. The saffron people have killed Mahatmajji in the name of Muslim Minority. Now to a surprise a Sadhvi (Pragya Singh Thakur), Military Officials and others have been arrested by ATS police. The people of this country have mourned the deaths ATS Chief Shri Hemant Karkare

and his two aides Shri Ashok Kamte and Shri Vijay Salaskar, and NSG Brave Commando Officer, Shri Sandeep Unnikrishnan, who sacrificed their lives in the recent bomb blasts, which has shocked humankind all over the world. Such noble Officers have to be honoured by giving our country's gallantry awards and we have to put up their statues before the Police Head Quarters/Military Establishments in the respective States, so that every Officer will have the courage, service mind of these Officers and show their endeavour, honesty and devotion to the Nation's Welfare.

Sir, in the recent elections the NDA had thought that after the Mumbai Bomb Blasts they would win in the Elections. They tried their best to politicize the incident for their political benefit, by bringing colorful advertisements in the Newspapers and magazines, projecting themselves as saviors of Nation. But every thing went in vain, particularly the Capital of Delhi and Rajasthan which went for polling after the bomb blasts. In the five State Elections, our Congress Party under the dynamic leadership of our respected leader Shrimati Soniaji won in Delhi, Mizoram and Rajasthan and won more seats in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The election outcome really backfires for the NDA for indulging in petty and communal politics.

I once again stress that a particular Muslim Minority should not be targeted for the Blasts. During the last so many years, country has been facing these blasts, when innocent people's blood is spilled on the roads, be it Jammu and Kashmir North-East, Bangalore, Jaipur, Gujarat, Delhi and recently Mumbai etc. May I ask this August House, is there any mechanism/scientific formulae to establish the identity of the blood whether it is of a Hindu or Muslim or Sikh or Christian? No, Sir. It is blood of India and Humanity "*Ye insaniyat ka khoon hai aur Haivaniyat ki darindgi*". I further request this August House and representatives of the public present here to convey message of peace, brotherhood, religious tolerance in their respective constituencies and the country and not pin-point on any particular community or party.

The Union Government has to enquire in depth about the involvement of neighbouring countries and the

International Super Powers. An Enquiry Commission has to be constituted by a sitting Supreme Court Judge to investigate in depth and bring out the real culprits involved in the blasts, the reason behind, their intention and blasts occurring before any Elections. The NDA led BJP are en-cashing these blasts by targeting the Muslim Community to en-cash the voting pattern of the Majority. In the recent 5 State Elections the people of India have learnt their mala-fide intentions by advertising the terror photos in Newspapers.

Sir, the UPA Government under the auspicious and dynamic guidance of Hon'ble Madam Soniaji and the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji is doing extremely well and the Congress is the only Secular Party, which always works and thinks for the Welfare of the people of this Country.

Sir, I once welcome this Bill for setting up of National Investigation Agency and enactment of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act in the larger interest of the Nation. Sir, with these words I conclude.

*SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North) : Respected Sir, I rise to speak in support of bringing the law against the terror acts in form of National Investigating Agency Bill, 2008 introduced in the House today by Home Minister.

The need for such an enactment was a long felt urgency of the Nation. But due to long and deep slumber of this Government it was never attempted. But at least now the Government has opened its eyes and sensed the real threat by terrorism, to the safety and sovereignty of our country it is most unfortunate that this Government had needed to wake up the kind of dastardly attack on Mumbai, the heart land of our trade and Commerce, and loss of valuable lives of innocent people.

I don't want to go in detail of the merits and demerits of the Bill. Let us be clear about one thing that the objective which this NIA Bill 2008 intends to achieve is the point to be pondered rather than politicizing the Bill. As our Honourable leader of the opposition, Shri Advaniji rightly and aptly remarked "the same bill if were to be introduced

*The speech was laid on the Table.

by NDA it would have been branded as Communal Legislation.

The only Suggestion I would like to make to Honourable Home Minister that sufficient care must be incorporated in this law to avoid slightest possible misuse and mischief by implementing agencies under this Law because the broader purpose of such laws which are aimed at achieving the ultimate victory over terrorists will be defeated by a motivated use of any of the provisions of this Act. Therefore the wisdom of this House be at its best in incorporating sufficient and ample safeguards against exploiting the innocents and even against settling the political scores. Thanking you.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time. I would like to say that by insisting on draconian laws, we can never tackle terrorism. Earlier we had the experience of POTA and other laws, but still a lot of terrorist activities have taken place and nobody could curb that.

With regard to long detention, which everybody demands, I would like to say that this is a measure to curb such activities. Here, I would like to quote what the Chief Justice of India has said. He said:

"Furthermore, the trauma resulting from the terrorist attacks may be used as a justification for undue curtailment of individual rights and liberties. Instead of offering a considered response to the growth of terrorism, the country may resort to questionable methods such as promoting indefinite detention of terror suspects, the use of coercive interrogation techniques and the denial of the right for fair trial."

This is what the Chief Justice of India has observed.

Sir, I was surprised to hear Shri L.K. Advani who said that the confession should be taken as evidence. If anyone of us is entrusted to a police officer, including Advaniji, even he will confess that he is a dreaded terrorist in this country. The police officers can extract such a confession by employing coercive interrogation methods. This can happen.

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

Once it is said that the police officers are so fast who can get the culprits in 24 hours. All the police stations have apprehended the culprits. With such methods you can make anybody a culprit. So confession should not be part of the evidence. When he said that, I was surprised about it.

The best way to face terrorism is by strengthening the democratic framework and secular polity of this country. After the Mumbai attacks, it is very heartening to note that there was not a single communal violence in this country. The nation — the Muslims, the Hindus and everybody — stands united. That is the response. By mere law, I do not think, terrorism could be curbed. The entire people of the country have to be the watchmen, they have to be the policemen, they have to strengthen their security and that is the only way to deal with this. Any politics to divide them is very dangerous.

About legislature, I would like to say and I am again quoting from the Chief Justice: "In India, those who subscribe to this view also demand changes in our criminal and evidence law — such as provisions for longer periods of preventive detention and confessions made before police officials to be made admissible in court. While the ultimate choice in this regard lies with the legislature, we must be careful not to trample upon constitutional principles such as 'substantive due process.' This guarantee was read into the conception of 'personal liberty' under article 21 of the Constitution of India by our Supreme Court." So, when we make legislation, we have to strengthen our provisions to safeguard fundamental rights.

Also, when we give too much of power to the bureaucrats, what would happen? Again, I would like to quote from the Chief Justice: "This is required because in recent counter-terrorist operations, there have been several reports of arbitrary arrests of individuals belonging to certain communities and the concoction of evidence — such as the production of similarly worded confession statements by detained suspects in different places. The proposal for the admissibility of confessional statements made before the police is also problematic since there are fears that

such a change will incentives torture and coercive interrogation by investigative agencies in order to seek convictions rather than engaging in thorough investigation." This is the observation of Chief Justice while talking about terrorism.

I do not want to take much of the time of the House. The hon. Home Minister has said that some of the measures suggested in POTA have been taken out and it is a compromised Bill. But still I feel, the accused has to prove the innocence before the court cannot be a natural justice. Prosecution has to prove it ultimately. That is the law. I think, in all these things, we have to see that individual rights are protected.

Regarding the federal agency, it can intrude into the rights of the States. *Suo motu* they can take all the rights of the States and that will ultimately happen. The Central Government can do anything with the State. They can operate anywhere, they can apprehend anybody and they can prosecute anybody as the CBI is used by the Central Government as an agency for some of their purposes. This agency could have been misused. This will destroy the federal structure of this country. We have to be careful in these things.

I would urge upon the hon. Home Minister that some of the measures should be taken out of this Bill and I think, we have to give more attention to see that the people of this country are united, our democracy is protected, our secularism is held high and no force should be allowed to trample with it. I think that is the way to meet terrorism.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh) : Sir, I rise to point out some of my observations on these two pieces of legislation. I consider these pieces of legislation as the product of the legal and Constitutional wisdom of our hon. Home Minister, Chidambaram//. Within a short span of time, he put a lot of efforts to bring out these particular important legislations to this House. I hope that if this particular Bill is properly used, then the principal objective of the Bill can be achieved. It is because, terrorism has created havoc throughout the country and it has brought a sense of insecurity among the people of

this country. That is why, it is the need of the hour. But, in the process of implementing this particular Bill, we should be very much careful because in Assam and North East, since Independence, we had to go through some bitter experiences of some of the draconian laws, namely, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and TADA. These are the Acts out of which the people of Assam and North East, particularly the innocent people, had to suffer a lot. That is why, I have a humble submission through you to the hon. Home Minister that the right to life and liberty under the provision of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, should be strictly maintained with some reasonable restriction. That is why, my submission is that this reasonable restriction should be specifically mentioned to see how in the process of implementing this particular Bill, to curb terrorism, the peace-loving people will be undisturbed. It is because, we are targeting the terrorists to hit them and not the innocent people of the country. That is why, my submission is that we should not disturb those people who are deeply concerned about the security of the country, about the sovereignty of the country. Taking them into confidence, this particular proceeding should be continued.

Sir, I have one more submission. In the previous time in Assam, we had to raise many more demands because of the misuse of these kinds of draconian laws; the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 was not properly used. It is because of that, many innocent people had to suffer. That is why, the persons who will be involved in this particular famous institution, they should be properly trained. They should be trained to learn the local language of the countrymen. We have got several recognized languages in the country and several dialects also. If the officers entrusted to carry out the responsibility do not understand the languages and dialects of the people of this country, then it will be very difficult to carry out the operation. That is why, to communicate with the people of the country, they must be well trained. It is because, earlier, there was a communication gap. This is an era of communication. If we fail to communicate with the people properly, then it will be very difficult to find out the culprits living among the people of the country.

These are my points. I would very sincerely like to draw the attention of the Central Government that this particular step of the Government of India has to be a successful step.

There has to be a very effective mechanism. I hope that the hon. Home Minister will definitely consider this particular point, and he will put those important reasonable restrictions to maintain and to protect the right to life and the right to liberty of the people of the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I would request Shri Asaduddin Owaisi to speak only for five minutes.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to make it clear that we are one with the Government; the people of India are with the Government; and the international community at large sympathizes with the Government of India's problem which we are facing now.

There are two Bills over here. I will take the second Bill first, that is, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill. Sir, my Party opposes this Bill. Why do we oppose this Bill? It is because Section 50 of the principal Act talks out terror. What is terror? That is not defined. Secondly, Section 50 of the principal Act talks about the terrorist act. The whole definition has been taken from the National Security Guard Act, 1986. I would call it an intellectual dishonesty. Let us see what the National Security Guard Act, 1986 says. 'Y' paragraph defines as to who the terrorist is. It says:

"Terrorist means any person who with intent to over-awe the Government as by law established or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people or to alienate any section of the people or to adversely affect the harmony amongst different sections of the people,..."

After that, it says: '... does any act or thing by using bombs ...', and that is incorporated. If you are taking this whole definition and you are putting a terrorist Act, why did you leave out the definition part? If there is no

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

difference between an act which promotes enmity and which promotes communal harmony, is that not a threat to India's sovereignty and India's unity?

Kindly see the Section 50 (a) of the principal Act. It says: "(a) by any other means of whatever nature to cause or likely to cause...". This is a subjective thing. And tomorrow if an investigating officer can even arrest Arundati Roy for what she is writing. This - 'by any other means of whatever nature...' is a subjective thing. Who defines it?

My third point is this. You come to Clause 43 (D) - 180 days' detention. With all the confidence I can say that in hundred per cent of the cases wherein minorities are arrested, they will be in detention without charge sheet for 180 days. It is because that is what is happening as of now. This happened in my own State. We have a dynamic Chief Minister who has done a lot for minorities. The ground reality is that there is a huge difference between reality and hope. A man in uniform has an inborn hatred towards the Muslim minority. That is a fact. The fact is that he starts his investigation on the premise that the Muslims are terrorists. I can say with all the confidence that they will be detained for 180 days.

Secondly, if a person is booked in three cases, he will be detained for 180 days in each case. This is happening everywhere even before this has been brought over here.

Another issue is about bail. Please see page no. 5, paragraph 25. This is a limit on judicial discretion. Any public prosecutor will stand up and oppose the bail. What will the Case Diary say? Will the Case Diary write flowers about the accused? The Case Diary will, of course, follow what is there in the charge sheet and what is there in the FIR. You are using words to cover up all these things.

Then, please see clause 43E - the onus shifts to the accused if he is found with explosives and arms. I was listening very attentively the speech of the Minister of Science and Technology. He represents Delhi.

In December, 2005 two Muslim boys, Irshad Ali and Mahroof Qamar were arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi.

The CBI, four days ago filed a report in the court stating that the Special Cell had planted RDX, placed two pistols and called them to be belonging to *Ad Badr* Terrorist Organisation. Can this not happen? Can the RDX not be put by their agencies? What are the safeguards in this Act over here?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, please do me a favour. If you say me so, I will sit down.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would say that you conclude.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, this is a question of our life and death. Muslims have no leaders. These people are the leaders of Muslims. We have given them vote. I am not a leader. Who will I say what I feel? I have tears in my eyes. These tears are not visible to you but to me only. I, therefore, should be given at least two more minutes to speak. This is an important issue which can ruin our lives.

Patriot Act was talked about. George Bush got this Patriot Act passed without any debate. At least our Minister of Home Affairs has given a time of 24 hours. I am thankful to him for this. Patriot Act was passed there at one go.

[English]

Another point is about Clause 51A. The words used there are: "...any other person engaged in or suspected to be engaged in terrorism."

Sir, it is the primary principle of criminal jurisprudence that mere suspicion is not an offence.

These are the words, which we have used over here. Tomorrow, the assets of any Darul-Uloom Deoband scholar can be frozen on a mere suspicion of terrorism. These are the words that you have used in this Bill.

Where is the Sunset Clause in this Bill? Why cannot we have a Sunset Clause in this Bill? There should be

a Sunset Clause because accountability will be put on the Investigation Agency. Why is not the IB made accountable to this Parliament? What is wrong in making IB accountable to this Parliament?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever any political change happens in India, the Andhra Pradesh IB also telephones me and asks me: "How is it going to affect the Ruling party?" I wanted them to ask: "What about these terrorists action where innocent Muslims are being picked up? How is that going to affect us?" But such questions are never asked.

I am again coming back to what the hon. Minister of Science said. He talked about MCOCA. If Mr. Kapil Sibal feels that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act is a cure to all the terrorist activities, then his party should immediately scrap the MCOCA in Maharashtra. Why were they continuing with MCOCA, when TADA was there? He has completely forgotten to read the speeches given by his leaders, when POTA was being passed on Marc 26, 2002. I took the liberty of going to the Library and reading all the speeches. If I start quoting the speeches of the Congress leaders on that day, it will be very bad over here. 'Draconian laws cannot stop terrorism' were the words being used by them.

But now, what are they doing? This law will target only the Muslims, let me be very clear in the name of terrorism. Terrorism has to be stopped. But in what way? There is a huge difference as to what is happening on the ground. I am being targeted everyday. Even when Mr. Rajasekhara Reddy cannot control those communal police officers, how do we expect when you talk about an Authority to be formed?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, please give me some time.

The Authority will sanction the prosecution. Who will be the Authority? You are not creating the law for New Delhi, you are not creating the law for Andhra Pradesh.

You are creating the law, which will affect the whole nation at large. What will happen Gujarat? What will happen in those States, which are inimical to the Muslims, who do not stand for the secular ethos of this country? Have you given a thought to it?

At least, some time should have been given. I could have gone to my UPA leadership and explained all these problems as to what is the mood of the nation. I would go on record and say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this is nothing. They say that this Bill is being brought only to satisfy the collective conscience of the society. But are the Muslims, the minorities part of your collective conscience or not? That is the moot question, which has to be answered.

Secondly, coming to NIA, in the All-Party Meeting, my party had welcomed it. But your own Standing Committee, on March 31st this year, disagreed. They said, make the CBI as NIA, there is no need of NIA over there. But even in the NIA Bill, on offence, there are 8 Schedules, which talk about Sections 121 and 135 of the Indian Penal code. There is no problem. Then, Sections 488 and 489 of the IPC are there, which belong to all these illegal money transactions. But what about Sections 153A and 153E of the IPC?

What has happened in Kandhamal? Is it not a threat to India's unity and integrity? I am surprised that Sections 153A and 153B are not being brought in this Act. What is stopping you from bringing it? The National Investigation Agency is fine but what will be the constitution of that NIA? Will it again be a turn to be a club of upper caste people?...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Lastly, I would like to say that my Party will support the National Investigation Agency. But on the second Bill, I will walk out from this House because I cannot sit here. The Government is acting in haste.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Mr. K. Francis George. You please speak only for five minutes.

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani) : Sir, I rise to support the two landmark Bills introduced by Hon'ble Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram under the able leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh.

The Criminal Justice Delivery System is based on three acts namely Evidence Act, Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Penal Code. Those acts were enacted by Britishers during their regime more than 145 years ago. After independence upto 06-12-1992, when Babri Masjid was demolished by Sangh Parivar and their allies those age old Criminal Laws were sufficient to control the crimes in the country. After the above incident the total scenario of this country changed and everywhere we are able to see terrorist activities. Day-by-day Terrorism, Hijacking and Drug Peddling activities are increasing. Furthermore, criminals are taking advantage of some weak police force, loopholes in the Criminal Justice System and corruption in Subordinate Judiciary.

The Union Government is responsible for the sovereignty and integrity of the country. Under Article 355 of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to protect every State against internal disturbances. In our country, we are having Central Bureau of Investigation. For it, powers are derived under the provisions of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. As per our Constitution, CBI can't directly take up any case for investigation unless case is referred by respective State Government or the order of Hon'ble High Court. According to our Constitution, Law and Order is a State Subject. On this ground, some of our colleagues come forward to say that the present Bill for Establishment of National Investigation Agency is affecting our Federal set up but it is not correct. I want to put forth certain facts before the August House. Our Congress Government promulgated Terrorist and Disruptive Prevention Act (TADA) and the same has been challenged before Honourable Supreme Court about its Constitutional validity, but Supreme Court upheld its Constitutional validity. Before Hijacking IC 804 from Kathmandu in 1999, all the Airports are protected by State Police. After that all Airports had come under the control of Central Industrial Security Force.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

In this country, the VIP security including that of the Prime Minister is the responsibility of State Government but no State has even objected to the Special Protection Group providing security to the Prime Minister and other VIPs. FBI in the USA does not need the permission of State Governments to investigate a specified crime. Hence our Government proposed this Bill to tackle Jihadi Fanatics and terrorists. The present Bill is having concurrent jurisdiction and empower Centre to protect country's sovereignty and integrity. State Governments shall extend all assistance to National Investigation Agency for better investigation of terror related offences. This present Bill empowers the Central Government to establish Special Court to try all offences relating to terror. It is a welcomeable step that the accused is not entitled to get bail upto 180 days. Moreover, judicial officer sitting in Special Court is having power to dismiss the bail application if *prima facie* case is made out against the accused. This provision will certainly help the police for better investigation. On considering all aspects this Bill is a welcomeable step taken by our UPA Government.

This Bill paves way to dispose the cases against terrorists in a speedy manner. Control the Terrorist activities in this Country is two fold. One is to prevent the terrorist attacks, another is to punish the terrorists. To prevent the terrorists activities, we have to strengthen the Intelligence Agencies. Police Authorities have to react without delay after receiving the information from Intelligence Agencies about terrorist activities then only we can prevent the crimes. Our Government, has to take steps to improve the standard of Intelligence people and all facilities to be provided to them.

In the same manner our Hon'ble Home Minister introduced another important Bill to amend Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 to prevent the terrorist activities. After Independence Congress is the only Party lost its great leaders like Mahatmaji, Indira Gandhi and Rajivji for terrorism. Congress can only control Terrorism in this country. An important provision in this amendment Bill is introduction of new Section-17 to give punishment for persons those who are raising fund for terrorist acts. According to this amendment Bill foreign nationals those

who involved in terrorist activities can't get bail till disposal of the case. Furthermore burden of proof is vested with accused that he has to prove that he is an innocent. These are good proposals. Certainly both these Acts will curtail the terrorist activities in this country.

Once again I am thanking our Home Minister. I am welcoming the both Bills and concluding my speech.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : We have been discussing two important legislations for the last several hours. Almost, all sections have supported, of course, with certain reservations. Maybe, it is that we have reached a point in the life of our nation where we have to have a law or a piece of legislation which, probably, somewhat goes against our federal legacy. In this Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, I would like to exactly quote what Mr. Owaisi, my hon. friend, who spoke just before me, has quoted here. In this Bill, there is a definition about terrorist act, which, of course, is an amendment. But in the original NSG Act, the National Security Guards Act, 1986, Section 2, clause 'y', the word, 'terrorist' has been defined. I would also like to repeat that.

Clause 'y' says that:

"Terrorist means any person with intent to overawe the Government as by law established or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people or to alienate any section of the people or to adversely affect the harmony amongst different sections of the people...".

It goes like that. Why was this portion omitted? When this terrorist act or terrorist, who is mentioned in this amendment Bill, why was this portion omitted? We are facing that kind of crisis also in the country. Terrorism does not mean that people have to come from outside or people have to come from Pakistan. We have our own versions of terrorists here.

What is even now happening in Orissa? Now there is a talk of withdrawing the Central Forces from Orissa. People are just cowering in fear there. I would request the Government and the hon. Home Minister not to do that. Unless and until we have full peace and harmony in Orissa,

do not withdraw the Central Forces. It is because then what will happen to those people? As of now, everything has been destroyed in Orissa. Everything that belongs to a minority community, the Christian community, in the country has been destroyed. All the institutions, churches—everything has been destroyed. Nothing has been done by the state Government to help the affected people. No compensation has been given. This happened on 24th December, 2007 and also this year from August onwards.

Now this 24th December, 2008, they have called for a *bandh*, that is, on the eve of Christmas. Why the Sangh Parivar elements have called for a *bandh*? What is the Central Government doing about it? We have nothing to expect from the State Government of Shri Naveen Patnaik. This kind of terrorism is there....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : It is a working day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Silence please. Do not disturb him, please.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : You wanted to say it is a working day. It is a holiday....(*Interruptions*) Mr. Tathagata Satpathy, how can you say that?...(*Interruptions*) Your mother will be turning in her grave when you make this kind of comments....(*Interruptions*) I am sorry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Francis George, please address the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Francis George, you only address the Chair. Do not waste your time.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : My friend, Mr. Kharabela Swain made sweeping allegations here against two States of this country....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not disturb him.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : He said about Kerala and West Bengal....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your turn will be coming next. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : How can you say that? It is a shame....(Interruptions) You should not be talking like this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Let me complete.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : How can you do that?...(Interruptions)

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, how can he say like that?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing else should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Deo, you are the next speaker.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, I do not understand.
...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, is it a good message to rebuild those churches and institutions which were affected?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever he has said, that is not recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, it is a shame. You force your Government, you force your Party to withdraw that....(Interruptions) Sir, I will only request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Government to see that these kinds of divisive forces are also dealt with properly in this Amendment Bill....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude your speech.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, I am concluding. I would request the Government to include in the definition of terrorist act....(Interruptions) Mr. Mahtab, the whole country is watching....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are requested to conclude your speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Yes, Sir. I am concluding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can lay on the Table of the House the rest of your speech.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, I have to conclude.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record. You are the next speaker.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, it is a fact....
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mahtab, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, if I have said something wrong, I stand corrected. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has led a delegation there....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, let me complete.
...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I am concluding....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever has been said without my permission, that should not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, under the leadership of Shri Sharad Pawar a delegation of Ministers went to Orissa. Let Shri Sharad Pawar say what he has seen. If I am wrong, I will correct myself. I will apologise to the House if I have said anything wrong about Orissa. Let Shri Sharad Pawar say what he has seen there. He has gone there. He has led a delegation of Central Ministers there....(*Interruptions*) Whatever it is, under the definition of Terrorist Act, this portion also has to be included.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Yes, Sir. Otherwise, there is no point in having a law like this. We are all supporting this law. But there is no point in having a law like this, without a terrorist being properly defended.

Also, under the National Investigation Agency, there is a provision that starting from the Sub-Inspector of Police up to the highest level, if a situation warrants and if the Central Government *suo motu* intervenes in a State, may be in a situation of terrorist strike or something like that,

*Not recorded.

the officers appointed by the National Investigation Agency takeover the whole setup. If that is so, I think it has got far-reaching ramifications.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, let me conclude. I hope these things will be addressed to. It is because it is not always Dr. Manmohan Singh or Shri P. Chidambaram will be in power. I shudder at the thought of Shri Swain's Party coming to power and then taking actions under this law....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : You go to America and you will be very happy. It is a rich country....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : My friend, we are Indians more than you....(*Interruptions*) We have laid down our lives for India....(*Interruptions*) We are born here and we will live here....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. George, you are supposed to address the Chair. Please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : We have been part of this country and we will always work for India. The way you made an allegation against Kerala is not correct. ...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whosoever speaks without my permission, his statement should not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : How can you say that Kerala is a ... * Under what evidence did you make such a statement? You should withdraw that statement....(*Interruptions*)...*

How can he say that?

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. George, you should address the Chair and not any individuals.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Yes, Sir. It is an unfortunate comment by him. I would request that the Government should think of including that portion of the definition in this Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill.

*SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated) : Sir, I rise to support the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 moved by the Honourable Home Minister.

These Bills will assist to investigate, prosecute and secure the integrity and security of the country, safeguard national and international interests established by conventions and resolutions adopted at international forums.

Sir, in terms of the position the country has in the international community of nations, it is important that the legal structure enables the prosecution of people who attack the sovereignty of the nation and interfere with its secular social fabric.

There is apparently a prevailing situation that by design desires to destabilize the country, create social disharmony and impair the nation's economic growth. The Bills are designed to strengthen the legal and investigation system to address this challenge.

India's strength over the years has been the secure social fabric nurtured over the past two hundred years by the Indian National Congress. The multilined tapestry has been consequent to the vision of the leaders of the freedom movement who gave the nation "unity in diversity".

The events in the recent past in the city of Mumbai have led to a unique sensitization of the people in the country which has been the stimulus in setting the base for these Bills.

While these Bills will consolidate the legal and investigation practices but will not alter the prevailing sense of insecurity in people, attitude of enforcement

*The speech was laid on the Table.

agencies, lack of dependable intelligence information and alienation from the mainstream of a large section of the minorities.

Sir, there is need to create a sense of security amongst all communities. Sir, with these words I support the provisions of two Bills.

*DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur) : Sir, I rise to support the two important Bills (1) The National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and (2) The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill 2008.

Sir, to fight Terror rather terrorism which is now waging war against humanity, the present Bill – The National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 is the best of its kind. We know very well that CBI is over-burdened by many cases. As such the delivery of Justice is not adequate since the time of investigation takes inordinately long. Thus we have "justice delayed, justice denied".

The present Act makes a sincere attempt to adequately investigate incidents to the best satisfaction of all concerned. Why the regional investigations are never adequate? This is partly for want of infrastructure/mechanism. Thus the combined efforts of the Union Government and the State Governments as provided in the present Bill will go a long way for the prevention of Terrorism in the country and the world.

Sir, this Bill will definitely give a better result. We have to attempt for the best. We will succeed.

Sir, the unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 is one such Bill which works effectively after the repeal of the infamous POTA. I support the Amendment. More amendments will be necessary in future also.

While supporting this Bill, I respectfully seek the indulgence of this august House to inform that this Act may please be used with utmost care and caution. Why I say so is simply because my State Manipur – the people of Manipur has had some bitter experiences with the present AFSPA. The only cause of concern is the use of army for civil administration. This should not happen. There

*The speech was laid on the Table.

has been enough abuses of power under this infamous draconian Act like AFSPA. I again draw the attention of the Hon'ble Home Minister to the fact that Justice Jeevan Reddy

Committee has recommended the repeal of AFSPA. The recommendations are lying with the Union Government. The people of Manipur for that matter the people of the NE States and Jammu and Kashmir are wondering when POTA can be repealed why not AFSPA.

Sir these two Bills are complementary to one another. I would say that these Bills are timely and immediately required. I would very sincerely seek the cooperation of all my friends and the other side of the House to kindly support these Bill so that the fight of Terrorism comes to a decisive conclusion. Let us unite to fight this menace of terrorism.

Sir, once again, I support these two Bills and my best wishes to the new able Hon'ble Home Minister.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before I start, I would like to say that when the UPA Government came, POTA was already there and it was repealed by UPA because it said that Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was sufficient to deal with terrorism. Now, they have again come with a Bill to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and say that it will give more teeth to the law and that POTA did not have teeth to deal with terrorism.

19.21 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

After the POTA was repealed and only Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was in place, a lot of terrorist acts have taken place – the bomb blast, the train blast, then this Mumbai episode which we saw and increase in internal insurgency also. Therefore, we welcome both these Bills.

We hope that India will not be subjected to external or internal terrorism in future. Can he assure the House? He says that now a lot of teeth are given to it, but it has

to be implemented properly. He says that the responsibility of the State is also there, but I would like to state here that many of the States are ill-equipped to meet insurgency or to counter insurgency. So, they should be properly equipped with latest arms and ammunition and should know the latest battlefield techniques to fight them. Here, during the passage of this Bill, I would like to give the message that let us terrorise terrorists and not embolden them so that they cannot again become insurgents.

Sir, it is seen that lot of fundamentalist activities have taken place in the country, not only in our country but outside also which led to 9/11 episode. After 9/11 episode, Patriotic Act was promulgated in America. It was passed in one day. But I am sorry to state that when we are discussing this Bill here, we are squabbling on partisan attitude. Today, Shri Thomas of Kerala made an allegation that the Christians were harassed in Orissa. Probably, it could be a backlash of the killing of holy Hindu saint or monk, but the Orissa Government has taken strong steps to rebuild faith among the Christians by building the churches and by setting up a judicial inquiry by a senior High Court judge. They are also giving a lot of *ex gratia* to the people affected in Orissa, which only comprises about one per cent of the population of Orissa. So, he cannot just make the allegations directly. Even I also start making an allegation that fundamentalism is spoiling the country. It may be Muslim fundamentalism or Hindu fundamentalism or Christian fundamentalism.

Sir, I am a Hindu as I am born in a Hindu family and I uphold the tenets of Hinduism which has various cultures and various aspects. With that, I would like to say that terrorism has already started knocking at the doors. After Independence, right from the time of partition, Jammu and Kashmir has been subjected to cross-border terrorism and more than 40,000 people have lost their lives, but the developed nations never believed that terrorism persisted in the country. To fight that out, our party has been telling the Government, which ruled this country the most, to counter it, but they could not counter it. Also, the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir was blown and terrorism is still continuing there. All our efforts regarding developing or reconstructing Jammu and Kashmir are fine, but at the

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

same time, I would submit that the Americans or the western world woke up to the menace of terrorism only after 9/11 episode. Probably, we have woken up after 26/11 episode. I hope that in future, in one word, every civilian and every voter would fight terrorism. I thank the media for having shown to the whole country and the whole world this 3-day turmoil and exchange of fire between our troops and terrorists.

But it is a sad factor that today 10 terrorists could hold the whole country to ransom. This shows how porous our borders and coastline are for the terrorists. Therefore, it is my request to the Government to strengthen the coastlines, and strengthen the Navy. The Navy has always been demanding that the Indian Navy is much below par from being modernized. It should be modernized further, and the Coast Guard should also be modernized further.

In consequence of this, I support the Bill because I hope that it will stop terror activities sincerely and seriously, and terrorise the terrorists and not embolden them. They have been emboldened. Why are you not hanging Afzal who attacked our biggest Panchayat, namely, the Parliament? You have apprehended him, but have not hanged him. Therefore, this emboldens them. The Acts should be such that the terrorists should be done away with.

MR. SPEAKER : The next speaker is Shri Shailendra Kumar. Do you want to speak on this issue?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR (Chall) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. A number of hon. Members have put their views on this Bill. As far as POTA is concerned, most of the hon. Members from both the sides have put their views comprehensively. It is a fact that the place where the most glaring example of misuse of POTA can be found is nowhere else but in Uttar Pradesh. There POTA was imposed on one of the public representatives and on his aged father and thus it was misused. Our point is that all

the laws made in the meantime have been made with a purpose to deal with terrorism prevailing in our society. Now many amendments have been made in it. It was a general discussion after terrorist incident in Mumbai that a Federal Investigation Agency be set up to check terrorism. When the demand to make a federal investigation agency came, many states sent their views and suggestions. As all the Members of this House have unanimously welcomed this bill, have participated in the discussion with zeal and have put their views to eliminate terrorism, at the same time, some states have expressed their apprehension that Government of India may curtail their powers. But their such apprehensions were also cleared. Most of the State Governments have supported this Bill. Therefore, I fully welcome this Bill. Just now some of our hon. Members have made comments in regard to States. Now every State has its own conditions. There are many disputes at local levels, which can be solved by the respective State Governments.

I welcome this Bill wholeheartedly, but I would like to say that this Bill should not be misused. There should be a separate committee for its monitoring and examination. This Bill should not be misused against anybody and especially with a political motive. If and when needed it should be imposed on those forces which are weakening our country.

With these words, I conclude my speech and fully support this Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you, Mr. Shailendra Kumar. Hon. Members, I have got names of seven more hon. Members who wish to speak on this issue.

If hon. Members agree to restrict their speeches within four minutes, I will call them; otherwise, sorry.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, your leader is very much in your favour.

*SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA (Tehri Garhwal) : Respected Sir, The recent spurt of cross-broader engineered

*The speech was laid on the Table.

terrorist attacks in various parts of our country is a serious threat to our security, sovereignty, and pride.

Sir, irrespective of our religion, race, or region today the entire nation is united as never before and the UPA Government is determined to frustrate the nefarious design of terrorist and militant groups to disturb our growth, peace and tranquility.

I congratulate the Honourable Home Minister for introducing these Bills to ensure **Effective Investigation, Speedy Trial and Due Punishment** to the accused persons.

The Bills strike a just and fair balance between concerns of human rights and national security.

The National Investigating Agency is necessary for the effective coordination between the Centre and the States to bring the culprits to task.

I request the Hon. Minister to ensure that the police personnels associated with this investigating agency will have due regard to the cardinal principles of criminal jurisprudence that a person is innocent till proved guilty and that a guilty person may be acquitted and no innocent should be convicted. It is therefore necessary that the police reforms are implemented. In the proposed Bills, there are sufficient statutory safeguards to ensure that there is no abuse of the provisions of the Act as happened earlier in cases pertaining to POTA.

The Amendment in Section 167 Cr. P.c for extending time to 180 days to complete investigation is necessary as the terrorist attacks are as a result of conspiracies hatched elsewhere and there are elements who provide the logistic support for the terrorist attacks.

There is judicial review over these investigations and it was necessary to put stringent conditions in matters relating to bail of foreign nationals indulging in terrorist acts.

By incorporating Section 17, 18 and 51-A the terrorist groups and associations have been brought within the ambit of the Unlawful Activities Act and there is a provision

to confiscate and seize the assets and properties of the terrorists groups and associations. The Section 45 of the Act provides for a sanction for prosecution by the Central Government or the State Government after an independent review of the evidence gathered in the course of investigation.

It is unfortunate that for narrow political gains the minorities in this country especially Muslims and Christians are being targeted.

Secularism was the essence of our freedom struggle and is the basic structure of our Constitution. We should not forget that after partition our Muslim brethren chose India as their motherland and have been contributing to the development of the country.

The Bills would go a long way to address the menace of terrorism.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I think you are also in my favour, thank you very much.

[Translation]

Sir, I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and before that I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairman of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for bringing such a stringent law to fight terrorism, in view of the present situation of the country. He has brought this law with a commitment. I think UPA Government will fulfill this commitment and terrorism will come to an end.

Sir, during the discussion when the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani was speaking, I felt that he would express himself on this issue putting aside his party affiliations. But I think there was some reservation in his mind in this regard and as a result of which he tried to give it a political colour and thus tried to weaken this Bill. Today, terrorism is a challenge before the country and the entire country expects from all of us that we should get united to fight terrorism, setting aside our narrow considerations and party affiliations.

It has been our history that we have unitedly faced the problems that came before us since independence.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

Likewise, we should take a firm resolve to fight the challenge of terrorism. Today, there is some reservation in the mind of our colleagues from Opposition especially from BJP. I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for bringing this legislation to fight terrorism but I shall say that it is not a composite legislation; there are shortcomings in it. If we talk of terrorism, the gravity of problem we are facing from terrorism is similar in case of communalism also. I, my party and our leader Shri Lalu Prasadji believe that terrorism and communalism are twin sisters and until the communalism is wiped out from the country the terrorism will not be wiped out from the country. Therefore, I would like that in February, when the session of Parliament commences you should hold a detailed discussion on this legislation and debate it in the House. When we are making the legislation to wipe out terrorism, I think the country can remain peaceful only when we make a similar separate legislation in the country to wipe out communalism. Terrorism will exist till the communalism exists in this country. Terrorism came into existence after demolition of the Babri Masjid and it all started after Gujarat riots in which innocent people lost their lives. Before demolition of Babri Masjid, there were extremism and internal problems in our country. I admit the fact that we faced some difficulties in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir but we dealt it with firm hands because we have the necessary will power for the same. We cannot divide terrorism into two streams. A section of people was annoyed when ATS chief, Hemant Karkare took stringent action against a particular organisation and when he arrested persons affiliated to Abhinav Abhiyan. Bhartiya Janta Party and its allies were annoyed due to this move. They gave a call for Maharashtra Bandh against Hemant Karkare. Our heads hang in shame when the death of Hemant Karkare and his three brave colleagues who have glorified the country by sacrificing their lives and deserving salutation, is celebrated. Who are those people who took part in this merry making? Honourable Minister, we want that it should be exposed as to who are those persons who are shedding crocodile tears after the death of Hemant Karkare. Their faces need to be unveiled. How Hemant Karkare been alive, today much headway could have been

made in bringing the truth to life given the pace of the progress that was going on. I directly charge Sangh Pariwar of trying to protect Sadhvi Pragya Thakur. Double standards are not acceptable in that while demand for arrest of somebody is made while agitation is launched on the arrest of the other.

I directly charge Sangh Parivar people, who had led the agitation after the arrest of Pragya Thakur. The entire country and I would like to know from you that if you spit venom against any particular caste or religion then we would not be able to create a peaceful atmosphere. Therefore, we will have to give equal treatment to all. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians are the pillars of our country. To strengthen them we need to unite and we should shed the feelings of hatred against any particular religion. It would be difficult to maintain peace in the country if we hate any particular community or religion. Today the country is going through big crisis.

I agree with what the leader of the opposition Mr. L.K. Advani has said.

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate and conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : He was saying that on a large scale an atmosphere of resentment and displeasure was created in the country against political leaders. I would like to say that dispute having IB, CBI, RAW and other agencies, whether any responsibility has not been fixed on them, and whether they have fulfilled their responsibilities entrusted to them or not. Whether any responsibility is to be fixed on the concerned officials to ascertain whether they have performed their duties entrusted to them properly or not. Therefore, it is a conspiracy against political leaders.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am concluding in two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Two more minutes cannot be given.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am just concluding. Countless people sacrificed their lives for the independence of the country and in the process a large number of women became widows, only then we achieved independence and a democratic system was set up in the country. Those

intellectuals, who could not come to Lok Sabha, are conspiring to finish our democratic system and that is why they are talking about Military Rule in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. Save some speech for the future.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am just concluding. It is a very important matter. Our country and all of us are facing this problem. Our membership of this institution is in danger. The kind of atmosphere being created by some intellectuals is not good.

MR. SPEAKER : Leave them. Just say what you want to.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I salute the Army Personnel who sacrificed their lives in Mumbai incident. Some people say that our country is not united. I would like to say that our Muslim brethren and their clerics said in one voice that they will not provide even an inch of land for the burial of slain terrorists. Is it not secularism? Contribution of minority community is not less than the people who have sacrificed their lives for the Independence of the country. They have made great contribution. It is not correct to assume that every Muslim will become terrorist, rebel. If we want to keep our country united, then we need to treat all equally.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now you have to conclude. Nothing will go on record now.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry to cut short your speech. But I have unpleasant duties to perform.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : He has delivered the best speech. ✍

MR. SPEAKER : He gives good speech when he is in good mood. Sometimes he is not in good mood.

* Not recorded.

MD. SALIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, shall I start with your permission?

MR. SPEAKER : O.K. speak.

MD. SALIM : Sir, both these Bills are very important. Hon'ble Minister and the leader of the opposition has also said this. If we pass any important Bill in Parliament, the Government itself has said "Due consideration" in its statement and object and has tried to introduce two Bills. But it is not good for us, for Parliament and for democratic process if we pass such Bills with such a lightening speed. Terror attack in Mumbai made the whole House and the Nation and unitedly. Whether the Government wait for such tragedies to happen and then take action. The gist of today's debate is that there is going to be a session in February. When session begins, then everybody would appreciate the role of Standing Committee. You say that the committee is for two weeks, and four weeks but if you had given it to the committee, the committee itself would have given the same importance as the Government is giving to it and then within two, four or five weeks....
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I thought there was unanimous demand from all sections of the House during the unanimous resolution that the quickest the law comes, the better. Apart from the fact that there was no certainty of the next Session, I never thought that this question would at all be raised. I thought, people would blame me if I send it to the Standing Committee.

MD. SALIM : No, it is not a blame game, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the point is taken that in February, there will be a Session. After all, you are making a reflection on me, on the Chair because the Chair sends it to the Standing Committee. It is not the Government job at all. I mean, it cannot control me on this.

MD. SALIM : I do not want my debate to be miscarried.

MR. SPEAKER : Rather, you may say it, you could have discussed tomorrow.

MD. SALIM : He also said that there was uncertainty whether there will be Session or not. The hon. Minister, Shri Kapil Sibal said, on 22nd February – it is so specific.

[Translation]

Sir, I am saying this because *[English]* such laws throughout the world, and in this country, in particular, *[Translation]* there are more abuses than uses. Hon'ble Shri Kapil Sibal himself has said in his speech as to how they have been abused. If you see law enforcing agencies, authorities always demand that they need special Act. If any incident happens anywhere, they show their helplessness that they don't have such arms. But it's not that we don't have laws in the country, but the problem is that their implementation and enforcement is not proper. No wrong message should be conveyed. People are opposing the Parliament and politics because we are going to pass a law to tackle terrorism. Law alone cannot control terrorism. Laws are there to punish, to convict or to investigate. It means terrorist attacks will take place it is our endeavour to nab terrorists, to punish them and to make sure they don't get away. *[English]* It is not a preventive thing. *[Translation]* But our country has many good laws for preventive detention. Sir, you are yourself an expert in law. We have PD Act, Defence of India Act, NASA, MISA, POTA, and TADA Act etc. There is not dearth of Special Acts. Except 5-6 years in the 60 years of Independent India, we have enacted several special laws on some excuse or the other, in some name or the other. We agree that a special law would have to be enacted. Keeping in view this special attack or terrorists, all of us have pledged to support the Government to tackle terrorism. All the people are ready to support if the Government wants to find more resources, take some more steps and make its intelligence agencies more active. If we fail to stop smuggling of arms through porous border, or infiltration of terrorist or corruption in the system, we cannot succeed as long as we do not implement laws properly, however good laws we make.

We have given specific amendments, but there is one amendments, which has not been circulated, I therefore, have to mention that. It contains terrorist attack but common citizens are terrified with anti-terror law. Terrorism and terrorists cannot be terrified by the law. We cannot stop the

Fidayin and the suicide bomber by warning that they will be hanged to death. This cannot act as a deterrent. They bring potassium cyanide with them. If the officers, being asked to give information, do not provide the same or give wrong information, they will be given three years punishment. We had given notice of amendment against such a provision in the law.

MR. SPEAKER : When the amendment comes, then talk about it.

MD. SALIM : Sir, so far as the National Investigation Agency is concerned, there is a Federal structure. The leaders of Akali Dal and other regional parties, all of them said that we had no problem with Bhartiya Janata Party and the Congress Party because they wanted a unitary system. We have supported it. But we have asked to split the schedule in two parts. Six laws, which are like Atomic law, should be kept in one schedule and the Criminal Procedure Code of the court should be placed in second schedule.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we hope that the Government will pay attention to the amendments given by us. Since this law is in the process of making at present, it would be better to bring a proper law rather than to have discussion on it later.

[English]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar) : Thank you, Sir. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on this very important Bill. The National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and Unlawful Activities (prevention) Amendment Bill 2008 introduced by the Hon. Minister for Home Affairs Shri P. Chidambaram and I congratulate the Hon. Minister for the landmark step taken by him.

Terrorist activities are taking place in our country sporadically. Thousands of innocent people are killed in those inhuman acts. People of the country are expressing their anguish about such mindless activities. Terrorism is not confined only to India, but people all over the world are facing this danger. For instance terrorists attacked World Trade Centre in the United States. In our country

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

almost all the cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Guwahati faced terror attacks and recently the financial capital of India Mumbai was targeted by terrorists. It is high time to take concrete steps to root out terrorism from our homeland. The Hon. Minister Shri P. Chidambaram has brought this historic Bill right in time. I would like to appreciate his initiative and support the Government to take stringent action to curb the menace of terrorism in the country. I would like to say that the entire House and the whole of our country is one with him while dealing with terrorism. All the citizens of our country would stand by the Government to fight against terrorists.

Sir, in the recent Mumbai terror strike our NSG commandos have been killed and I would like to pay homage to those who sacrificed their lives for the country.

I once again congratulate the Hon. Minister and express my support to this Bill and conclude my speech.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) :
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. Home Minister brought forward the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 for discussion and passing. I am welcoming both the Bills.

It would have been better if they were brought before the House earlier, to amend those laws. Why? We had the United Nation Security Council Resolutions; we had the Administrative Reforms Commission which suggested that we should combat terrorism. Even though those two reports were pending for a long time, only after the terrorist attacks on Mumbai, these are brought before the House. Had they been brought earlier, we could have prevented some incidents. Even the States are not well-equipped with modernization of police force; they have so many social obligations. Even their finances are very constrained.

Whatever help the States need to combat terrorism the Government of India should be able to provide them. Even the police forces also should be given the most modern

weapons and good training to combat terrorism. Once this National Investigation Agency Bill is passed, the earlier terrorists' attacks should also be transferred to it. It should also investigate and prosecute the offenders involved in the earlier attacks.

Under the Separation of Power, as per Section 6, rule 5 : "Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section, if the Central Government is of the opinion that a schedule offence has been committed which is required to be investigated under this Act, it may *suo motu* direct the Agency to investigate the said offence". This will encroach upon the State's power given in the Constitution of India. So, the earlier provisions are okay. The Agency should not proceed without the knowledge of the State Government. Every State will cooperate with the Central Government why it should be *suo motu* investigated? Ultimately the whole purpose of it is to combat terrorism. To combat terrorism both the State Government and the Central Government should come together. We have to work together cutting across the political lines. So, the provision of handing over the case *suo motu*, without the knowledge of the State Government, to the National Investigating Agency, is something which I think the hon. Home Minister should clarify to the States.

We are giving more power to the investigating officers. Caution should be observed while selecting these investigating officers....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you were not here when I called your name. How can I give you a chance to speak?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : We have to take officers from various police organizations, like SPG or even CBI, on deputation.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, do not exceed four minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : These are the suggestions that I wanted to make.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to speak on Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill 2008 and National Investigation Agency Bill 2008 being discussed in the House. I have risen to support the two Bills but I have some suggestions. I would request you to go through those suggestions properly and include them in the Bill. The name given to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill is unable to convince me and I am not satisfied with it, because in the wake of terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26th November and the powerful explosions at some places in Assam on 30th October, there was a tremendous pressure from the people of India to have a powerful law to deal with ongoing terrorism. This Bill has been introduced keeping in view the same ideology and spirit. My suggestion is that if terrorism and the terrorists are to be defeated, the name of this bill should be Terrorist Activities Prevention Bill, 2008.

Cross-border terrorism takes place from Pakistan and Bangladesh side. There is no provision to defeat it. Terrorism is going on through Bangladesh border in North-East region whether it is Assam or other State of North-East. If it goes on like this, how will they put it to an end? Therefore, some provision is necessary to stop the cross-border terrorism. It is necessary to fix the responsibility of accountability of those police officers who are unable to carry out their duty of keeping the nation secure and law and order situation under control effectively in the country. The new laws that we are going to enact should not be imposed on our innocent people particularly the tribal people. We have a very big problem because when our Bodo Land movement was going on, TADA was imposed on thousands of innocent people and thousands of people were sent to jail. Even the Government of India has not withdrawn the cases pertaining to Bodo Land till today. Today, I would like to make a demand for withdrawal of all those cases related to Bodo Land Movement as the Government of India had promised under the New Bodo Agreement signed by the Government of India with the Government of Assam and DLP in the year 2003. However,

these cases have not been withdrawn even till today. Through you, I would like to request the Government of India to withdraw all the pending cases related to Bodo Land Movement.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, we are going to pass two Bills at this important juncture.

MR. SPEAKER : You will get four minutes to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I need 10 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Please continue, this is not the place for light hearted banter.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, hon'ble Minister, Shri Chidambaramji has presented the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008. Parliament is very prompt in formulating laws. We are enacting laws but on 13th December, 2001 when Parliament was attacked, hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji was the Prime Minister and hon'ble Advaniji was Minister of Home Affairs at that time and POTA was enacted then but this law did not bring in the desired results. The enacted POTA but it was misused. Hon'ble Manmohan Singhji is the Prime Minister now and Chidambaramji is in charge of a good department, earlier he was looking after another department, but it is better and he can handle it efficiently. Mumbai was attacked on 26th, where 10 people have sent a harsh message across the whole world. There is a need to enact strong laws to combat such situations and we need arms for that. There is a need to provide arms like AK-47 to the police forces. MPs should also be provided arms like AK-47 because we might be attacked anytime.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Then there will be no candidate for 'Speakership'.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : MPs carry pistols and guns but they would not prove to be helpful because these terrorists come from Pakistan fully equipped with sophisticated weapons. Pakistan is still not responding properly

on this issue. At times they respond properly and at times they come up with unreasonable statements but hon'ble Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has replied to them adequately. But now mere words are not sufficient. There is a need to attack Pakistan at the right time. We don't want to spoil our relations with them because we do not want war and there should be cordial relations between the two countries. There is one positive aspect that such attacks bring us together through we do not remain united afterwards. We are like that. This is the time to stand united. I am hopeful that this law is going to be enacted and this Government will complete its tenure. The Government will definitely complete its tenure. I would like to say on behalf of my party that we want that a strong law should be enacted. Government should keep going good work in the coming four months because you will be appointed the next Speaker and you ought to be appointed. You will be appointed Speaker but what about me?

20.00 hrs.

We will surely appoint you Speaker again. There is Sonia Gandhiji, Laluji and Shri Sharad Pawarji. All of us will appoint you Speaker again whatever the communists may do, as we will get majority in the next elections.

MR. SPEAKER : You will not get more time for saying so, you will get only four minutes.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I will take more time as I need more time to see that you get another term as Speaker. There is no need to laugh, I am very serious. Therefore, without taking much time on behalf of my Republican Party I support the law being enacted to combat terrorism. We stand united. Jai Bhim, Jai Bharat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Any written speech can be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, Shri Tapir Gao would like to speak for just two minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have had more than six hours discussion on these Bills. The party has no time. I have accommodated everybody.

[Translation]

But he should conclude in just two minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, please allow him to speak for two minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am afraid of Shri Swain.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill which has been introduced in the House is being discussed since morning, I have also risen to support the Bill. After bringing this Bill in the House we should think as to what we need to be further. I would like to speak on this for two minutes. Shri Chidambaramji is new to this post.

[English]

Sir, I will request the hon. Home Minister to go through the Armed Forces Special Protection Act, a gift of the Congress Government to the people of the North Eastern Region and according to the law. [Translation] Even a Constable can shoot anybody and no one can raise a question. They must bring this law. The Government should rectify the Armed Forces Special Power Act, which has been imposed in North-East for years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are already speaking from an unauthorised place. I should delete every word that you have uttered.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Sir, I seek your permission now.

MR. SPEAKER : It is only afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO : We find that it is AK-47 versus 303, hand grenade versus lathi. After passing the Bill.

[English] I would like to know if passing of this Bill will facilitate our Police Force with sophisticated Arms like AK-47 rifles and all other sophisticated weapons in this age of advanced science to deal with terrorists?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No more please.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, would you please allow me to speak just one sentence.

MR. SPEAKER : No more please. There are too many 'one sentence' people.

Shri P. Chidambaram.

*DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot) : Respected Sir, I rise to support both the Bills introduced by Honourable Home Minister. First of all, I pay my sincere homage to the victims of terrorist attack on 26th November in Mumbai.

Respected Sir, I am sorry to say that this type of Bill was necessary long before. It is too late, but better late than never. When there is fire, we start digging the well but angry. It was highly necessary for the solidarity, sovereignty of our beloved nation. We have been independent after long long period of slavery from British Imperialism. We are at present biggest democratic nation in the world. It is our duty to conserve the freedom at any cost.

Today, Country is fighting against terrorism. Country is one to fight against terrorism. It is true that our country is the number one country to be affected by the terrorism but we have failed to combat terrorism till today.

Sir, our party is demanding for a long time for such stringent law against terrorism. In Gujarat, we have passed GUJCOK Bill against terrorism, but it is still pending at Central Government level for the last four years.

Now, at least, the Government has shown the strong will for such Bill. We have to show strong political will and

*The speech was laid on the Table.

solidarity all over the country. Government should start taking hard actions along with passing the Bill.

First and foremost, the Government should clear the file of Afzal for death imprisonment as early as possible. Government should clear the acts passed by the State Government like 'GUJCOK' by Gujarat.

Sir, we have to make bureaucracy practical in this field. Bureaucrats are not briefing firmly or properly and just ignore by saying that "there is no such proposal" at present. But Sir, it is their duty to alert the ministers regarding real situation in the country without bias or fear.

Sir, I would like to inform the House that in Gujarat, our fishermen hijacked by Pakistani Coast Guard along with their fishing boats. After political dialogues, the fishermen are released. Their boats are not given back. Our Honourable Chief Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi warned the Central Government and Honourable Prime Minister, that these boats might be misused by the Pakistan for terrorist activities. This has come true in Mumbai attack. Even, Government of Gujarat is asking for high speed boats for the coast guard to seize the Pakistani boats. But it was never considered in Budget.

I am sorry to say that now Government has awakened suddenly and sanctioning the boats, arms, equipments and necessary things urgently. Where this money will come from? Such type of delayed technique should be discouraged.

Sir, after first terrorist attack, all politicians are blamed like anything. Our image is at the lowest level at present. They wish that politicians should take strict actions against Pakistan which is source of Terrorism. Otherwise, people will take law in their hand.

The 'Wednesday' and 'Rang De Basanti' pictures are indicative of people's reaction.

It is my earnest request to withdraw Z+ and Z type of security voluntarily by the VIPs. People are very much critic of such type of security. I congratulate our Home Minister, Honourable Shri Chidambaramji to refuse such type of security.

At this juncture, I don't undermine the security of our beloved leaders and VIPs. But as in USA and other countries, there are security people in civil dress with better security, but they are not visible as our commandoes which send bad message to the people of the country. It is misunderstood that the VIPs are concerned with their lives only and not of the public. They are not serious about the safety and security of public at large.

Sir, that is why I support the Bill. But along with the law, just like disaster management, we have to have 'Preparedness for Terrorism' in advance at all level. It requires 'holistic' approach to counteract terrorism.

I would like to suggest the Government to introduce compulsory military training to all young youth of the country after graduation, at least for one year. The details may be worked out. NSS and NCC are not sufficient for this purpose.

We have to sensitize the public for self defence, safety, security and awareness by various programmes and media. We have to inject the spirit of "Nationalism" among people. Sir, There is a dire need to have balanced co-ordination amongst public, police, military, intelligence agency, armed forces and political wing along with bureaucracy. It requires programmes and dialogues off and on at various levels in different parts of country.

Lastly Sir, I would urge to the media to have self-discipline amongst their competition. There is a need to have guidelines for comments, what to show and what not etc. Otherwise, they are the fourth pillar of our democracy and doing wonderful job for public awareness.

With these words, I support the Bill with request that many amendments required will be considered at the earliest.

In period of national urgency, the Bill may be enacted as early as possible.

*SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili) : Sir, I rise to support the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008; and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Bill, 2008. These Bills have been brought forward by the hon. Home Minister, Shri Chidambaram, in the backdrop of the Mumbai terrorists attack.

The manner in which terrorists are carrying out attacks in the last four years against India in various parts of the country killing innocent people and derailing our economy, these Bills ought to have been brought forward long back. Fortunately there is broad consensus among all sections of the House for such a law.

The National Investigation Agency will be empowered to take over the probes in terror-related offences across the country. I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and hon. Home Minister, Shri Chidambaram for these legislations. On a glimpse of these Bills, I find more teeth have been given to make them more effective, thanks to the UPA Government.

As it is very clear, every care is taken in these Bills to prevent their misuse in implementation. I request the honorable Home Minister to focus on this issue and reassure the House.

As we all know terrorism is not having any religion, race or region. Immediate implementation of these laws will definitely deter the terrorists acts and if at all they take place speedy trial on day to day basis, the miscreants will be sent to punishment. In fact, the manner in which Parliament has condemned with one voice the Mumbai terror attacks shows an unprecedented show of unity by politicians across party lines, I express my gratitude to all the political parties. All the political parties should realize the grave situation and stand united against terrorism. I think united and strong political will is the first step in fighting terrorism.

In fact, we are surrounded by two hostile neighbours. They provide shelter and safe haven to the terrorists operating from their lands. They are jealous of our becoming a super-power. Therefore, they are indulging in supporting terrorists. Are they not duty bound to stop terrorist activities on their soils? If they cannot rein in rogue elements in their countries they have to face conse-

[Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi Bótcha]

quences. A short message should be sent from Parliament to these nations.

The National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 has been well drafted lucidly given notes on each clause. Just for the officials to note, Clause 1 says "where they may be and persons on ships and aircrafts.." I think it should be aircraft. Clause 10 allays the apprehensions of some State Government that investigation shall not affect the powers of the State Government to investigate and prosecute any Scheduled Offence or any other offences. In a way, this Bill seeks active cooperation from State Governments. I am sure; they will be fully informed of the progress of cases.

In clause 21, it has been said that the State Government may constitute one or more Special Courts for the trial of offence..." Will the Central Government provide funds to the State Governments for setting up more Special Courts? If so, for how many years? It should not be for a period of five years and then States should bear the entire expenditure after this period. This Bill envisages setting up of Special Courts. The present infrastructure available in the courts is woefully inadequate. I do not know how these would be set up.

High Courts have been given powers to make rules. What is more important is clause 23 (2) says "Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament." The UPA Government has already allayed the apprehensions of the people that the trials would be transparent and fair.

There are still gaps in the international border fencing. Illegal trade is going on our borders. There are reports that while doing trade they bring in drugs and sophisticated weapons also.

We must complete the sealing of Indo-Bangladesh border. He should also provide adequate security in the riverine patches. Wherever border fencing is not possible, find a method as to how to make it more secure. Can the Minister tell us the time-frame for completing the fencing of the border?

We all know that there is no proper coordination between intelligence gathering and intelligence sharing. This should be improved; and the hon. Home Minister should address this problem at the earliest.

The latest terror attack i.e., the Cyber Crimes should also be brought under this new agency. I also request the Home Minister to take steps to tackle cyber terrorism. Cyber terrorism is posing serious threats across the world. I think, cyber terrorism will be the biggest threat to the world in the near future. "Terrorism" is the most common word in the world today. But we are ignoring about cyber terrorism. We all know that criminals have hacked into wi-fi systems of individuals to send terror mails ahead of Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Delhi blasts. The Home Minister should hold consultations with other countries to institute an expert body to counter cyber crimes.

To conclude, for better implementation of these laws and prevent terror acts, our police force should be modernized with latest weapons and communication systems.

With these few words, I support the Bills wholeheartedly.

*SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kanakapura) : Sir, I rise to support two important Bills 1) The National Investigation Agency Bill 2008 and 2) The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill 2008 in this August House introduced by our UPA Government's Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram who was led by only determined Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji and guided by our UPA Chairperson Shrimati. Sonia Gandhiji.

Since POTA was misused by some forces, UPA Government withdrew it and now with lot of modifications and meaningful acts, introducing two new bills to prevent terrorist actions on the soil of our mother land. Sir, let us not break our heads regarding what happens in the Pakistan soil. It is their internal problem. The land which does not have any respect of democratic value cannot be expected to act tough on the issue of terrorism.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

As a democratic sovereign nation India is having all the right to guard her citizens and borders from the barbaric attack by terrorists, irrespective of whether they come from Bangladesh, Nepal or Sri Lanka. As a peaceful country, India has shown ton of tolerance, to these rough forces in spite of being lost the most precious lives, like our late Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, late Prime Ministers like Shrimati Indira Gandhiji, and young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. After the attack on our Parliament; Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Bangalore, Jaipur, Mumbai, now India is showing zero tolerance towards terrorism. That is why Government is bringing strong acts to prevent terror. Let us not target some innocent people, who belong to particular minority community. Let us act as patriotic Indians.

Please ensure more modern weapons, army and advanced ammunitions to our armed forces commandos, police and other related people. Please ensure most tactful training to them. Please take necessary measures to provide decent livelihood and other needs like Housing, proper quality of ration, scholarship to the poor police men and respectful professional conditions. Please restrict their working hours to 8 hrs. only.

Why do the Government not think of awarding a Capital punishment to the people who, conspire, facilitate, and to fund the terrorist activities in the Indian soil. I urge the Government please award the capital punishment for the actors of the terror who intentionally attack the people and soil of India.

Please re-look in the matter of considering the messages, sms, interception between two terrorists seriously. I think our investigative agency is the right agency to identify the accuracy of such evidence.

At last, I thank the Opposition Leader Hon'ble Shri L.K. Advaniji for his whole-hearted support to the Government to curb the terrorism in their soil.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition and 25 other hon. Members have participated in this very important debate on two Bills and

I am grateful to all of them. In fact, all but one or two of them have broadly supported both the Bills and even those who spoke against certain clauses in the Bills expressed their genuine reservations. They were not opposed to the Bills as such or the intent behind the Bills, but expressed some apprehensions and reservations which I respect.

At the end of the day we may agree to disagree but I want to assure even those hon. Members who have spoken against one or two clauses, I respect their views, but give a chance for these Bills to become a law and let us apply these laws and then if it becomes necessary to re-visit any part of these Bills we can always re-visit those parts.

Let me begin by thanking you very profusely for taking up these two Bills for consideration and passing immediately. It is entirely within your prerogative to send it to the Standing Committee but I may say with respect that you have captured the mood of the nation. The nation expects this House to pass these laws today and the nation expects Parliament to pass these laws in this Session so that there is a sense of confidence restored among the people. So, on behalf of the Government and on behalf of the House, I thank you for taking up these Bills.

Much of the debate is about POTA and how this Bill compares with POTA. Life of the nation cannot be divided into pre-POTA and post-POTA. POTA was a law which the Government of the day brought on to the Statute Book because it felt that such a law was necessary. But the successor elected Government came to the conclusion that POTA was not necessary and POTA was not an appropriate law and hence repealed that law. No purpose was served on debating on the wisdom of bringing in POTA or the wisdom of repealing POTA. These are matters on which an executive government can take a decision and subject to Parliament's approval, a law is passed or a law is repealed.

The point that I wish to make and specially, I wish to bring to the attention of the hon. Leader of the Opposition is that all these laws, as my good friend, Shri Kapil Sibal said, are punitive laws, they are not preventive laws. The

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only preventive law that we have is the National Security Act. The National Security Act allows for preventive detention including for matters relating to security of State or the security of India for the defence of India. The National Security Act can be invoked and the person can be placed under detention for upto one year but under very strict safeguards and, of course, under the watchful gaze of the courts which exercise the power of issuing writs of habeas corpus. Except for the National Security Act and similar laws in respect to special matters like drugs and psychotropic substances, the laws that we are making, the laws that we are amending are punitive laws. These laws can be invoked only after the crime is committed or when the crime is about to be committed. But for a jihadi terrorist, the kind of terrorist we face today, this is no deterrent. He comes here to die, he comes to kill. This is not a deterrent to him. So, whether it is POTA or MOCOCA or UAPA that is no deterrent to the jihadi terrorist. What these laws do is (i) give a sense of confidence to the people that the criminals will be punished (ii) give a sense of confidence to the police forces that they are armed with sufficient legal powers to take legal action (iii) give confidence to the prosecution that if they are able to prove the offence armed with the powers available under this law, they can secure a conviction for the accused, and generally give a sense of confidence that we are seriously addressing the issues of security of the State.

The hon. Leader said not to look at this matter through a communal prism. I may be accused of anything but I do not think that anyone has accused me so far of looking at matters through a communal prism. All laws in this country are secular laws except the personal laws of each religion. All laws are secular and nothing can be more secular than a criminal law. Criminal law is secular and criminal law does not recognise religion, caste or creed. Criminal law only recognises whether the person has committed the offence or not. I assure this House that in applying these laws, in implementing these laws, it will be my endeavour to see that these laws are applied uniformly without discrimination, against any section of people that indulge in terrorist crimes or terrorist acts. We are not

concerned about religion or caste or creed of the terrorists. If he is a terrorist, these laws will apply and he will be prosecuted and punished.

Sir, the main criticism of the Left has been that we have brought back POTA. In fact, one criticism is that I have travelled half way down the POTA road.

Nothing can be farther from the truth. I would urge the hon. Members to read the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill carefully. Firstly, to answer the question raised by one of the hon. Members, Section 15, which we have now replaced, which reflects international consensus on what is a terrorist act, includes within it, "any act with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or in any section of the people". This is wide enough to cover what my friend Shri George has in his mind. If any act is done to strike terror or with an intent to strike terror in the people or in any section of the people, this Act can be invoked.

Again, going along with international consensus, we have brought into this Act "anyone who is attempting to raise funds for terrorist acts, anyone who organises terrorist camp and anyone who recruits any person for committing terrorist act". This is international consensus. All these must be made punishable. We have brought them under the definition of "terrorist offence".

What are the additional provisions that we have made and why are they different from the POTA? In fact, I have not had POTA as some kind of benchmark Act to make this law. What I had is the UPA Government's and, I believe, the nation's sense of values, our ethos, our sense of fair play, the principles of natural justice and the jurisprudence that has evolved in this country.

The bail provisions have, indeed, been tightened. I have said so and my friend, Shri Kapil Sibal, has said so. We have tightened the bail provisions. But when it goes beyond ninety days, we have not copied the POTA. Please look at the POTA provisions, which is Section 49 (2) and look at the new provision. In the POTA, when the Prosecutor asks the court to go beyond ninety days, the court "shall" do that. Here we have said, "the court "may"

do that. There is a significant difference between the court being obliged to do something and the court being empowered to do something.

Then, in the POTA, there was no limit. Here, I have said, if you go beyond ninety days – the court may go – but no more than 180 days. So, there is a very significant difference between section 49 (2) of the POTA and the provisions which restrict bail in this law.

Then, we have said that you cannot grant bail without giving the Public Prosecutor an opportunity of being heard. Yes, in this Section, as originally drafted, it said offences punishable “under this Act” that is under Chapter 3 offences, which are unlawful assembly and unlawful association; Chapter 4 offences which are terrorist acts; and Chapter 6 offences which are terrorist funding. So, we are introducing an official amendment to say, “instead of words “under this Act”, it will be “under Chapter 4 and Chapter 6 of this Act”. So, that is the protection that we are giving. We are not applying this across the board, to all offences under the Act.

One of the hon. Members said that we are shifting the onus of proof. I am afraid it is completely misconceived. Shri Kapil Sibal explained it. Let me try to explain it in my own way. In any criminal case the onus of proving is always on the prosecution. It is only in civil matters the court has to decide, on the basis of probability of evidence, and the onus may shift from one side to another depending on the evidence. But in a criminal case, the onus of proof the offence is always on the prosecution from the beginning to the end of the case.

What have we done here? I explained it. Section 4 of the Evidence Act contains three kinds of presumptions. We have picked up the second presumption, namely “shall presume”, and we say “(a) and (b) of Section 43 (e) – I want to repeat it – arms or explosives are recovered or finger prints are found or any other definitive evidence suggesting the involvement of the accused were found at the site of the offence”. This is not somewhere else, it is in the crime scene. In the place of occurrence, if these are found, then “the court “shall presume”, unless the contrary is shown that the accused has committed such offence”.

You read it with Section 4 of the Evidence Act. All that it says is – “I have proved the fact; I have proved your fingerprint; I have proved that I have recovered this arm or explosive from you; and I have proved the definitive evidence gathered from the scene of the crime points to you”. Now, you cannot keep silent. You go round and say what I have proved is wrong, you let in evidence to prove the contrary. What is wrong with that?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Like possession of stolen goods!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am deeply obliged. Yes, it is like possession of stolen goods. That is, onus of proof of the offence does not shift. That particular fact which I have proved gives rise to a presumption, gives rise to an adverse inference, and now you prove the contrary. If you are able to prove the contrary, the court will hold you in your favour. Please contrast this with old Section 53 of the POTA, you will see the difference between old Section 53 of POTA and this Section.

Finally, I have provided an important safeguard which I think, one of the hon. Members may not have noticed. Shri Mohan Singh, I think, wanted a Review Board. It is there. In fact, it is better than the Review Board. What we have said is in a new Section 45 sub-section 2 - Executive Government can register a case. The Executive Government can investigate a case. But before the Executive Government launches a prosecution, it shall grant sanction. But before it grants a sanction, an independent authority must review the evidence and recommend that this is a fit case for sanction. So, it is not a review after the prosecution is launched, it is a review before the prosecution is launched. Now what more safeguard can be provided?...*(Interruptions)* That will come in the rules.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Let us know your mind.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : My mind is that it will be a judicial authority trained in the law who is experienced in these matters, who will be appointed as the independent authority. So, it is a review before prosecution is sanctioned. It is an important safeguard we are introducing for the first time, to my knowledge, in a criminal law – this

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is a very very important safeguard - that we are introducing so that this law is not misused.

Sir, I think, I have explained the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act. I am glad that some hon. Members have discovered virtues in the American and the British laws. All I can point out is that our jurisprudence is similar to the American and the British jurisprudence. I think what we have done is more than adequate. It balances the requirements of the investigating and prosecuting agencies and it balances the requirements of human rights.

Sir, in this behalf, I may only read one thing. While I know that the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants to admit confessions to police officers and bail provisions must be stricter, but please remember apart from the people who are watching us,...(*Interruptions*) Section 46 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, as originally enacted, already provides for interceptions as admissible. Please read Section 46.

Now as the people are watching us, the courts are also watching us. My learned friend pointed out that Kartar Singh matter is been doubted by a two Judge Bench. But this is what the Chief Justice of India said only four days ago. I quote:

"However, the pursuit of terrorists alone cannot be a justification for arbitrarily breaching another nation's sovereignty.

Then he says, "furthermore, the trauma resulting from the terrorist attacks may be used as a justification for undue curtailment of individual rights and liberties. Instead of offering a considered response to the growth of terrorism, a country may resort to questionable methods such as permitting indefinite detention of terror suspects, the use of coercive interrogation techniques and the denial of the right to fair trial. Outside the criminal justice system, the fear generated by terrorist attacks may also be linked to increasing governmental surveillance over citizens and unfair restrictions on immigration."

"In some circles, it is argued that the judiciary places unnecessary curbs on the power of the investigating agencies to tackle terrorism. In India, those who subscribe to this view also demand changes in our criminal and evidence law- such as provisions for longer periods of preventive detention and confessions made before police officials to be made admissible in court. While the ultimate choice in this regard lies with the legislature, we must be careful not to trample upon constitutional principles such as 'substantive due process.'"

"This guarantee was read into the conception of 'personal liberty' under Article 21 of the Constitution of India by our Supreme Court. The necessary implication of the same is that all Governmental action, even in exceptional times must meet the standards of reasonableness, non-arbitrariness and non-discrimination. This implies that we must be wary of the use of torture and other forms of coercive interrogation techniques by law enforcement agencies. Coercive interrogation techniques mostly induce false confessions and do not help in preventing terrorist attacks. Furthermore, the tolerance of the same can breed a sense of complacency if they are viewed as an easy way out by investigative agencies.

"The proposal for the admissibility of confessional statements made before the police is also problematic since there are fears that such a change will incentives torture and coercive interrogation by investigative agencies in order to seek convictions rather than engaging in thorough investigation."

"In this regard, the role of the Judiciary should not be misunderstood. Adherence to the constitutional principle of 'substantive due process' is an essential part of our collective response to terrorism. As part of the legal community, we must uphold the right to fair trial for all individuals, irrespective of how heinous their crimes may be. If we accept a dilution of this right, it will count as a moral loss against those who preach hatred and violence. We must not confuse between what distinguishes the deliberations of a mature democratic society from the misguided actions of a few."

Therefore, what we have done is to try to balance the requirements of the law, requirements of the investigating and prosecuting agencies and the requirements of fair trial and human rights.

On the National Investigation Agency, I would like to say that there is broad support. I know some hon. Members from the Left Parties say "divide the Schedule into two parts, keep the first six under Schedule-I investigation by the NIA and keep the remaining two acts under Schedule-II to be investigated jointly by the NIA and the State agency." I think if they reflect calmly, they will realize that there have been cases in the past and there may be cases in the future where a terrorist crime takes place in a State and there is suspicion of the local police trying to cover up that crime, in such a case, if you put the UAPA in Part-II, the NIA will be completely hampered and completely hamstrung in investigating that case. I think a calmer reflection would help. I do not want to mention the names. I do not want to mention the cases but we know cases where the local police has been suspected of a cover up. If you put it in Schedule-II and mandatorily ask for association, their investigation will be completely hamstrung. Therefore, what we have done is that, if it is expedient to do so, it will ask the State agency to associate. But I will frame rules. I will frame guidelines where, in most cases, the suspicion of the local police is not there, the NIA will be advised to always or invariably – let me say - ask the State agency. So, please do not press that amendment. Let it remain in one Schedule.

Sir, finally I want to conclude. We have taken a number of steps. I do not wish to repeat them. The laws are only part of the steps. I gave a long list of steps taken in the Statement that I made a few days ago. I wish to share with this House that the hon. Prime Minister has already asked me to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers. The meeting of the Chief Ministers has been convened on the 6th January, 2009. In the meanwhile, I have requested the Chief Ministers to take a number of steps in a letter that I have written to them. I expect them to take those steps which are very important and come to Delhi for the Conference on the 6th January where we will review the steps taken by the Chief Ministers and then deliberate on further steps to be taken.

We are at it 24 x 7. This nation cannot afford to lower its guard. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. We have to be vigilant and I ask the whole House to support these two Bills unanimously. Let us not divide this House. Let us not ask for Division. I promise to revisit whatever you may say when we meet next. But, in the meanwhile, let us demonstrate our unity of purpose and unity of action by passing the two Bills unanimously and telling the whole country that eternal vigilance being the price of liberty, this House will guard the liberty and security of this country.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we take up the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008, first.

The question is:

"That the Bill to constitute an investigation agency at the national level to investigate and prosecute offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States and offences under Acts enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Definitions

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 10,-

for "Schedule to this Act",

substitute "Schedule I and Schedule II to this Act". (1)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put amendment no. 1 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has given assurance that he would include it in the rules. That is why I am not pressing for division.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 6 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 7 Power to transfer
Investigation to
State Government**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Basu Deb Acharia. Are you moving amendment no. 2?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we are supporting the Bill and the Minister has given assurance that while framing the rules he would include what we have demanded.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sure your expectation will be taken note of by the hon. Minister.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : So, on the basis of the assurance given by the Minister I am not pressing it.

MR. SPEAKER : Then I have to put the amendment and get it negatived. He is not saying that he is not pressing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He said, he is not pressing.

MR. SPEAKER : This is another way of saying not moving.

The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 8 to 17 were added to the Bill.

Motion re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment no. 4 to the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment no. 4 to the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

**New Clause 17A Sanction for
Prosecution**

Amendment made:

Page 6, after line 24,-

insert

"17A. No prosecution, suit or other legal proceedings shall be instituted in any court of law, except with the previous sanction of the Central Government, against any member of the Agency or any person acting on his behalf in respect of anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by this Act."

(4)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 17A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 17A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 18 to 25 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, are you moving amendment no. 3?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, since he has given assurance I am not pressing my amendment.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I believe I can say that the Bill, as amended, is passed unanimously.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 12 **Insertion of new Section 43A to 43F Power to arrest and seizure, etc.**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 4, lines 48 and 49,-

for "extend the said period up to one hundred and eighty days"

substitute "need not grant extension beyond ninety days". (1)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put Amendment No. 1 moved by Shri Basudeb Acharia to the vote of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Ayes have it. We want Division.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you demanding a Division?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, we all demand Division.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Lobbies be cleared -

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

Page 4, lines 48 and 49,-

for "extend the said period up to one hundred and eighty days"

substitute "need not grant extension beyond ninety days". (1)

The Lok Sabha divided:

DIVISION NO. 3 AYES 20.37 hrs.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Appadurai, Shri M.

Bauri, Shrimati Susmita

Chakraborty, Dr. Sujan

Chandrappan, Shri C.K.

Chatterjee, Shri Santasri

Dasgupta, Shri Gurudas

Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra

George, Shri K. Francis

Hamza, Shri T.K.
 Karunakaran, Shri P.
 Khan, Shri Sunil
 Krishnadas, Shri N.N.
 Krishnan, Dr. C.
 Kurup, Adv. Suresh
 Manoj, Dr. K.S.
 Mediyam, Dr. Babu Rao
 Mohan, Shri P.
 Mollah, Shri Hannan
 Pal, Shri Rupchand
 Panda, Shri Prabodh
 Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
 Reddy, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar
 Salim, Md.
 Satheedevi, Shrimati P
 Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.
 Surendran, Shri Chengara
 Veerendra Kumar, Shri M.P.

NOES

*Aaron Hashid, Shri J.M.
 Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba
 Advani, Shri L.K.
 Agarwal, Dr. Dharendra
 Ahamed, Shri E.
 Ahmad, Dr. Shakeel
 Ananth Kumar, Shri
 Athawale, Shri Ramdas
 Athithan, Shri Dhanuskodi R.

Baalu, Shri T.R.
 'Baba', Shri K.C. Singh
 Bahuguna, Shri Vijay
 Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar
 Barku, Shri Shingada Damodar
 Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan
 Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal
 Bhuria, Shri Kanti Lal
 Botcha, Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi
 Chaliha, Shri Kirip
 Chaudhary, Dr. Tushar A.
 Chaure, Shri Babu Hari
 *Chidambaram, Shri P.
 Chinta Mohan, Dr.
 Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.
 Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka
 Delkar, Shri Mohan S.
 Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.
 Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari
 Deora, Shri Milind
 Dikshit, Shri Sandeep
 Dubey, Shri Chandra Shekhar
 Dutt, Shrimati Priya
 Elangovan, Shri E.V.K.S.
 Engti, Shri Biren Singh
 Fanthome, Shri Francis
 Fatmi, Shri M.A.A.
 Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
 Gaikwad, Shri Eknath Mahadeo

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Gamang, Shri Giridhar

Gandhi, Shri Rahul

*Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia

Gangwar, Shri Santosh

Gao, Shri Tapir

Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya

Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram

Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand

Ghuran Ram, Shri

Gogoi, Shri Dip

Gowda, Shrimati Tejasvini

Goyal, Shri Surendra Prakash

Handique, Shri B.K.

Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh

Hussain, Shri Anwar

Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Jagadeesan, Shrimati Subbulakshmi

Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash

Jalappa, Shri R.L.

Jena, Shri Mohan

*Joshi, Shri Kailash

Joshi, Shri Pralhad

Kader Mohideen, Prof. K.M.

Kalmadi, Shri Suresh

Kamat, Shri Gurudas

Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbai

Kaur, Shrimati Preneet

Khaire, Shri Chandrakant

Kharventhan, Shri S.K.

Krishnaswamy, Shri A.

Kumar, Shrimati Meira

Kumari Selja

Kyndiah, Shri P.R.

Lalu Prasad, Shri

Madam, Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Mahabir Prasad, Shri

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra

Maken, Shri Ajay

Meena, Shri Namoo Narain

Mehta, Shri Alok Kumar

Meinya, Dr. Thokchom

Mishra, Dr. Rajesh

Mistry, Shri Madhusudan

Moorthy, Shri A.K.

Mukherjee, Shri Pranab

Muniyappa, Shri K.H.

Muttemwar, Shri Vilas

Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso

Narbula, Shri D.

Narhire, Shrimati Kalpna Ramesh

Nayak, Shrimati Archana

Nikhil Kumar, Shri

Nizamuddin, Shri G.

Ola, Shri Sis Ram

Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.

Pallani Shamy, Shri K.C.

Panabaka Lakshmi, Shrimati

Paranjpe, Shri Anand

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas	*Rao, Shri Rayapati Sambasiva
Paswan, Shri Ramchandra	Rathwa, Shri Naranbhai
Paswan, Shri Sukdeo	Rawale, Shri Mohan
Paswan, Shri Virchandra	Reddy, Shri M. Raja Mohan
Patel, Shri Dinsha	Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
Patel, Shri Jivabhai A.	*Regupathy, Shri S.
Patel, Shri Kishanbhai V.	Rijju, Shri Kiren
Pathak, Shri Harin	Sahay, Shri Subodh Kant
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe	Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar
Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad	Sajjan Kumar, Shri
Patil, Shri Laxmanrao	Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
Patil, Shri Pratik P.	Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
Patil, Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb	Sardinha, Shri Francisco Cosme
Patil, Shrimati Rupatal D.	Satpathy, Shri Tathagata
Pawar, Shri Sharad	Satyanarayana, Shri Sarvey
Pilot, Shri Sachin	Scindia, Shri Jyotiraditya M.
Ponnuswamy, Shri E.	Selvi, Shrimati V. Radhika
Prabhu, Shri R.	Senthil, Dr. R.
Prasada, Kunwar Jitin	Shandil, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram
Purandeeswari, Shrimati D.	Sharma, Dr. Arvind
Raja, Shri A.	Shivanna, Shri M.
Rajagopal, Shri L.	Sibal, Shri Kapil
Rajenthiran, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani	Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra
Raju, Shri M.M. Pallam	Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad
Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.	Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
Rana, Shri Gurjeet Singh	Singh, Rao Inderjit
Rana, Shri Rabinder Kumar	Singh, Shri Devwrat
Rani, Shrimati K.	Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad
Ranjan, Shrimati Ranjeet	*Singh, Shri Lakshman
Rao, Shri D. Vittal	

*Voted through slip.

*Singh, Shri Manvendra
 Singh, Shri Mohan
 Singh, Shri Sita Ram
 Singh, Shri Suraj
 Singh, Shrimati Kanti
 Singh, Shrimati Pratibha
 Solanki, Shri Bharatsinh Madhavsinh
 Subba, Shri M.K.
 Sugavanam, Shri E.G.
 Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan
 Suman, Shri Ramji Lal
 Sumbui, Shri Bagun
 Swain, Shri Kharabela
 Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.
 Thummar, Shri V. K.
 Thupstan, Shri Chhewang
 Tirath, Shrimati Krishna
 Tytler, Shri Jagdish
 Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry
 Velu, Shri R.
 Venkatapathy, Shri K.
 Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
 Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar
 Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh
 Yadav, Shri Anirudh Prasad alias Sadhu
 Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
 Yadav, Shri Giridhari
 Yadav, Shri Jay Prakash Narayan
 Yadav, Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal

Yadav, Shri Sita Ram

Yaskhi, Shri Madhu Goud

MR. SPEAKER : Subject to correction*, the result of the Division is:

Ayes: 28

Noes: 179

The motion was negatived.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Silence in the House, please.

The next amendment is by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. Are you moving it?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : No, Sir, I am not moving it.

MR. SPEAKER : Amendment No. 3, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Are you moving it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am not pressing it.

MR. SPEAKER : Government Amendment No. 4, the hon. Minister.

Amendment made:

Page 5, line 21,-

for "offence punishable under this Act",

substitute "offence punishable under Chapters IV and VI of this Act". (4)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

*Ayes + Nil = 28

Noes 179 + S/Shri J. M. Aaron Rashid, P. Chidambaram, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, S/Shri Kailash Joshi, Rayapati Sambasina Rao, S. Regupathy, Lakshman Singh and Manvendra Singh also recorded their votes through slips = 187.

*Voted through slip.

Clause 13 Amendment of
Section 45*Amendments made:*

Page 6, lines 14 and 15,-

for "shall be given only after considering the report",
substitute "shall be given within such time as may be
 prescribed only after considering the report". (5)

Page 6, lines 17 and 18,-

for "make a recommendation to the Central Government",
substitute "make a recommendation within such time
 as may be prescribed to the Central Government". (6)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clause 14 was added to the Bill.***Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the
 Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok
 Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall
 be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject
 matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application
 to the Government amendment No. 7 to the Unlawful
 Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 and that
 this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the
 Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok
 Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall
 be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject
 matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application
 to the Government amendment No. 7 to the Unlawful
 Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 and that
 this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

*The motion was adopted.***New Clause 14** Amendment of
Section 52*Amendment made:*Page 6, *after* line 33,-

insert "14A. In section 52 of the principal Act, in sub-
 section (2), after clause (e), the following clause shall
 be inserted,-

'(ee) the time within which sanction for prosecution
 and recommendation to the Central Government
 shall be given under sub-section (2) of section 45,
 and"' (7)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 14A be added to the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**New Clause 14A was added to the Bill.**Clauses 15 and 16 were added to the Bill.**Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the Title were
 added to the Bill.*MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the
 Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Lobbies be opened.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the
 18th December, 2008 at 11 a.m.

20.40 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
 Clock on Thursday, December 18, 2008/
 Agrahayana 27, 1930 (Saka).*

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**Published under Rules 379 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Twelfth Edition) and Printed by The Indian Press, G.T. Kamal Road, Delhi-110033.**
