

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

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(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 18, 2008/Agrahayana 27, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir,
I... (Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, the Minister, Shri A.R. Antulay must apologize.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are so cooperative. I am hoping that he will occupy some position. Thank you for your cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Jogi Ji, if you will not co-operate, then who will co-operate? You will set an example for others.

[English]

Thank you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am always respectful to you.

Now, Q. 281. Shri Pankaj Chowdhary – not present.

Q. 282. Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Sir, there is another Member whose name has been listed.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is no longer a Member.

Now, Q. 282. Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul.

11.01/2 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

National Pharmaceutical Policy

+
*282. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in the finalization of the new National Pharmaceutical Policy;

(b) the salient features of the new proposed policy; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the finalization of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held four meetings so far on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy can only be taken after GOM takes a decision in this regard. The finalization of the policy is therefore delayed.

(b) The salient features of the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 are; Strengthening of Drug Regulatory System, Strengthening of patent office

infrastructure, Focus on Research and Development, Human Resource Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rationalisation of Excise duty on pharmaceuticals, Streamlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Government, Promotion of Generic Drugs, Strengthening of Pharma CPSEs, Schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor especially BPL families, Schemes of interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M (of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) for Good Manufacturing Practices, Greater thrust on Pharma Exports, Restructuring and strengthening of NPPA, Modified system of drug price control by bringing specified essential medicines under price control with enhanced margins, Regulation of Trade margins on generic-generic drugs etc.

(c) Requisite information on clarifications sought by the GOM have already been furnished. The Department is constantly making efforts for expediting the decision of the GOM for early finalization of the Pharma Policy.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to sell popular medicines like antibiotics, painkillers, anti-allergy medicines to the consumers at half of the market price by setting up its own retail stores in every district across the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, there are two types of medicines, one category is of controlled drugs which are scheduled drugs and the other is of de-controlled drugs. 74 bulk drugs are still under-control. Government regulate the prices and production of under-control drugs and fixed the price as well, but Government does not have any control over de-controlled drugs. We are contemplating to formulate a new pharmaceutical policy for this purpose, wherein it is proposed to cover 354 essential drugs under controlled drugs. If the said policy is approved, then prices of all essential drugs will automatically be reduced to 50 percent. Generic drugs are base drugs and are being sold under different brand names. We have decided to open Jan-Aushadhi Karyalaya in each district for the sale of generic drugs. We have started it from Amritsar. You will be happy to know that the medicine which being being sold earlier at a price of rupees 27 is being sold now for Rs. 2 and

22 Paise, and similarly medicine worth Rs. 40 is being sold at Rs. 3 only, but these are generic drugs. As far as de-control is concerned, it will be covered under policy.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I had asked whether the Government is going to set up its own retail stores in each and every district or not.

Secondly, what are the steps taken by the Government to generate awareness amongst the consumers particularly those who are below poverty line and uneducated people?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I have said that Jan Aushadhi Karyalaya are proposed to be opened district-wise. As far as his second question is concerned, efforts are being made in this regard and it is covered under our policy. When the said policy will be implemented, then all your queries will be solved.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao: Not present

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are more than ten thousand medicinal plants and Ayurvedic Pharma companies, which are in existence for years and I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether it is proposed to include traditional Ayurvedic Medicines under the National Pharmaceutical Policy, which is being formulated?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, we have already explained the objectives of National Pharmaceutical Policy. These objectives includes

[English]

Strengthening of Drugs Regulatory System, Strengthening of patent office infrastructure, Focus on Research and Development, Human Resource Development of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rationalisation of Excise duty, Streamlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Government, Promotion of Generic Drugs, Strengthening of Pharma CPSEs, Scheme of providing accessibility of drugs especially for the BPL families,

[*Translation*]

In response to his question, I would like to state that we have already started the "National Health Insurance Scheme."

[*English*]

Scheme of interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M and greater thrust on Pharma Exports, Strengthening of NPPA, Drug price control with enhanced margin, Regulation of Trade margins on generic-generic drugs. These are the main points...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was interested to know about Ayurvedic medicines...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. This is not arising out of the main Question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Adhir Chowdhury.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister must be aware that in India maximum manufacturing operations are restricted to three-four states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh etc. I would like to know whether you have given any suggestion in National Pharmaceutical Policy to promote manufacturing operations in Eastern and North-Eastern India, because there is ample skilled and unskilled manpower available there Secondly, those areas are most suitable for this industry for bio-diversity point of view. Then we have to keep in mind the 'Look East Policy. There are geographical locations in East and North East. In view of all this, whether there is any proposal in National Pharmaceutical Policy to promote manufacturing co-operation in Eastern and North Eastern region?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are already reviewing the same and excise duty is zero

percent there. At times, when it was 16 percent at such places, it was zero percent there even at that time.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam: Not present.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to open cheaper chemists shops nationwide on the line of ration shops under the proposed National Pharmaceutical Policy for the benefit of the people living below the poverty line.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, we had selected two policies for the people living below poverty line-one was to introduce Health Insurance Scheme. You are aware that Health Insurance Scheme for the people living below poverty line has been introduced with effect from 1st April and one crore twenty lakh people will get free medicines upto Rs. 35 thousand. They will be issued Health Cards on the basis of which they will be provided insurance cover. Gradually, we will extend the benefits of this scheme to each and every B.P.L. family, Generic drugs are always basic drugs and as I said we have started a scheme, named as Jan-Aushadh Scheme and we have started selling drugs under this scheme. You may be aware that I have said in the Lok Sabha itself that production cost of Cetrizin is only Rs. 1.20 and market cost of the same is Rs. 37 and at some places it is Rs. 27. We are covering such medicines under Jan-Aushadh and selling them at a reasonable price of Rs. 1.50 or Rs. 2. We are contemplating to implement this scheme in the entire country. This scheme has been introduced recently in Amritsar.

[*English*]

ADV. SURESH KURUP: It has been a long standing demand of those organizations and persons working in the health sector that medicine should be marketed only in generic name and not in branded name. If this is implemented, immediately this will bring the prices of the drugs down. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether this vital aspect would be included in the National Pharmaceutical Policy.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It has been included in the National Pharmaceutical Policy and we have requested all the State Governments.

[Translation]

We have requested the State Governments to use generic medicines in the Government hospitals. As you are aware that all our PSUs were on the verge of closure. Our total turnover is Rs. 80 thousand crore under which share of Public Undertakings Rs. 500 crore and all these were sick undertakings. We have already revived HAL and Bengal Chemicals. Presently, the case of IDPL is under Process. We are doing all this as per our objectives and we have already included the same in the policy.

Ethanol Mixed Petrol

+
*283. SHRI SUBHASH SURESH CHANDRA
DESHMUKH:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

- (a) the status of ethanol blended petrol programme;
- (b) whether the Government has started selling petrol and diesel after mixing them with ethanol and extracts of Ratanjot;
- (c) if so, the quantum of such petrol and diesel sold so far and the price of such blended fuel;
- (d) the stipulation regarding the quantity of ethanol and Ratanjot which can be mixed with petrol and diesel.

(e) whether the Government proposes to enforce 10% mandatory ethanol blending in petrol; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide its notification dated 20th September, 2006 has directed the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) subject to commercial viability as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications in the entire country, except North-Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep with effect from 1st November, 2006.

2. At present out of the identified 20 States and 4 UTs, 5% EBP programme is being implemented in 14 States and 3 UTs. OMCs have finalised tenders for ethanol and EBP releases have since commenced at all locations in these States/UTs.

3. As per the existing Bio-diesel Purchase policy, 5% of Bio-diesel can be blended with High Speed Diesel (HSD). The purchase price of bio-diesel is at Rs. 26.50 per litre w.e.f. 22.8.2006.

4. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have not been able to purchase bio-diesel at the identified purchase centres so far, as the parties who have expressed interest are not willing to supply at the declared price.

5. (i) The quantity of 5% ethanol blended petrol sold by OMCs is as under:

Year	Quantity of EBP sold by IOCL (Crore litre)	Quantity of EBP sold by BPCL (Crore litre)	Quantity of EBP sold by HPCL (Crore litre)	Total (Crore litre)
2008-09 (upto (Nov., 2008)	174.3	81.088	76.1999	331.5879
2007-08	266.3	116.97	121.4141	504.6881
2006-07	91.3	34.742	43.4409	169.4829
2005-06	42.6	20.206		62.806
Grand Total				1068.5649

(ii) The quantity of 5% bio-diesel sold by OMCs-Nil.

6. The price per litre of ethanol blended petrol and bio-diesel is same as that of normal petrol and diesel respectively.

(e) and (f) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had decided on 9.10.2007 to make 5% blending of ethanol with petrol mandatory with immediate effect across the country (except Jammu and Kashmir, North Eastern States and island territories) and optional blending of 10% ethanol with petrol from October 2007 and thereafter mandatory blending from October, 2008.

2. OMCs are facing certain constraints with respect to free inter-state movement of ethanol and levy of duties on it by the state governments which is impacting even the implementation of 5% EBP Programme. Further, ethanol supplies are not adequate to meet the demand. Thus, even the 5% EBP programme has not yet stabilized.

3. In addition, Society for Indian Automobile Manufactures (SIAM) has raised certain concerns about the compatibility of present in-use auto engines which are already on road including 2&3 wheelers with 10% EBP. To assess the compatibility of engines with E10, MoPNG has directed OMCs to take up a pilot project study using 10% ethanol in Aonla Depot of UP and Desur Depot of Karnataka.

4. If blending is to be raised to 10% level across the country, it will have to be ensured that sufficient ethanol is available for the programme in required quantities at all the notified locations and OMCs do not suffer any under recovery in sale of EBP. Further, issues relating to compatibility of 10% EBP with auto engine and simplification and uniformity of different procedures adopted by different States/UTs in relation to procurement of ethanol and State duties need to be resolved.

*SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Thank you. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Central Government had decided to purchase ethanol from November 2006. Such instructions had also been issued. The Government of Maharashtra has again made a demand in this regard. Your instructions have not reached the concerned depots. It is necessary to issue the instructions to these depots. If blending of ethanol has been made mandatory, will

action be taken against the depots which are not implementing the instructions? Will the Government approve the resolution of Government of Maharashtra in this regard?

[English]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Mr. Speaker Sir, earlier we had a discussion with Govt. of Maharashtra to purchase ethanol at rate of less than Rs. 21.50. But many State Governments did not provide ethanol at the rate of Rs. 21.50 therefore fresh tender was floated. But, even in this tender also Rs. 28 per litre rate was quoted. Since, the rate is high, therefore, we are negotiating with them on this matter. But we are not able to reach at any agreement even after this negotiation. Now we cannot provide petrol at cheaper rates because we are purchasing ethanol at the rate of Rs. 28 per litre.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He says whatever decision is taken is not implemented. What are the steps being taken to implement them? That is what he is working.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to say that we have purchased requisite quantity of ethanol from the place which we decided to. We have purchased the ethanol as per our requirement. We have lifted around 45 crore litre ethanol. We are not getting the remaining quantity of ethanol because they are demanding higher prices. Previous tender was for a period of 3 years. Farmers and factories are getting less amount through such tender, therefore, they are asking for higher amount. Now, in such circumstances, we will not be in a position to provide petrol at cheaper rates because the price of petrol would increase due to the increase in the rate of ethanol. These are the facts about this matter.

*SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: There are a large number of sugarcane growers in the country. They are facing several difficulties every year. I would like to know whether the Government will consider to exempt excise duty on sugar and molasses or give some other assistance to sugarcane growers, State

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

Government and factory owners who are manufacturing ethanol in case these rates are not affordable.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How can this Ministry reply to this?

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Sir, honourable Member's question is related to Ministry of Agriculture.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, it does not relate to your Ministry. I agree with you.

[Translation]

But you can pass it on.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: All right, Sir. But actually, this question should be addressed to Agriculture Ministry.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, it will be passed on.

[Translation]

SHRI M. SREENIVASULA REDDY: Not present.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, the honourable Minister has stated that people are not ready to supply ethanol at the rate of Rs. 21.25. This is not a fault. Last year, Maharashtra Cooperative Sugar Federation, National Cooperative Sugar Federation had given a presentation that the company is not lifting the supply, it is not interested in lifting it. What will be the policy of the Govt. in this recession period so that the present blending of 5 per cent ethanol could be increased upto 10 per cent. He has replied that two study groups one in Karnataka and another in UP have been constituted in this regard. The time by which it will be mandatory? Besides, news was published in Times of India that Govt. of India, Indian Oil Company is going to manufacture ethanol in Brazil by spending 2,500 crore rupees. I would like to know about the policy of the Govt. in this regard because farmers and industries are facing difficulties as ethanol manufactured by them is not being lifted whereas the Government is going to manufacture ethanol in Brazil by spending such a huge amount, if this amount would

be spent on the Cooperative Sugar Industry in India, then it will definitely be beneficial for the sugar industry:

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Sir, in reply to honourable Member's query, I would like to state that during the year 2006 to 2009 45.6 crore liters of ethanol was manufactured by oil manufacturing companies under EBP Programme till 30 November, 2008 in comparison to the requirement of 180 crore liters of ethanol. In comparison to sale of 1435 crore liters of petrol, only 505 crore liter ethanol mixed petrol was sold during 2007-08. It means that 35 percent petrol is ethanol mixed petrol. As honourable Member has asked about investment, I would like to state that there is no such proposal. Talks are going on between oil companies and Brazil regarding this matter but no further action has been taken in this regard.

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Thank you, Sir. In the meantime, a new Department in the name of Department of Pharmaceuticals has been created by the Government of India. That is supposed to look after all issues related to pharmaceuticals, including Pharmaceutical Policy. But the very important component in pharmaceuticals, in addition to pricing and others, is first, the question of research and development in pharmaceuticals and second, is the question of drug regulation.

MR. SPEAKER: This Question relates to Petroleum Ministry. You are asking question on earlier matter. That Question is over.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: I am sorry, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You raise it next time. Probably, you came a little late.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: I do not know whether it pertains to your Ministry but it is concerning ethanol.

Sir, in many millions of acres, maize, wheat and other crops were planted in the US and elsewhere in 2007 to provide bio-fuels to the cars rather than food for the people. In India, here also, are the food grains converted into making ethanol as bio-fuels? Is there any plan to the Government? I think you are making it from sugarcane.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Veerendra Kumar, that pertains to the Ministry of Agriculture. They do not decide these policies. These policies are determined, as I understand, by the Agriculture Ministry.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: It is concerned with ethanol. I think it is a pertinent question regarding ethanol.

MR. SPEAKER: This is another question that will be passed on.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: All right.

MR. SPEAKER: You are more interested in generation of ethanol than mixing.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Sir, the as honourable the Minister has stated that tenders have been submitted at the rate of Rs. 28 per liter but it will depend upon the production of sugarcane and its prices. So, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether he is ready to take any concrete steps regarding purchase of ethanol or whether it will remain only on papers. Ethanol is produced from molasses of sugarcane so it will affect the purchase of sugarcane and its prices.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: I have already informed that we are planning to mix five per cent ethanol in petrol to help farmers. Ethanol is a by-product of sugar industry. It is used in wine and other items. Besides this, it is also used in drugs. In drugs, it is used in greater proportion. We want to give benefit to the farmers that is why Petroleum Ministry has held talks with Agriculture Ministry and formulated a plan to mix five per cent ethanol in petrol. In future if we will get enough quantity of ethanol, then we could mix upto 10 percent ethanol in petrol but right now we are not getting enough quantity and whatever we get its rate is high.

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Sir, in countries like the USA, Brazil etc. food crops are diverted for production of bio-diesel. In that way, the international availability of food has decreased thereby increasing the food prices also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has made any study as to what will be the effect on our food security if such a thing is started in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it does not relate to this Ministry.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can mix 20 percent ethanol in petrol. Various countries of the world are doing so. Honourable Minister has stated that Government has taken this decision while keeping two main objectives in mind. First objective is that. We can save petrol by mixing ethanol in it because we have to import large quantity of petrol. Second is that sugar industry and sugarcane growers are associated with it. The entire sugar industry manufacture ethanol. If ethanol is mixed in petrol then farmers can get its benefit. Maharashtra is demanding this because there is maximum number of sugar industries there including cooperative sector and maximum sugarcane is also produced there. Honourable Minister is talking about using 5 percent ethanol in petrol which can be increased upto 20 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Honourable Minister has also stated that they are getting ethanol at higher prices. Farmers of Maharashtra are committing suicide. When you can procure ethanol from other States easily then why don't you talk to farmers or sugar industry in Maharashtra? Beside this, what steps are being contemplated by the Government to use 10 percent ethanol in petrol in place of 5 percent so that farmers could be benefited.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Sir, honourable Member's suggestion is good but I have already stated that this matter is related to the Ministry of Agriculture also. If large quantity of sugarcane is produced, then we can use 10 percent ethanol in petrol in place of 5 percent. For this, discussion is also going on with auto industry. For this, automobile industry would have to think about making some changes in carburetors of two wheelers and three wheelers after that further action can be taken in this regard. That is why, we have to work in-co-ordination with these two departments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made all these suggestions, they have considered them and implementation will depend who is in the Government.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, this question of mixing ethanol with petrol was done not just because it was felt that there was a shortage of petrol but also because it might have impacted on the amount of CO₂ being released into the air and, therefore, impacting global warming. We have adopted this because Brazil took it, South America took it, North America took it. But have any studies actually been done on the amount of CO₂ being released by a mixture of these two oils and secondly how the mixing of these oils in whatever capacity increased the amount of mileage that the vehicle gets or lessens it, in which case it is not good?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you conducted any such study?

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know much about what honourable Member has said but the carburetor of two wheelers and three wheelers would have to be changed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think you put a specific question next time. Then, they will make a study and come.

Q. 284—Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat—Not present.
Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam

[Translation]

Railway Bridges

+
*284. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges under the network of Indian Railways;

(b) whether the Railways have declared a number of bridges as "distressed" which require immediate renovation or replacement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, Division-wise along with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) As on 01.04.08, there are 1,27,768 no. of Railway Bridges on Indian Railway system.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A total of 66 no. of distressed Bridges exist on Indian Railways system as on 01.12.2008. The Division-wise break up of these distressed Bridges is enclosed as annexure.

Rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is an ongoing process on Indian Railways. Railway undertakes rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections carried out in the field. Certain Bridges which may show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation etc., are classified as Distressed Bridges. These, however, are neither unsafe nor dilapidated Bridges. Priority is given to early rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of distressed Bridges. If required suitable speed restrictions are imposed on such Bridges till rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening is carried out. A total of 899 no. of distressed Bridges have been rehabilitated/rebuilt/strengthened on Indian Railways since 2001-02 including 22 no. of distressed Bridges completed during the current year upto November, 2008.

Annexure

Railway	Division	No. of Distressed Bridges (as on 01.12.2008)	
		Division- wise	Total (Railway-wise)
1	2	3	4
Central	Bhusawal	5	6
	Nagpur	1	
Eastern	Howrah	3	5
	Malda Town	1	
	Sealdah	1	
East Central	Danapur	3	8
	Maghalsarai	1	

1	2	3	4
	Samastipur	4	
East Coast	Khurda Road	1	3
	Waltair	2	
Northern	Ambala	1	10
	Delhi	5	
	Ferozpur	2	
	Lucknow	1	
	Moradabad	1	
North Central	Agra	1	1
North Eastern	Izzatnagar	1	9
	Lucknow	6	
	Varanasi	2	
Northeast Frontier		0	0
North Western	Jaipur	1	1
Southern	Chennai	1	2
	Trivandrum	1	
South Central	Guntakal	1	6
	Hyderabad	2	
	Nanded	1	
	Secunderabad	2	
South Eastern	Chakradharpur	2	5
	Ranchi	2	
South East Central	Bilaspur	1	1
South Western	Mysore	2	2
Western	Ahmedabad	1	3
	Ratlam	1	
	Vadodara	1	
West Central	Jabalpur	3	4
	Kota	1	
Total		66	

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Sir, with you permission, I would like to ask the honourable Minister about the number of bridges rehabilitated and renovated among the 267 bridges declared distressed in the report of Railway Safety Renew Committee Part (1) in 1998.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the Committee constituted in 1988 had again appointed a Sub-Committee of Experts which went into the details of how to rehabilitate these dilapidated and old bridges. They gave some recommendations where they have said that they have necessarily taken into consideration the strength of steel, type of material used, quality of work, extent of loading etc. On the basis of that report, over the years, we have been doing this kind of rehabilitation and reconstruction. From 1988-89 till this date, I will give you the figures. During that year, 1989-90 we have completed about 484 bridges. In 1990-91, we constructed 374 bridges. In 1991-92, we did 292 bridges. In 1992-93, we have done 689 bridges. In 1993-94, we did 640 bridges. In 1994-95, we did 355 bridges and in 1995-96, we did 718 bridges.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to give 20-year break up.

SHRI R. VELU: He has asked for it.

MR. SPEAKER: You supply the information.

SHRI R. VELU: Yes, I will supply the information to him.

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Sir, my second question is that a proposal was sent in the year of 2000 to construct an overbridge near Andh Aashram on Kambalia road in my Jamnagar constituency but nothing has been done even after eight years. Will be construct that overbridge immediately?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: I think, he is asking about fly-over bridge. This Question is about Railway Bridges, ROBs, is not concerned with this Question.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. Are you angry?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: No, I am never angry.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are angry, then you ask specifically.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister in his reply has made some statements about East Central Railway which are related to our area i.e. Danapur, Mughal Sarai and Samastipur. He said that there are 8 bridges which are dangerous. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the details of such bridges in Danapur, which is a part of my Parliamentary Constituency alongwith the amount which is proposed to be allocated for the same and the time by which these are going to be rehabilitated and reconstructed. I would like to know about the steps taken by him to get rid of these dangerous bridges?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: These are distressed bridges. It does not mean that they are dangerous bridges. They are neither unsafe nor dilapidated. They are showing some physical condition of distress and we are giving priority to them and get them rehabilitated and reconstructed, whatever is required. But in the case of distressed bridges, this year we have got 66 bridges in the whole of 35 divisions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: No, reply has come from Hon. Minister with regard to my question. I have asked as to how much amount he is going to allocate and by when the bridge will be constructed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He was trying to educate you about the situation in the country. If you do not want to know, what can be done? Please tell about Danapur?

SHRI R. VELU: In Danpur, there are three bridges. There is no problem at all. The fund is no constraint. This year, we have allotted Rs. 606.0 crore for bridge works and the work will be done.

MR. SPEAKER: The second portion of his intervention will not be answered.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has declared 66 Railway bridges in Uttar Pradesh as distressed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please Maintain Silence in the House. What is happening there?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I think that in such a big country, the number of distressed bridges stated by Hon. Minister is highly understated. In my Lok Sabha constituency under West Central Railway, the Minister has declared only four railway bridges as distressed. There are several bridges, which are very old and were constructed during the British Rule on around 400 km long track between Jabalpur to Allahabad. Those Railway Bridges are extremely dangerous. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether he has got inspected these railway bridges also?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: This is a relevant Question put by the hon. Member, but I must educate him on this issue. It is not that I am saying that it is only 66 bridges. We have got about 1,27,768 bridges in the country out of which we have got about 51,340 bridges that are more than 100 years old, that is, about 42 per cent; about 75,600 bridges more than 80 years old; and 90,387 bridges more than 60 years old. It means that 42 per cent bridges are over 100 years old; 62 per cent over 80 years old; and about 75 per cent over 60 years old. It does not mean that all the bridges are in dangerous or dilapidated condition.

As I have mentioned earlier, the physical condition of the bridges is taken into account. A systematic and periodic multi-tier inspection is taking place in the country. It is because bridges are one of the safety categories, especially, after the higher loads that we are now contemplating. We are thinking of very close monitoring there. The instrumentation is being done to see whether they are able to take the load. This being the case, we will now take everything seriously and see that whatever

is being given for the Western Railway, those bridges will be taken care of.

MR. SPEAKER: Next is Shri P. Karunakaran. Please put brief Questions for brief answers will be taken care of.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, the Railway has constructed and commissioned the Konkan Railway, which is a noble project in our country. The purpose of this scheme was the smooth functioning of the train services. The most important issue related to it is the Nethravathi Bridge connecting Kerala and Kamataka. The old bridge is really old as it was built during the British rule, and the construction of the new bridge was started years back, but it has not been completed yet. Hence, the Konkan Railway is not serving the real purpose of which it was constructed.

May I know this, through you, from the Government? When can the new bridge be commissioned?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, it would be better if you send the detailed information about the individual bridge to him.

SHRI R. VELU: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise, we cannot carry on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He will inform you about the latest position.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot go on answering about individual bridges as to its condition, state of repairs, etc.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: It is a bridge that serves the Konkan project, and the Minister knows about it... (Interruptions)

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, he knows about it.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether you have taught him anything. Do you know about it very well?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the bridge is at the advanced stage of completion. We will see that the Member's concern is taken care of and that it is made through.

MR. SPEAKER: It is better.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Thank you, Sir. I have gone through the detailed report about the distressed bridges. But there are many unfinished new bridges that have already come under distress due to much delay in constructing those new bridges. In my constituency, two ROBs are being constructed for more than six years, and they have not yet been completed.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is asking about his constituency!

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: I want to know this from the hon. Minister. How many new bridges—that are under construction—have been delayed for more than five years? What steps have been taken to complete them at the earliest so as to avoid those bridges being declared as distressed even before using them?

SHRI R. VELU: As it is, whether distressed or dilapidated or new construction, it takes not less than four years to construct a bridge. Our hon. Member knows it very well that there are two ROBs in his constituency. It does not concern this Question as it is a different thing, but I will assure him that one of them will be completed soon. As regards the other bridge, we are trying our best. It is because the approach roads are still pending for want of land etc., and the hon. Member knows about it. We are very much liaising with it... (Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is not permitted, and I would not permit it. Do not record anything else from Shri Krishnaswamy. Mr. Minister, do not answer to that. Without my permission, no question can be put.

...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 285 relating to the popular Ministry. Shri Nikhil Kumar

Delay in Flights due to Fog

*285. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

**Not recorded.

(a) whether many international flights are being delayed due to fog at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pilots of most of the flights are not trained in CAT—III landing system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government of ensure that the flight services are not disrupted even in foggy conditions?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Runway 28/10 and 29/11 at IGI Airport are equipped for operations under Cat III B conditions, that is, for operations in the RVR upto 50 meters conditions. However, sometimes due to dense fog when visibility drops below 50 meters or other reasons such as non availability of trained pilots etc., some flights do get delayed/diverted. During the current season, one domestic flight each on 21.11.2008 and 11.12.2008 and 8 international flights on 21.11.2008 were diverted due to fog.

(c) and (d) Pilots are required to be imparted additional training by Airlines for CAT-II/III Operations during low visibility conditions as per the requirements laid down in Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7, Series 'X' Part-I.

List of Qualified Indian Pilots currently available with Indian operators is enclosed as Annexure.

Although there is no mandatory requirement for Domestic Airlines to get their pilots trained to operate during low visibility conditions, these airlines are, however, persuaded from time to time to train their pilots for operation in low visibility conditions.

Flight schedules of Domestic Scheduled Operators to/from fog bound airports are approved on the basis of number of trained pilots and suitable planes available with the operators for operation in low visibility conditions.

Govt. have taken the following important measures to enhance the availability of trained pilots for CAT-II/III operations, as under:

- (1) Only such pilots who are CAT-II/III qualified, are approved as Instructor/Examiner so as to ensure that more trained pilots are available for CAT-II/III operations during low visibility conditions to improve the operational efficiency.
- (2) The flying experience and simulator training requirements as specified in Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on Training of Pilots for CAT-II/III Operations has been reviewed and rationalized.
- (3) The Low Visibility CAT-II/III Operations Training requirements have been included in the endorsement training syllabus and laid down by the operators in their Training Manual.

Annexure

No. of Qualified Indian Pilots currently available for CAT-II/III Operation as on 11th December, 2008

Name of the Operator	Indian CAT-II		Indian CAT-III	
	PIC	P2	PIC	P2
1	2	3	4	5
NACIL (A)	11	05	95	69
NACIL (i)	34	28	148	94
Jet Airways	86	54	102	58

1	2	3	4	5
Jet Lite	43	38	—	—
Spicejet Airlines	33	24	—	—
Indigo	—	—	33	26
Kingfisher Airlines	09	07	93	53
Go Air	04	06	04	06
Total	220	162	475	306
Grand Total				1163

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, fog normally delays all of our flights, and fog leads to low visibility conditions. In fact, some airlines even cancelled or suspended their flights by as much as a month.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if you have so many important matters to discuss among yourselves, then please go out, discuss and come back. This place is not meant for holding mini-meetings.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: I was saying that fog delays all our flights.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a specific question, Mr. Nikhil Kumar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Yes, Sir, I will. Due to all these delays and also due to insecurity, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly tell us whether the Government is thinking of making it mandatory for pilots to undergo training under CAT-III conditions.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the fog conditions are a natural phenomenon; it can affect operations at any airport depending on the visibility condition. After all, it is a safety-related issue. However, new technologies do help us to operate even in lower visible conditions. As all of us are aware that newer equipment are being inducted. In Delhi, we have CAT-III B operations not only on the runway which was the main runway until now, but also on the new runway which has recently been constructed. We are also looking at expanding not CAT-III B operations, but CAT-I and II operations many airports in North India. In Kolkata also, this is for your information, it is CAT-II which allows visibility up to as low as 350 metres so that the operations are maintained as normally as possible. However, I repeat it is a natural

phenomenon, and from the point of view of safety and in the interest of the fliers, we have to ensure safety standards. There cannot be any compromise. In aviation, either it is 100 per cent safe or zero.

In the case of trained pilots, I can assure the hon. Members that it is an on-going exercise. In the past, we had very few pilots who were CAT-III B trained. As of now, we have almost, between CAT II and III, 1163 pilots who are trained. This is an endeavour which we have taken in the last few years on an on-going basis. Again, I repeat that a CAT-III B trained pilot does not get produced just because he goes through a certain training. The experience of the pilot counts and over years only, a pilot graduates from CAT I to II to III to III A, B and C. Therefore, I would urge the Members to understand the compulsions as well as the endeavours which are being made to ensure that not only is there minimum disruption, but also to ensure 100 safety and security of the passengers.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, even though I did not get a pointed reply to my question about making it mandatory and necessary...

MR. SPEAKER: He said: "For reasons of safety..."

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: My second supplementary is, I refer again to flights operating from smaller airports like Patna, whether it is proposed by the Government to equip the smaller airports like Patna with modern implements and modern flying conditions' requirements such as CAT-III conditions. I am referring especially to Patna because we are all aware that it has a very small runway, and for a very long time, there has been a proposal to extend it. That proposal is pending with the Ministry now. I would request the hon. Minister, through

you, to kindly let us know whether the Government is planning to extend it.

MR. SPEAKER: By putting a question on fog, you want airport of Patna's extension!

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Just to complete the first part which the hon. Member was not satisfied in terms of mandatory training, I would just like to state, part of it is answered, first and foremost all airports in the country are not requiring CAT- III-B. If a flight is landing in Mumbai or Chennai or many other cities, you do not need CAT-III-B training. So, to mandate every pilot for CAT-III-B is also not necessary and for your information, no where in the world, I repeat, no where in the world, a pilot is mandated only to be CAT-III-B or whatever compliant. The only issue, if you are landing in CAT-IIIB condition, you must be trained for that kind of an operation. Therefore, on an on-going basis, because of increased fog activity in the northern region, and there are more flights now, only Delhi is used to be covered by CAT II-B or CAT III-B in the past. Now, we are extending as I said CAT I, II and III to various airports.

MR. SPEAKER: He was enquiring about Patna.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Regarding Patna, I would say that we have ILS, that is CAT-I. But I am sure we will be able to upgrade it further depending on the further availability of more flights. Ultimately, these are very expensive equipment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He wants Patna's extension of its runway.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Regarding Patna's extension, as he is also well aware, there are compulsions which are not of the Airports Authority in giving money. The land availability for extension of the runway is not available. On the one side, there is a botanical garden, the trees also cannot be pruned because of environment and green concerns. That is also restricting the runway availability and usage of airport on the one side; and on the other side, the run-way cannot be extended. In fact, there is a railway line or a railway issue. I have been talking to Railway Minister, who also hails from Patna and Bihar. I hope, we would be able to resolve. As and when it is done, we would be happy to bring it to the notice of the House.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Minister that ILS CAT-III-B and CAT-III-C requirements are needed only for fog-prone airports. Therefore, my question through you is, there was earlier a plan to make IGI airport in Delhi CAT-C compliant. It is only CAT-B. CAT-C is zero landing which he knows. What about the plans regarding Srinagar, Kargil, Leh and Thoes airports....

MR. SPEAKER: And also Bangalore.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He knows as to what is required for Bangalore. We already have ILS. The most important is, only instrumentation is not sufficient, the pilots should be trained to operate in those circumstances. Why has it not made mandatory? Are there plans to make pilots training to operate in ILS-CAT III-B and CAT III-C airports mandatory?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: It cannot be made mandatory. As I said, a pilot does not only fly between Delhi and Lucknow and Delhi and Leh; a pilot flies all over the country. As I said, it is an on-going process. A fresh pilot cannot be suddenly operating on a CAT-IIIB. A pilot has to be trained. After all, it is a human skill and there is a process. But the fact is, if you want landing in CAT-III-B condition, a pilot has to be necessarily trained for that. Otherwise, he would not be allowed to land.

I do not mind educating the House for half a minute more. So many times, you sit on a plane and you find, one plane is taking off and your plane not taking off? It is so because every pilot has to wait definitely; sometimes in those lower visibility conditions, the pilot of the next aircraft may have got that compliant certificate, therefore, he may be able to take off whereas your aircraft, in that particular day, will not be able to take off until the visibility improves further. So sometimes I know there is this kind of confusion. I have got calls sometimes from the hon. MPs as to why my planes are not moving and as to why other plane have left.

MR. SPEAKER: MPs also detain the flights!

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: That is not my domain. I cannot comment on that. You have every right to make judgement on that. I cannot. I only want to tell Shri Ananth Kumar-he is after all my predecessor-that between CAT-III B and CAT-III C, the difference is like 'only 50 metres and zero metre'. So, there is no difference-if it is only 50 metres, the length of the plane

itself is more than 50 metres. So, it does not really matter whether it is CAT-III B or CAT-III C; it is almost the same. We will only do whatever is in the safety and security of the passengers; we will not try to experiment; we are following world-class international norms. Delhi Airport is no less than any other airport in the world.

About Srinagar issue, we are working on that.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Delay always happens in the aircraft, which is 5-6 hours or even more. I had to sit in dharna inside the aircraft for eight hours, for the simple reason that an outdated aircraft was being used. Every time it happens either at Cochin or at Trivandrum for 3-4 hours.

MR. SPEAKER: But that is not due to fog. Here, we are on the question of fog.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Fog is one of the reasons for the delay. Apart from fog delay, outdated aircraft are being operated with a view to this is said by the passengers—encourage private airlines; if Air India operates like this, people would prefer private airlines; that is how, they are encouraging private airlines in place of Air India. We want Air India service to be better and it should flourish. But the policy is like that, which will lead to delays always so that people would always prefer private airlines. In this way, we will be forced to resort to have private airlines. This is not good for our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, for outdated people, they are providing outdated aircraft—like me, you and others! They want us to go along with the outdated aircraft!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But I am telling you from my own experience of every day.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, let me assure you—everything over-aged is not outdated!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You have given me an assurance from Air India; I have got a written assurance that a new aircraft will be provided from 1st January.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Have you got it?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Then, why are you asking me now?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I got it because they wanted to get me out of the aircraft. So, they had no other option; they were forced to give that.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I can assure you that he is still in demand!

I respect his sentiments; he has got an answer in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not expect him to be in the plane for eight hours.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the eight hours was because he made it as eight hours; otherwise, it was not going to be eight hours.

MR. SPEAKER: He will be well looked after in future.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Minister has given some good examples here. But, I would like to know as has been stated earlier also that such an equipment was supposed to be installed with ATC, which can give direction to the pilot even in densely foggy conditions. Earlier it was proposed to install such equipment with ATC at every airport. The Minister may please state as to by when it is likely to be done?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, wherever required, these equipments have already been provided and this is an ongoing process and with the increasing volume of air traffic in the country, these equipments will be installed at various places as per requirement. There is no problem in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us come to some liberal subject.

Q. 286, Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you please speak the question number.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I want to speak on the subject related to Sh. Praful Patel.

MR. SPEAKER: No, are you interested in question No. 286? You want to speak on question No. 286 or not?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, my IC number is also 286. Luckily I have got this number.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a place to make a joke. You may ask supplementary question.

[Translation]

Historical Monuments

*286. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the centrally protected monuments in the National Capital Region, location-wise;

(b) the total amount spent on preservation and maintenance of these monuments during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has taken a decision to put in place adequate lighting arrangement in historical monuments of the capital alongwith their restoration in view of the Commonwealth Games;

(d) if so, the number of monuments identified for this purpose;

(e) the number of monuments in the heritage list of UNESCO; and

(f) the further action proposed to be taken by the Ministry to include more monuments in the heritage list?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There are 174 monuments/sites in Delhi, 21 in Haryana and 4 in Uttar Pradesh in the National Capital Region that have been declared as of national importance. The location-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(b) The amount spent on the preservation and maintenance of these monuments during the last three years and upto Nov. 2008 is as under

	(Rupees in lakhs)
2005-06	759.51
2006-07	876.24
2007-08	811.70
2008-09 (Upto Nov. 08)	699.39

(c) and (d) Forty six monuments have been identified for restoration and thirteen monuments are proposed for illumination in Delhi as per the Annexure-II and III respectively.

(e) 22 cultural sites and 5 natural sites have been inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO of which 3 monuments viz. Qutb Minar, Humayun's Tomb and Red Fort are in National Capital Region as per the list at Annexure-IV.

(f) A list of Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites included in the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites is at Annexure-V.

Annexure-I

List of Centrally Protected Monuments in National Capital Region

Delhi

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Bastion, where a wall of Jahan panah meets the wall of Rai Pithora fort. | Adchini |
| 2. Ramp and gateway of Rai Pithora's Fort | -do- |
| 3. Marble Tomb reputed to be that of Newab Bahadur Jawid Khan | Aliganj |

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| 4. Lal Bangla | Babarpur (Kaka Nagar) |
| 5. Khair-ul-Manzil | Babarpur Bazipur (Kakanagar) |
| 6. Kos Minar or Mughal Mile stone | -do- (Kaka Nagar) |
| 7. The Moti Gate of Shershah, Delhi | -do- |
| 8. Begampuri Masjid | Begampur |
| 9. Phool Chadar aqueduct near Najafgarh Jhil aqueduct | Chaukri Mubarakabad |
| 10. Lal Gumbad | Chirag Delhi |
| 11. Tomb of Bahlol Lodi | -do- |
| 12. Ajmeri Gate | Bazar Ajmeri Gate |
| 13. Alipur Cemetery | Delhi-Alipur Camping group. |
| 14. Ashoka's pillar | Ferozabad (Ferozshah Kila or Vikram Nagar Colony) |
| 15. Bara Khamba Cemetery | Imperial City |
| 16. Chauburji | Ridge near Hindura Hospital |
| 17. Eremo Cemetery | Kishanagar Railway Stn. |
| 18. Delhi fort or Lal Qila, Naubat Khana, Diwan-i-am, Mumtaz Mahal, Rang Mahal, Baithak, Maseu Burj, diwan-i-Khas, Moti Masjid, sawan Bhadon Shah Burj, Hammam with all surrounding including the gardens, paths, terraces and water courses. | Red fort |
| 19. Delhi Gate | Daryaganj |
| 20. Enclosure containing the grave of Lt. Edwards and others, murdered in 1857. | North Ridge near flag Staff tower, Civil Lines. |
| 21. Enclosure wall with Tomb of Najaf Khan | Safdarjang Fly over |
| 22. Flag Staff Tower | 400 yards North of Cheuburji Mosque |
| 23. Jantar Mantar | Connaught place |
| 24. Kashmeri Gate and portion of the City Wall on either side of the Kashmeri Gate on the side and on the other upto and including the water Bastions at the Northern corner of the wall and also including the ditch outside the city wall where this is exposed. | Kashmeri Gate |
| 25. Kotla Ferozabad with the remaining walls, bastions and gateways and gardens, the old Mosque, and well and all other ruins buildings it contains. | Two furlangs east of jail and three furlangs due south of S.E. Corner of Shahjahanabad, Delhi. |

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| 26. | Lal Darwaza, the northern gate of the outer walls of the Delhi of Shershah. | Three furlang due south of Delhi Gate, |
| 27. | Lothian Road Cemetery | Kashmeri Gate |
| 28. | The Mosque | Qudsia Garden |
| 29. | Mutiny telegraph Memorial | In front of Old Telegraph Building, Kashmeri Gate, |
| 30. | Nicholson (Or Kashmeri Gate) Cemetery | Kashmeri Gate |
| 31. | Nicholson statue and its platform and the surrounding gardens paths and enclosure wall. | Outside Kashmeri Gate |
| 32. | Old Baoli immediately to the west of Hindu Rao's House | On the ridge, Delhi |
| 33. | The Old Entrance Gateway of the Garden. | Qudsia Delhi |
| 34. | The Pirghaib to the north and near Hindu Rao's House | On the ridge, Delhi |
| 35. | Portion of City wall near which Brij Jahn Nicholson was mortally Wounded on 14th Sept., 1857 | On the ridge, Delhi |
| 36. | The Punjabi gate in the Roshanara bagh | Opposite Municipal Board school, Subji Mandi |
| 37. | Purana Oula (Inderpat) or Delhi with all its walls Arcades, gateways and Bastions, gardens, the Mosque of Sher Shah (Kila Kohna Masjid). The Sher Mandala and entrances to Subteranean passages. | Two miles south of the Delhi Gate of Shahjahanabad, Delhi |
| 38. | Rajpur (Mutiny cemetery) | Old Rajpur Cantonment, North Distt. |
| 39. | The remaining gateways of the old Magazira with their adjoining buildings. | The post office, Delhi |
| 40. | Sher shah's gate with the adjoining curon walls and Bastions and the remains of the double line of structure to its front | Opposite purana Oila immediately North-east of the Khairul Manazil Mosque |
| 41. | Site of Siege battery Known as the Sammy House Battery bearing the following Inscriptions Battery, Sammy house, Major Remington Tank, RA Commanding armament 89 pounds. To command ground near Mori Bastion. | 300 Yards East of mutiny memorial |
| 42. | Site of siege Battery with inscription. | East of the Hospital in Police Line |
| 43. | Site of siege Battery with inscription. | Compound of Curzon House. |
| 44. | Site of siege Battery with inscription. | In the garden near south west entrance to Delhi Club Ground |
| 45. | Sunehri Masjid near Delhi Fort | Delhi Fort |

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| 46. | Tomb of Capt. Mac. Barnatt & others who fall in an attack on Kishanganj. | Kishan Ganj |
| 47. | Tomb of Ghiasuddin Khan, | Tughlaqabad |
| 48. | Tomb of Roshanara & Baradari | Sabzi Mandi |
| 49. | Tomb of Razia Begum in Mohalla Bulbuli Khana | Shahjahanabad |
| 50. | Tomb of Safdarjang (Mirza Muquim Mansur Ali Khan) with all the enclosure walls, gateways, gardens and the mosque on the eastern side of the garden. | Lodhi Road, New Delhi |
| 51. | Tripolia Gateways | Delhi-Kamal Road |
| 52. | Uggar Sain's Baoli | Near Jantar Mantar |
| 53. | Tomb of Darya Khan | Kidwai Nagar East |
| 54. | Baoli at Ghiaspur | Nizamuddin |
| 55. | Tomb of Mirza Muzaffer, Chota Batasha No. 153, Ghiaspur | Nizamuddin |
| 56. | Tomb of Amir Khusro, Ghiaspur | Nizamuddin |
| 57. | Tomb of Mirza Muzaffer, Bara Batasha No. 151 Ghiaspur | Nizamuddin |
| 58. | Tomb of Nizamuddin Aulia, Ghiaspur No. 197 | Nizamuddin |
| 59. | Unknown tomb Ghiaspur 153, | Nizamuddin |
| 60. | i. The tomb of Ferozshah ii. Domed Building to the west of No. 1 iii. Dalan between 1&2 iv. Domed Building & its court to the south of No. 3, v. Dalans and all ruined Buildings to the north of no. 1 and existing upto No. 10 vi. Five Chhatris to the case of No. 1 & No. 5 vii. Old Gate to the north of No. 6 viii. Three Chhatris to the north-west of No. 7 ix. Ruined courtyard and its Dalans with the Domed building to the north-west to the No. 8 x. Old wall running east from No. 4 xi. 2.23 Acres of land surrounding the above monuments and bouded on the North by house of Chhange and Mehra Chand sons of Hansram and house of Uderam, son of Kusha South Ghairmunkan Resta East by village site belonging to village community house of Nots Zadar sons of Jai Singh Chhamar and field Nos. 338 & 331 belonging to Naider and other West By field no. 185 belonging to Udaram, son of Kusal Jat and field No. 186 belonging to Jagins and Sajawal Rajput, No. 195 Ghairmunkin Johar, common of Jats and Muslamans and field no. 196, Ghairmunkin Pall. | Hauz khas |
| 61. | Bag-i-Alam Gumbad with a Mosque | Humayunpur |

62.	Kali Gumti	Humayunpur (Hauz Khas)
63.	Tefewala Gumbad	Humayunpur Deer Park (Hauz Khas)
64.	Arab Sarai	Patti, Ghiapur in Hauz Inderpat
65.	The Gate way of Arab Sarai facing North towards Purana Qila	Near Arab Sarai Village
66.	The Gate way of Arab Sarai facing East towards the tomb of Humayun	Near Arab Sarai Village
67.	Remaining Gateways of Arab Sarai and of Abadi-Begh-Buhalima	Near Arab Sarai Village
68.	Lakhar wal Gumbad (Tomb)	Inderpat Estate (Sunder Nursery), Near Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, Nizamuddin
69.	Sunderwala Burj	Inderpat Estate (Sunder Nursery)
70.	Sunderwala Mahal	Inderpat Estate (Sunder Nursery)
71.	Bijay Mandal, neighbouring domes, buildings and dalan to north of Begumpur	In village Kalusarai (Sarvapriya Vihar)
72.	Old Lodi Bridge with approaches	Near tomb of Sikander Lodi, Khairpur
73.	Mosque with the dalans and courtyard and the Bara Gumbaj (the domed entrance to the mosque)	Khairpur
74.	The tomb of Mohammed Shah known as Mubarak Khan-Ka-Gumbaz	Khairpur
75.	Tomb of Sikander Lodi with its enclosure wall and bastions, gates & compound	Khairpur
76.	Unkown tomb with blue tiles decoration known as Shisha Gumbad	Khairpur
77.	Bandi or Poti ka Gumbad III-280	Kharera village between Hauz Khas and Qutab road
78.	Biran-Ka-Gumbad-282	Kharera village between Hauz Khas and Qutab road
79.	Biwi or Dadi-ka-Gumbad-281	Kharera village between Hauz Khas and Qutab road
80.	Chor Minar No. 289 Vol III	Kharehra (Hauz Khas Enclave)
81.	Choti Gunti	Kharehra village Green Park

41	<i>Oral Answers</i>	AGRAHAYANA 27, 1930 (<i>Saka</i>)	<i>to Questions</i>	42
82.	Idgah of Kharehra No. 287, Vol III		Kharehra village Hauz Khas Enclave	
83.	Nili Mosque		Kharehra village Hauz Khas Enclave	
84.	Sakri Gumti-284		Kharehra village Green Park	
85.	Khirkee Masjid		Village Khirkee	
86.	Satpula-III-216		Village Khirkee	
87.	Tomb of Usuf-Quttal		At Khirkee in field no. 81 min, Property of Shamlat deh.	
88.	Anaz Mahal		Mehrauli	
89.	Shamsid Tallab together with platform entrance gates.		Mehrauli	
90.	Moti Masjid		Mehrauli	
91.	Old Palace of Bhadur Shah II alias Lal Mahal in Mehrauli		Mehrauli	
92.	Bara Khamba-285		Kherera village tombs between Hauz Khas, Qutab road	
93.	The Qutab Archaeological area as now fenced in, including the Mosque, Iron Pillar, Minar of Qutab-din, unfinished Minar, all colonnads, screen arches, tomb of Altmash, college, buildings of Aluddin, Tomb of Imam Zamin and all carved stoues in the above area with gardens, paths and water channels, and all gateways including the Alai-Darwaza, also all graves in the above area.		Mehrauli	
94.	Tomb of Adam Khan (Rest House)		Mehrauli	
95.	Tomb and Mosque of Maulana Jamali Kamali		Mehrauli	
96.	Wall mosque		Mehrauli	
97.	Walls of Lal Kot and Rai Pithora's fort from Sohan Gate to Adam Khan's tomb including the ditch where there is an outer wall		Mehrauli Kh. No. 1783, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1770, 1772, 1773, 1798 & 1764.	
98.	Walls of Lal Kot and Rai Pithora's fort at the point where they meet together		Near jamali Kamali's Mosque Mehrauli Kh. No. 1754, Loddho Sarai Kh. No. 86, 87	
99.	Wall of Rai Pithora's fort including gateways and bastions		Mehrauli	
100.	Gates and walls of Mubarakpur, Kotla in village Mubarakpur		village Mubarakpur, Kotla	
101.	Moti-ki-Masjid		Behind south extension Part II.	

102.	Inchla Wali Gunti	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
103.	Kala Gumbad	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
104.	Tombs of Bade-Khan, and Mubarakpur Kotla, Kotla	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
105.	Tombs of Chote Khan, Mubarakpur	Kotla
106.	Tomb of Mubarik in Mubarakpur, Kotla	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
107.	Mosque attached to Mubarak shah Tomb	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
108.	Tomb of Bhura Khan	village Mubarakpur, Kotla
109.	Tin Burji Walla Gumbad	Mohammed pur village II, 304
110.	Unnamed tomb	Mohammed pur village, 305
111.	Baoli	Munirka II. 318
112.	Munda Gumbad	Munrika 302.
113.	Unnamed Mosque	Munirka 314.
114.	Unnamed TOmb	Munirka 313.
115.	Unnamed Tomb	Munirka 315.
116.	Unnamed Tomb	Munirka 316.
117.	Unnamed Tomb	Munirka 317.
118.	i. Unnamed Mosque	Munirka 321 &
	ii. Unnamed Tomb	Munirka 322
119.	Wajir pur-ki-Gumbad	Munirka 312.
120.	The Afsah-wala-ki-Masjid situated outside the west gate of Humayun's tomb with its dalans and paved court bounded on the east by Humayun's tomb on the west by Abadi Arab Sarai on the north by road and Kharsra No. 252 and on the south by Abadi Arab Sarai	Nizammudin
121.	Bara Khamba outside north entrance to shrine	Nizammudin
122.	Bara Pulah bridge near Nizammudin	South of Nizammudin
123.	Chausath Khamba and tomb of Mirza Nizammudin Aziz-ka-Kokaltash	Nizammudin
124.	Grave of Jhanara Begum	Nizammudin
125.	Grave of Mohammed Shah	Nizammudin
126.	Grave of Mirza Jahangir	Nizammudin
127.	Humayun's tomb, its platforms, garden, enclosure walls and gateways Khasra No. 258 bounded on the east by Khasra No. 180 & 181 & 244 of Miri Singh and on west by Kh. No. 268 & 253 on the north by Khasra No. 266, on the south by Kh No. 245 of Miri Singh & Kh. No. 248 & 249 of Sayyed Mohummad	Nizammudin

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| 128. | Nila Gumbad outside the south corner of the enclosure of Humayun's tomb (Kh. No. 243) bounded on the east by Kh. No. 182, on the west by Humayun's tomb, on the north by Kh. No. 181 & on the south by Kh. No. 244 of Miri Singh | Nizammudin |
| 129. | Nili Chhatri or Subz Burz. | Nizammudin East |
| 130. | Tomb of Afsar-wala immediately near to the south of Afsar-wala-ki-Masjid | Nizammudin |
| 131. | Tomb of Atgah Khan | Nizammudin |
| 132. | The tomb of Isa Khan with its surrounding enclosure walls and turrest garden gateways and mosque (Kh. No. 281) bounded on the east by Arab Sarai Kh. No. 236 on the west by Kh. No. 283 graveyard of Piare Lal and K. No. 283 of Bddon on the north by Kh. No. 236 of Pandit Brij Vallabh and on the south by Arab Sarai Kh. No. 238. | Nizammudin |
| 133. | Tomb of Khan-i-Khana | Nizammudin |
| 134. | Tomb with three domes near Rly. Station | Nizammudin |
| 135. | Sikargah Kushak-II-327 | Old Kushak Village |
| 136. | Gateways of Badli-Ki-Sarai | Village Pipalthala |
| 137. | Tomb of Sheikh Kaburuddin also known as Rakabwala Gumbad in field no. 84 min. situated at sarai Shah 31 property of Thoks Shahpur and Adhehini | Malviyanagar |
| 138. | Ruined line of walls, bastions & gateways of siri Kh. No. 88, 265 & 447 at village Shaphur Jat | Shahpur Jat |
| 139. | Internal buildings of Siri Mehammadi wali-Kh. No. 14 Shahpur Jat Bul-Bul-Ki-Kh. No. 256 Shahpur Jat Makhdum ki Kh. No. 255 Shahpur Jat Baradari Shahpur Jat Motiyan wala dome Shahpur Jat Thana wala Shahpur Jat | Shahpur Jat |
| 140. | Nai-Ka-kot. | Tughlaquabad. Kotla |
| 141. | Tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaqabad. walls and bastions, gates and cause way including the tomb of Dad Khan | Tughlaqabad. |
| 142. | Tomb of Mohammed Tughlaqabadshah | Badarpur Zail |
| 143. | Walls of old city of Tughlaqabad. | Badarpur Zail |
| 144. | Walls, gateways bastions and internal buildings of both inner and outer citadels of Tughlaqabad fort | Tughlaqabad. |
| 145. | Walls, gate and bastions of Adilabad (Mohammadbad) and causeway leading there to from Tughlaqabad. | Tughalaqabad. |

146.	The Tomb	Wazirabad
147.	The mosque	Wazirabad
148.	Neighbouring Bridge	Wazirabad
149.	Mound known as Jaga Bai comprise in part of survey plot no. 167	Jamia nagar
150.	Ashoka rock Edict	East of Kailash colony
151.	Mandi Mosque	Ladho Sarai
152.	Rajon-ki-Bain with Mosque and Chhatri	Ladho Sarai
153.	Badun Gate	Ladho Sarai
154.	Gateway of Lal Kot	Ladho Sarai
155.	Gateway of Rai Pithoria's fort	Ladho Sarai
156.	Walls of Rai Pithora's fort and Jahan Panah at the point where they meet together	Hauz rani abd Lado Sarai
157.	Tomb of Sultan Ghari	Nalikpur Kohi
158.	Baoli known as diving wall locally known as (Candak-ki-baoli)	Mehrauli
159.	Enclosure containing the tomb of Shah Alam Bahadur Shah, Shah Alam to and Akbar Shah II	Mehrauli
160.	Houz Shamsi with central red stone pavilion situated at Mehrauli in field No. 157-81, 1586-97, 1614 & 1624	Mehrauli
161.	Iron Pillar Hindu	Mehrauli
162.	Ancient Mosque	Palam
163.	Sheesh Mahal	Shalimar Garden Village Hyderpur
164.	Ashokan Pillar	On the Ridge between Hindu Rao Hospital
165.	Sarai Shahji	Malaviya Nagar
166.	Azim Khan Tomb	Lado Sarai
167.	Mazar of Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim Zauq	China Bagh, Kadam Sherif, Paharganj, Delhi
168.	Fortification Wall Asad Burj, Water gate, Delhi Gate, Lahori Gate, Jhangiri Gate, Chhattra Bazar, Baoli	Red Fort, Delhi
169.	Fortification walls, Gates, Bastions and Ancient Buildings of Salimgarh Fort	Bela Road
170.	Portion of the City Wall of Shahajanabad	Ansari Road
171.	Sat Narain Bhawan	Delhi Sadhora Khurd, Dina Nath Marg, Roshanara Road, New Delhi.

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| 172. | Balban Khan's Tomb & Jamli Kamali | Lado Sarai, Mehrauli, Delhi |
| 173. | Unknown Tomb in the vicinity of Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium | Pragati Vihar, New Delhi |
| 174. | Mazar of Mirza Ghalib | Nizamuddin |

Haryana

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| 1. | Kos Minar No. 18 | Alanpur | Faridabad |
| 2. | Bund or Damp | Anangpur | Faridabad |
| 3. | Kos Minar No. 22 | Aurangabad | Faridabad |
| 4. | Kos Minar No. 24 | Banchari | Faridabad |
| 5. | Kos Minar No. 25 | Banchari | Faridabad |
| 6. | Kos Minar No. 27 | Phulwana | Faridabad |
| 7. | Kos Minar No. 16 | Gadhpuri | Faridabad |
| 8. | Kos Minar No. 17 | Gadhpuri | Faridabad |
| 9. | Kos Minar No. 26 | Hodal | Faridabad |
| 10. | Kos Minar No. 23 | Khatiala | Faridabad |
| 11. | Kos Minar No. 21 | Khera Sarai
(Bamani Khera) | Faridabad |
| 12. | Kos Minar No. 20 | Khusropur
(Kusali pur) | Faridabad |
| 13. | Kos Minar No. 10 | Khawaza Sarai
(Ghosi pur Sarai) | Faridabad |
| 14. | Mughal bridge over Buriya nala | Khawaza Sarai
(Atamadpur) | Faridabad |
| 15. | Suraj Kund Masonary | Lakar pur | Faridabad |
| 16. | Kos Minar No. 11 | Mawai (Faridabad
Sector-29) | Faridabad |
| 17. | Kos Minar No. 13 | Mazzessar | Faridabad |
| 18. | Kos Minar No. 19 | Palwal | Faridabad |
| 19. | Kos Minar No. 15 | Sikri | Faridabad |
| 20. | Baoli Ghas Ali Shah | Farruknagar | Gurgaon |
| 21. | Mosque of Ala Vardi Khan | Sarai Ala Vardi Khan | Gurgaon |

Uttar Pradesh

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| 1. | Archaeological Site and Remains | Gulishtanpur | Ghaziabad |
| 2. | Raja Karan Ka Khera | Parganapur,
Mustafabad | Ghaziabad |
| 3. | Cemetery | Meerut-Delhi Road | Ghaziabad |
| 4. | Ancient temple and masonry tank | Dhankor | Ghaziabad |

Annexure II***Centrally Protected Monuments in Delhi Identified for Repairs in view of Commonwealth Games 2010***

Sl.No.	Name of Monument
1	2
1.	Purana Qila Complex
2.	Khairul-Manazil Mosque
3.	Sher Shah Gate
4.	Humayun's Tomb
5.	Khan-i-Khana' Tomb
6.	Subz Burj
7.	Nila Gumbad
8.	Bh-Halima Tomb
9.	Arab ki Sarai
10.	Bara Khama
11.	Group of Monuments Hazrat Nizamuddin Complex
12.	Safdarjung Tomb Complex
13.	Lodi Garden Monuments (5 nos) Muhammad Shah's Tomb, Bara Gumbad Masjid, Shish Gumbad, Sikander Lodi's Tomb Athpula
14.	Najaf Khan Tomb
15.	City Wall, Kashmiri Gate
16.	Wazirabad Bridge, Tomb and Mosque
17.	Kotla Feroz Shah
18.	Delhi Gate, Daria Ganj
19.	City Wall Daria Ganj
20.	Khuni Darwaza
21.	Jantar Mantar Complex
22.	Lal Bangla

1	2
23.	Ugrasen ki Baoli
24.	Red Fort Complex
25.	Ajmeri Gate
26.	Salim Garh Fort
27.	Ashokan Rock Edict
28.	Biran ka Gumbad
29.	Dadi Poti
30.	Sakri Gumti
31.	Bara Khamba
32.	Mohammadiwali Mosque
33.	Lal Gumbad (Malviya Nagar)
34.	Ten Burji
35.	Siri Fort Wall
	(i) Stretch adjoining Panchsheel Park
	(ii) Stretch adjoining Asiad Village
	(iii) Stretch of the wall from Asiad tower to Siri Fort Sports Complex
36.	Hauz Khas Complex
37.	Jahanpanah Wall
38.	Qila Rai Pithora Wall
39.	Satpula
40.	Qutb Minar Complex
41.	Jamali Kamali Tomb and Mosque
42.	Ajim Khan's Tomb
43.	Balban's Tomb and Ruins
44.	Tughluqabad Fort
45.	Ghiasuddin Tughluq's Tomb
46.	Adilabad Fort

Annexure III*Centrally Protected Monuments in Delhi Proposed for Illumination in view of Commonwealth Games-2010*

Sl.No.	Name of Monument
1	2
1.	Safdarjung Tomb
2.	Subz Burj at Nizamuddin
3.	Purana Qila
4.	Sher Shah Gate and Masjid
5.	Kotla Feroz Shah, Firozabad

1	2
6.	Khan-I Khana in Nizamuddin
7.	Bara Khamba in Nizamuddin
8.	Lal Darwaja at Delhi Gate
9.	Choti Gumti in Green Park
10.	Sikri Gumti at Green Park
11.	Biran ka Gumbad at Green Park
12.	Dadi Poti at Green park
13.	Najaf Khan Tomb at Jor Bagh

Annexure IV*World Heritage Sites in India*

Sl.No.	Name of Site	State
1	2	3
Cultural Sites		
1.	Ajanta Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
2.	Ellora Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
3.	Agra Fort (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Taj Mahal (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Sun Temple, Konarak (1984)	Orissa
6.	Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)	Tamil Nadu
7.	Churches & Convents of Goa (1986)	Goa
8.	Group of temples, Khajuraho (1986)	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Group of monuments at Hampi (1986)	Karnataka
10.	Group of monuments, Fatehpur Sikri (1986)	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Group of temples, Pattadakal (1987)	Karnataka
12.	Elephanta Caves (1987)	Maharashtra
13.	Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004)	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3
14.	Buddhist monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Humayun Tomb, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
16.	Qutb Minar complex, Delhi	Delhi
17.	Mountain Railway of India (Darjeeling 1999, Nilgiri 2005, Kalka Shimla 2008)	West Bengal Tamil Nadu & Himachal Pradesh
18.	Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (2002)	Bihar
19.	Prehistoric Rock shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Madhya Pradesh
20.	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)	Gujarat
21.	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus 2004)	Maharashtra
22.	Red Fort (2007)	Delhi

Natural Sites

1.	Kaziranga National Park (1985)	Assam
2.	Manas Wild Life Sanctuary (1985)	Assam
3.	Keoladeo National Park (1985)	Rajasthan
4.	Sunderban National Park (1987)	West Bengal
5.	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005)	Uttarakhand

Annexure V

Sl.No.	Name of Monument/Sites	Name of State
1	2	3
Cultural Heritage Sites		
1.	Ancient Buddhist Site at Sarnath	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Buddhist Monastery Complex known as Alchi Chos-kor at Alchi (Leh)	Jammu and Kashmir
3.	Harappan City at Dholavira, Distt. Kuchchh	Gujarat
4.	Golconda Fort, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Group of Monuments at Mandu, Distt. Dhar	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Hemis Gumpa	Jammu and Kashmir
7.	Mattancherry Palace, Ernakulam	Kerala
8.	Rani-ki-Vav (Queen's stepwell) at Patan, Distt. Mehsana	Gujarat

1	2	3
9.	River Island of Majuli in midstream of river Brahmaputra	Assam
10.	Temple at Bishnupur	West Bengal
11.	Tomb of Sher Shah Suri at Sasaram	Bihar
12.	Shri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar	Punjab
13.	The Matheran Light Railway (Extension to the Mountain Railways of India)	Maharashtra
14.	Chandigarh modern architecture (Le Corbusier)	Chandigarh
Natural Heritage Sites		
15.	Kanochendzonga National Park	West Bengal
16.	Wild Ass Sanctuary	Gujarat
17.	Namdapha National Park	Arunachal Pradesh
18.	Western Ghats (with 7 sub clusters)	Tamil Nadu, Kerala,
1.	Western Ghats-Agasthyamalai sub cluster (with 5 site elements)	Karnataka, Goa,
2.	Western Ghats-Periyar sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	Maharashtra, Gujarat
3.	Western Ghats-Anamalai sub cluster (with 7 site elements)	
4.	Western Ghats-Nilgiri sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	
5.	Western Ghats-Talacauvery sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	
6.	Western Ghats-Kudremukh sub cluster (with 5 site elements)	
7.	Western Ghats-Sahyadri sub cluster (with 4 site elements)	

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are several monuments of national importance in our country and our country is known for its monuments. There are at least 174 monuments in national capital territory of Delhi and out of them 46 monuments are proposed to be renovated. My question is that by when, the renovation of said monuments will be done? My second question is... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Second question may be asked in next turn.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part B of my question is, whether the government will

consider to include 'Bhiksha Bhoomi' and Chettbhoomi monuments in Maharashtra also in the list of national monuments?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, there are 174 centrally protected monuments in Delhi and keeping in view the games of 2010 it has been decided that special attention would be paid to 46 monuments. However, all the 174 monuments being centrally protected are under the central Government and their maintenance work has already been started and special restoration and conservation work with regard to some of them has already been started and we hope that the task will be completed well before 2010 Commonwealth Games.

As far as part B is concerned, though, there are so many monuments and sites in our country, which should be maintained either by state Governments or ASI but as per provisions of Archaeological Survey Act 1958 only such monuments which are more than hundred years old having some artistic, historical or Archaeological value could be maintained by state Government or ASI and this matter could be decided only after considering there aspects.

MR. SPEAKER: An enquiry must be done. I had also sent a proposal. But, even enquiry was not conducted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my supplementary question is that there is a Boddh lane in Nasik, Maharashtra but it is called Pandav lane. Since Pandavs did not visit there, then why it has been named as Pandav lane...*(Interruptions)*. Why the Pandavs will stay at a place, where Kauravas are staying? In fact, my question is that the said lane is Boddh Lane but it has been named as Pandava Lane, hence I would like to know whether the Government propose to change its name from Pandava lane to Boddh lane? Second part of my question is that there is a Budha Temple in Gaya but Hindus are also members of its committee what is his opinion regarding inclusion of only people from Buddhist community in the trust and the committee of said temple?

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked four questions, any way, it is all right.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to Kaurava, Pandava and Buddha Bhoomi, I would like to assure the Hon. Member that I will see to as to what action can be taken at his personal suggestions. But, as far as Maha Boudhi Temple is concerned, it is a world heritage site and its original trust was treated as a personal property of a Hindu family. But many years back, when we gave some suggestions at world heritage site regarding taking its control in our hands for the upkeep of it, the said trust placed only one condition that some of their family members or people from their religion should be the member of this trust. Now due to our efforts, four persons from the Buddhist community, Area District Collector, and some people nominated by the original trust are members of the said trust. This was the compromise to take its control in our hands.

[English]

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Sir, I would refer to Annexure III in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the Question. The number of monuments, which is 13 numbers only, proposed to be illuminated is rather small compared to the total number of historical monuments in the Delhi region.

Will the hon. Minister consider if more number of monuments can be illuminated at the time of the Commonwealth Games, 2010 so that all the sports persons who are visiting Delhi for attending the Games, return with good impression about the history of Delhi? Will the Minister be able to ensure that there will be no interruption in power supply to these monuments at that time?

MR. SPEAKER: That is beyond her.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, we have short listed 13 monuments for special lighting effects for the Commonwealth Games. In addition to these 13 monuments, there are three monuments which have already been lit up from the historical point of view. We are highlighting those monuments. I would like to tell the hon. Member that lighting these monuments is a very laborious task. We have had to appoint a Committee of experts and specialists to oversee the arrangement because just left to them no matter how capable an agency may be, they can effect some kind of damage. So, even if we are able to complete 13 monuments by 2010, it would be quite an achievement. We will thereafter look for some other monuments.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: Sir, while complimenting the Minister for the wonderful maintenance of national monuments, I would like to know whether there is any plan to locate all the historical monuments like Hindu temples, Forts, Churches, Mosques, Jain Temples and also other wonderful buildings in India irrespective of whether they are situated in the cities or rural parts of India. We have numerous such monuments. All these buildings reflect unity in diversity and also reflect rich heritage and culture of our Indian soil.

I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any plan to re-construct historical fort of Founder of Bengaluru, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda situated at his native place called Magadi Town, Ramnagar District, Kamataka. If so, what is the budget allocation to re-build, maintain and to show-case it for promoting tourism?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, promotion of tourism is a prerogative of State Governments. They recommend and prioritise the projects, destinations or circuits which they want to take up. That is the general line which we have to follow. Over and above that, several Members of Parliament often put forward requests which we direct to the State Governments and if they prioritise, we undertake them.

As far as Archaeological Survey of India is concerned, according to the rules, norms and the UNESCO guidelines which we follow, we are not allowed to re-construct anything which might have been there. We are only supposed to conserve, preserve and restore areas or pieces which are breaking down. We are not allowed to re-construct any monument which might have existed at a particular point of time.

As far as this particular fort is concerned, if the hon. Member wants to develop it for the tourism purposes, she would have to direct her request through the State Government.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Sir, in the list given by the Ministry as part of cultural sites, we can see some of the important places of Tamil Nadu are also mentioned. But in the tentative list approved by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, we can see none of the places of Tamil Nadu. We all very well know about Rameswaram which is a heritage town. The Rameswaram Temple stands for national integration. It is a very beautiful temple and it is famous for its architecture. A beautiful sanctum Sanctorum is also there.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Otherwise, there would be no time for reply.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: I would like to know from the Minister whether any proposal has come from Tamil Nadu about Rameswaram for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage Committee list. Is there any idea in the Ministry to consider the great and beautiful town of Rameswaram?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that even in the tentative list of natural heritage sites of the UNESCO, we have Western Ghats and a portion of that is situated in Tamil Nadu.

12.00 hrs.

As far as the temple of Rameshwaram is concerned, while of the several temples of Tamil Nadu, Mahabalipuram is one of the most prominent and it is one of the world heritage sites. But there has not been any proposal because according to UNESCO there is a format for filling up before they can even be considered to be put on the tentative list. This proposal has not so far reached us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Disaster Management System in the Railways

281. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the preparedness of the Railways to quickly access the sites with rescue and relief operations in co-ordination with non-governmental organisations within the initial hours of the accident;

(b) whether the Railways' disaster management plan presently lacks cohesiveness and is ill-prepared to handle disasters;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto alongwith the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Railways have taken a decision to utilise the services of foreign companies with a view to improving the emergency services of the Indian Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Railways are fully prepared to quickly access the sites for conducting rescue and relief operations in co-ordination with other governmental and non-governmental organisations within the initial hours of the accident. On receiving the information of the accident, not only the railways resources like Accident Relief Medical vans, Accident Relief Trains, but resources from other government and non-government organisations are also requisitioned as per the need. For this purpose, contact details of such non-railway resources are kept

at the railway stations and Railway hospitals/Primary health centres as well as in the divisional and headquarter control rooms of the zonal Railways.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Disaster Management Plans at Divisional and Zonal levels have been prepared by zonal railways based on railway specific information and non-railway information available at that time. These plans are subjected to periodical review and updating depending on new developments, which is a continuous ongoing process.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Allocation of Oil Blocks Under New Exploration Licensing Policy

*287. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Oil and Gas blocks identified for allocation and company-wise blocks allocated under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) by the Government, area-wise;

(b) the reserve-wise details of blocks where production has already been started as well as other allocated blocks where production is expected to be started soon;

(c) the details of conditions regarding profit sharing by allocated companies with the Government; and

(d) the details of profit to be shared by the allocated companies with the Government from the sale of oil and natural gas from Krishna-Godavari Basin?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Government of India is offering exploration blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) through a competitive bidding system. National Oil Companies (NOCs), Indian and Foreign companies are required to compete with each other on an equal footing to secure Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs). Till date, six rounds of NELP have been concluded and 162 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for onland, shallow water and deepwater blocks

have been signed. The company-wise list of exploration blocks, for which PSCs have been signed, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Production Sharing Contracts are long term contracts between the Government and national oil companies/private companies/joint ventures/investors, where a contractor assumes all the pre-production risks (exploration risks) and recovers both costs and a share of profit out of the production, if any. No investment is made by the Government. When production commences, 'profit petroleum' is derived from gross revenue by deducting allowable costs and is then shared between the Government and the contractor as per PSC. In case there is no production from the block, entire expenditure on exploration in the block is incurred by the contractor.

Presently, crude oil and natural gas production is from 3 NELP blocks, viz., 2 blocks in the State of Gujarat and another block in Krishna-Godavari basin. In block CB-ONN-2000/2 operated by M/s Niko resources in Gujarat, natural gas is being produced at the rate of about 0.3 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD). In another block CB-ONN-2000/1, operated by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPC), crude oil is being produced at the rate of about 500 barrels per day. First deepwater crude oil production from the block KG-DWN-98/3 in Krishna-Godavari basin operated by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has commenced at the rate of 10,000 barrels per day from 17th September 2008. The natural gas production from KG basin is likely to commence in early 2009.

The reserve estimates are about 334 million metric tonne of oil equivalent (MMTOE) in KG-DWN-98/3, about 0.25 MMTOE in CB-ONN-2000/1 and about 0.644 MMTOE in CB-ONN-2000/2. The reserves in the other blocks where discoveries have already been made, will be known only after appraisal of discoveries and assessment of production potential.

The sharing of profit petroleum with the Government including Krishna-Godavari basin under NELP is unique for each exploration block as per the biddable fiscal terms comprising of biddable profit share to the Government and biddable cost recovery limit. The profit sharing to the Government for all exploration blocks in Krishna-Godavari basin can only be computed on production of crude oil/natural gas from each block. However, in respect of KG-DWN-98/3 block from where production has commenced, profit share to the

Government at annual cost recovery limit of 90% is given below:

Investment multiple (IM) tranche	Government share of profit petroleum	Contractor's share of profit petroleum
Less than 1.5	10%	90%
1.5-2.0	16%	84%
2.0-2.5	28%	72%
2.5-3.0	85%	15%
3.0-3.5	85%	15%
More than 3.5	85%	15%

The profit petroleum is calculated every year based on the revenue generated from the project and costs incurred by the contractor. NELP model of profit petroleum computation supports higher profit petroleum share to the Government at higher prices and higher production of oil and gas.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Block	Area (sq. kms)	JV partners & share in %
1	2	3	4
ONGC			
Offshore			
1.	MN-OSN-97/3*	2710	ONGC-85%, GAIL 15%
2.	MB-OSN-97/4*	13954	ONGC-70%, IOC-30%
3.	KK-OSN-7/3*	15910	ONGC-100%
4.	KG-OSN-97/1*	2236	ONGC-100%
5.	MB-OSN-2000/1*	18414	ONGC 75%, IOC 15%, GSPC 10%
6.	KK-OSN-2000/1*	16125	ONGC 100%
7.	CY-OSN-2000/1*	4440	ONGC 100%
8.	CY-OSN-2000/2*	3530	ONGC 100%
9.	MN-OSN-2000/1*	5047	ONGC 100%
10.	MN-OSN-2000/2*	4061	ONGC 40%, GAIL 20%, IOC 20%, Oil 20%

1	2	3	4
11.	WB-OSN-2000/1*	6700	ONGC 85%, IOC 15%
12.	GS-OSN-2001/1	7101	ONGC 100%
13.	KK-OSN-2001/2	10588	ONGC 100%
14.	GS-OSN-2003/1	5970	ONGC 51%, CEIL 49%
15.	KK-OSN-2001/3	6445	ONGC 100%
16.	CB-OSN-2003/1	2394	ONGC 100%
17.	GS-OSN-2004/1	6589	ONGC (100%)
18.	KG-OSN-2004/1	1151	ONGC (55%)-BGEPI (45%)
Total Offshore		133365	

Deep Water

19.	KG-DWN-98/2	7295	ONGC 90%, CEIL 10%
20.	KG-DWN-98/4	4970	ONGC 85%, OIL 15%
21.	KG-DWN-98/5	4490	ONGC-100%
22.	MN-DWN-98/3	4988	ONGC-100%
23.	GS-DWN-2000/1*	13937	ONGC 100%
24.	GS-DWN-2000/2*	14825	ONGC 85%, GAIL 15%
25.	MB-DWN-2000/1*	11239	ONGC 85%, IOC 15%
26.	MB-DWN-2000/2*	19106	ONGC 50%, GAIL 15%, IOC 15%, OIL 10%, GSPC 10%.
27.	CY-DWN-2001/1	12425	ONGC 80% & OIL 20%
28.	KK-DWN-2001/3	21775	ONGC 100%
29.	KK-DWN-2000/2*	20998	ONGC 85%, GAIL 15%
30.	KK-DWN-2000/4*	26149	ONGC 100%
31.	GS-DWN-2002/1*	21450	ONGC-100
32.	KK-DWN-2002/2	22810	ONGC-80, HPCL-20
33.	KK-DWN-2002/3	20910	ONGC-80, HPCL-20
34.	KG-DWN-2002/1	10600	ONGC-70, OIL-20, BPCL-10

1	2	3	4
35.	MN-DWN-2002/1	9980	ONGC-70, Oil-20, BPCL-10
36.	MN-DWN-2002/2	11390	ONGC-100
37.	NEC-DWN-2002/2	15465	ONGC-100
38.	AN-DWN-2002/1	10990	ONGC-100
39.	AN-DWN-2002/2	12495	ONGC-100
40.	AN-DWN-2003/1	9970	ONGC 100%
41.	KK-DWN-2004/1	12324	ONGC (45%)- CAIRN India Ltd. (40%)- TATA (15%)
42.	CY-DWN-2004/1	10302	ONGC (70%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)
43.	CY-DWN-2004/2	12059	ONGC (70%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)
44.	CY-DWN-2004/3	12017	ONGC (70%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)
45.	CY-DWN-2004/4	12025	ONGC (70%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)
46.	CY-PR-DWN-2004/1	13451	ONGC (70%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)
47.	CY-PR-DWN-2004/2	9994	ONGC (70%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)
48.	KG-DWN-2004/1	11951	ONGC (70%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)
49.	KG-DWN-2004/2	11851	ONGC (60%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)- BPCL (10%)
50.	KG-DWN-2004/3	6205	ONGC (70%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)

1	2	3	4
51.	KG-DWN-2004/5	11922	ONGC (50%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)- OIL (10%)-BPCL (10%)
52.	KG-DWN-2004/6	10907	ONGC (60%)- GSPC (10%)- HPCL (10%)-GAIL (10%)- OIL (10%)
Total Deep Water		443265	
Onland			
53.	WB-ONN-2000/1*	12505	ONGC 85%, IOC 15%
54.	GV-ONN-2000/1*	23500	ONGC 85%, IOC 15%
55.	GV-ONN-97/1*	18375	ONGC-40%, IOC 30%, CEIL 15% & CEEPC 15%
56.	AA-ONN-2001/1	2257	ONGC 100%
57.	AA-ONN-2001/2	4005	ONGC 80%, IOC 20%
58.	AA-ONN-2001/3	110	ONGC 85% & OIL 15%
59.	AA-ONN-2001/4	645	ONGC 100%
60.	HF-ONN-2001/1	1514	ONGC 100%
61.	CB-ONN-2001/1	215	ONGC 70%, CEIL 15% & CED 15%
62.	PG-ONN-2001/1	5190	ONGC-100%
63.	AA-ONN-2002/4	1060	ONGC-90, OIL-10
64.	CB-ONN-2002/1	135	ONGC-70, CEBGI-30
65.	CY-ONN-2002/2	135	ONGC-60, BPCL-40
66.	PA-ONN-2004/1	2537	ONGC (100%)
67.	GV-ONN-2004/1	8354	ONGC (100%)
68.	VN-ONN-2004/1	5801	ONGC (100%)
69.	VN-ONN-2004/2	4466	ONGC (100%)
70.	CB-ONN-2004/1	32	ONGC (50%)-GSPC (40%)-HERAMEC (10%)
71.	CB-ONN-2004/2	423	ONGC (50%)-GSPC (40%)-Suntera Res. Ltd. (10%)

1	2	3	4
72.	CB-ONN-2004/3	113	ONGC (40%)- GSPC (35%)- ENSEARCH (25%)
73.	CB-ONN-2004/4	70	ONGC (50%)- GSPC (40%)- HERAMEC (10%)
74.	CY-ONN-2004/1	214	ONGC (80%)- BPCL (20%)
75.	CY-ONN-2004/2	375	ONGC (80%)- BPCL (20%)
Total		1245291	

*Blocks Relinquished

RIL**Offshore**

1.	KG-OSN-97/2*	4790	RIL 100%
2.	KG-OSN-97/3*	2460	RIL 100%
3.	KG-OSN-97/4*	4020	RIL 100%
4.	NEC-OSN-97/2	10755	RIL-90% & NIKO 10%
5.	GK-OSN-97/1*	1465	RIL-100%
6.	SR-OSN-97/1	5040	RIL-100%
7.	MB-OSN-97/2*	5270	RIL-90% & NIKO 10%
8.	MB-OSN-97/3*	5740	RIL-100%
9.	KK-OSN-97/2*	14395	RIL-100%
10.	GS-OSN-2000/1	8841	RIL 90%, HEPI 10%
11.	KG-OSN-2001/1	1100	RIL 100%,
12.	KG-OSN-2001/2	210	RIL 100%,
Total Offshore		64086	

Deep Water

13.	KG-DWN-98/1	8100	RIL-100%
14.	KG-DWN-98/3	7645	RIL-90% & NIKO 10%
15.	MN-DWN-98/2	7195	RIL-100%
16.	KK-DWN-2000/1*	18113	RIL 100%
17.	KK-DWN-2000/3*	14889	RIL 100%

1	2	3	4
18.	KK-DWN-2001/1	27315	RIL 100%
19.	KK-DWN-2001/2	31515	RIL 100%
20.	CY-DWN-2001/2	14325	RIL 100%
21.	CY-PR-DWN-2001/3	8600	RIL 100%
22.	CY-PR DWN-2001/4	10590	RIL 100%
23.	PR-DWN-2001/1	8255	RIL 90%, HEPI 10%
24.	KG-DWN-2001/1	11605	RIL 90%, HEPI 10%
25.	NEC-DWN-2002/1	25565	RIL-90, HARDY-10
26.	KK-DWN-2003/1	18245	RIL 100%
27.	KK-DWN-2003/2	12285	RIL 100%
28.	KG-DWN-2003/1	3288	RIL 90% & HEPL 10%
29.	MN-DWN-2003/1	17050	RIL 85% & NR (V/L 15%
30.	KG-DWN-2004/4	6205	RIL (100%)
31.	KG-DWN-2004/7	11856	RIL (100%)
32.	MN-DWN-2004/1	9885	RIL (100%)
33.	MN-DWN-2004/2	11813	RIL (100%)
34.	MN-DWN-2004/3	11316	RIL (100%)
35.	MN-DWN-2004/4	8822	RIL (100%)
36.	MN-DWN-2004/5	10845	RIL (100%)
Total Deep Water		315322	

ONLAND

37.	AS-ONN-2000/1	6215	RIL 90%, Hardy 10%
38.	CB-ONN-2003/1	635	RIL 100%
Total Onland		6850	
Total RIL		386258	

*Blocks Relinquished

OIL**Offshore**

1.	CY-OSN-97/2*	5215	OIL-100%
Total Offshore		5215	

1	2	3	4
Onland			
2.	RJ-ONN-2000/1	1862	OIL 100%
3.	RJ-ONN-2002/1	9900	OIL-60, ONGC-40
4.	AA-ONN-2002/3	25565	OIL-30, ONGC-70
5.	RJ-ONN-2001/1	3425	ONGC 30% & OIL 70%
6.	MN-ONN-2000/1	5903	ONGC 20%, GAIL 20%, IOC 20%, OIL 40%
7.	AA-ONN-2003/3	275	OIL 85% & HPCL 15%
8.	MZ-ONN-2004/1	3213	OIL (75%)-Suntera (10%)-Shiv-Vani (15%)
9.	AA-ONN-2004/1	144	OIL (85%)-Shiv-Vani (15%)
10.	AA-ONN-2004/2	218	OIL (90%)-Suntera (10%)
11.	RJ-ONN-2004/2	2196	OIL (75%)-Geogloball (25%)
12.	RJ-ONN-2004/3	1330	OIL (60%)-Geogloball (25%)-HPCL (15%)
13.	KG-ONN-2004/1	549	OIL (90%)-Geogloball (10%)
Total Onland		54580	
Total OIL		59795	
GSPC			
Offshore			
14.	KG-OSN-2001/3	1850	GSPC 80% GGR 10%, JOGPL 10%
15.	MB-OSN-2004/1	1520	GSPC (20%)-IOC (20%)- GAIL (20%)-HPCL (20%)- Petrogas (20%)
Total Offshore		3370	
Onland			
16.	CB-ONN-2000/1 (Ingoli)	1424	GSPC 60%, GAIL 40%
17.	CB-ONN-2002/3	285	GSPC-55, JEL-20, PPCL- 15, GGR-10
18.	CB-ONN-2003/2	448	GSPC 50%, GAIL 20%, JCPL 20% & GGR 10%

1	2	3	4
19.	RJ-ONN-2004/1	4613	GSPC (20%)-GAIL (20%)-HPCL (20%)- Hallworthy (Panama) (10%)-Nitinfire (New Delhi) (10%)-Silverwave (Mayanmar) (10%)-BPCL (10%)
20.	KG-ONN-2003/2	1140	GSPC (40%)-GAIL (40%)-Petrogas (20%)
Total Onland		7910	
Total GSPC		11280	
Jubilant Oil			
Onland			
21.	AA-ONN-2002/1	1680	JOGPL-20, GAIL,-80
22.	CB-ONN-2002/2	125	JOGPL (30), GSPC (60) & GGR (10)
23.	CY-ONN-2002/1	680	JOGPL-30, GAIL-50, GSPC-20
24.	AA-ONN-2003/1	81	JOGP 10%, JSPL 35%, GSPC 20% & GAIL 35%
Total Jubilant Oil		2566	
CAIRN			
ONLAND			
25.	GV-ONN-2002/1	15550	CPIL-50, CESL-50
26.	GV-ONN-2003/1	7210	CEIL 24%, CEIL 25% & ONGC 51%
27.	VN-ONN-2003/1	3585	CEIL 24%, CE6L 25% & ONGC 51%
28.	KG-ONN-2003/1	1697	CEIL 24%, ONGC 51% & CE4L 25%
Total Onland		28042	
Offshore			
29.	PR-OSN-2004/1	9417	Cairn Energy (10%)-Cairn India (25)- ONGC (35%)- TATA (30%)
Total CAIRN		37459	

1	2	3	4
ENI			
30.	RJ-ONN-2003/1	1335	ENI 34%, ONGC 36%, CE2L 30%
31.	AN-DWN-2003/2	13,110	ENI 40%, ONGC 45% & GAIL 15%
Total ENI		14445	
Focus			
32.	RJ-ONN-2003/2	13195	FEL 10% & BIL 40% & XOH 50%
33.	CB-OSN-2004/1	2616	FOCUS (10%)-Newbury (90%)
Total Focus		15811	
Geo Petrol India			
34.	AA-ONN-2003/2	295	GPI 30%, NTPC 40% & CRL 30%
Total Geo Petrol India		295	
Geoglobl Resources			
35.	DS-ONN-2003/1	3155	GGR 100%
36.	DS-ONN-2004/1	2649	Geoglobl Resources (Barbados) (100%)
Total Geoglobl		5804	
NIKO			
37.	CB-ONN-2000/2* (NS-Bheema)	419	NIKO 100%
38.	CY-ONN-2003/1	957	NR(V) (100%)
Total NIKO		1376	
Santos International			
39.	NEC-DWN-2004/1	7790	Santos International Operations Pty. Ltd. (100%)
40.	NEC-DWN-2004/2	8706	Santos (100%)
Total Santos		16496	

1	2	3	4
Petrogas			
41.	MB-OSN-2004/2	741	Petrogas (20%)-GAIL (20%)-IOC (20%)- GSPC (20%)-HPCL (20%)
Total Petrogas		741	
NAFTOGAZ			
42.	MZ-ONN-2004/2	3619	Naftogaz (10%)-RNRL (10%)-Geopetrol (10%)-REL (70%)
43.	AA-ONN-2004/4	95	Adani Enterprises (35%)-Adani Port (20%)-Naftogaz (10%)-Jaycee (Mumbai) (35%)
44.	CB-ONN-2004/5	75	Adani Enterprises (35%)-Adani Port (20%)-Naftogaz (10%)-Welspun (35%)
Total Naftogaz		3789	
Essar			
45.	AA-ONN-2004/3	1252	Essar Energy (90%)-Essar Oil (10%)
46.	AA-ONN-2004/5	46	Essar Energy (90%)-Essar Oil (10%)
Total Essar		1298	
Prize Petroleum			
47.	SR-ONN-2004/1	13277	Prize Petroleum (10%)-Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (90%)
Total Prize Petroleum		13277	
Gazprom			
48.	NEC-OSN-97/1	7779	GAIL-50% & GAZPROM 50%
Total Gazprom		7779	
Grand Total		192211	
HOEC			
49.	CY-OSN-97/1	3705	HOEC (80%), MIL (20%)
Total HOEC		3705	
Grand Total		56562	

*Blocks Relinquished

Monuments Under ASI

*288. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of monuments being protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as on date, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by the Government on such monuments during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to develop the above mentioned spots;

(d) whether certain monuments are in a dilapidated condition and are on the verge of collapse;

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

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for the protection of such monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The State-wise details of centrally protected monuments of national

importance under the Archaeological Survey of India are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount spent for conservation, preservation and environmental development of the centrally protected monuments during the last three years is as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	2005-06	10195.00
2.	2006-07	10816.89
3.	2007-08	12886.19
4.	2008-09	8036.55 (till Nov. 2008)

(c) to (f) The ASI protects and maintains 3675 notified monuments/sites that have been declared as of national importance and these are in a good state of preservation. Conservation of centrally protected monuments is a continuous process. Under the Annual Conservation Programme, the ASI takes up conservation, preservation, maintenance and environmental development of monuments depending upon the need of the monuments and subject to the availability of resources.

Statement*Centrally Protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India-State-wise and Circle Wise*

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Monuments	Name of Circle	Nos. of Monuments
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137	Hyderabad	137
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	Guwahati	03
3.	Assam	55	Guwahati	55
4.	Bihar	70	Patna	70
5.	Chhattisgarh	47	Raipur	47
6.	Daman and Diu (U.T.)	12	Vadodara	12
7.	Goa	21	Goa	21
8.	Gujarat	202	Vadodara	202
9.	Haryana	90	Chandigarh	90

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	40	Shimla	40
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	69	Srinagar	69
12.	Jharkhand	12	Ranchi	12
13.	Karnataka	507	Bangalore	208
			Dharwad	299
14.	Kerala	26	Thrissur	26
15.	Madhya Pradesh	292	Bhopal	292
16.	Maharashtra	285	Aurangabad	168
			Mumbai	117
17.	Manipur	01	Guwahati	01
18.	Meghalaya	08	Guwahati	08
19.	Nagaland	04	Guwahati	04
20.	N.C.T. Delhi	174	Delhi	174
21.	Orissa	78	Bhubaneswar	78
22.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	07	Chennai	07
23.	Punjab	31	Chandigarh	31
24.	Rajasthan	162	Jaipur	162
25.	Sikkim	03	Kolkata	03
26.	Tamil Nadu	413	Chennai	403
			Thrissur	10
27.	Tripura	08	Guwahati	08
28.	Uttar Pradesh	743	Agra	266
			Lucknow	365
			Patna	112
29.	Uttarakhand	042	Dehradun	42
30.	West Bengal	133	Kolkata	133
Total		3675	Total	3675

Conference Tourism

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

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote conference tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Service Sector Committee of the Planning Commission has approved such proposal;

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

(e) the criteria fixed for selection of sites for the said purpose; and

(f) the details of the locations in which the Government proposes to set up the infrastructure to promote conference tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is being promoted as a multi attraction tourism destination including MICE through the tourism offices in India and abroad. Literature and CDs on conference tourism are being distributed in potential markets for promotion of Meetings, Incentive, Conference and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism to India. Ministry of Finance had announced in the year 2007-08, a Tax Holiday for 5 years under Section 80-ID (1) of the Income Tax for Convention Centres in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad.

(c) and (d) The report of the High Level Group on Services Sector (March, 2008) observed that the establishment of four or five large convention centres in the country will help realize the potential specific to MICE.

(e) and (f) The responsibility of selection of sites rests with the State Government, 'Land Owning Agencies' and the 'Private Sector'. Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance under its various schemes subject to the receipt of the proposals complete in all respects, *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

Working of NMDFC

*290. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI BHAILAL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee was set up to analyse the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC);

(b) if so, the composition thereof and the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) the total amount of credit provided so far by the NMDFC to the minorities particularly those residing in the North-Eastern States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(e) whether any evaluation has been made regarding the extent to which the credit has helped the minorities in the North-Eastern States;

(f) if so, the findings thereof;

(g) whether the NMDFC schemes have been extended to the remaining States of North-Eastern Region viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Sikkim; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A copy of the order dated 13.7.2006, indicating the composition of the Committee, is given in the enclosed Statement. The main recommendation of the Committee related to setting up a new institution called the National Minorities Development Corporation (NMDC), which would be a holding company for three subsidiaries viz. Minority Partnerships (MP), the existing National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), and a National Wakf Development Agency (NWDA).

(c) After considering the report of the Expert Committee, government has approved 'in principle' the restructuring of NMDFC. The envisaged structure would consist of NMDFC, which would be converted from a

Section 25 company to a non-deposit taking, non-banking finance company (NBFC), and it would be the holding company for two subsidiaries viz. Minority Partnerships and a National Wakf Development Agency.

(d) The details of total credit provided in the country, as well as in the North-Eastern States, by NMDFC during the last three years and in the current financial year is as given below:

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Year	Total	N.E States
2005-06	108.11	11.67
2006-07	112.75	8.25
2007-08	144.12	12.82
2008-09 (up to 30.11.08)	95.50	3.50

(e) and (f) NMDFC had got an evaluation done of its schemes financed during the period 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2006. The sample for the study, consisting of ten states in the country, covered the state of Nagaland in the North East. The evaluation has revealed that in Nagaland 99.30% of the sample of beneficiaries crossed double the poverty line.

(g) and (h) NMDFC finances schemes mainly through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) and the rest through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In the North-East, NMDFC schemes are being implemented through SCAs in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The SCAs in Manipur, Meghalaya and Sikkim are not operational. No SCA has been nominated by the State Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. Despite this, NMDFC has been making efforts to implement its micro-credit programme through NGOs in these States. During the last three years, NMDFC disbursed micro-credit in these states, as per the details given below.

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Year	Manipur	Meghalaya	Arunachal Pradesh
2005-06	—	—	2.25
2006-07	—	—	—
2007-08	1.80	3.60	—
2008-09 (till 30.11.2008)	—	—	—

Statement

No. 12-14/2006-MC
Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs

9th Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building
25 Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi-110001.
Dated 13th July, 2006

ORDER

As both the coverage and the manner of functioning of the National Minority Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) requires to be reviewed to make it a more effective instrument for achieving its objectives, it has been decided to constitute an Expert Committee, comprising the following members to review its functioning and recommend appropriate measures:-

1. Shri Naseer Munjee, Non-Executive Chairman, Development Credit Bank Ltd.
2. Shri Shitin Desai, Executive Vice Chairman, DSP Merrill Lynch Ltd.
3. Shri Vikram Limay Executive Director, Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd.
4. Shri S.R. Iyer, Ex-Managing Director, State Bank of India and Former Chairman-Credit Information Bureau (I) Ltd.
5. Shri H.N. Sinor, Chief Executive & Secretary, Indian Banks' Association.
6. Shri Sujit Datta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs,
7. Shri R.N. Shastri, Managing Director-Convener National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation

2. The Committee shall suggest an action plan for improving the strategy and operational performance of the Corporation. The Committee would submit its report within a period of two months.
3. The NMDFC would provide secretarial assistance to the Committee. The Members would be treated as Grade I Officers to the Government

for the purpose of TA/DA. The expenditure will be met by National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation.

(S.C. Gulati)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt of India
23765008

Hike in Freight Rates

*291. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether problems are being faced by the traders and the general public due to the sudden and unannounced hike in the freight rates effected by the Railways in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are aware of the diversion of freight movement from railways to roadways in different zones including Southern Railway due to the hike in freight rates;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Railways have taken any steps to revert the hike in freight rates and to increase the level of freight traffic;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (f) Representations have been received from rail customers against recent changes in classification of domestic iron ore, cement, coal & coke. These representations were examined and were not found feasible to agree to. It has to be appreciated that changes in classification of commodities cannot be announced in advance since these are internal budget exercises of the Railways.

Railways are not aware of any large scale diversion of traffic from rail to road. Loading has gone up to 534.60 Million Tonne during April-November 2008 as compared to 502.19 Million Tonne during April-November 2007 thereby registering a growth of 6.45%. On Southern Railway in particular, railway's loading has gone up to 22.17 Million Tonne during April-November 2008 as compared to 18.84 Million Tonne during April-November 2007 thereby registering a growth of 17.68%.

Railways have recently granted number of concessions to boost traffic and increase rail share.

Development of Non-operational Airports

*292. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a global consultancy firm has urged the Government to put to use the non-operational airports in the country;

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

(c) whether there is an urgent need to develop small airports also in the country to decongest the traffic at regular airports; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government have not received any such proposal of this nature from any Global Consultancy Firm.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) AAI has appointed M/s RITES Ltd as Consultant to carry out a feasibility study of AAI's 32 Non-operational airports. Report of the Consultant is likely to be received by December end. A pre feasibility study for operationalisation of 326 number of unused Airports/Airstrips belonging to Defence/Private Sector and State Governments is also planned. Based on the study and recommendations therein, the Airports/Airstrips found to be having potential will be considered for development/operationalisation so as to improve air connectivity in the country.

Unused Land at Airports

*293. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large area of land are lying unused at various airports;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made about the vacant land and its proper use for commercial exploitation so as to earn some revenue out of it; and

(c) if so, the details of such vacant land and the schemes finalized, if any, for the better and commercial utilization of this land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. At most of the airports, the available land is either already taken up for aeronautical and related works or is committed therefor.

(b) and (c) In line with the international trend of increasing non-aeronautical revenue, the airport operators, from time to time, take up commercial exploitation of available land within the limits imposed by the applicable laws. Presently, Airports Authority of India has plans for city side development of select 24 non-metro airports viz. Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Vizag, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Ranchi and Dimapur through Public Private Partnership (PPP). Further, Delhi International Airport Ltd. has plans to develop a Hospitality District at IGI Airport, New Delhi.

Shortage of Trained Pilots

*294. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's rapidly growing civil aviation sector is facing an acute shortage of trained pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the expansion of the aviation sector is being affected as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present there is no general shortage of pilots. However, there is a shortage of aircraft type endorsed pilots, particularly in the Commander category. The Civil Aviation Sector is facing decline in growth and almost all the airlines have significantly reduced recruitment of fresh pilots.

(d) In order to have sufficient number of quality pilots over longer period of time the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) is being modernised through upgradation of infrastructure and acquisition of additional trainer aircraft. IGRUA has also entered into a management contract with M/s. CAE, a reputed international organisation in this field, to professionalise its management. The Government has also decided to set up a world-class institute at Gondia in Maharashtra as Joint Venture Enterprise under the aegis of Airports Authority of India. The other flying clubs in the country are also being supported by the Central Government by way of providing funds for acquisition of trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Aero Club of India.

Administrative Expenses of Public Sector Oil Companies.

*295. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the decrease in oil price in the international market, the remittances of dividend by the oil companies in the public sector will be increased proportionately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the oil companies are incurring considerable amount on administrative expenses resulting in less dividend to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Due to the unprecedented levels of international prices till August, 2008, the 3 Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) (Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation) declared combined losses of Rs. 14,431 crore for the period April-September, 2008. At the end of November, 2008, their combined borrowings went upto Rs. 1,15,000 crore and their interest burden for 2008-09 is likely to be Rs. 8,100 crore. Even at the present prices, the OMC's total under-recoveries on the four sensitive petroleum products are projected to be

Rs. 1,10,381 crore during 2008-09. The OMC's net worth had eroded significantly and their Debt Equity Ratio has deteriorated considerably. Dividend payouts are decided at the level of Board of Directors after due consideration of the financial results at the end of the financial year.

(c) to (e) The Oil PSUs have been observing economy in their administrative expenditure and they have in place adequate control system to avoid wasteful expenditure. They have also been advised to strictly follow the economy measures and measures for rationalization of expenditure as per the guidelines issued by Department of Expenditure.

Decline in Earnings of the Railways

*296. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earnings of the Railways have declined as reported in 'The Hindu' dated 11 November, 2008;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a sharp decline has been recorded in the earnings from freight loading;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to increase the earning from freight?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The overall growth in revenue earnings of the Railways in the month of October 2008 declined sharply to 6.52% compared to 19.31% registered in the same month last year as per the Statistical Report of approximate earnings on originating basis. Cumulative growth in earnings from April to October 2008, however, stood at 15.76% as against 11.96% for the corresponding period of last year.

Details of earnings for the current financial year on a month-to-month basis according to the above statistical trend reporting are furnished in the enclosed statement. It may be seen that during October 2008, earnings from freight traffic which constitutes bulk of the revenue earnings of the Railways dipped to single digit at 4.91% compared to the corresponding month of last year.

The decline in Railways freight earnings is attributable to a slackening of market demand for transportation in the present environment of economic downturn.

(e) To counter the effect of the slowdown on financial health of Railways, a number of steps has been taken to boost demand for rail transportation. These include freight discounts of up to 40% on short lead cement traffic and distance-based freight concession of up to 50% on iron-ore traffic for export.

Statement

Statement of Approximate Earnings on Originating Basis.

(in Crores)

Month	Passenger		% Var.	Goods		% Var.	Sundry		% Var.	Other Coaching		% Var.	Total		% Var.
	2007-08	2008-09		2007-08	2008-09		2007-08	2008-09		2007-08	2008-09		2007-08	2008-09	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
April	1616.69	1793.98	10.97	3680.84	4391.55	19.31	52.24	52.85	1.17	150.83	182.21	20.80	5500.40	6420.59	16.73
May	1696.86	1840.92	8.36	3723.31	4679.81	25.69	48.47	64.31	32.68	165.80	175.92	6.10	5636.44	6760.96	19.95
June	1535.72	1695.22	10.39	3614.73	4293.32	18.77	83.92	84.92	1.19	154.64	150.23	-2.85	5389.01	6223.69	15.49
July	1472.00	1865.28	26.72	3563.44	4412.50	23.83	59.08	86.86	47.02	138.52	149.69	8.06	5233.04	6514.33	24.48
August	1528.70	1845.64	20.73	3638.96	4201.66	15.46	50.77	66.49	30.96	134.92	154.87	14.79	5353.35	6268.66	17.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
September	1648.04	1697.30	2.99	3556.15	4140.37	16.43	73.31	89.80	22.49	154.72	143.06	-7.54	5432.22	6070.53	11.75
October	1649.06	1818.16	10.25	3911.50	4103.73	4.91	141.56	146.45	3.45	155.16	171.02	10.22	5857.28	6239.36	6.52
April to October	11160.90	12575.05	12.67	25688.18	30151.97	17.38	572.88	692.95	20.96	1059.87	1127.55	6.39	38481.83	44547.52	15.76

[*Translation*]

**Disabled People Living in Hilly, Tribal
and Remote Areas**

*297. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government has allocated any
separate funds for the physically and mentally challenged
persons living in hilly, tribal and remote areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three
years and the current year State-wise;

(c) whether the people of the said areas are not
getting the benefits of these schemes;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to
ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the
targeted areas; and

(e) the progress made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (e)
For the benefit of the Persons with disabilities,
Government implements, inter alia, the Deendayal
Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and the scheme
of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting
of Aids/Appliances (ADIP). In addition, District Disability
Rehabilitation Centres (DDRC) are set up to provide
rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities at the
district level.

2. Allocation for North-Eastern States is made
separately under DDRS and ADIP schemes. To ensure
even distribution of services to beneficiaries, financial
allocations are being made district-wise under the ADIP
Scheme from 2007-08.

3. Details of release of funds to States in the North-
East, other hilly States, and other States with more than
10% Tribal population under ADIP and DDRS are given
in the enclosed Statement-I and II. No. of DDRCs
functioning in each of these States is given in the
enclosed Statement-III.

Statement

Amount Released under Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS.) (Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (up to 30.11.08)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
N.E. States						
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.1	5.5	10.7	1.5	20.7
2.	Assam	73.2	91.8	84.7	18.8	268.5
3.	Manipur	87.8	144.9	125.7	37.6	396.0
4.	Meghalaya	76.9	31.8	85.2	9.3	203.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Mizoram	20.5	21.8	12.5	3.0	57.8
6.	Nagaland	0.0	0.0	1.4	0	1.4
7.	Tripura	10.9	12.2	11.9	2.5	37.4
8.	Sikkim	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Hilly States						
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	10.8	13.6	7.9	18.5	50.8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	29.5	38.3	11.5	18.2	97.5
11.	Uttarakhand	80.8	55.4	44.0	5.9	186.2
Other States with more than 10% ST population.						
12.	Chhattisgarh	49.8	52.0	39.2	11.1	152.1
13.	Jharkhand	9.7	5.0	166.7	1.9	183.2
14.	Orissa	240.2	253.8	426.1	178.1	1098.3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	137.1	120.2	134.6	51.2	443.1
16.	Gujarat	115.7	93.5	81.2	25.5	315.9
17.	Rajasthan	152.2	126.1	182.7	33.8	494.8
Total		825.9	757.9	1093.9	344.3	4006.8

Statement II

*Amount Released/Allocated under ADIP Scheme
(Rs. in Lakhs)*

Sl.No.	State	2007-08 (Released)	2008-09 (allocated)
1	2	3	4
I. North-Eastern States			
1.	Assam	265.9	651
2.	Sikkim	9.8	22
3.	Meghalaya	20.5	40
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.7	53
5.	Manipur	15.6	42
6.	Tripura	22.7	71

1	2	3	4
7.	Mizoram	9.7	34
8.	Nagaland	18.8	37
II-Hilly States Outside North-Eastern States			
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	64.4	52
10.	Himachal Pradesh	17.7	30
11.	Uttarakhand	28.9	36
III-Other States with more than 10% ST population			
12.	Chhattisgarh	85	69
13.	Jharkhand	12	75
14.	Orissa	424	167
15.	Madhya Pradesh	84	230

1	2	3	4
16.	Gujarat	76	172
17.	Rajasthan	370	230

Note: Amount before 2007-08 did not use to be allocated under the ADIP Scheme

Statement III

State-wise number of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs)

Sl.No.	Name of States	No. of functional DDRCs
North East		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	8
3.	Manipur	3
4.	Meghalaya	3
5.	Mizoram	3
6.	Nagaland	1
7.	Sikkim	1
8.	Tripura	3
Other Hillly States		
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3
11.	Uttarakhand	4
Other States with More than 10% ST Population		
12.	Chhattisgarh	6
13.	Jharkhand	5
14.	Orissa	8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	18
16.	Gujarat	9
17.	Rajasthan	9
Total		90

Black-Marketing of Kerosene

*298. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG
PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints about the large scale diversion of subsidized kerosene oil to the open market in various States in the country;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard along with the number of cases that came to light during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the action taken thereon, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to sell the kerosene oil in one litre pack in the open market to curb the diversion;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to check recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The possibility of black marketing of Kerosene (SKO) by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the huge price difference between kerosene and petrol & diesel. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that 36 cases of black-marketing of kerosene oil by wholesale dealers had come to notice in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 [April-September 2008]. State-wise details of cases of black-marketing and action taken thereon is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) To assess the acceptability of product in small packs to customers who are not covered under the Public Distribution System [PDS]. It was planned initially to introduce sale of kerosene in small packs of one litre on trial basis. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has set up a pilot plant at Rewari (Haryana) for marketing kerosene in one litre glass bottles on a trial basis. The plant has filling capacity of 3,00,000 bottles per month. The production has started with effect from 17.10.2007. Present sale is approximately 100000 bottles per month. The product is now being test marketed in the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Mewat, Rewari and Jhajjar in the State of Haryana.

(f) In order to check the black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issues under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, according to which the dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or OMCs and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place. State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.

With a view to checking diversion of subsidized kerosene and in order to monitor the movement of Tank Trucks transporting petroleum products, the Government have advised the public sector OMCs for installing Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicle tracking system on all the tank trucks. The essential features of the system is that the vehicle carrying PDS SKO is fitted with a device and can be tracked on real time basis from the time it leaves the supply location and till it reaches the destination.

To check adulteration in auto fuels, and also to check diversion of subsidized kerosene, Government have also advised OMCs to introduce marker in adulterants. Public sector OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under this system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/ HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for marketing provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

Statement

Name of the State	Number of cases detected	Action taken/Period of suspension of SKO supplies
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1	Suspended since June 2007.

1	2	3
Bihar	1	Suspended from 11 Aug 07 to Jan 2008.
	1	Suspended since 11 Oct 2007 till date.
	1	Suspended since 21 Nov 2007 till date.
	1	Suspended from 09 Apr 2008 to Sep 2008.
Jharkhand	1	Suspended from Aug 2007 to Oct 2008
	1	Supplies suspended since Jul 2007 till date
	1	Suspended since Sep 2008 till date
Haryana	1	Suspended since Nov 2006 till date.
	1	Suspended since Nov 2007 till date.
	1	Suspended since Aug 2007 till date.
	1	Suspended from Feb 2006 to Oct 2006.
	1	Suspended from Dec 2006 to Jan 2007.
	1	Suspended since 07 Nov 2007 till date.
Himachal Pradesh	1	Suspended Feb 2006 to June 2006.
	1	Suspended since May 2008 till date.
	1	Dealership terminated in August 2007.
Karnataka	1	Suspended since 25 Sep 08 to 05 Dec 2008.

1	2	3
	1	Suspended since 25 Sep 08 to 05 Dec 2008.
Madhya Pradesh	1	Suspended from Apr 2008 to Aug 2008
	1	Suspended since 24 Jul 2008 till date.
	1	Suspended since 22 Nov 2006 to June 2007.
	1	Suspended from 02 Sep 2006 to 13 Nov 2006
	1	Suspended from Jan 2008 to Sep 2008.
Maharashtra	1	Suspended from 24 Jun 2008 to 19 Sep 2008
	1	Suspended since 24 Jul 2008 till date.
Punjab	1	Dealership terminated on 16.7.2008
	1	Dealership terminated in February 2007
	1	Suspended since Jan 2008 till date.
	1	Suspended from 08 May 07 to 20 Aug 2008.
	1	Suspended from 08 Apr 2008 to 11 Jul 2008
Uttar Pradesh	1	Suspended from 16 Jan 2008 to 15 Jul 2008
	1	Suspended from 16 Jan 2008 to 15 Jul 2008

1	2	3
	1	Suspended since 05 Mar 2008 till date.
	1	Suspended from 02 Jun 2008 to 14 Jul 2008
	1	Suspended from Feb 2008 till date
Total	36	

**Non-Compliance of Marketing
Discipline Guidelines .**

*299. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) the salient provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines for regulation of supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG);

(b) whether the Government has ensured that Marketing Discipline Guidelines are being followed by all concerned;

(c) if so, the number of cases relating to illegal use and black marketing of domestic LPG Cylinders reported under the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the further action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 2001 were issued and made effective from 12.04.2001 to take action against erring distributors for serious malpractices like diversion of domestic LPG cylinder for non-domestic use, recovery of unauthorised charges from customers, supply of underweight cylinders, deliberate acceptance of fake Transfer Voucher, induction of spurious equipment, sale of non-BIS/sub-standard equipment, shortage of Corporation's equipment, forced sale of hotplates, manipulation of madatory records, non attendance of complaints, delay in refill supply/leakage of cylinder, not giving cash and carry rebate, unauthorized

out of turn delivery of refill supplies, unauthorized non home delivery of refill supplies, deliberate withholding of Corporation's payments collected from consumers, rude behaviour to customer, overcharging, refusal to register for new connection, unauthorized out of turn release of additional cylinders, etc.

MDG, 2001 provides inter-alia following action against erring LPG distributors:-

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

(b) Whenever Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the MDG.

(c) OMCs have detected 2283 cases of diversion/blackmarketing of LPG by their LPG distributorships in the country during the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and April, 2008 to October, 2008, Action against the erring distributors was taken as per provisions of MDG/Distributorship Agreement. Further, 6540 motorists indulging in misuse of domestic LPG in their vehicles have also been caught during years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and April, 2008 to October, 2008 by the State Transport Authorities. The State-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

(d) In order to stop diversion/black marketing of LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against erring LPG distributorships.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against diversion/black-marketing of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to

time to take steps against the diversion/black-marketing of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

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

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

OMCs have introduced different colours for domestic and non-domestic LPG cylinders for controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

[English]

Travel Advisories

*300. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether negative travel advisories are being issued by various countries from time to time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the impact of these advisories on the flow of foreign tourists of India;
- (d) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the concerned countries and raised it at international fora; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Travel Advisories have been issued by various countries, from time to time, advising their citizens to avoid travel or to

take precautions while traveling to areas in the country which are temporarily disturbed.

(c) Foreign tourist arrivals to the country have continued to increase as detailed below:

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	% increase over previous year
2005	3.92 million	13.3
2006	4.45 million	13.5
2007	5.08 million	14.3
2008 (Jan-Nov)	4.84 million	8.0 (as compared to Jan-Nov 2007)

(d) and (e) The issue has been taken up by the Ministry while addressing international fora such as the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Executive Council Meeting in Jeju, South Korea and the Pacific Asia Travel Mart (PATA) Travel Mart 2008 in Hyderabad. The issue has also been taken up through the Indian Missions Overseas. Some countries have consequently reviewed and either removed or down graded the advisories issued by them.

[Translation]

**Fertilizer Company Bought by Kribhco
on Higher Prices**

2913. SHRI BHANU PARTAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Krishak Bharat Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) bought the fertilizer company in Shahjhanpur at a higher price than that earlier proposed by them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

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

Development of Vrindavan

2914. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, the Government is aware that the ecology and environment of Vrindavan City is in a bad condition and domestic and international tourists and pilgrims visiting Vrindavan have to face the problems of filth, bad roads, congestion and open parking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for the conservation and maintenance of monuments/sites that are declared as of national importance under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The matter concerning ecology and environment of any city including problems relating to filth, bad roads, congestion and open parking falls under the purview of the respective State Government/Local body.

Promotion of tourism and development and maintenance of tourist places all over the country is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial Assistance under the Product/Infrastructure Development of Destination and Circuits scheme, to project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations which are complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines. However, while sanctioning the central financial assistance for the tourism projects to the State Governments, the State Governments are required to undertake the responsibility for maintenance and management of facilities for which funds are released.

During the 10th Plan period, Central Financial Assistance was provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for the flowing projects in and around Vrindavan:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Name of Project	Amount
Renovation & beautification of Kusum Sarovar at Goverdhan (2004-05)	100.77
Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mukhrai, Mathura (2005-06)	45.89
Renovation and beautification of Chhatries of Govardhan at District Mathura (2005-06)	58.60
Preparation of site survey plan of Parikarma Path for Govardhan and Vrindavan Research Institute at Vrindavan. (2005-06)	0.79
Development of Brij Chaurasi Kos Parikarma Tourism Circuit (2006-07)	441.53

*[English]***Inadequate Supply of LPG in U.P.**

2915. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints that Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) distributors in Uttar Pradesh are not supplying the gas to the consumers regularly and the consumers have to bring the LPG cylinder themselves from the gas agency's godown and pay a higher price;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against the distributors during the last three years and in the current year;

(c) whether these LPG distributors are involved in black marketing of gas cylinders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the State of

Uttar Pradesh and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

OMCs have detected 167 cases of blackmarketing of LPG/non-home delivery and not extending cash and carry rebate to the customers against their LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and April to October, 2008. Action against all the erring distributorships was taken as per the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

E-Payment System

2916. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the problems being faced by the users in making the payments through drafts and cheques for freights services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce Electronic (E) payment system for freight payments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it would be introduced in all the divisions of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Customers face problems in paying freight through demand draft as exact freight to be paid is not known in advance.

(c) to (e) E-payment system for payment of freight has already been introduced over all divisions of Indian Railways. Detailed guidelines have been issued for E-payment system. As on 08.12.2008, 97 customers have already started payment of freight by E-payment mode. Other customers have been approached to enter into agreement for E-payment of freight.

Grant-In-Aid Schemes

2917. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the grant-in-aid schemes for the current financial year have been publicized;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to transfer its existing schemes to other organizations by introducing new schemes of grants-in-aid; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) NO, Sir. Some schemes are under modification.

(c) and (d) Decentralization is contingent upon the modifications that are finally approved by the Government.

Rock Painting

2918. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ancient rock paintings have been found in Srisaillam hill range of Mahaboob Nagar district and Thadwai Mandal of Warrangal district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these paintings dates back to 3000 years BC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Department of Archaeology, Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that some prehistoric rock paintings in the Akkamahadevi guhalu have been noticed in the forest at about 10 km. distance from Srisaillam, Mehboobnagar district and at Narsapur and Badia villages in Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh. The paintings depict animal motifs such as antelopes, peacocks and human figures painted in red colour.

[Translation]

Tenders for Transportation of Petroleum Products

2919. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) had invited tenders in August, 2008 from contractors and petrol pump dealers for transportation of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IOCL has extended the existing contracts of the contractors upto 31st December, 08; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has not invited public tenders in August 2008 for award of contracts for transportation of bulk petroleum products from depots/terms locations. However, public tenders were invited by IOCL during June-July 2008 for locations in Northern, Western and some of the Eastern States as per due dates.

(c) and (d) Due to court cases filed by some of the transporters and technical reasons the existing transportation contract for locations in the State of Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Pathankot in Punjab were extended upto 31st December 2008.

Allotment of Fertilizers to Madhya Pradesh

2920. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise quota of fertilizers allotted for Madhya Pradesh for coming Rabi crops, separately;

(b) the basis for fixing the said quota;

(c) whether the Kharif crop in the said areas is negligible because of very heavy rains in that areas during the current year and the farmers of these areas are solely dependent upon Rabi crop;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to allot fertilizers to these area in proportion to the area under cultivation; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K.

HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at state level. State governments are responsible for its distribution within the State.

All other fertilizers like DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The monthly supply plans for decontrolled fertilizers are drawn by manufacturers/importers of these fertilizers in consultation with the State Government. Therefore, the availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Government of Madhya Pradesh, Directorate of Agriculture, Bhopal have informed that the quota of fertilizers is fixed on the basis of district-wise demand and average consumption during last five years. The coverage of Kharif crop under different crops is about 106 lac hectare i.e., 100.6% of the targeted area. During current Rabi, the total sown area is 73.98 lac hectare i.e. 87% of the targeted area and there is no dependency of farmers solely upon Rabi crop. District-wise target of fertilizer for Madhya Pradesh for current Rabi 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement***Tentative Programme of Fertilizer in Rabi 2008-09***

Unit: In MTS

District/Division	Urea	A.S.	C.A.N.	S.S.P.	MOP	DAP	12:32:16	20:20:0	15:15:15	MAP	10:26:26	Nutrients			
												N	P	K	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Jabalpur	20000	50	120	1096	1470	11906	550	265	0	2945	715	11898	7598	1156	20652
Katni	10000	0	0	5000	200	6000	810	1000	0	1200	100	6119	4689	278	11084
Mandala	2230	30	0	410	75	1200	60	350	0	20	0	1327	717	55	2099
Dindhori	300	0	0	100	10	125	35	0	0	0	0	165	85	12	261
Balaghat	4500	50	0	250	400	3200	100	250	0	600	450	2829	2023	373	5225
Chhindwara	20000	0	0	4500	2200	4800	1490	200	0	0	0	10283	3445	1558	15286
Seoni	10000	0	0	1500	300	4400	1000	400	0	800	100	5690	3106	366	9162
Narsinghpur	15000	50	0	6000	1450	6000	990	400	0	1500	300	8384	4975	1106	14465
Jabalpur Div.	82030	180	120	18856	6105	37631	5035	2865	0	7065	1665	46694	26618	4902	78214
Sagar	15000	0	0	3250	300	14900	1325	3900	0	1700	3900	11098	10476	1406	22980

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Damoh	7200	0	0	120	200	7900	1120	1350	0	2000	1300	5496	5690	659	11835
Panna	3500	0	0	200	50	9400	1850	500	0	0	0	3624	5048	326	8998
Chhatarpur	20000	0	0	2000	150	19200	2240	1000	0	4500	0	13620	12409	448	26477
Tikamgarh	19000	0	0	6000	150	18200	1600	1200	0	2650	1000	12840	11722	606	25168
Sagar Div.	64700	0	0	11570	850	69800	8135	7950	0	10850	6280	46678	45335	3444	95457
Rewa	12650	650	310	17330	2550	2500	1290	1000	0	0	0	6831	4536	1736	13103
Satna	16000	0	0	600	450	20300	1865	6500	0	0	2500	12788	11981	1218	25967
Sidhi	5150	0	0	528	53	2300	490	432	0	0	0	2928	1386	110	4424
Singaroli	5300	0	0	462	43	2700	430	372	0	0	0	3050	1528	95	4673
Shahdol	4000	0	0	500	150	3700	475	240	0	0	0	2611	1982	166	4769
Anoppur	810	0	0	50	65	850	70	90	0	0	0	552	439	50	1042
Umaria	3600	0	0	797	73	2100	100	91	0	0	0	2084	1144	60	3288
Rewa Div.	47510	650	310	20267	3384	34450	4720	8725	0	0	2500	30825	22995	3436	57255
Indore	43000	50	400	30800	3455	7200	6650	1000	0	650	2800	22536	11634	3965	38035
Dhar	55000	100	120	20000	4000	15400	11500	2000	0	1000	1000	30112	15144	4500	48756
Jhabua	13000	0	0	3367	215	2133	1880	800	0	0	0	6750	2282	430	9481
Alirajpur	11400	0	0	3042	196	1868	1650	691	0	0	0	5916	2012	382	8310
Khargone	22000	0	0	8030	3150	4070	4110	992	0	500	1000	11699	5191	2808	19687
Badwani	14000	200	0	5200	1450	5500	1960	850	0	300	0	7908	4315	1184	13407
Khandawa	16800	0	0	3980	2100	5555	1610	450	0	1665	228	9217	4703	1577	15497
Burhanpur	10350	810	0	2499	6115	1963	1280	77	130	0	422	5507	1857	4003	11367
Indore Div.	185550	1160	520	76798	20881	43689	30640	6860	130	4115	5450	99645	47138	18748	195530
Ujjain	45000	0	0	33000	2500	9000	9200	1200	0	0	0	23664	12804	2972	36240
Ratlam	25000	0	0	16500	3900	8000	3880	500	170	0	700	13601	7869	3168	24639
Mandsaur	16500	0	60	12500	500	8000	3870	730	180	0	380	9360	6270	1045	16676
Nimuch	12600	100	200	7500	600	3900	4100	300	50	1300	2000	7471	5570	1544	14584
Dewas	34550	110	370	27000	1795	6550	3370	425	0	0	3600	18036	9432	2552	30021
Shajapur	25000	50	0	26000	350	6200	3020	400	90	0	2900	13372	8626	1461	23659
Ujjain Div.	158650	260	630	122500	9645	39650	27440	3555	490	1300	9580	85504	50571	12742	148817
Gwalior	23000	350	110	600	400	14000	2210	1400	140	50	200	13789	7622	667	22078
Shivpuri	14000	50	0	6500	100	11000	1600	800	0	0	0	8742	6732	316	15790

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Guna	20000	0	0	3000	150	10900	1500	500	0	0	0	11442	6074	330	17846
Ashok Nagar	8650	200	0	1600	110	10700	3200	1500	0	0	75	6637	6522	598	13756
Datia	18000	0	0	1000	25	9000	2500	1000	0	0	0	10400	5300	415	16115
Gwalior Div.	83650	600	110	12700	785	55600	11010	5000	140	50	275	51010	32250	2325	85585
Bhind	35000	2000	110	2500	800	18000	3450	5000	90	0	600	21255	10954	1202	33410
Morena	30000	1600	0	3007	1000	11300	2050	5500	0	0	0	17500	7435	928	25863
Sheopurkala	11000	0	0	700	145	6900	650	0	0	750	0	6463	3884	191	10538
Chambal Div.	78000	3600	110	6207	1945	36200	6150	10500	90	750	600	45218	22273	2321	69811
Bhopal	16250	0	0	4000	300	8400	1000	100	0	0	350	9162	4935	431	14528
Sehore	20510	0	0	14102	1200	15380	1200	1320	950	6600	3150	13795	14373	1874	30041
Raisen	35000	0	0	5350	750	21700	1510	600	0	1600	200	20503	12325	744	33572
Vidisha	20950	0	0	450	155	25700	1550	4375	0	1500	1050	15594	14318	614	30526
Betul	22000	0	0	4000	1000	5000	3010	200	200	0	0	11451	3973	1112	16536
Raigarh	21000	0	0	17800	300	9000	800	1950	0	0	400	11806	7738	412	19958
Bhopal Div.	135710	0	0	45702	3705	85180	9070	8545	1150	9700	5150	82311	57662	5186	145159
Hoshangabad	86200	0	0	12000	2500	34000	4100	0	0	0	0	46264	18872	2156	67292
Harda	30000	0	0	3400	400	14000	3700	0	0	2500	2500	17289	10118	1482	28889
H'BAD Div.	116200	0	0	15400	2900	48000	7800	0	0	2500	2500	63553	28990	3638	96181
M.P. State	950000	6450	1800	330000	50000	450000	110000	54000	2000	36330	34000	551436	333832	56740	942008

ROB In Kota Division

2921. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Road Overbridges (ROBs) have been approved for construction by the Railways with the State Government's funding in Kota Division; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Six works of Road over bridges have been approved and are being constructed on cost sharing basis with State Govt. in Kota Division of Railways.

Cost Sharing on Railway Projects

2922. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are charging 50 percent cost value from State Governments for completion of various railway projects;

(b) if so, the details of the railway projects sanctioned on the basis of equal contribution of the cost value by the Union Government and the State Governments during the last two years;

(c) whether the State Governments concerned have agreed to provide 50 percent cost value of the ongoing railway projects in their State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, State Governments have been requested to share at least 50% of cost of new line and gauge conversion projects in their state to expedite completion. Some of the State Governments have come forward to share cost of the ongoing projects and new projects at the time of processing for approval.

(b) to (d) In the last two years and the current year, following projects have been included in the Railway Budgets on 50% contribution by State Governments:-

- (i) Uttarakhand-New broad gauge line from Deoband (Muzzaffarnagar) to Roorkee (27.45 Km);
- (ii) Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh-New broad gauge line from Cuddapah to Bangalore (Bangrapet) (255.4 Km); (Andhra Pradesh Government has agreed for 50% sharing of cost);
- (iii) West Bengal-Gauge Conversion of Burdwan to Katwa (51.52 Km);

State Governments have agreed to provide funds for these projects.

[English]

Equity Base of National Aviation Company

2923. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to raise the equity base of National Aviation Company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has submitted a proposal to the Government for infusion of additional equity in the company which is under examination.

Railway Projects in Gujarat

2924. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the ongoing railway projects for the widening of railway tracks, electrification of railway routes, etc. in the State of Gujarat, on expenditure sharing basis between the State Government and the Railways;

(b) whether the State Government has requested to revise the sharing from 2/3rd by the States and 1/3rd by Railways to 50:50 basis;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(d) the allocation of the funds by the Railways during 2008-09 for each project and the time by which the said Projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are no ongoing rail projects for gauge conversion and electrification of rail route in the State of Gujarat on cost sharing basis between the State Government and the Railways.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Multiple Airports in Large Cities

2925. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage multi-airports for Indian cities like Bangalore, Delhi etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been done on air traffic projections in India for the next 15 years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government to develop at least two airports for all major urban areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Considering the phenomenal growth in aviation sector and to ease congestion at the major airports, Government of India have approved a new policy for greenfield airports. Further, to improve connectivity to far flung areas and industrial locations, the Government have also relaxed the procedure for approval of new greenfield airports. In case a greenfield airports is proposed to be set up within 150 Km of an existing civilian airport, the impact on the existing airport would be examined. Such

cases would be decided by the Government on a case to case basis.

Airports Authority of India has conducted a study on Air Traffic Projection in India for the next 15 years taking into account the latest declining trends in air traffic.

Ambedkar Bhawan at Ahmedabad

2926. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat had sent a proposal regarding construction of Ambedkar Bhawan at Ahmedabad (Gujarat); and

b) if so, the reaction of the Government on that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The proposal was not covered under the scheme of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation and hence could not be approved.

Agri Tourism

2927. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote agri tourism in the country by creating and providing facilities to farmers by way of training in agri tourism, hospitality, hygiene and marketing for domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers from agri tourism; and

(d) the details of success of agri tourism launched by the Agri Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) of Pune in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The

State Government of Maharashtra has declared their tourism policy in 2006 for development and promotion of tourism including Agriculture Tourism. Agri Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC), a non-Governmental Organization established in July, 2005 has been given a certificate of accreditation by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation under their "Mahabhraman Scheme" and is promoting agri tourism through training of farmers, capacity building, empowerment of women self-help groups and dissemination of information etc.

[Translation]

Lack of Space in Side-Berths

2928. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have retrofitted and provided some extra seats in the second class ~~sleeper~~ coaches in the trains;

(b) if so, whether any study regarding the lack of space in side-berths has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this move of the Railways is causing inconvenience to passengers; and

(e) if so, the reasons for such steps and the measures being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) In order to enhance the passenger carrying capacity in sleeper class coaches, additional longitudinal middle berth is being provided in new manufacture of such coaches. Work is also in progress to retrofit these berths in existing coaches.

The design & dimensions of the longitudinal middle berth and its mounting arrangement has been duly assessed and tested before finalization of the same. Due attention has also been paid to ensure safety, comfort and ergonomics for the passengers. Moreover, this measure enhances the carrying capacity of the coach by about 12.5%, thus helping to bridge the wide gap between demand & supply.

*[English]***Setting up of Petro-Chemical Plants by Gail**

2929. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has identified some nations for setting up petro-chemical plants;

(b) if so, the details along with its present status thereof; and

(c) the time by which such petro-chemicals plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As part of its globalization initiative, GAIL is looking for opportunities for setting up of petrochemical complex in gas-rich countries, such as in the Middle East and Africa, Russia and CIS countries.

(b) GAIL is at preliminary stage of discussions with various Petrochemical Companies of the above mentioned countries.

(c) Does not arise view of (b) above.

Shortage of Vitamin 'C' Tablets

2930. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Vitamin "C" tablets and the stocks of popular Vitamin 'C' tablets Celin, Suckcee, Chewcee and Limcee are fast depleting in the country;

(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 CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The reasons for shortage of Vitamin 'C' tablets was increase in the price of

intermediate which is mainly imported. NPPA has recently increased the price of bulk drug Vitamin 'C' and formulation thereof keeping in view the actual cost of the major imported intermediate as well as the exchange rate of rupee versus US Dollar and other input costs.

Expenditure on Historical Monuments

2931. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on conservation, maintenance and upkeep of different heritage buildings in different States built during the British regime; and

(b) the State-wise details of the sites?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Excess Payment of Subsidy to Fertilizers Units

2932. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to phase out the vintage allowance given to urea units as recommended by the Expenditure Reforms Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fertilizer units would have to cough up to least Rs. 1900 crores excess payment made to industry via subsidy mechanism;

(d) if so, the amount of subsidy to be recovered from each unit; and

(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to recover this amount from the urea units and the extent to which their production would be affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has withdrawn vintage allowance during 7th and 8th Pricing Periods of erstwhile

Retention Price Scheme for urea units, in phased manner in stages as below:

Sl.No.	Period	Vintage Allowance
1.	1997-98	5%
2.	1998-99	4%
3.	1999-2000	2%
4.	Beyond 31.3.2000	Nil

(c) to (e) As no payment on this account was made after withdrawal of above allowance therefore, there has been no impact on production.

Task force on Status of Minorities

2933. SHRIMATI K. RANI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the task force appointed by the Government to ameliorate the socio-economic and educational conditions of minorities and the details of the follow up action thereon; and

(b) the works undertaken so far to improve the conditions of minorities in Tamil Nadu in pursuance of the recommendations of the task force and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the inter-ministerial Task Force on implications of the geographical distribution of minorities in India and the list of identified towns, having a substantial minority population, including those in Tamil Nadu, are available on the website of the Ministry of Minority Affairs: www.minorityaffairs.gov.in. Concerned Ministries/Departments have been requested to take appropriate action on the recommendations.

Kolhapur-Ahmedabad Express

2934. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for increasing frequency of 1050 Up/1049 Dn Kolhapur-Ahmedabad Express and extending its services upto Rajkot has been considered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Increase in the frequency of 1049/1050 Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj (T)-Ahmedabad Express (weekly) and its extension upto Rajkot has been examined but it has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion From Kalol to Katosen Via Kadi

2935. SHRI JIVABAHU A. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to convert the meter gauge from Kalol to Katosen via Kadi railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a survey for gauge conversion of Kalol-Kadi-Katosen was completed in 2001-02. As per the survey report, the cost of conversion of 37.23 km long line was assessed as Rs. 49.87 crore with Rate of Return of (-) 0.75%. In view of un-remunerative nature, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources, the project could not be considered.

Security Measures in Western Central Railway Zone

2936. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have undertaken various security measures for the passengers in the Western Central Railway Zone; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Railways are taking various measures to improve security in all major/sensitive stations. Recently it has been

decided to install integrated security System at all the railway stations of four Metro Cities and 140 vulnerable and sensitive stations of Indian Railway in two phases. This system will also cover Bhopal and Itarsi in Phase-I and Jabalpur, Bina and Kota in Phase-II of West central Railway.

The Integrated Security System consists of the following broad areas:-

1. CCTV System.
2. Access control.
3. Personal and baggage screening system.
4. Explosive detection and disposal system.

[English]

Excise Duty on MRP of Medicines

2937. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government introduced excise duty on maximum retail price of medicines to plug the loopholes of excise evasion and to control the maximum retail prices (MRP) of medicines;

(b) if so, whether with introduction of series of new brands of medicines by the same company based on the same active pharmaceutical ingredients in the excise exempted states has rendered the drug price control order redundant;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal to exempt the independent small scale pharma units in the non exempted States from the provisions of drug price control order upto a turn over of Rs. 10 crores per annum;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether such request would not lead to substantial competition and reduction in prices especially of essential and anti-cancer drugs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Prior to 8.1.2005, drugs and medicines were leviable to excise duty on transaction value (ex-factory price). There were wide variations between ex-factory prices and the assessable value of drugs for excise duty purpose resulting in disputes and litigations. With a view to provide certainty in assessment, Ministry of Finance in consultation with concerned drug manufacturers associations, the Administrative Ministry and the National Pricing Authority, has brought allopathic drugs under the levy of excise duty on the basis of retail price required to be declared on the packages of such drugs under the Drugs (Price Control), Order, 1995, with effect from 8.1.2005.

(d) No such proposal is under active consideration of this Department.

(e) to (g) In view of reply to (d) above, does not arise.

Railway Connectivity in Orissa

2938. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to provide adequate train connectivity between Kalinga Nagar, Jakhapura, Sukinda Road, Daitari, Banspani and Barbil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether train connectivity is proposed to be extended to Barsuan, Bandamunda and Rourkela from Kalinga Nagar with connectivity to Paradip port; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) It has been announced in Railway Budget, 2008-09 to introduce an Express train between Puri and Kendujhargarh via Jakhapura, Sukinda Road, Tomka (8 Kms away from Daitari, which is situated on Tomka-Daitari branch line). At present, Padapahar-Banspani and Banspani-Jaruli sections are not fit for running of passenger services.

(c) The work of new lines from Talcher to Bimalgarh, Angul to Sukinda and Haridaspur to Paradip have been taken up which on completion will provide alternate rail connectivity to Paradip port from Kalinganagar area, Rourkela, Bondamunda, Barsuan.

(d) Haridaspur-Paradip new line is likely to be completed during 2010-11. The target for other two lines Angul-Sukinda and Talcher-Bimalgarh has not been fixed.

Upgradation of Banasandra Railway Station

2939. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for upgradation of the railway station in Banasandra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Bansadhara P.H. station is on Navapur-Gunupur Narrow Gauge section. The narrow Gauge line has however been closed and dismantled as the same is presently under Gauge conversion and planned for completion during 2009-10. At present there is no proposal for upgradation of this station.

Bullet Proof Engines

2940. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to run goods trains with bullet proof engines in terror-hit areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which this move will help the Railways in transporting goods including essential commodities, to terror-hit areas of the country;

(c) whether the guard cabin has not been made bullet proof and is only provided with sandbags; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to provide security to guard as has been planned for driver of a train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Running of goods train with bullet proof locomotives is being done selectively based on threat perception. In this process, eight MG diesel locomotives of Northeast Frontier Railway have been modified and provided with bullet proof cab. It is planned to modify further 29 metre gauge diesel locomotives in a phased manner. This is intended as a confidence building measure for engine crew.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to make guard cabin as bullet proof. Wherever required, armed police personnel travel in the brake van for the security of guard and train.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries in Rajasthan

2941. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing industries at present functioning in Rajasthan;

(b) the investment made in these industries;

(c) the quantum of production of these industries in terms of rupees; and

(d) the assistance provided by the Government to establish food processing industries and cold storages during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The data on food processing industries/units and details of investment and production made in the industries in the country, including that of Rajasthan, is not centrally maintained. Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries.

(b) to (d) The details of assistance provided by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing

industries and cold storage during the last three years

in the country and current year are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (upto Nov. 2008)
Setting up of new Food Processing Industries	106.795	471.060	381.300	362.185
Cold Storage	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Safety Norms for Petrol Depots

2942. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum depots setup in the country adhere to prescribed safety norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the number of petrol, diesel depots of different companies shut down as a result of not adhering

to the prescribed norms during the last three years, State-wise and company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that all petroleum depots in the country adhere to the prescribed safety regulations/norms of Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO) and Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD).

During the last three years following five depots have been shifted/resited/closed for safety reasons:-

Name of Company	Location (State)
Indian Oil Corporation Limited	Satna (Madhya Pradesh)
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	Satna (Madhya Pradesh)
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Shakurbasti (Delhi)
-do-	Dalgaon (West Bengal)
-do-	Cuttack (Orissa)

[English]

Austerity Measures by Oil Companies

2943. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state:

(a) the details, of the austerity measures adopted by the major oil companies from January 2008; and

(b) the amount of savings made by the major oil companies in the public sector on account of austerity measures in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) All Oil PSUs have been advised to strictly observe the austerity guidelines laid down by Ministry of Finance. All oil PSUs have been advised to make 10% cut in their non-plan expenditure under the heads Domestic and Foreign Travel expenses. Further, they have been advised to observe utmost economy while organizing Conferences/Seminars/Workshops.

(b) Amount of savings on account of austerity measures made by major Oil PSUs during the period April-September, 2008 are indicated below:

1. ONGC — Rs. 324.14 crore.
2. GAIL — Rs. 0.85 crore
3. OIL — Rs. 32.04 crore
4. IOCL — Rs. 514.30 crore
5. BPCL — Rs. 109 crore
6. HPCL — Rs. 183 crore

[Translation]

Passenger charges at New Airport Terminals

2944. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to levy passenger charges at new airport terminals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose for which the funds so collected is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Passenger Service Fee (PSE) @ Rs. 200/- on embarking passengers is already being levied at all airports in the country. However, in accordance with the concession Agreements signed by Government of India (GOI) with Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL) and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), both Airport Companies are allowed to levy User Development Fee (UDF) (Domestic and International) for meeting any revenue-gap.

For the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad near Hyderabad belonging to HIAL, GOI have approved levy of ad-hoc UDF @ Rs. 1000/- (inclusive all taxes) on international embarking passengers and @ Rs. 375 (inclusive all taxes) on domestic embarking passengers. For Bangalore International Airport at Devenahalli near Bangalore belonging to BIAL, GOI have approved levy of ad-hoc UDF @ Rs. 1070/- (inclusive all taxes) on international embarking passengers.

[English]

Protection of Art and Artists

2945. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken notice is aware of growing attacks against art and artists by the communal forces in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, details of such incidents during the last three years and in the current year; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to protect the arts and artists from the attacks by these communally motivated moral police?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Vaccines

2946. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading Indian Pharmaceutical companies are importing vaccines from Chinese, Cuban and Korean companies; and

(b) if so, the actual prices of these drugs and their selling prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per DPCO, 1995, the prices of vaccines are not fixed by the Government.

Unigauge Policy

2947. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced unigauge policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Policy for Project Unigauge taken up in 1992 to convert selected routes for conversion into broad gauge is as under:

- (i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative BG routes obviating the need for Doubling of existing BG lines on these routes.
- (ii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centers and locations having potential for growth.
- (iii) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.
- (iv) To minimize transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.
- (v) To carry out the conversion of lines as per the above policy at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the rail users were getting.

As on 01.04.1992, Indian Railways had a network of 27349 Km of Meter Gauge (MG)/ Narrow Gauge (NG) railway lines and 14838 Km of railway lines have been converted into broad gauge upto 31.03.2008. As per Plan projections, 10,000 Km of gauge conversion is to be done during 11th Five Year Plan period.

Wage Revision of Workers/Officers of FACT

2948. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by the court for raising the pension by merger of Dearness Allowance (DA) of workers and officers of Fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) in Kerala;

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

(c) whether wage revision for workers and officers of FACT are also pending; with the Government; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES. (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) vide OM No. 2(70)/08-DPE (WC) dated 26th November, 2008 has issued guidelines for implementation of revision of pay and allowances of Board level and below Board level Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors in Central Public sector Enterprises (CPSEs) following IDA pay scales w.e.f. 01.01.2007. The implementation of the DPE guidelines is under process.

National Conservation Policy

2949. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to formulate national conservation policy for historical monuments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal to formulate a national conservation policy for historical monuments. However, as per the existing practice, the monuments declared protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 are maintained and conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India depending upon the availability of resources and needs of intervention.

Preservation of Vultures

2950. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the dwindling number of vultures almost on the brink of extinction, the National Commission of Minorities (NCM) has initiated any steps for conserving these birds; and

(b) if so, the present status of this step taken by the NCM?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Use of the drug 'Diclofenac' for veterinary purposes has been identified as a main cause for the decreasing number of vultures. The Ministry of Environment and Forest has banned the drug 'Diclofenac' for veterinary use and the Drug Controller General of India, Ministry of Health has also issued order for withdrawal of the licenses granted to manufacturers of diclofenac formulation for veterinary use.

Retirement of Employees

2951. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees retired from India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) Ltd, during the last five years;

(b) whether the ITDC does not provide medical treatment facilities to its retired employees;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the ITDC is considering to provide medical treatment to its retired employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) 413 employees retired from India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) during the last five years i.e. from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

(b) to (e) Presently, ITDC is not providing medical treatment/facilities to retired employees. However, the ITDC introduced 'Post Retirement Medical Benefits Scheme' for retired employees in the year 2000. Due to financial crunch, the scheme was suspended for a period of one year effective from 20.7.2001 and subsequently suspended till further orders. Thereafter the ITDC employees Welfare-cum-Performance Incentive Scheme from where the funding was to be made for 'Post Retirement Medical Benefits Scheme' was itself withdrawn by the Management in the year 2004 in view of the financial crunch. Consequent to this withdrawal, the Trade Unions Federations went to the Court and the matter is sub-judice.

Railway Coach Factory at Rai Bareilly

2952. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved any railway wagon factory at Rai Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be spent on the construction of the factory alongwith the number of persons likely to get employment there;

(c) whether the land required for this factory has been acquired and transferred to the Railways;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the area of land required for this factory;

(f) whether the railways propose to transfer this factory to another State or district; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. While there is a proposal to build a Railway Coach Factory at Rai Bareilly. There is no proposal to build a Railway Wagon Factory.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Survey on Financial Backwardness of OBCs

2953. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to conduct a survey in respect of the financial backwardness of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) particularly those living in rural areas and are dependent on their traditional professions/crafts;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(c) if so, the findings of the Committee and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Swaminathan Committee Report

2954. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted proposals for development of coastal tourism based on the report of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and Promotion of Tourism including coastal tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourism infrastructure on the basis of project prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations every year under various schemes. The project proposals which are complete as per guidelines are appraised on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective head. The list of tourism projects sanctioned to the Government of Kerala in 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement.

In addition a project for development of tourism infrastructure in Cochin Port has been sanctioned in 2008-09 to the Cochin Port Trust for Rs. 1450.00 lakh, with release of Rs. 725.00 lakh.

Statement

Central Financial Assistance provided for tourism infrastructure development in Kerala in 2008-09

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Destination Development of Kalamandalam	207.36	155.52
2.	Malabar Mangrove Eco-tourism Circuit in Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargode Districts	349.36	279.49
3.	Development of Ashtamudi Lake Cruise Circuit	538.00	430.40
4.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Clappana, Distt. Kollam	49.60	39.68
5.	Development of IT based tourism projects under the scheme of Information Technology in Kerala	27.50	24.75

Special Tourism Area Status

2955. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the States conferred with the status of States having the special tourism areas/tourist spots; and

(b) the year-wise funds allocated to each of these States during the last three years, separately?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism does not confer with the status of Special Tourism Areas/Tourist Spots to States/Union Territories.

The Ministry, however, provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them subject to availability

of funds and inter se priority under the following schemes;

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
2. Computerization and Information Technology
3. Fairs, Festivals and Events

4. Rural Tourism-Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Service Providers.

The details of funds sanctioned to States/Union Territories during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Does not arise.

Statement

Projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism from 2005-06 to 2007-08

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		No. of projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	2615.82	3	1540.56	9	2629.48
2.	Assam	10	2,140.00	9	2453.39	5	1271.90
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	2240.16	12	1887.80	10	3330.12
4.	Bihar	3	1212.23	2	1937.29	3	1194.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	1775.59	16	3540.17	4	1274.09
6.	Goa	1	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
7.	Gujarat	5	2011.58	7	443.65	5	576.58
8.	Haryana	7	639.71	5	1836.16	11	2260.27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6	1645.00	8	1871.00	12	2286.22
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	22	6,656.01	29	5233.82	36	6851.15
11.	Jharkhand	5	1227.27	3	956.35	7	1130.47
12.	Karnataka	8	1706.52	4	1323.89	5	2004.71
13.	Kerala	13	4858.88	18	4474.02	10	3124.31
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12	3047.39	10	3668.47	16	3952.66
15.	Maharashtra	9	2075.04	13	2839.05	5	1279.44
16.	Manipur	2	49.80	9	939.35	5	1110.77
17.	Meghalaya	1	5.00	9	1435.29	2	674.40
18.	Mizoram	10	2273.41	9	2613.38	5	1692.94
19.	Nagaland	9	2528.97	8	2340.32	21	2241.35
20.	Orissa	10	2309.61	13	2826.84	12	2376.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Punjab	5	1437.67	13	3223.37	1	397.89
22.	Rajasthan	7	2591.87	8	953.84	2	1554.46
23.	Sikkim	14	2844.56	13	2609.42	27	6036.48
24.	Tamil Nadu	19	4264.62	11	1866.41	13	2831.80
25.	Tripura	3	716.26	4	291.27	11	1110.76
26.	Uttarakhand	13	2738.00	16	1907.50	5	2081.04
27.	Uttar Pradesh	18	3905.23	7	3329.06	7	2833.03
28.	West Bengal	5	989.35	10	2978.32	12	3243.17
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	6.25	0	0.00	0	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	1	13.70	2	15.00	2	20.00
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	2	29.79	0	0.00	0	0.00
32.	Delhi	2	20.00	5	2400.09	7	749.08
33.	Daman and Diu	4	262.28	0	0.00	0	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	1	7.00	1	782.73
35.	Pudducherry	2	469.39	1	500.00	6	1610.88
Total		253	61316.96	278	64242.08	277	64513.23

[*Translation*]**Allotment of Shops on Cooperative Basis**

2956. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to allot shops on cooperative basis to the persons whose shops near railway stations have been demolished due to expansion work being undertaken at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, Railways have a policy for development of planned shopping complex through cooperative societies of existing shopkeepers at two way-side stations on each division.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Vacant Posts in BHEL

2957. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the posts lying vacant in BHEL during each of the last three years;

(b) the time by which these all vacant posts are likely to be filled up; and

(c) the details of the targets of production set by BHEL and the achievement there against during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) The details of non-Board level vacant posts in BHEL during the last three years and likely time for filling up these posts is as follows:

2005-06 All vacancies have been filled up.

2006-07: All vacancies have been filled up except for 36 vacancies of Artisans at Trichy Unit, which were kept unfilled pursuant to interim order of Hon'ble High Court. The operation of these vacancies will be based on the final outcome of the Court case.

2007-08: All vacancies have been filled up except for recruitment process for 100 vacancies of Artisans at Jhansi Unit, which was kept in abeyance due to Court case. The case has now been decided in favour of BHEL and these vacancies are expected to be filled-up by March, 2009.

The present composition of the Board of Directors of BHEL comprises of six full time Directors viz., one Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), & five whole-time Functional Directors. The status of Board level full time vacancies in BHEL during the last three years is as follows:-

As on	31.03.2006	31.03.2007	31.03.2008
CMD	—	—	01

The post of CMD is vacant since 01.03.2008. Director (Power) of the Company has been given the additional charge of CMD. Steps are being taken for filling of all Board level full time vacancies.

(c) The production targets and achievement of BHEL during the last three years and the current year is as under:-

(Rupees in crore)

	2005-06		
	Target	Actual	
Turnover	11000	14525	
	2006-07		
Turnover	16000	18739	
	2007-08		
Turnover	20000	21401	
	2008-09		
	Budget 2008-09 Target	Budget upto Nov. 2008 Target	Actual upto Nov., 2008
Turnover	25000	13960	14173

[English]

National Policy for the Disabled People

2958. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any National Policy or taken new initiatives for the disabled people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a co-ordination committee has been constituted by the Government to review and co-ordinate the related activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the impact of the policy/initiatives in rendering equal opportunities, protection of rights and proper participation of society to the physically challenged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India formulated the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in February 2006 which deals with Physical, Educational & Economic Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. In addition the policy also focuses upon rehabilitation of women and children with disabilities, barrier free environment, social security, research etc.

Government of India has also initiated a new scheme for providing Incentives to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to the Persons with Disabilities w.e.f. 01.04.2008, which envisages payment of employer's contribution to Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) by the Government for the first three years for providing employment to persons with disabilities in the private sector. The scheme is applicable to persons with monthly wages up to Rs. 25,000/- per month.

(c) and (d) Central Co-ordination Committee as provided in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 have been in existence to review and coordinate the activities of all the Departments of Governments and other Organizations which are dealing with matters relating to persons with disabilities, to take steps to ensure barrier free environment in public places, to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of persons with disabilities.

(e) Major impact of the policies and other initiatives has been as follows:-

(i) Physical Rehabilitation

- Under Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme, 3.12 lakhs, 3.06 lakhs and 2.25 lakhs persons have been benefited in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

(ii) Educational Rehabilitation

- 27.23 lakh children with disabilities have been identified under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) up to 30th September, 2008, of whom 22.53 lakh children have been enrolled in general schools. 0.88 lakh children with disabilities have been covered under Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education and 1.12 lakh children with disabilities are being provided home based education.

- Under Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC), assistance has been given to 18 States and 3 UTs for 64, 307 Schools, where 3.57 lakhs children with disabilities studied in 2007-08.
- Under the "Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme", assistance is being provided for education and vocational training of approximately 80,000 children with disabilities in about 700 institutions of special education and vocational training run by Non-Governmental Organization.
- 16950 special teachers are being trained every year to teach children with disabilities.

(III) Economical Rehabilitation

- Through National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), Rs. 23.44 crore, Rs. 25.95 crore and Rs. 28.44 crore have been disbursed to persons with disabilities to take up self-employment ventures in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Construction of Airport in Koraput District of Orissa

2959. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to construct a domestic airport in the Koraput district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above proposal would be implemented during Eleventh Plan; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Catering Policy of the Railways

2960. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Catering policy of 2005 has removed the small catering and vending contractors whose holding was confined to one stall and trolley at 'A', 'B' and 'C' stations;

(b) if so, whether large number of catering and vending stalls were allotted to single entity/person throughout the entire Railways after removing the small vending contractors;

(c) if so, what is the number of such small vending contractors rendered jobless; and

(d) the corrective measures being contemplated by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Fertilizers

2961. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale smuggling of fertilizers from India to Bangladesh and Nepal is taking place;

(b) if so, the names of the States from where the smuggling is being done;

(c) the estimated amount of loss being borne annually as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check smuggling of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) No such report of smuggling of fertilizers from India to Bangladesh and Nepal has been received from the State Governments. However, State Governments have been advised by the Department of Fertilizers to keep a vigil and to check smuggling of fertilizers from India to other neighboring countries through land and sea routes.

Similarly Union Home Ministry has also alerted Border guarding forces viz., Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Assam Rifles and Sashastra Seema Bal and Coast Guard to maintain strict vigilance on the borders to curb smuggling of fertilizers. Further Union Home Secretary has also addressed the Chief Secretaries to the Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal to sensitize the authorities concerned to curb the smuggling of fertilizers into the neighboring countries.

[English]

Amenities Provided by the Railways

2962. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have earned a large amount of profit during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the Railways plan to apportion a part of the same on providing better amenities to the travelling public especially in long distance trains; and

(c) if so, the details of the trains likely to be brought under this ambit particularly those plying to Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The surplus generated during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Surplus	6193.32	10206.32	13431.09

(b) Expenditure incurred on passenger amenities during 2007-08 was Rs. 669 crore (Gross) and Rs. 852.50 crore provided (Budget Estimate) for the financial year 2008-09.

(c) Train-wise and State-wise figures are not maintained.

Production of CNG/LPG Cars

2963. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and sale of Compressed Natural Gas/Liquefied Petroleum and Natural Gas (CNG/LPG) cars during the last three years in the country; Category-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the percentage of production of CNG/LPG cars has increased during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the value of total savings in fuel cost due to use of CNG/LPG cars during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) The details of production and sale of Compressed Natural Gas/Liquefied Petroleum & Natural Gas (CNG/LPG) cars during the

last three years in the country, as intimated by Society of India Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) is as under:

Type	Production (In numbers)			Domestic Sales (In numbers)		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
CNG	224	225	149	224	225	149
LPG	12862	41783	51529	12862	41783	51529

SIAM has also informed that the data for CNG vehicles pertains to only Hindustan Motors as other manufacturers are not producing CNG vehicles in their factory. The data for vehicles fitted with CNG kit outside the factory is not available with the industry. From the above table it may be seen that the percentage of LPG production/sale has increased during the last three years, whereas the production/sale of CNG has decreased in 2007-08.

(c) The population figures of CNG and LPG vehicles are not centrally maintained either by industry association i.e., SIAM or by this Department. As such the data on saving on fuel cost is not available.

[Translation]

Development of Cultural Places in UP

2964. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated/propose to formulate a scheme for development of the places of cultural importance in Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government;

(b) if so, the names and details of such places, district-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of places of cultural importance are undertaken primarily by the concerned State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism-related projects, which are identified in consultation with them. During the 10th Plan, Central Financial Assistance amounting to Rs. 9589.88 lakh was

sanctioned for the tourism projects in Uttar Pradesh. During the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 till date a sum of Rs. 2390.47 lakh was sanctioned for the tourism projects in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Central Cultural Schemes

2965. SHRI P. C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to transfer all central cultural schemes to culture zones of the country curtailing its responsibility and making the zones of the country more responsible; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. Government does not propose to transfer all schemes of the Ministry of Culture to the Zonal Cultural Centres.

(b) Does not arise.

Jiribam-Tupul Railway Line

2966. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deadline of Jiribam-Tupul railway line has been extended from 2010 to 2012;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of the progress made in this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The line from Jiribam to Tupul is now planned for completion by March, 2012.

(b) The final location survey took time as the alignment of the line had to be revised due to coming up of Tipaimukh Dam and to have connection to Imphal. The adverse law and order condition also affected the work.

(c) Final location survey for 68 Km completed. Land acquisition proposal for 20 Km from Tupul end submitted

to State Government and land for 9.9 Km acquired. Work has been taken up in 9.9 Km from Jiribam end. Contract for earthwork awarded from Tupul end for 16.6 Km and work started from 03.12.2008.

Construction of Airstrip at Moradabad

2967. DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of air strip has been completed in Moradabad district (UP);

(b) if not, the present status of the said work;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a mini airport in Moradabad in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India has not taken up construction of airstrip in Moradabad district in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Menace of Eunuchs and Beggars

2968. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers are facing problems of growing menace of eunuchs and beggars and in the running trains; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways to curb the activities of these persons in the trains and railway platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Some instances of eunuchs and beggars entering the running trains have come to notice. Regular drives are conducted by the ticket checking staff in association with Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police to check the menace of eunuchs and beggars on trains and on railway platforms. Persons so detected are dealt with as per

rules and are evicted from the station premises and trains.

Revision of Gas Price of Reliance Industries Ltd.,

2969. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering revision of gas price of Reliance Industries Ltd., (RIL) as and when the gas is available from KG basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RIL has requested the Government to raise the gas price at 4.20 dollars per unit;

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

(e) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is supplying gas at a price of 2.2 dollar/unit; and

(f) if so, the basis of RIL's demand for raising gas price at 4.20 dollars per unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) No Sir, No request has been made to the Government by Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) to raise the gas price.

(e) and (f) Under Administrated Price Mechanism (APM) gas is being supplied by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to power and fertilizer sectors at Rs. 3200/thousand standard cubic metres (TSCM) and to transport sector and Court mandated small consumers at Rs. 3840/MSCM. In the North east, the supply to the mentioned categories of consumers is at Rs. 1920/MSCM and Rs. 2304/MSCM respectively. At 1 US\$= Rs. 45, these prices translate to US\$ 1.792/mmbtu, US\$ 2.15/mmbtu, US\$ 1.076/mmbtu and US\$ 1.20/mmbtu, respectively. APM price is not comparable with market determined prices under Production Sharing Contract (PSCs).

[Translation]

Decline In Production of Alcohol

2970. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of alcohol produced in the country during 2007-08 and the percentage by which the production was less as compared to the previous years;

(b) whether the decline in production has resulted from the low production of molasses by the sugar mills;

(c) if so, whether low production of alcohol has also affected the pharmaceutical companies, liquor and beer companies; and

(d) if so, the quantum of production of liquor and beer affected by it in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per the latest data available, the production of Alcohol in million litres in respect of 10 major producing states is as follows:

Year	Production, Million Litres
2004-05	1130.5
2005-06	1574.9
2006-07	2393.3

Provisional data for 2007-08 indicates that sugarcane crushed and molasses produced was approximately 6.4% lower compared to 2006-07. Accordingly it is estimated that production of Alcohol may also be lower in 2007-08.

(c) and (d) There is no specific information that low production of alcohol has affected pharmaceutical, liquor and beer companies. However, Alcohol is freely importable and the shortfall of alcohol is met through import.

Subsidy on Life Saving Drugs and Fertilizer

2971. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to withdraw subsidy being given on life saving drugs and some important fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of drugs on which the Government proposes to withdraw such subsidy; and

(d) the details of money likely to be saved due to withdrawal these subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No subsidy is provided by the Government on the life saving drugs. Further, there is no proposal to withdraw subsidy on fertilizers.

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

[English]

MoU with French Railways

2972. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the French railways for upgrading Railway infrastructure;

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

(c) the details of benefit derived from such MoUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian Railways & Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer Francais (SNCF), the French National Railways in May 2008 for promoting technical cooperation in rail related projects of mutual interest. The identified areas of cooperation include signalling & telecommunication, rolling stock design & maintenance practices, development & operations of high speed rail projects, safety, information technology and research & development in rail sector.

(c) MoUs facilitate meetings of technical experts, visits to each others installations and facilities. Technical co-operation & resultant benefits of MoUs are an ongoing process, which enable exposure to latest technologies and best practices.

Tourism Development

2973. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given a major push to Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) to boost tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which it is likely to improve tourist inflow in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is being promoted as a multi attraction tourism destination including MICE through the tourism offices in India and abroad. Literature and CDs on conference tourism are being distributed in potential markets for promotion of Meetings, Incentive, Conference and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism to India. Ministry of Finance had announced in the year 2007-08, a Tax Holiday for 5 years under Section 80-ID (1) of the Income Tax Act for Convention Centres in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad.

(c) India has successfully hosted the PATA Travel Mart 2008 in Hyderabad, India in September 2008. The PATA Travel Mart is the leading international Travel Mart in the Asia Pacific Region and hosting the event has given an opportunity to project India not only as a tourist destination, but as an important destination for Conferences and Conventions as well, thereby giving a boost to business travel to the country.

Metro Railway

2974. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Metro Railway has completed its preliminary survey on the proposed extension of the network from Dum Dum to Dakshineswar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal for construction of the new railway line from Dum Dum to Dakshineswar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey has been conducted for extension of Metro Railway, Kolkata from Dum-Dum to Dakshineswar via Baranagar. The Survey Report

including technical & safety related aspects are under examination. Salient features of the survey are as follows:

Length of line (extension): 7.2 km (including 'Y' siding)
 Estimated cost of Project: Rs. 536.95 crore.
 Route: Dum-Dum to Dakshineswar
 via Noapara and Baranagar.
 Cost sharing: Railways: 50% Government of
 West Bengal: 50%

**Awarding of A-1 Status to Public Sector -
 Undertakings**

2975. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government to award A-1 status to Government undertaking companies particularly oil based Government undertakings;

(b) the names of the Government undertaking companies which have been awarded A-1 status by the Government including oil based Government undertakings in the current year;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal under consideration to award A-1 status to Engineers India Limited (EIL) on the line of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd; and

(d) if so, the time by when such status is likely to be awarded to EIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The Government has decided to retain the existing categorization of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as A, B, C & D and therefore the issues relating to grant of A+ category status to any CPSE and the criteria for awarding A+ category to any CPSE do not arise.

Employment of the Disabled in the Private Sector

2976. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
 SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
 SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
 SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Government had announced a plan to employ one lakh disabled persons in the Private Sector in the current financial year;

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

(c) whether not a single appointment has been made so far under this scheme;

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

(e) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In the budget speech of 2007-08, Government committed support for the creation of about 1,00,000 jobs every year for physically challenged persons with a salary limit of Rs. 25,000 per month through a Scheme wherein, Government agreed to reimburse the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for the first three years, once the physically challenged employee is regularized and enrolled under the Scheme. Accordingly, a Central Sector Scheme of providing incentives to employers in private sector by way of bearing employer's contribution to the Employees Provident Fund Organization and Employees State Insurance Corporation for the first three years, in respect of persons with disabilities, appointed on or after 1.4.2008 with monthly wage up to Rs. 25,000/- has been introduced from 1.4.2008.

While the Employees Provident Fund Organization has reported having received claims for availing the incentives under the Scheme in respect of 33 employees with disabilities so far, the Employees State Insurance Corporation has reported having covered 21 such employees so far.

(d) and (e) The following steps have been taken to intensify the implementation of the scheme:-

- Scheme was sent by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 26th February, 2008, to all Ministries/Departments of Government of India, all States/UTs, Chambers of Commerce & Industry and NGOs working in the Disability Sector.

- Ministry of Labour & Employment issued necessary notification under the EPFO and ESI Act on 31.3.2008. EPFO and ESIC issued details guidelines about the scheme to their respective offices in May, 2008.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has sanctioned advance amount of Rs. 1 crore and 50 lakh to EPFO and ESIC, respectively to enable them to pay employers' contribution as soon as valid claims are received.
- Advertisements about the scheme are being published in newspapers at regular intervals.
- Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Labour & Employment, the Employees Provident Fund Organization and the Employees State Insurance Corporation have prominently publicized the scheme on their websites.
- Minister (SJ&E) personally wrote to all State Chief Ministers/Administrators of UTs in August, 2008 requesting them to publish the scheme and to have its progress monitored regularly.
- Letters were sent by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in October., 2008 to Chairmen and Chief Executives of FICCI, CII, NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI requesting wide publicity of the Scheme, and to encourage their members to avail of the Scheme by appointing persons with disabilities.
- FICCI organized a National Conference on engaging industry in employment of persons with disabilities on the 17th October, 2008.
- Twenty past recipients of National Award for Best Employers of persons with disabilities were individually requested in September 2008 to employ more persons with disabilities and publicize the Scheme.
- State Welfare Secretaries in a Conference held on 17-18 October 2008, were requested to ensure intensive implementation of the scheme in their respective States/UTs.
- The High Level Monitoring Committee constituted for the scheme has held two meetings so far, to, inter-alia, chalk out steps necessary to intensify implementation of the scheme.

[Translation]

Reduction in Equity of Government in PSUs

2977. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce its equity in PSUs below 51 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the PSU-wise details of the Government's share at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) The policy of disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) has been enunciated in the National Common Minimum Programme, which, inter-alia, provides that generally profit making companies will not be privatized.

(c) The information in this respect as on 31st March, 2007 is available at Statement-10 in the latest Public Enterprises Survey 2006-07 which was laid in the Parliament on 28.02.2008 and is a public document.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers

2978. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the monitoring system for proper implementation of schemes related to the rehabilitation of manual scavengers;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal for enhancement of Central Share for this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As per the

monitoring mechanism prescribed under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), the Scheme is being monitored the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) and other apex corporations of this Ministry. To facilitate implementation and timely decision on critical issues, a Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has also been constituted. The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis may also review the implementation of the programmes and schemes, social and economic rehabilitation of the manual scavengers.

In addition, progress of implementation of the scheme is being reviewed, regularly, by the Government at various levels.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Navratna Companies

2979. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Navratna companies have asked for permission from the Government to raise funds from the equity market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the decision of the Government not to allow these companies to raise funds from public is likely to hit hard the expansion plan of these companies;

(d) if so, the rationale behind rejecting offer of these companies; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that these companies do not lose their navratna status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) to (d) The Government has enunciated its policy towards Public Sector in National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) which inter-alia provides that the Government will retain existing "Navratna" companies in the public sector while these companies raise resources from the capital market. The NCMP further provides that Public sector companies will

be encouraged to enter the capital market to raise resources and offer new investment avenues to retail investors. The Government has decided, in principle, to list large, profitable Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on domestic stock exchanges.

(e) The conferment/divestment of Navratna status to CPSEs is decided on the basis of laid down criteria including the composite score calculated for the six selected performance parameters and on the recommendations of Apex Committee. The Government has also empowered the Boards of Navratna CPSEs to exercise enhanced powers in the areas of capital expenditure, investment in joint ventures/subsidiaries, human resources management, etc.

Setting up of National Institute of Petroleum Technology

2980. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for setting up a National Institute of Petroleum Technology in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the site therefor;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of teaching and non-teaching posts to be created, discipline-wise with student in-take capacity; and

(f) the total funds allocated for the same and the likely time by which the work will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (f) The Government has a proposal to set up an Extension Centre of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT) for training in the areas of oil and gas at Guwahati. The Ministry has asked RGIPT to submit a detailed proposal in the matter.

Classical Language Status to Malayalam

2981. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Government to accord the classical language status to Malayalam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's decision thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Production and Import of Crude Oil

2982. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

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

(a) the domestic production and import ratio of crude oil showing the percentage of import requirement in the past and in the coming decades; and

(b) the impact in the production scenario of the country after introduction of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and projected contribution from NELP blocks in coming decades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The domestic production of crude oil in the year 2007-08 was 34.11 MMT. During the same year, crude oil imports were 121.67 MMT. To meet the domestic demand for petroleum products, the country processed 150.8 MMT of crude oil. Of this, domestic crude oil accounted for 19.96% and imported crude oil accounted for the remaining 80.04%. By the terminal year (2011-12) of XIth Five-Year Plan, the projected share of imported crude oil would be about 86.3% of total crude oil processed.

(b) Government awarded 162 exploration blocks under six rounds of NELP. Under seventh round of NELP,

44 blocks have been awarded & Production Sharing Contracts for 44 blocks would be signed with awardee company/consortium shortly. A total of 68 Oil & Gas discoveries have been made in NELP blocks. Additional Oil and Gas peak annual production from the discoveries MA, DI and D3 is likely to be about 1.7 MMT of oil and 30 BCM of gas. Other discoveries are at various stages of appraisal and commerciality. The quantum of oil & gas will be known after the approval of their field development plan.

[*English*]

MoUs for Setting up of Steel Companies

2983. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) have been signed between Central/State Governments for setting up of steel companies during the last three years and in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Steel companies set up during the said period; and

(d) the reasons for non-emergence of new steel capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The details of MoUs signed alongwith the name of companies for setting up of iron and steel plants in mineral rich states Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh during the last three years & current year and the present status of projects, state-wise and project-wise are given in the enclosed Statement, as per the record of information available in the Ministry of Steel.

(d) Steel projects are capital and resource intensive and most of the major projects are going on at different stages of their progress.

Statement

List of Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been Signed with the State Government of Orissa

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s Patnaik Steel & Alloys Ltd.	Purunapani, Joda, Keonjhar	0.27	337.42	04.05.2005	Likely to commence production

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	M/s Rathi Udyog Ltd.	Potapally-Sikridi, Sambalpur	0.30	272.85	04.05.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
3.	M/s Viraj Steel & Energy Ltd.	Gurupali, Pandalo, Sambalpur	0.30	207.00	04.05.2005	Commence production of sponge iron & steel
4.	M/s Deepak Steels & Power Ltd.	Topodih, Barbil, Keonjhar	0.25	195.31	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron
5.	M/s Konark Ispat Ltd.	Hirma, Jharsuguda	0.25	196.50	04.05.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
6.	M/s Beekay Steel & Power Ltd.	Uriburu, Barbil, Keonjhar	0.28	319.80	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron
7.	M/s BRG Iron & Steel Co. (P) Ltd.	Khurunti, Dhenkanal	0.25	228.05	04.05.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron
8.	M/s Jain Sponge (P) Ltd.	Durlaga, Jharsuguda	0.30	251.77	04.05.2005	Likely to Commence production
9.	M/s Jindal Stainless Ltd.	Duburi, Jaipur	Phase-I Phase-II 0.8 0.8	1,812.00 5016.00	09.06.2005	Commenced production of Ferro Chrome
10.	M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.	Kamando, near Koira, Sundergarh and Jharaband, Dhenkanal (1 MTPA each)	2.00	2275.00	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
11.	M/s Brand Alloys Ltd.	Palaspanga, Keonjhar	0.27	307.54	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress.
12.	M/s Eastern Steels & Power Ltd.	Lahandabud, Jharsuguda	0.25	254.00	3.11.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron
13.	M/s Jai Balaji Jyoti Steels Ltd.	Tanisar, near Lathikata, Sundergarh	0.33	321.14	3.11.2006	Commenced production of sponge iron & steel
14.	M/s. Welspun Power & Steel Ltd.	Bhadrak district or Cuttack or any other suitable location in the State	3.00	5828.15	01.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
15.	M/s. Uttam Galva Steels Ltd.	Location is yet to finalized	3.00	6103.80	3.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
16.	M/s. SSL Energy Ltd.	Nuahata near Banarpal, Angul	Phase-I Phase-II 3.00	4339.00 4270.00	21.12.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
17.	M/s. MGM Steels Ltd.	Nimdiha, Motagaon, Dhenkanal	0.25	208.10	22.12.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
18.	M/s. Surendra Mining Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Barahamuenimidiha, Motagaon, Dhenkanal, Bonal, Sundergarh	0.25	221.62	22.12.2006	Commence production of sponge iron
19.	M/s. Crackers India (Alloys) Ltd.	Gobardhanpur, Konjhar	0.25	236.39	22.12.2006	Commence production of sponge iron
20.	M/s. Brahamani River Pellet Ltd.	Tonto, Nakda in Keonjhar & Duburi in Jaipur	4.0 (Pelletation Plant)	1485.00	15.03.2008	—
21.	M/s. Pradhan Steel & Power (P) Ltd.	Durusia, Athagada, Cuttack	0.50	606.00	29.01.2008	—
22.	M/s. Tecton Ispat Private Ltd.	Tarkabeda, Dhenkanal	0.25	291.00	29.01.2008	—
23.	M/s. Altha Mines Private Ltd.	Tarkabeda, Dhenkanal	0.25	227.13	29.01.2008	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>List of MEGA Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been Signed with the State Government of Orissa</i>						
1.	M/s Essar Steel Orissa Ltd.	Paradeep	4.00	10,721	21.04.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
2.	M/s POSCO India Project (P) Ltd.	Paradeep	12.00	51,000	22.06.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
3.	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Beneficiation Plant at Deoghar, Keonjhar & Steel Plant at Angul	6.00	13,135.02	3.11.2005	Land acquisition is under progress
4.	M/s Bhushan Steel & Strips Ltd.	Meramundali, Dhenkanal	3.00	5,828.15	3.11.2005	Commenced production of sponge iron & steel billets
5.	M/s. Mittal Steel Company N.V.	Patna, Keonjhar	12.00	40,000	21.12.2006	Land has been identified. The DPR has not submitted.

List of Iron & Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been Signed with the State Government of Jharkhand

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of Signing MoU	Present status & Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s- BMW Industries Ltd.	Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron 0.21 (b) Steel 0.5 (c) Pig Iron -.5	591.00	12.04.05	Production not Started
2.	M/s. Anindita Traders & Investment Ltd.	Ramgarh	(a) Sponge Iron-0.334	94.60	12.04.05	1st phase Commissioned
3.	M/s. Narbheram Gas Point Pvt. Ltd.	Jamshedpur	(a) Sponge Iron-0.135. (b) Steel 0.045	200.00	12.04.05	Production not Started
4.	M/s. Goel Sponge Pvt. Ltd.,	W. Singhbhum	(a) Sponge Iron-0.115, (b) Steel-0.09	67.00	12.04.05	Production not Started
5.	M/s. Rungta Mines Ltd.	Chaibasa	(a) Sponge Iron 0.51	517.00	12.04.05	Production not Started
6.	M/s. Raj Refractories (P) Ltd.	Bundu	(a) Sponge Iron -0.6, (b) Steel -0.06	68.50	12.04.05	Production not Started
7.	M/s. Contisteel Limited.	Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron-1.2, (b) Steel-1.4 (c) Liquid Steel-1.25	1560.00	18.07.05	Production not Started
8.	M/s. Kohinoor Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Buladih near Chandil	(a) Sponge Iron -0.225, (b) Pig Iron-0.12,	410.00	18.07.05	1st Phase Commissioned
9.	M/s. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.,	Ghatshila	(a) Sponge Iron-5.0 (b) Steel-5.0	11500.00	05.07.05	Production not Started.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	M/s. Bhushan Power Steel Limited,	Asanboni, Jamshedpur	(a) Sponge Iron-1.5, (b) Steel 3.0	6510.00	23.07.05	Production not Started
11.	M/s. Kalyani Steel Ltd.	Silli, Ranchi	(a) Sponge Iron-0.23, (b) Steel-1.0	1883.00	23.07.05	Production not Started
12.	M/s. Tata Steel Ltd. (Green Field Project)	Manoharpur/Chandil	Integrated Steel Plant-12.0	42000.00	08.09.05	Production not Started
13.	M/s Tata Steel Ltd. (Expansion)	Jamshedpur	Integrated Steel Plant-5.0	11000.00	08.09.05	Production not Started
14.	M/s. V.S. Dempo & Company Pvt. Ltd.	Manoharpur	Integrated Steel Plant -0.5	1016.00	04.10.05	Production not Started
15.	M/s-Mittal Steel Co. N.V.	Not decided	Integrated Steel Plant -12.0	40000.00	08.10.05	Production not Started
16.	M/s Jindal South-West Steel Ltd.	Hesalong, Nimdih	Integrated Steel Plant -10.0	35000.00	09.11.05	Production not Started
17.	M/s Ranchi Integrated Steel Limited	Silli, Near Muri	Integrated Steel Plant -1.5	5452.00	30.12.05	Production not Started
18.	M/s. Essal Mining Industries Ltd.	Jagnathpur, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant -1.0	500	05.05.06	Production not Started
19.	M/s. Sesa Goa Limited	Saralakeia-Kharawan	Integrated Steel Plant -0.5	300	07.09.06	Production not Started
20.	M/s. Mukund Steel	Barianga, Hazaribag	Integrated Steel Plant -2.0	1800	07.09.06	Production not Started
21.	M/s. Feegrade & Company Pvt. Ltd.	Guraa & Rangamati W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant -0.3	250	11.09.06	Production not Started
22.	M/s. Bonal Industrial Company Limited	Kundubera & Sing Pokharia, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant-0.25	300	11.09.06	Production not Started
23.	M/s. Rungta Mines Limited	Chaibesa	Integrated Steel Plant -4.5	1050	11.09.06	Production not Started
24.	M/s. Vini Iron & Steel Udyog Limited	Lupungdih, Chandil, Saralakeia Kharawan	Integrated Steel Plant -0.6	355	14.09.06	Production not Started
25.	M/s. Narsingh Ispat Limited	Khunti, Chandil, Saralakeia Kharawan	Mini Steel-0.25	150	14.09.06	Production not Started
26.	M/s. Core Steel & Power Ltd.	Musbari, Ghatsila	Mini Steel-1.0	1000	29.12.06	Production not Started
27.	M/s. Ispat Industry Ltd.	Nandpur/Manoharpur	Integrated Steel Plant-2.8	2500	12.01.07	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	M/s. Ma Chandi Durga Ispat Ltd.	Nala Block Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant-1.1	1250	09.02.07	Production not Started
29.	M/s. Jagdamba Fiscal Services Ltd.	Ranashwar, Sikanipara, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant-1.1	1000	09.02.07	Production not started
30.	M/s. Brahmi Impex Ltd.	Ajelpur, Balablock, Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant-1.1	1000	09.02.07	Production not Started
31.	M/s. Adhunik Corporation Ltd.	Kumrabad, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant-1.1	1250	09.02.07	Production not Started
32.	M/s. Traingle Trading Pvt. Ltd.	Pathanmara	Steel Plant-0.24	200	14.02.07	Production not Started
33.	M/s. Premier Ferro Alloys & Securities Ltd.	Barlanga	Steel Plant-1.0	750	23.02.07	Production not Started
34.	M/s. Pushp Steel & Mining (P) Ltd.	Goridih and Rugri new Chowka	Steel Plant-0.25	150	24.02.07	Production not Started
35.	M/s. Sarthak Industries Ltd.	Rajkharwan	Steel Plant-2.2	2000	26.02.07	Production not Started

List of Steel Plant Projects for Which MoUs have been Signed with the State Government of Chhattisgarh

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment (Rs. in crore)	Date of signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Raigarh	(a) Steel Melting Shop-1.25 (b) Blast Furnace-1.25 (c) Wire Rod/Rolling Mill-0.7	2595.00	07.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
2.	M/s. Chhattisgarh Electricity Co. Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron-0.6 (b) Steel Plant-1.0	2010.00	7.1.2005	Production not Started
3.	M/s. Prakash Industries Ltd.	Champa	(a) Sponge Iron-0.4 (b) Steel Melt Shop-0.9 (c) Pig Iron 0.25 (d) Rolling/Wire Rod Mill-0.6	1017.00	7.1.2005	Partially commissioned
4.	M/s. Chhattisgarh Steel & Power	Janigir, Champa	Sponge Iron-0.38	464.88	07.01.2005	Production not Started
5.	M/s. Pushp Steels & Mining Pvt. Ltd.	Borai Growth Centre, Durg	Sponge Iron 0.315	380.00	07.01.2005	Production not Started
6.	M/s Salasar Sponge & Power Ltd.	Raigarh	(a) Sponge Iron-0.185 (b) Steel-0.1	287.51	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
7.	M/s Shri Radhe Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Bilaspur	(a) Sponge iron-0.26 (b) Steel Melting Shop-0.05	232.50	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	M/s Sathyar Steel & Power Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron-0.22 (b) Induction Furnace-0.182 (c) Re-rolled Products 0.0314	175.00	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
9.	M/s API Ispat & Powertech Pvt. Ltd.	Raipur	(a) Sponge Iron-0.315 (b) Steel Ingot -0.0864	158.00	7.1.2005	Partially Commissioned
10.	M/s Topworth Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Borai Growth Centre, Durg	(a) Sponge Iron—0.21 (b) Steel Melting Shop-0.1	129.00	7.1.2005	Production not started
11.	M/s. Crest Steel & Power Pvt. Ltd.	Durg	Sponge Iron-0.231	116.5	07.01.2005	Partially Commissioned
12.	M/s. Tata Steel	Bastar	Integrated Steel Plant-5.00	10000.00 (Approx)	4.6.2005	Production not Started
13.	M/s Essar Steel Chhattisgarh Ltd.	Bastar	Integrated Steel Plant-3.2	7000.00 (Approx)	5.7.2005	Production not Started
14.	M/s. Ind Synergy Limited (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Sponge Iron- 0.40	960.00	06.10.2006	Partially commissioned
15.	M/s. Shree Bajrang Power and Ispat Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron-0.60 Blast Furnace-0.231	1400.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
16.	M/s. SKS Ispat Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron-0.33 Mini Blast Furnace-0.5	1175.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
17.	M/s. Raipur Alloys and Steel Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron-0.50 Steel-0.24	720.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
18.	M/s. Shree Bajrang Metalics and Power Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Pig Iron- 0.060	109.41	21.10.2006	Production not Started
19.	M/s. Rajesh Strips Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Steel Melting Shop-0.30	120.00	18.05.2007	Production not Started
20.	M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Blast Furnace-0.32	8000.00	18.05.2007	Production not Started
21.	M/s. Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd.	Rajnandgaon	Integrated Steel Making Facility-1.2	5500.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
22.	M/s. Monnet Ispat and Energy Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Neherpalli, Raigarh	Blast Furnace-1.0 Sponge Iron for captive use -0.40	2087.00	04.05.2007	Production not Started
23.	M/s. Vandana Ispat Limited	Borai, Durg, Anjora, Rajnandgaon	Integrated Steel Plant-0.83 Steel Melting Shop-0.75	1310.00	04.05.2007	Production not Started
24.	M/s. Topworth Steel Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Borai, Durg	Blast Furnace-0.50	1225.74	04.05.2007	Production not Started
25.	M/s. MSP Steel and Power Limited (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Pig Iron-0.40 Sponge Iron for captive use -0.3	1400.00	04.05.2007	Production not Started
26.	M/s. Salasar Sponge and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Steel Plant-0.10	230.00	04.05.2007	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27.	M/s. Prakash Industries Ltd.	Champa, Janjgir, Champa	Steel Plant-1.2	2145.00	18.06.2007	Production not Started
28.	M/s. Singhal Enterprises (Expansion Project)	Raigarh.	Sponge Iron-0.2 Steel-0.3	500.00	23.06.2007	Production not Started
29.	M/s. Anjani Steel Private Limited (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Integrated Steel plant-0.25	410.00	02.08.2007	Production not Started
30.	M/s. H.E.G. Limited (Expansion Project)	Durg	Sponge Iron-0.35	280.00	02.08.2007	Production not Started
31.	M/s. Mangal Sponge & Steel Limited (Expansion Project)	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron-0.12	445.00	02.08.2007	Production not Started
32.	M/s. S.K. Sarawagi and Company Pvt. Ltd.	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron-0.21 Steel-0.15	330.00	02.08.2007	Production not Started
33.	M/s. Aarti Sponge and Power Pvt. Ltd.		Sponge Iron-0.105 Steel Melting Shop-0.09	305.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
34.	M/s. API Ispat and Powertech Pvt. Ltd.		Sponge Iron-0.525	1000	08.08.2008	Production not Started
35.	M/s. Jai Balaji Industries Ltd.		DRI Plant-0.6 Steel Melt Shop-1.0	1450.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
36.	M/s. Baldev Alloys Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)		Sponge Iron-0.54 SMS Plant-0.2	430.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
37.	M/s. Crest Steel and Power Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)		Sponge Iron-0.75 Steel Melting Shop-0.5 EAF-0.32	1536.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
38.	M/s. Godawari Power and Ispat Ltd.		DRI-0.6 Steel Billet-0.6	1570.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
39.	M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)		DRI-5.1	18300.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
40.	M/s. Khetan Sponge and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)		Sponge iron-0.09 Induction Furnace-0.06	209.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
41.	M/s. Nalwa Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)		DRI (coal based)-0.33 Steel Melting Shop-0.336 DRI (gas based)-2.0	3100.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
42.	M/s. Jaysawal Necco Industries Ltd.		Sponge Iron-0.6 Steel Billet-0.7	2020.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
43.	M/s. Nova Iron and Steel Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron-0.6	606.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
44.	M/s. Raipur Power and Steel Ltd.		Sponge Iron 0.135 Induction Furnace-0.09	135.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
45.	M/s. Rashmi Ispat Pvt. Ltd.		Sponge Iron-0.315 Steel Melting Shop-0.21	550.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
46.	M/s. Real Ispat and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)		Sponge Iron-0.30	720.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47.	M/s R.L. Steel and Energy Ltd.	Sponge Iron-0.4	293.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started	
48.	M/s. Satya Power and Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Sponge Iron-0.24	376.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started	
49.	M/s. Shri Shyam Sponge and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Sponge iron-0.135	205.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started	
50.	M/s. SKS Ispat and Power Ltd.	Sponge iron-1.2 Blast furnace-0.27	3611.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started	
51.	M/s. Surya Global Steel and Jenpower Ltd.	DRI-1.4 Blast furnace with PCM-0.6	3000.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started	
52.	M/s. Visa Steel Limited	Blast furnace with sinter -1.5 Sponge iron-1.0	4750.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started	
53.	M/s. NMDC Limited	Integrated Steel Plant-3.00	10000.00	03.09.2008	Production not Started	
54.	M/s. K. Energy Limited	Sponge iron-0.21 Induction furnace-0.192	469.00	12.09.2008	Production not Started	
55.	M/s. Prakash Industries Limited	Blast furnace-1.15 Sponge iron-1.6 Steel Melting shop-2.0	2750.00	12.09.2008	Production not Started	
56.	M/s. Singhal Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Blast furnace-0.3 Sponge iron-0.2 Induction furnace-0.3 EAF-0.3	700.00	01.10.2008	Production not Started	
57.	M/s. MSP Steel and Power Ltd.	Sponge Iron-0.9 Blast furnace-0.7 Steel melting shop-1.5	4930.00	01.10.2008	Production not Started	
58.	M/s. Mahendra Sponge and Power Pvt. Ltd.	Sponge iron-0.27 Steel Billet-0.15	485.00	01.10.2008	Production not Started	
59.	M/s. Hind Energy and Coal Beneficiation (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Sponge iron-0.405 Steel melting shop-0.216	505	03.10.2008	Production not Started	

[Translation]

Fixation of Price of Gas

2984. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers constituted by the Government for the purpose of gas retailing in the country has come up with price fixation formula;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reasons which led to formulation of the said formula;

(c) the criteria which determines the said price fixation formula; and

(d) the reasons as to why production cost was not taken as a base for fixing price of gas retailing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The Government had constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on gas pricing and commercial utilization of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

The Price Formula submitted by the contractor has been approved for the purpose of sale of gas at the

delivery point and not for the purpose of gas relating in the country.

The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) had taken into consideration the report of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC) for approval of the Price and the Formula. The criteria which determine the price fixation formula are a constant, a variable factor linked with the prices of crude oil and a biddable component.

Under NELP Contracts, the price Fixation formula for sale of gas at the Delivery Point is based on price discovery at arms lengths.

[English]

Model Railway Stations in Orissa

2985. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some railway stations in East Coast Zone in Orissa have been declared as Model Stations as per the declaration made in 1999-2000 Railway Budget;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the details of the development undertaken in such railway stations during these years;

(c) the total amount allocated for such category of stations during last three years and specific work programmed/implemented against each such station thereof;

(d) whether Bhadrak railway station in this Zone in spite of being a Model Station has not been provided with even sufficient platform shelters in all the platforms i.e. No. 1, No.2, No. 3 and No. 4; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In the Railway Budget 1999-2000, it was declared that all efforts will be made to make atleast one station in each division as model station where higher level of passenger amenities will be provided. Consequent upon the announcement so made, 2 stations of East Coast Railway from the State of Orissa i.e. Bhubaneswar and Puri were selected

as Model Stations. As on date 20 stations of East Coast Railway from the State of Orissa have been selected as Model Stations.

These are Badakhandita, Brahmapur, Bhadrak, Bhubaneswar, Byre, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Golanthra, Jaipur-Keonjhar Road, Kapilas Road, Khurda Road, Puri, Rahama, Sambalpur, Surla Road, Titlagarh, Rayagada, Balugaon, Sambalpur Road and Kesinga.

(c) to (e) Station-wise funds are not maintained. Funds are allocated under Plan Head-Passenger Amenities which include works relating to development of stations under model station scheme also. Funds allocated to East Coast Railway under Plan Head-Passenger Amenities during last three years are as under:-

During 2005-06	Rs. 8.96 Crore
During 2006-07	Rs. 13.44 Crore
During 2007-08	Rs. 24.57 Crore

For the purpose of upgradation of amenities, stations are identified under model stations scheme and such stations are provided with higher level of amenities called "Desirable Amenities" specified for the category of the station. The amenities requiring less expenditure are provided first and completed at such model stations and the remaining amenities planned for completion latest by 31st December, 2009.

Bhadrak railway station is an 'A' category station of East Coast Railway and minimum essential amenities have already been provided at this station. This station has been developed as model station. There is no shortfall in platform shelter at this station. On platform No. 1 & 2 and 3 & 4, platform shelter measuring 1150 and 638 sqm respectively has been provided which is more than the prescribed norm.

Railway Recruitment Board

2986. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) functioning in different States of the country;

(b) the various categories of employees recruited in the Railways through these RRBs, during the last three years;

(c) whether regional balance in the recruitment is to be maintained in the recruitment process;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether incidents of violence have been noticed recently particularly, in certain parts of the country, in protest against the regional imbalance taking place in the present recruitment drive; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the railways to accord preference to the candidates residing in the concerned zone of the Railways for which the recruitment is being made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are 20 Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) on Indian Railways.

(b) A Statement showing the various posts for which recruitment has been made through Railway Recruitment Boards during the past three years is enclosed.

(c) to (f) Indian Railways is an organization having an all-India character. Recruitment to Group 'C' posts is made through 20 Railway Recruitment Boards located in different parts of the country. The jurisdiction of Railway Recruitment Boards is on the basis of administrative units of the Railways and not on the basis of State(s)/regions. The vacancies are given wide publicity including publication in the Employment News, leading national & local dailies etc. and all those who apply against such notifications are considered for recruitment on the Railways. This procedure is in conformity with Article 16 of the Constitutional provisions regarding equality in opportunity to all in the matter of employment under the Central Government and guidelines issued by Department of Personnel & Training pursuant to the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Although the posts are advertised by individual RRBs, there is no bar for candidates from all over the country to apply for a post in any RRB. There have been incidents of disturbance in certain RRB exam centres in the recent past on the issue of regionalism but recruitment on the Railways is done purely on merit basis in an objective and impartial manner, without any regional preference.

Statement

Categories for which RRBs have Conducted Examinations During the Last Three Years 2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08

1. Assistant Loco Pilot
2. Assistant Station Master
3. Goods Guard
4. Traffic Apprentice
5. Supervisor (Permanent Way)
6. Section Engineer (Mechanical, Electrical, Signal, Telecom & Civil)
7. Junior Engineer (Mechanical, Electrical, Signal, Telecom Civil)
8. Electrical Singal Maintainer-II
9. Electrical Signal Maintainer-III
10. Telecom Maintainer-III
11. Track Machine Maintainer-III
12. Wireless Telecom Maintainer
13. Section Research Engineer
14. Junior Research Engineer
15. Scientific Assistant (Psychology)
16. Technician Gr. III (for 74 different trades)
17. Armature Winder
18. Switchman
19. Jr. Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant/Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant
20. Metallurgical Supervisor (Research)
21. Chemical Supervisor Gr. II (Research)
22. Sr. Scientific Research Assistant
23. Jr. Accounts Assistant cum Typist
24. Accounts Clerk cum Typist
25. Enquiry-cum-Reservation Clerk

26. Sr. Clerk cum Typist
27. Clerk-cum-Typist
28. Hindi Clerk cum Typist
29. Clerk Gr. I
30. Clerk Gr. II
31. Jr. Clerk
32. Jr. Clerk Cum Typist
33. Sr Clerk
34. Trains Clerk
35. Asst. Commercial Clerk
36. Commercial Clerk
37. Ticket Collector
38. Hindi Assistant
39. Jr. Steno
40. Steno (English)
41. Steno (Hindi)
42. Commercial Apprentice
43. Staff Nurse
44. Dietician
45. Pharmacist
46. Radiographer
47. Health Inspector
48. Health & Malaria Inspector
49. Health Visitor
50. Oral Hygienist
51. Clinical Psychologist
52. Clinical Instructor
53. Physiotherapist
54. X-Ray Technician
55. ECG Technician
56. Prosthetist cum Orthotist

57. Audiologist cum Speech Therapist
58. Lab Assistant
59. Lab Superintendent
60. Lab Technician
61. Field Worker
62. District Extension Educator
63. Holter Technician
64. Teacher
65. Asst. Teacher
66. Shroff
67. Depot Material Superintendent-I
68. Depot Material Superintendent-III
69. Librarian
70. Physical Instructor
71. Sr. Publicity Inspector
72. Horticulture Inspector
73. Housekeeper
74. Finger Print Examiner
75. Canteen Manager
76. Assistant Canteen Manager
77. Catering Inspector/Manager
78. Junior Telephone Operator
79. Law Assistant
80. Chasing Inspector

Upgradation of Hubli Airport

2987. SHRI PRALAHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide any specific packages to develop some of the Airports into National and International level Airports as a part of its drive for aviation infrastructure across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether special funds have already been released for developing the Hubli airport and raise it to all equipped National Level Airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports are being upgraded and modernised both for domestic and international operations by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from its own resources. 3 greenfield airports at Pakyong (Sikkim), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), and Cheithu (Nagaland) are being developed on a funding pattern of 90% by Central Government and 10% by AAI. Government have also notified a Greenfield Airport Policy for establishment of new Greenfield airports in the country.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 6.65 crore was spent in 2007-08 on runway resurfacing, apron expansion and terminal building renovation work at Hubli airport, by AAI.

Ban on Utensils Made of Plastic

2988. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of utensils made of plastic due to its ill-effect on infants based on the suggestions of the scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) There is no proposal to ban utensils made of plastics. The utensils for handling food/edible articles and drinking water are governed by BIS Standards, which are mainly on the lines of international standards.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Approach Roads to Badarpur-Dharmanagar Section

2989. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the approach roads to the railway station in Badarpur-Dharmanagar section under North Frontier (NF) Railway are unusable due to lack of repair/restoration work;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken to restore the approach roads to usable condition;

(c) whether the matter is being treated on priority basis and immediate action is to be taken for making these roads traffic-worthy in public interest; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) All approach roads to stations on Badarpur-Dharmanagar Section of N.F. Railway are in usable condition within railway jurisdiction and repairs are undertaken thereon as and when warranted.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

New Ground Handling Policy

2990. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of India Airlines has requested the Government to review the new ground handling policy at the country's airports;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Federation of Indian Airlines have represented to the Government in this regard.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Incentives for Food Processing Industries

2991. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced any new incentives to promote Food Processing in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response to such incentive schemes since the announcement was made; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To boost the food processing sector, the Government has announced various tax incentives to the processed food industry which includes-raising of exemption limit of excise duty for Small Scale Industry (SSI) from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crores, excise duty on biscuits whose retail price does not exceed Rs. 100 per Kg has been reduced from 8% to 0% excise duty has been reduced from 8% to 0% on all kinds of food mixes including instant mixes, and on reefer vans (refrigerated motor vehicles) from 16% to 8%, soya bari (food supplements) and ready-to-eat packaged foods have been fully exempted from excise duty; Custom duty on reefer vans has been exempted and on food processing machinery has been reduced from 7.5% to 5% on sunflower oil (crude) from 65% to 50% and on sunflower oil (refined) from 75% to 60% Special additional duty of 4% has been waived in the case of refined edible oil. Services provided by Technology Business Incubators have been exempted from service tax and similarly their Incubatees, whose annual business turnover does not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs have been exempted from service tax for the first three years. The RBI has recently revised upwards the eligibility of food processing units for priority sector bank lending with an investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 10 crores as against Rs. 5 crores earlier. Any new food processing unit based on fruit and vegetable is exempted from Income-tax completely for the first five years and thereafter 25% of the income is exempted from Income-tax for the next five years.

(c) and (d) There has been significant growth of food processing units during the last three-four years.

The average rate of growth during the first four years of the 10th Plan was @ 13.025% at current prices and @ 6.75% at 1999-2000 prices. The food processing industries have been growing @ 13.14% per annum since the last year. Direct employment and indirect employment generation during last five years in food processing industry sector has grown from 3.9 million to 4.4 million and 6 million to 9 million respectively. The details of the financial assistance extended to projects in different States under major Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries during last five years are as below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Financial assistance
2004-05	4041.63
2005-06	11525.13
2006-07	15978.00
2007-08	18297.00
2008-09 (till 15th November, 2008)	13788.00

[*Translation*]

Surat Airport

2992. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for the development of Surat Airport has been completed;

(b) if so, the number of scheduled flights in operation at Surat airport;

(c) the major cities directly connected by air with Surat Airport and future planning to increase the number of flights and air connectivity from Surat Airport;

(d) whether the terminal building of Surat Airport has been made fully operational; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it will be made operational?

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

(b) At present, there is only one flight being operated from Surat Airport on the Delhi-Surat-Delhi Sector.

(c) At present, only Delhi is directly connected with Surat Airport. No proposal has been from any airlines for further connectivity from Surat Airport to other airports.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Backward Integration in Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

2993. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether backward integration is likely to be done in Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Crude Steel is being produced at Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) through Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) route which uses scrap as input raw material and as such backward integration of the unit is not being contemplated.

Adulteration in Petrol and Diesel

2994. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:
SHRIMATI K. RANI:

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

(a) whether adulterated petrol and diesel is being produced and sold at a large scale in many States especially in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against the defaulting petrol pumps/depots;

(c) whether the Government has some mechanism to check adulteration of petrol and diesel at the petrol pumps and depots; and

(d) if so, the number of cases of adulteration detected during 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they are not aware of any adulterated petrol and diesel being produced and sold in many States especially in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu. However, the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol and diesel.

(c) and (d) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives viz., Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc. Details of number of cases of adulteration detected during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 (April-September, 2008) is as under:

Year	2007-08	2008-09 (April-September, 2008)
No of cases detected	197	71

Medical Centres at Airport Terminals

2995. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up medical centres at airport terminals in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) For emergency treatment and first aid, medical inspection rooms have been established at Chennai, Kolkata and Trivandrum airports and are being manned by medical officers of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Medical inspection rooms, which are being maintained at the airports in different states by reputed nursing homes/hospitals are as under:

Nagaland-Dimapur; Andhra Pradesh-Vizag; Bihar-Patna; Gujarat-Ahmedabad & Vadodra; Maharashtra-Pune; Goa-Goa; Uttar Pradesh-Lucknow; Rajasthan-Udaipur & Jaipur; West Bengal-Bagdogra; Kerala-Calicut; Tamil Nadu-Madurai; Karnataka-Mangalore;

Medical inspection rooms which are being maintained at the airports in different states by State Government are as under: Jharkhand-Ranchi; Jammu and Kashmir-Jammu, Leh and Srinagar; Mizoram-Lengpui.

Medical Inspection Rooms at Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad are being maintained by respective airport operators. At other AAI airports, first aid facility is being provided.

Shortage of Rigs

2996. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil exploration companies are facing huge shortage of rigs for the last many years and for that reason could not meet the stipulated targets;

(b) if so, the steps taken to augment the supply of rigs to oil exploring companies by the Government;

(c) whether it is feasible to manufacture rigs in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil exploration companies are facing a shortage of Rigs, especially for Deep water areas. The drilling targets in the Deep water areas in

India have been affected due to shortage of Deep water drilling Rigs.

The shortage of Rigs in the Deep water areas is a world wide phenomenon.

(c) and (d) Onland rigs are being manufactured in India. However, the required infrastructure and technology for Offshore Rig manufacturing in the country is at a nascent stage.

Restructuring of Tax Regime

2997. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for restructuring of tax regime on petroleum products including elimination of ad-valorem tax;

(b) the details of cess collected from oil produced by two oil PSUs and ONGC;

(c) whether the total cess collected is being allocated for the purpose of investment in the petroleum sector by oil PSUs; and

(d) if not, the amount of fund that was allocated by the Government so far for the development of the oil industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Based on the proposals made in regard to taxation of petroleum products, the ad-valorem component of Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol and unbranded Diesel has been abolished and converted to a specific duty of Rs. 14.35 and Rs. 4.60 per litre respectively, with effect from 1.3.2008.

Further, Government made the following reductions in the taxes/duties with effect from 5.6.2008:

- (i) Customs Duty on crude oil from 5% to Nil.
- (ii) Customs Duty on Petrol and Diesel from 7.5% to 2.5%.
- (iii) Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol and unbranded Diesel by Re. 1/- per litre. As a result, the Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol and Diesel has come down to Rs. 13.35 per litre and Rs. 3.60 per litre respectively.

The Central Sales Tax on inter-state sale or purchase of goods stands reduced to 2% with effect from 1.6.2008.

Sales Tax is a State subject and any restructuring of Sales Tax has to be undertaken by the concerned State Governments.

(b) to (d) During the period 1974-75 to 2007-08, the Government has collected Rs. 74,978.82 crore as cess on indigenous crude oil from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Oil India Limited and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons. Out of this amount, Government has provided Rs. 902.40 crore to the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). OIDB has further provided financial assistance to the oil industry for development purposes.

ROB in Kerala

2998. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) near Caritas between Kottayam and Ernakulam Stations in Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to construct ROB at Paravoor, Kollam district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A proposal for construction of Road over bridge (ROB) in lieu of level crossing (LC) No. 30 at Km. 52/10-11 at Caritas between Ettumanur and Kottayam stations has been received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal of Road over bridge at Paravur in lieu of LC No. 534 between Paravur and Kappil stations was sponsored by State Govt. which has been sanctioned during Works Programme of 2006-07. General Arrangement Drawing for it has been sent to State Govt. for acceptance.

Opening of LPG/Retail Distributorships by ONGC and OIL

2999. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have planned for opening of LPG/Retail Distributorship in the country;

(b) if so, whether any merger of Oil PSUs have been planned for; and

(c) if so, its effects in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Consequent to the grant of authorization to market transportation fuels in terms of the Government Resolution of 8th March 2002, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has commissioned one retail outlet at Mangalore. ONGC does not propose to set up more retail outlets in the country at present.

The Government had, in February, 2005 granted authorization for marketing of indigenously produced LPG to ONGC, subject to certain terms and conditions. The operational issues related to LPG marketing by new entrants were examined, and considering, inter-alia, the present mechanism of meeting the subsidy on domestic LPG, the authorization was withdrawn in the month of January, 2006.

Government have not given authorization to Oil India Limited (OIL) to market LPG/transportation fuels.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Budget for the Disabled

3000. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount remained unspent from the budgetary outlay for the disabled persons in the Tenth Five Year Plan under Central schemes;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to utilize allocated resources for the disabled in the next Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Against the total Tenth Plan Outlay of Rs. 1454 crores for the welfare of the persons with disability, an amount of Rs. 919 crore was spent. Thus, an amount of Rs. 535 crores remained unspent.

(b) The budgeted fund could not be utilized fully owing to non receipt of requisite proposals complete in all respects in time from the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and Non-Governmental Organizations.

(c) For optimum utilization of budgeted fund, following corrective measures have been taken:

- i. National allocation based on the population of the target group in proportion to the total target population in the State is intimated to the States/UTs at the beginning of the financial year with a request to recommend complete proposals from State Governments and NGOs.
- ii. Grant-in-aid Committee at the State level has been set up for all the schemes where support is provided to NGOs so that complete proposals with recommendation of the State Government are received in time.
- iii. Position of receipt of proposals from State Governments and NGOs is reviewed at regular interval.
- iv. Quarterly targets are fixed and the progress of expenditure is reviewed fortnightly by the Secretary with a view to phasing out uniform expenditure throughout the year.
- v. The performance of the programmes is also reviewed with the State Secretaries of the State Government concerned.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps in Rural Areas

3001. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to allot petrol pumps along the roads having heavy traffic in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to make allotment of more kerosene agencies in these rural areas; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details of kerosene outlets allotted in rural areas of Maharashtra during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) New Retail Outlets (ROs) are set up by the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) at identified locations having sufficient potential and found to be economically viable. ROs at rural areas are intended to cater to the needs of farmers, agriculturists and other consumers of petrol and diesel in the rural areas. Such ROs are set up with the intention of reaching product predominantly HSD ensuring quality and at the correct price in far-flung areas to meet the rural agricultural demand.

(c) Based on the feedback on difficulties faced on distribution of PDS SKO in the market, including rural areas, to the genuine customers, feasibility studies for setting up new kerosene dealership are carried out. If found feasible, further action with regard to development of such agencies in a transparent manner are taken by OMCs.

(d) OMCs have not allotted any kerosene dealership in rural areas of Maharashtra during the last three years.

[English]

Lack of General Coaches in Express Trains

3002. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the middle distance passengers usually suffer a lot due to availability of only one or two general coaches in almost all the super fast and Express Trains; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken by the Railways to augment the number of general coaches in super fast and Express Trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. With effect from April, 2002 a minimum of four (04) general class coaches are being attached in the composition of most of the Mail/Express/Super fast trains (except for fully reserved trains like Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Garib Rath and trains having shorter length).

From the year 2007-08, the number has further been revised and at least six (06) general class coaches are being provided in all the new trains introduced with new rakes.

[Translation]

**New Rail Line Between Mandar Hill-Rampur
Haat Section**

3003. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the work relating to new railway line between Mandar Hill-Rampur Haat section is likely to be completed by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): The project is likely to be completed during 2010-11.

[English]

Price of Air Tickets

3004. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge fall in the Jet Fuel Price but the Airlines have not reduced the prices of air tickets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has any mechanism/control on the prices of air tickets charged by the Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the prices of air tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Air fares are not being regulated by the Government Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces. Now, with decreasing prices of ATF the Airlines have started reducing fares. However Airlines are also affected by the global financial downturn of the economy.

New Airport Policy

3005. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has announced a new Airport Policy, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ministry is planning to undertake groundhandling at various airports across the country under the new airport policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the existing infrastructure is highly inadequate to meet the demands of crowded passengers;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there was any earlier survey/study was conducted to gauge this kind of inflow of passengers;

(h) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A new Greenfield Airport Policy has been announced by the Government in April, 2008. Its salient features are:

(i) A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation would coordinate and

monitor various clearances required for the greenfield airport projects.

- (ii) Terms and conditions of all the concerned agencies like DGCA, Security, Defence etc. would be prescribed up-front.
- (iii) If the proposal is to set up a new airport within an aerial distance of 150 kms from an existing airport, it would be considered by a Steering Committee and thereafter by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- (iv) All reserved activities to be performed at the airport by central agencies like immigration, customs etc. would be on cost recovery basis.

(c) The new Greenfield Airport Policy does not address the groundhandling issues.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (i) Modernisation and upgradation of airports is a continuous process and is taken up depending upon traffic requirements, economic viability, availability of lands and other resources and socio-economic considerations etc. for this purpose, AAI regularly monitors the traffic data and makes projections based on the trend and other relevant factors.

To ease the congestion at the airports and to meet the requirement of the aviation traffic, two new greenfield airports at Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Bangalore have already been made operational this year. Delhi and Mumbai airports have been handed over to the Joint Venture Companies for modernisation/upgradation. In addition, 35 non-metro airports and 13 other airports have also been taken up for modernisation and upgradation by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Withdrawal of Air Services

3006. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Air India has withdrawn its services from some domestic sectors during the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Bhubaneswar Airports is the lone airport which has very poor air connectivity; and

(d) the steps taken to provide better air connectivity to Bhubaneswar and to metropolitan cities including Chennai and Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Being a Commercial Organization, Air India is continuously monitoring performance of the services on its network. In this process, if any route does not yield the expected results inspite of best of the marketing efforts, Air India withdraws services from such recurrent loss making routes.

(c) Air India, Jet Lite, Kingfisher Airlines and Indigo operate 14, 21, 35 and 7 flights per week respectively linking Bhubneshwer to Delhi, Mumbai Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

(d) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

Dibrugarh Airport

3007. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of the extension of runway and construction of terminal building of Dibrugarh Airport;

(b) the target set for completion of the work;

(c) the constraints, if any, in the execution of the project;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce additional flights to this airport for its optimum utility; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The runway extension work was awarded but was not

executed due to non transfer of land by Defence Authority, resulting into fore closure of the contract. However, Terminal Building work is in progress and is expected to be completed by January, 2009.

(d) and (e) Route Dispersal Guidelines notified by the Government require all scheduled operators to deploy at least ten percent of the capacity deployed by them on trunk routes (Cat I routes) on the routes to North Eastern Routes, J&K, A&N Islands and Lakshadweep islands (Cat II routes). Ten percent of the capacity deployed on Cat II routes has to be deployed for intra regional connectivity. Subject to compliance with Route Dispersal Guidelines, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country in their commercial judgement.

[Translation]

Assistance to Drug Manufacturing Companies

3008. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the drug manufacturing companies running into losses;

(b) the details of the assistance provided by the Government for running of these companies during the last three years and the current year, company-wise; and

(c) the details of the drugs manufactured by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No such specific information is being maintained in this Department. However, the drug manufacturing Pharma CPSUs under administrative control of the Department of Pharmaceuticals running in losses are Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) and Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL).

(b) The details of assistance provided to these companies during the last three years and during the current year (till date) are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) These companies manufacture antibiotics, tablets, syrups, capsules, ointment, injections, etc.

Statement

Details of Assistance Provided to Pharma CPSUs Under the Administrative Control of the Department of Pharmaceuticals

Sl.No.	Name of Pharma PSU	Year	Amount of Assistance Provided (Rs. in crores)
1.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)	2005-06	30.30
		2006-07	132.64
		2007-08	20.17
		2008-09 (till date)	Nil
2.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL)	2005-06	9.73
		2006-07	124.19
		2007-08	20.00
		2008-09 (till date)	Nil
3.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)	2005-06	7.00
		2006-07	0.95
		2007-08	4.93
		2008-09 (till date)	Nil

*[English]***Ship Breaking**

3009. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign dead ships have been brought to Indian ports for ship breaking during the past few years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken note of security and other hazards involved in this activity;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to frame rules for such activity so as to safeguard the national security and other aspects;

d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, various improved measures have been put in place for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and significant improvements have taken place in respect of security and safety measures at the ship breaking yards. Presently, the ship owners or recyclers are required to submit advance information and documentation including assessment of hazardous waste and hazardous substance well in advance of the arrival of a ship to the concerned agencies before the concerned permissions are accorded. There is also provision for undertaking physical inspection by the authorized agencies for ensuring due security. Furthermore, as and when shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

Railway Projects in Goa

3010. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various Railway projects under construction in Goa;

(b) the status of these projects;

(c) whether any target has been set for completion of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no railway project in Goa.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Prices of Drugs

3011. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority to check the prices of drugs under the Drugs Prices Control Order;

(b) the number of cases where prices rose beyond the permissible limits; and

(c) the impact of price rise on supply and production of drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. During the last three years (2005-06 to 2007-08) NPPA has approved 194 cases of price fixation of Scheduled drugs out of which in 25 cases the prices were increased and in 160 cases prices were reduced. In the remaining cases either the prices were fixed for the first time or no change in the prices were noted. The price fixation/revision of the Scheduled medicines is a continuous process under DPCO, 1995.

Prices of non-Scheduled drugs are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition,

product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. 566 cases of price increase beyond the permissible limits were reported in the case of non-Scheduled formulations, out of which, NPPA has fixed price in case of 27 formulations under para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 60 formulations.

(c) NPPA regularly monitors the prices and availability of the drugs in the country and wherever required, corrective action is taken in the matter.

Flouting of Directives of Finance Ministry by CPSEs

3012. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the directive of Finance Ministry to deposit 60% of surplus funds of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in public sector banks are being flouted;

(b) if so, the details of CPSEs that have flouted the above directive and action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of cash and bank balance of CPSEs as on March, 2008, CPSE-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) Boards of concerned CPSEs take a decision for deployment of surplus funds as per guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. In April, 2008 instructions were issued to CPSEs advising them, inter-alia, that at least to the extent of 60% of available surplus funds should be placed with Public Sector Banks (PSBs). These instructions were reiterated in August, 2008 and in October, 2008.

(c) As per Public Enterprise (PE) Survey 2006-07, which was laid in Parliament on 28.02.2008 and is a public document, the CPSEs have a cash and bank balance of Rs. 2,03,260 crores as on 31.03.2007. CPSE-wise cash and bank balance is given at Item No. 2.3(c) of Balance Sheet of concerned CPSE in Volume-III of PE Survey 2006-07.

[Translation]

Supply of Diesel to Transport Corporations, Industries/Private Construction Companies

3013. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing large quantities of diesel to transport corporations, industries and private construction companies of State Governments at the lower rates than that of the petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for sale of diesel by public sector companies to the contractors engaged in the Government projects at lesser price than the market rates;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide diesel to the above-mentioned companies at market rates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) The price of diesel being sold to customers directly by OMCs is different from the price of diesel being sold through Retail Outlets as the retail selling price also includes the Dealer Commission. The construction companies who are provided with consumer Pump facilities are also supplied with the product at rates applicable to direct consumers.

Disposal of Heritage Coaches and Articles

3014. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are working on any scheme of handing over/selling the collection of heritage coaches and other old articles in possession of Railways to the private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such heritage articles in possession of the Railways at present, zone-wise;

(d) whether heritage engines, coaches and other articles of the Railways are at present exhibited anywhere from tourism point of view; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) National Rail Museum at New Delhi. Regional Rail Museums at Chennai, Mysore and Kolkata. Mini Rail Museums at Nagpur, Ghum, Sukna and Kurseong.

Robbery in Trains

3015. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken note of the caption "Rail Yatriyon Par Luteron Ka Dhawa" as reported in the Dainik-Jagran dated 10th September, 2008;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have taken any steps for the security of the passengers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the incidents of robbery that took place in last three years and the current year?

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

[English]

Facilities to Disabled Persons

3016. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed certain facilities free to disabled persons in the draft Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these have been notified; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on carriage of passengers by air with disability and/or with reduced mobility, airlines are required to ensure arrangement of wheelchairs without any extra charge. Airlines are also to permit disabled passengers to use their own wheelchair if they so prefer.

(c) and (d) The CAR on carriage of passengers by air with disability and/or with reduced mobility has been issued on 1st May, 2008 under Section 3-Air Transport, Series 'M' Part 1 and is available on DGCA website.

Train Protection Warning System

3017. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) in the Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the features of the system;

(c) the names of sections in which the system is presently being introduced;

(d) whether it is proposed to extend the same to other railway zones in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) has been commissioned on suburban section of Southern Railway as a pilot project. The TPWS system prevents 'Signal Passing At Danger' cases and enforces implementations of speed restriction. The system provides audio and visual warning to driver in case of overspeeding and if driver fails to take desired action, the system applies brakes automatically.

(c) The system has been introduced on Chennai Central—Gummidipundi section (50 Route KMs) of Southern Railway in May' 08.

(d) and (e) It has been decided to extend the above Train Protection Warning System on Delhi-Agra section of Northern/North Central Railway as second pilot project. This project is under various stages of installations.

Public-Private Participation in Railway Projects

3018. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements and lessons drawn from the public-private participation projects implemented in different areas of Railway operations;

(b) the details of the new measures of rates of return and its implications related to retail hubs and modernization plans for the Railways;

(c) whether the Railways propose to encourage private sector to join hands with the Railways in public-private participation mode on projects specific ventures and exit joint ventures after getting adequate returns on investment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Ministry of Railways have identified the following areas for partnership with private sector.

- Operation of rail-borne container services by private entities, which includes investment in rolling stock and terminal facilities and marketing of the services.
- Leasing of full parcel vans and luggage space to private parties.
- Catering services, budget hotels and food plazas at major stations through involvement of private entrepreneurs by IRCTC.
- Modernization of identified stations into world-class stations.
- Manufacturing units for modern coaches, locos and other rail equipments.
- Setting up of multi-modal Logistics Parks.

- Port connectivity and other rail infrastructure development through participation of strategic partners in project-specific Special Purpose Vehicles.

The achievements so far include the following:

In addition to CONCOR, 15 Container Train Operators have obtained licenses for running private container trains during the last two years. Several port connectivity projects such as Gandhidham-Palanpur (301 Kilometers) Gauge Conversion, Hassan-Mangalore (189 Kilometers) Gauge Conversion, Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 Kilometers) New Line, Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam (113 Kilometers) New Line and Bharuch-Dahej (62.36 Kilometers) Gauge Conversion etc. have been commissioned/taken up in partnership with strategic partners.

Work on awarding concessions for redevelopment of New Delhi Station into a world class station has been initiated. Besides New Delhi, 25 other stations have been identified for development as world class stations. The process of selection of partners to set up diesel locomotive factory, electric locomotive factory and rail coach factory at Marowra, Madhepura and Rai Bareilly respectively has been initiated. More than 100 sites have been entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority for commercial utilisation of surplus land available with the railways.

(b) Each project is different and no specific rates of return have been stipulated for Public Private Partnership projects.

(c) In general the Government's policy is to grant license/concession for a limited period and repossess the assets after the specified concession period.

(d) For Port Connectivity projects undertaken through Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd., the concession period is limited to 25-30 years of payback of equity invested at a specified rate of discount whichever happens earlier. For container operation, the license period is for 20 years. renewable for another five years.

[Translation]

Free Rail Travel Facilities

3019. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have proposed to provide free rail travel facilities to youths for attending examinations and interviews for employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ministry of Railways provide Complimentary Pass facilities to a number of categories of persons/organizations as per various schemes. Any expansion of the existing schemes to include various other categories of persons is not considered feasible in view of financial and other repercussions.

[English]

Tenders for Purchase of Medicines

3020. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various conditions of turnover clause imposed by various Government departments in their tenders floated for purchase of medicines;

(b) whether the awarded suppliers are getting the same manufactured supplies of medicines from small scale units under loan license arrangements;

(c) if so, the comparative prices of medicines purchased under tender system by various Government agencies;

(d) whether the prices of particular Railway department are very high;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether such steps have been taken to weed out the competitive strength of small scale pharmaceutical units in providing quality medicines; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to procure quality medicines from the small scale Pharmaceutical units at the competitive prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (g) Every Government Department which purchase medicines have separate terms and conditions. These terms and conditions are made to purchase quality medicines at the best available price.

National Meat and Poultry Processing Board

3021. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up National Meat and Poultry Processing Board;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its proposed function thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Ministry has initiated steps to set up National Meat & Poultry Processing Board for providing a focused approach to address the issues related to production of hygienic, safe and wholesome meat and meat products resulting in higher value addition; harmonization of domestic standards with international standards; capacity building for the sector to address the HRD issues; to develop uniform and effective meat quality testing system in the country; and the environmental pollution issue arising out of the present conditions in the meat industry.

Haj Terminal

3022. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a 'Haj terminal' has been constructed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the facilities provided in favour of Haj passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) M/s Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. have renovated

the existing Haj Terminal at IGI Airport, New Delhi to provide better facilities to the pilgrims. Salient features of the renovation work undertaken, are as under:

- (i) Entrance to the check-in area has been widened.
- (ii) New-X-ray machines have been introduced to ensure smoother and faster check-in,
- (iii) Security Hold Area has been realigned and can now hold more than 600 passengers.
- (iv) Number of immigration counters has been increased from 6 to 8 and check-in counters from 8 to 10.
- (v) New false ceiling has been added alongwith upgraded interiors.
- (vi) A large area is available beneath the canopy for friends and family.
- (vii) Namaz hall has been introduced in the terminal for passengers to offer prayers.

Ancient City Found In Orissa

3023. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a city more than 2500 years old has been discovered in Orissa recently;
- (b) if so, the expected name of that city, location thereof;
- (c) whether this city has a similarity to "Mohan-Jo-Daro and Harappa" civilization;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Indian Civilization of today is on the same pattern; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The recent excavation carried out at an early historic period site of Sisupalgarh by Deccan College, Pune suggests that its earliest date may go back to 2500 years ago. ASI had already excavated the site in 1948. Sisupalgarh, located about 4 km east of Bhubaneswar, is also identified as Tosali of Asokan (3rd century B.C.) edicts and Kalingangara of Kharavela's (2nd century B.C.) inscription.

(c) to (f) Sisupalgarh (circa 4th century B.C. to 4th century A.D.) is not similar to Mohenjodaro or the

Harappa Civilization (circa 2500-1900 B.C.) as both are widely separated by time, cultural materials and geography.

Low Cost Carriers

3024. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private-owned low cost carriers which came into operation during the last three years and which are on the anvil;
- (b) whether these low cost carriers are posing a threat to the revenue side of the Government owned airlines and also exert a great pressure on air traffic;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make the air travel affordable and comfortable to all classes of people in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last three years from 2006 to 2008 (till date), Indigo airline; commenced scheduled air services. The Government does not categorize any airline as low cost.

The Government has issued initial No Objection Certificate (NOC) to operate. Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services to M/s. Star Aviation for Southern Region, M/s. Jagson Airlines and M/s. MDLR Airlines for Northern Region and M/s. Zav Airways for North East/Eastern Region during the period. Out of these, M/s. MDLR Airlines commenced its operations in year 2008.

(b) and (c) Air fares are not being regulated by the Government. Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government to help the aviation industry.

- (1) Custom duty on import of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) has been abolished.
- (2) The Oil Companies have been reducing ATF prices since September, 2008

(3) The Oil Companies have staggered the dues of Airlines over six months.

(4) The Oil Companies have also extended the credit period Now, with decreasing prices of ATF the Airlines have started reducing fares.

Advanced Passenger Information System

3025. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) has become operational at various airports in the country;

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

(c) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to all the international airports in the country in the near future; and

(d) if so, the time by which the above scheme is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the notification issued by the Government, in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) has become operational w.e.f 1.8.2008 at the six international airports viz Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Cochin. All the international airlines are required to provide specified information in respect of incoming passengers on every flight operated into India in a flat file. As a futuristic proposal, it has been decided to implement APIS in the centralised mode whereby data would be received at a single address in the country.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to extend APIS scheme to all the international airports in the country in a phased manner.

Grants to Cultural Organisation

3026. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for providing grants to Cultural Organisations;

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

(c) the number of organisations, if any, which have got benefits under the scheme; and

(d) the total amount made available to these organisations during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. There are several such schemes.

(b) The mandate of Ministry of Culture is to preserve and promote all forms of art and cultural heritage. To this end, various schemes administered by the Ministry provide financial assistance to cultural organisations. These are listed below-

1. Financial Assistance for Building and Equipment Grants to Cultural Organisations.
2. Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals or Specified Performing Arts Projects. The scheme has two parts:
 - (a) Production Grants to be given for approved projects and programmes in these areas.
 - (b) Salary Grants assistance to performing arts groups, to help them establish themselves in their field.
3. Financial Assistance for Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal/Folk Art and Culture.
4. Financial Assistance for Safeguarding and Supporting Masterpieces of Intangible Heritage of Humanity.
5. Financial Assistance for Research Support to Voluntary Organisations Engaged in Cultural Activities.
6. Financial Assistance for Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of Himalayas.
7. Financial Assistance for Promotion and Strengthening of Regional Local Museums.
8. Financial Assistance for Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Culture and Art.
9. Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations/societies for Development and Maintenance of National Memorials.

10. Financial Assistance for Celebration of Centenaries/Anniversaries of Important Personalities.

(c) and (d) The number of organisations benefitted under these schemes and the total amount made available to them during the last three years and as under:

Year	No. of Organisations Benefitted	Total amount (Rs.)
2005-06	1914	43,75,27,685
2006-07	1944	60,57,25,875
2007-08	1883	28,26,35,997

[Translation]

Stoppage of Durg Express

3027. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand for providing a stoppage of Durg Express at Bilthara Road and Salempur has been made;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for not accepting these demands so far?

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

(b) and (c) Demands, including those from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, for provision of stoppage of 8201/8202 Durg-Gorakhpur Express at Belthara Road and Salempur stations have been received. These proposals were examined but have not been found feasible.

ROB on National Highways

3028. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of constructing Road Over Bridges (ROB) and underpass subway on the national highways is pending across the country including Gujarat;

(b) if so, the locations thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to complete the said pending work in the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Works of Road over/under bridges on National Highways are carried out by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). At present no proposal for construction is pending on account of Railways. However NHAI is executing 223 works of ROB's crossing Railway tracks in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Agreement between Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore and AAI

3029. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) have signed an agreement to promote mutual cooperation in the civil aviation sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and fields of mutual cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) An agreement between Airports Authority of India and Singapore Aviation Authority was signed on 15.5.2008 for mutual cooperation in exchange of information regarding civil aviation programmes, projects, research results or publication by each party; civil aviation training; knowledge sharing in airport management and operations; co-ordination of research and development programmes and the joint conduct of trials and demonstrations of new concepts, systems and facilities in civil aviation; and exchange of staff visits on mutually agreed basis. This agreement is valid for 5 years.

Trains from Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station

3030. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Sadulpur tri-weekly and Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Udaipur Chetak Express tri-weekly trains have been introduced;

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

(c) the time by which the above trains will be introduced?

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

(b) and (c) 4705/4706 Delhi Sarai Rohila-Sadulpur Express (Tri-weekly) has been proposed for introduction, the date could not be fixed as model code of conduct was in vogue due to Assembly election in Delhi and Rajasthan. 2981/2982 Delhi Sarai Rohila-Udaipur Chetak Express (Tri-weekly) can only be introduced after completion of gauge conversion works over Rewari-Phulera (via Ringas) section, which is being pursued for early commissioning.

Production of Alcohol

3031. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of alcohol in the country is largest in the world and its production is increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any strategy to bring down the production of alcohol; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Production of Alcohol in India is not largest in the world. Brazil, USA are major alcohol producing countries in the world. Production of alcohol depends upon production of sugarcane/molasses which in turn are dependent on vagaries of monsoons and is cyclic in nature.

(b) Apart from potable sector, Alcohol is also used for Industrial sector particularly in the production of Alcohol based chemicals. Now Alcohol is also used for blending with petrol. In view of the growing demand of alcohol from various user sectors, there is no proposal to formulate any strategy to bring down the production of alcohol.

(c) No applicable.

LPG Cylinders to BPL Families in Gujarat

3032. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has a proposal to provide Liquefied Natural Gas (LPG) cylinder to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in whole State of Gujarat including Jamnagar district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) New LPG connections are released for genuine domestic customers, including Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the State of Gujarat, including Jamnagar district.

As on 01.12.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have provided 55.25 lakh LPG connection in the State of Gujarat. OMCs have reported that they have released 1.52 lakh LPG connections during the period April to November, 2008 in the State of Gujarat.

OMCs have further reported that Government of Gujarat has introduced the Vanbandhu Scheme for releasing domestic LPG connections to tribal people. As on 31.10.2008, OMCs have released a total of 1046 LPG connections in the State of Gujarat under this Scheme.

Over-Invoicing by Pharmaceutical Companies

3033. MOHD. MUKEEM:

SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of pharmaceutical companies are importing drug intermediates/finished formulations from abroad;

(b) if so, whether these companies are involved in over-invoicing;

(c) if so, the names of companies, their products and the amount overcharged;

(d) whether the Government proposes to investigate the import details of these drug intermediates/finished formulations and their selling price in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has come across one such case of suspected over invoicing which has been referred to Income Tax Department for further investigation.

(d) and (e) Whenever, specific cases of over invoicing, selling scheduled imported formulations at a price higher than the notified price or without price approval are noticed by NPPA, action is taken against such companies as per the provisions of DPCO 1995 read with Essential Commodities Act 1955.

[Translation]

Utilization of Funds by Public Sector Companies

3034. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the break-up of the loans taken from the banks by each of the public sector petroleum companies of the country;

(b) the company-wise details thereof till date and the amount of interests paid thereon during each of the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether the amounts of loans taken by the Government are not being properly utilized;

(d) if so, whether any inquiries have been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) A Statement indicating the amount of loan taken from the banks and interest paid during last three years by the major Oil PSUs is enclosed.

(c) to (f) No instance of improper utilization of loans by any Oil PSUs has come to the notice of the Government.

Statement

(In Rs. Crore)

Name of PSU	Outstanding loan	Interest paid		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
IOCL	63754.00	881.00	1197.00	1230.00
ONGC	184.59	2.24	1.63	1.22
BPCL	23248.00	305.22	632.67	672.47
GAIL	525.40	28.92	22.65	0.05
HPCL	28918.00	120.56	281.57	648.68
OIL	1802.00	3.56	7.77	29.92

[English]

Price of Gas Supplied By Gail to Power/Fertilizer Plants

3035. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

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

(a) the present price of gas being supplied by Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to power/fertilizer plants;

(b) whether Reliance Natural Reserves Ltd. (RNRL) is seeking reservation of gas for its future plants at a price of \$2.34/MMBTU against the Government approved price of Rs. 4.2/MMBTU;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government would accord priority to power plants in Andhra Pradesh who are willing to buy gas at \$4.2/MMBTU instead of RNRL who have no operational power plants at present; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Administered Price Mechanism (APM) gas is being supplied by GAIL at Rs. 3200/thousand standard cubic meter (mscm), exclusive of royalty. GAIL supplies gas available from Panna-Mukta and Tapti (PMT) fields at the PSC determined average price of \$ 5.65/mmbtu. GAIL also supplies gas from Ravva Satellite at \$4.3/mmbtu. Further, GAIL supplies Regassified Liquified Natural Gas (RLNG) on term basis from PLL Dahej at pooled price of \$4.99/mmbtu (ex-Dahej). GAIL also supplies spot RLNG at the prevailing prices. These prices are exclusive of transmission charges, taxes, marketing margin/service charges, etc.

(b) and (c) RNRL filed an application before the Bombay High Court under Section 392 of the Companies Act. The matter is presently sub-judice in the Bombay High Court.

(d) and (e) It has been decided by the Government that, out of the first 40 mmscmd of natural gas to be produced from RIL's KG-D6 field, up to 18 mmscmd would be supplied to gas based power plants lying idle/under utilized and likely to be commissioned during 2008-09 and liquid fuel plants, which are now running on liquid fuel and could switch over to natural gas. In accordance with the decision, various existing gas-based power plants, including the plants in Andhra Pradesh, would be supplied natural gas. Further, it has been decided to give priority in supply of natural gas to power plants in Andhra Pradesh.

Ballout Plan for Private Airlines

3036. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is a pressure from various quarters to provide bailout package for private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Airlines had requested relief for the industry due to the steep rise in the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). Airlines have inter-alia requested the Government for lowering of ATF prices, reduction in airport charges, Grace period for repayment of dues of oil companies, Reduction of throughput charges etc.

The Government has taken various steps to help the domestic aviation industry which inter-alia are as under:

- (1) Custom duty on import of ATF has been abolished.
- (2) The Oil Companies have staggered the dues of Airlines Companies over six months. Oil Companies have also extended the credit period.
- (3) With the fall in global crude prices, the Oil Companies have been reducing ATF prices since September, 2008. They have also started announcing the ATF prices on a fortnightly basis rather than monthly basis which is helping the Airlines when the crude prices are going down.

Statues of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

3037. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of demands made for creating statues of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in front of all Government Offices and Offices of State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**Development of Tourism in Andaman
and Nicobar Islands**

3038. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any fresh proposal for development of tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No projects proposal for development of tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been received during 2008-09 for grant of Central Financial Assistance from the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Issuing Licences to Hawkers

3039. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to issue licences to the hawkers in order to enable them to sell their articles in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received by the Railways in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways so far on these applications?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received for giving licences to hawkers but the same cannot be given as unauthorized vending and hawking in trains is illegal and it is an offence under Section 144 of Railway Act 1989 and Railway Act 2003 (Second Amendment).

[English]

Luxury Coach in Trains

3040. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started luxury coach service for passengers in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the facilities being provided to passengers in such coaches;

(d) the agency which will provide all such facilities in these coaches;

(e) whether the Railways have made any strategy to provide such coaches in trains playing through important tourist destinations in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Railways operates a few luxury tourist trains in association with respective State Tourism Corporations with pre defined itinerary offering package tours.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Menace of Touts

3041. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken note of the news item under caption "Nai Delhi Railway Station Sey Ticket Ka Dalal Giraftar", as reported in Dainik Jagran dated 3rd October, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no provision under various sections of the Railways Act to punish the touts/agents involved in black-marketing of railway tickets and bogus ticket reservation; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Railways to apprehend and punish the agents/staff involved in black-marketing of railway tickets and bogus ticket reservation in each Railway Division in the country during the last three years and in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No ticket dalal was arrested on 1.10.2008 and 2.10.2008.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Touts and agents involved in black-marketing of railway tickets are dealt with under Section 143 of the Railways Act, 1989.

(d) Regular and preventive checks are conducted in and around railway reservation offices to curb the illegal activities of touts and other anti-social elements. Surveillance and monitoring at reservation offices is also stepped up during peak rush periods. In addition, travelling public are educated through various media to desist from procuring tickets from unauthorized people. Touts so apprehended are taken up as per provisions of law. Railway staff, if found conniving with touts are taken up under Discipline & Appeal Rules. However, Division-wise figures are not maintained.

Railway Project in Iran

3042. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between India and Iran on a railway project in Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Medical Norms for Pilots and Cabin Crew

3043. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a circular issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) pilots and cabin crew of domestic airlines who suffer from hypertension would be grounded till their blood pressure is found satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any limit of blood pressure has been fixed for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued "Aeronautical Information Circular", Sl. No. 10/2008 on "Disposal of Cases of Hypertension in Civil Aircrew". In case of hypertension is confirmed, the pilot is taken off flying duties and treated by his authorized medical attendant till satisfactory control of blood pressure is achieved. The President, Medical Board may endorse 'Temporarily Unfit' for flying duties for four weeks and advise the individual for next review at Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Bangalore/Air Force Central Medical Establishment (AFCME), New Delhi only.

(c) and (d) Blood Pressure recording of 140/90 mm hg is accepted as normal limit.

Atrocities on SC/ST

3044. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of offences of atrocities on SCs/STs has increased from 31,300 in 2005 to about 35,000 at the end of 2007;

(b) whether a Committee has been constituted to look into the matters related to the offences of untouchability and atrocities against SC/ST;

(c) if so, whether the Govt. has failed to control the offences of atrocities on SC/ST in the last three years; and

(d) if so, the action plan of the Government to curb this menace against SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was 31,387 in the year 2005, 32,407 in the year 2006 and 35,352 in the year 2007.

(b) to (d) A Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment constituted in 2006, for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offences of untouchability and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The Committee has held six meetings at Delhi on 18.09.2006, at Jaipur on 15.01.2007, at Mumbai on 11.08.2007, at Hyderabad on 28.01.2008, at Chandigarh on 14.03.2008 and on 30.05.2008 at Agartala.

As provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 are implemented by the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administration, the Ministry has addressed them to implement its provisions in letter and spirit. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme due central assistance is also provided to them, mainly for strengthening of the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, inter caste marriages, awareness generation, and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

Study Conducted by FICCI on Cruise Tourism

3045. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that according to a study conducted by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) titled "FICCI-Evalueserve study on cruise Tourism" reveals that there could be a three-fold rise in the number of domestic and international tourists at Indian ports by 2010;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the report; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) There is tremendous potential of Cruise Tourism in the country, accordingly, the Cruise Shipping Policy of Ministry of Shipping has been approved. The following projects have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for development of cruise tourism in 2008-09.

1. Development of tourism infrastructure at Cochin Port, Kerala for Rs. 1450.00 lakh with release of Rs. 725.00 lakh to Cochin Port Trust, Kochi.
2. Purchase of Ferries in Tamil Nadu for Rs. 52.70 lakh with release of Rs. 13.17 lakh to Poompuhar Shipping Corporation Ltd. Chennai.

The Cochin Port was also one of the eleven ports in the world to host the Volvo Ocean Race from 3rd to 13th December 2008.

Gauge Conversion Work Between Mysore and Bangalore

3046. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have commenced the gauge conversion work on the railway line between Mysore-Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the gauge conversion between Mysore and Bangalore is facing a major hurdle as there is a shrine on its way near Sri Rangapatna;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to sort out the problem and to complete the said work without any delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no gauge conversion work between Mysore and Bangalore as this section is already a broad gauge line.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of Transportation Safety Board

3047. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Transportation Safety Board to investigate air accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has sent a proposal in this regard to the Cabinet Secretariat for approval; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the independent investigation body will be helpful in speedy investigation of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. However, it has been decided to move in the direction of separation of investigation wing from the regulatory wing as recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). DGCA has been requested to prepare a roadmap for the same.

A proposal regarding National Transport Safety Board was received from the Planning Commission for comments. The proposal was for setting up a separate body to serve as the apex transport safety organisation with statutory backing. The Ministry of Civil Aviation provided comments in favour of the proposal.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Petroleum Products in the Tribal Areas

3048. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand and supply of petroleum products in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for supply of the petroleum products in the said areas;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to issue new dealerships for the supply of the petroleum products in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling and adulteration of petroleum products in the said areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Consumption data of petroleum products for tribal areas is not being maintained separately. However, demand of petrol and diesel of customers is met through Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) Retail Outlets (ROs) across the country including tribal areas. The estimated demand for Petrol, Diesel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the country for the period April-October, 2008 is as under:-

Figures in Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)

Petroleum Products	Quantity
Petrol	6.44
Diesel	29.26
LPG	6.90

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that setting up of new Retail Outlets (ROs) including those in rural areas is a continuous process and they set up ROs at locations having sufficient potential and found to be economically viable based on survey and feasibility studies. This process involves various steps like advertisement, interviews/selection of dealers, field verification of credentials, issue of Letter of Intent (LOI) procurement of land, obtaining necessary statutory approvals, construction etc.

(e) and (f) Possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and

various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreement against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives viz., Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.

[English]

School of Archives

3049. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of school of archives functioning in the country at present, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up such schools at places where these do not exist;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The School of Archival Studies, National Archives of India is running a Diploma Course along with short term courses (list of training courses are given in the enclosed Statement) which are attended by candidates from all over the country. In addition, as per information available with NAI, several institutions/universities in various States are running Archival Courses of different durations from time to time. These are as follows:

- (i) Gujarat Vidyapeth, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- (ii) Behrampur University, Behrampur, Orissa

(iii) Andhra University, Waltair, Andhra Pradesh

(iv) Gujarat State Archives, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

(v) Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner, Rajasthan

(vi) West Bengal State Archives, Kolkata, West Bengal

(vii) Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

(viii) U.P. State Archives, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

(b) National Archives of India has no such proposal at present.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) As explained at (a) above.

Statement

Training Courses Conducted by the School of Archival Studies National Archives of India, New Delhi

At professional Level the courses are:

A. Diploma Course in Archives and Records Management of one year duration 1st November-31st October.

B. Short Term Certificate Courses:

1. Archives Management (one session of 6 weeks)
2. Records Management (Two session each of 4 weeks)
3. Reprography (Two session each of 6 weeks)
4. Care and Conservation of Books, Manuscripts and Archives (Two sessions each of 8 weeks)

At sub-professional level.

5. Servicing and Repair of Records (Two sessions each of 6 weeks)

Freight Rate for Minerals

3050. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to increase the freight rate of some minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for increasing the freight rate; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid the frequent rise of freight rate?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Te change in freight rate of Class in an ongoing exercise as part of dynamic pricing policy of Indian Railways.

Recruitment in HPCL, Hazarwadi LPG Plant

3051. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons recruited in the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Hazarwadi LPG Plant, cadre-wise after 15 October, 2004;

(b) whether required orders for grant of appropriate additional compensation to the land losers have been issued; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) There has been no recruitment in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in any cadre at Hazarwadi LPG Plant after 15th October 2004.

(b) and (c) The matter is to be considered by the Government of Maharashtra, Department of Relief and Rehabilitation.

Accidents on Railway Tracks Passing Through National Parks

3052. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents on railway tracks passing through various National Parks including Dudhwa National Park and Katarniaghat Wildlife Division has been increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Railways have fixed any speed limit for trains passing through the National Park area;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has asked the Railways to remove railway line from the entire stretch of Dudhwa National Park and Katarniaghat Wildlife Division;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Railways thereto;

(g) whether eminent environmentalists and public representatives have demanded for removal/diversion of Mailani-Gonda rail section to save the wild lives; and

(h) if so, the response of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) Wild life accident reported for the last three years and the current year are as under:

Year	No. of accidents
2005-06	1
2006-07	1
2007-08	5
2008-08 (upto Oct. 08)	1

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Temporary speed restriction for trains passing in the National Park area are as under:

- (i) Palla Kalan-Dudhwa: Speed restriction of Stop Dead+ 10 kmph at Km 232/6-228/6.
- (ii) Palla Kalan-Dudhwa: Speed restriction of 50 kmph at Km 226/0-225/9.
- (iii) Dudhwa-Sonaripur: Speed restriction of 20 kmph at Km 222/05-221/04.
- (iv) Sonaripur-Belrayan: Speed restriction of 30 kmph at Km 207/6-194/06.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) The Railway line cannot be removed/diverted from the Dudhwa National Park as railway track between Belrayan to Palia Kalan is near the international border of Nepal. Due to strategic reasons and international security of the country, it will not be possible to remove/divert the alignment of track. At present the matter is Sub-Judice and writ petition is before the Hon'ble High Court, Lucknow Bench.

[Translation]

Setting up of New Plants in U.P.

3053. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state:

(a) the number of new plants set up in various parts of the country especially in the State of Uttar Pradesh by the petroleum companies during the last three years and in the current year;

(b) the details of the plants set up, State-wise, location-wise and district-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Details of new plants set up by major Oil PSUs in various parts of the country, including Uttar Pradesh, during the last three years and in the current year are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Name of Plants	location	District	State
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	ONGC	(i) C2-C3 Extraction plant	Luvara	Bharuch	Gujarat
		(ii) Tripura Power Project	Pallatana	South Tripura	Tripura
		(iii) ONGC Petro-additions Ltd.,	Luvara	Bharuch	Gujarat
		(iv) ONGC MRPL	Mangalore SEZ	Mangalore	Karnataka
2.	Oil	Product Pipeline	NRL	Assam-Siliguri	Assam & West Bengal
3.	IOCL	(1) Diesel Hydrotreater (DHDT)	Mathura Refinery	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh (UP)
		(2) Isomerisation (ISOM)	Mathura refinery	Mathura	UP
		(3) Expansion project	Panipat Refinery	Panipat	Haryana
		(4) Paraxylene & Purified Terephthalic Acid Complex	Panipat	Panipat	Haryana
		(5) CRU Revamp, ISOM Unit	Haldia Refinery	Midnapur/Haldia	West Bengal
		(6) Catalytic Reforming Unit	Gujarat Refinery	Vadodara	Gujarat
		(7) Sidhpur-Sanganer Pipeline	Sidhpur Pump station	Patan	Gujarat
		(8) Sidhpur-Sanganer Pipeline	Kot Pump station	Pali	Rajasthan

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(9) Sidhpur-Sanganer Pipeline	Sanganer Terminal	Jaipur	Rajasthan	
	(10) Branch pipeline	Baghusuri T-Point	Ajmer	Rajasthan	
	(11) Branch pipeline	Ajmer Terminal	Ajmer	Rajasthan	
	(12) Chennai-Trichy-Madurai Pipeline	Chennai Pump station	Thiruvallur	Tamil Nadu	
	(13) Chennai-Trichy-Madurai Pipeline	Madurai terminal	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	
	(14) Chennai-Trichy-Madurai Pipeline	T-point Asanur	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	
	(15) Chennai-Trichy-Madurai Pipeline	Sankari Terminal	Salem	Tamil Nadu	
	(16) Chennai-Trichy-Madurai Pipeline	Tap-off point at Trichy	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	
	(17) ToP at Trichy	Trichy Top Tank farm	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	
	(18) Mudra Kandla pipeline		Kutch	Gujarat	
	(19) Mudra Kandla pipeline	Churwa Scrapper station	Kutch	Gujarat	
	(20) Koyali Dahej pipeline	Koyali pump station	Vadodara	Gujarat	
	(21) Koyali Dahej pipeline	Dahej Terminal	Vadodara	Gujarat	
	(22) Branch pipeline	Lasariya T-point	Ajmer	Rajasthan	
	(23) Branch pipeline	Chittaurgarh terminal	Chittaurgarh	Rajasthan	
	(24) Top at Chittaurgarh	Chittaurgarh Top	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	
	(25) Piggable Product dock line	Narimanam Pump station	Thanjabur	Tamil Nadu	
	(26) Piggable Product dock line	Nagapattinam Jetty	Nagapattinam	Tamil Nadu	
	(27) ATF pipeline	Devangunthi pum station Devanhalli	Bangalore Rural	Karnataka	
	(28) ATF pipeline	AFS terminal	Bangalore Rural	Karnataka	
	(29) Panipat Jalandhar LPG pipeline	Kohan pump station	Karnal	Haryana	
	(30) Panipat Jalandhar LPG pipeline	Nabha tap off point	Patiala	Punjab	
	(31) Panipat Jalandhar LPG pipeline	Jalandhar Terminal	Jalandhar	Punjab	
	(32) Asaoti Depot	Faridabad	Faridabad	Haryana	
	(33) Chittaurgarh Terminal	Chittaurgarh	Chittaurgarh	Rajasthan	
	(34) Passighat Depot	East Siang	East Siang	Arunachal Pradesh	
	(35) Ramagundam Depot	Ksarin Nagar	Karin Nagar	Andhra Pradesh	

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(36) Madurai Terminal		Madurai	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
	(37) Trichy Terminal		Trichy	Trichy	Tamil Nadu
	(38) Mualkhang LPG Bottling Plant		Kolasib	Kolasib	Mizoram
	(39) Sekmai LPG Bottling Plant		Imphal (W)	Imphal (W)	Manipur
	(40) Raipur LPG Bottling Plant		Raigarh	Raigarh	Chhattisgarh
	(41) Colaba AFS		Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra
	(42) Kolhapur AFS		Kolhapur	Kolhapur	Maharashtra
	(43) Surat AFS		Surat	Surat	Gujarat
	(44) Daman AFS		Daman	Daman	Daman

*[English]***Railway Reservation Quota for Defence Personnel**

3054. SHRI P. C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence personnel commuting through trains do not have reservation quota and are facing hardships;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to reserve quota for defence personnel including one defence coach in each train;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) With a view to facilitate Defence Personnel travelling in trains, Railways have already provided the following exclusive facilities for them:-

- (i) Earmarking of berths/seats as Defence Department quota to be controlled by the Defence authorities;
- (ii) Earmarking of accommodation in unreserved coaches on various routes, wherever feasible;
- (iii) Running of special trains.

(d) Does not arise.

Committee to Study Difficulties Faced by Airlines

3055. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Committee to help and save airline industry from surging fuel costs and other difficulties faced by airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted their report;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on such recommendations?

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

(b) Government has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary comprising of Finance Secretary; Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation; Secretary, Department of Revenue; Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; Secretary, Planning Commission; Dr. Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC; Dr. Raghuram, Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad to examine

various issues relating to the current financial crisis being faced by domestic airlines. Two meetings of the committee have been held on 14.08.2008 and 18.11.2008 respectively.

(c) No, Sir. However, the Committee has made certain recommendations based on issues discussed in the meetings. The following issues inter-alia were discussed.

Impact of rising prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) on Airlines losses, Rationalization of Sales Tax on ATF to bring it to declared goods status, Removal of Custom Duty on ATF, Import of ATF by Airlines, Pricing of ATF by Oil companies, Allowing Private Domestic Airlines to operate on international routes, Foreign Direct Investment in Air Transport Sector.

(d) The Committee has inter-alia made following main recommendations:

Package of financial relief should be worked out, re-examination of mechanism used by oil companies for pricing of ATF, re-examination of the issue of custom duty on ATF, import of ATF by airlines, reduction of sales tax on ATF.

(e) On the recommendations of the Committee, following steps have been taken to help the aviation industry.

- (1) Custom duty on import of ATF has been abolished,
- (2) The Oil Companies have been reducing ATF prices since September, 2008,
- (3) The Oil Companies have staggered the dues of Airlines over six months,
- (4) The Oil Companies have also extended the credit period.

MoU between India and Brunei

3056. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Brunei on co-operation in the fields of Culture, Arts and Sports between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the MoU?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the MoU are as follows:

- encourage and develop cooperation in the fields of culture, arts and sports;
- promote cultural exchanges to stimulate cooperation between the cultural and sports institutions of the two governments;
- receive nationals recommended by the government for study, training, carrying out research work and specialization in its cultural and sports institutions;
- set up a Joint Consultative Committee consisting of an equal number of representatives from each government to formulate a detailed programme of exchanges and to keep under periodic review implementation of the MoU;
- any dispute between the governments on the interpretation/implementation of this MoU will be settled through mutual consultation or negotiation;
- MoU has been signed on 22.05.2008 and will be valid for a period of five years. Thereafter, it will automatically be renewed for further period of one year at a time, unless either government terminates it as per procedure in the MoU.

Issuance of Tatkal Tickets

3057. SHRI BHAILAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are strictly following the guidelines for issuing "Tatkal" tickets to railway passengers;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the last three years where guidelines have not been adhered; and

(c) the action taken against the erring officials?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Grants for Scheduled Castes

3058. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to spend over Rs. 1,433 crore during the current financial year to raise the socio-economic status for 40.91 lakh Scheduled Castes; and

(b) if so, the action plan made by the Government to spend this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) A sum of Rs. 1815.50 crores has been provided in the Annual Plan 2008-09 of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under schemes for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes. Grants/funds are released to State Government/Union Territories/NGOs etc., as per the provisions of the relevant scheme and applicable guidelines/norms/rules. Constant follow-up action is taken to ensure timely release of funds in phased manner.

[Translation]

Import of High Capacity Locomotives

3059. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed contracts with foreign companies for supply of high speed locomotives for passenger and goods train;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries;

(c) whether the Railways are forced to import the locomotives as diesel and electric engines built with indigenous technology do not have such high load carrying capacity;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways for manufacturing of heavy duty locomotives in the country; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent on purchase of the above locomotives and the time by which they are likely to be supplied?

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

(b) (i) 30 nos. of 6000 HP 25kV Ac Electric Locomotives (20 Freight and 10 Passenger) had been imported from M/s ABB Transportation Systems Ltd., Switzerland in 1993 along with Transfer of Technology.

(ii) 21 Nos. 4000 H.P. Diesel Electric Freight and 11 Nos. Passenger Locomotives had been imported from M/s General Motors Corporation, USA in 1995 and 1999 respectively along with Transfer of Technology.

(c) No, Sir. However, a limited number of new generation advanced technology locomotives have been imported in the past as these were more powerful and efficient and with intent of series manufacture in India thereafter.

(d) After initial import of high horse power freight and Passenger locomotives in 1990s with transfer of technology for manufacture, such locomotives are now being manufactured by Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) & Chittaranjan Locomotives Works (CLW), production units of Indian Railways.

(e) Not applicable.

[English]

Women Air Traffic Controllers

3060. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether good number of women are doing the job of Air Traffic Controller (ATC) at different airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that women ATC constantly have to face high stress, frequent transfers and working odd hours with tense situation at the cost of their family life; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Govt. to ease their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A total of 96 women Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) are, presently, working with Airports Authority of India (AAI).

c) and (d) The working environment for the ATCOs in AAI are commensurate with the international practices. As regards, frequent transfers and working at odd hours, AAI has taken the following measures:

- (i) normally women ATCOs are being accommodated at their choice of stations, subject to operational requirements of various stations; and
- (ii) whenever women ATCOs are deployed on operational duties, separate rest rooms are provided at the working place.

Dilapidated Condition of St. Mary Church

3061. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a major portion of St. Mary's Church, a heritage structure in Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh is in a dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) St. Mary's Church at Secunderabad is not a centrally protected monument. It has been declared as a heritage building by Hyderabad Urban Development Authority. The building is under the control of local Church authorities. At present some conservation and repair work is being carried out by the Church authorities through a private agency.

Chopper Services

3062. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government thinking of introducing chopper services in important and premier Government Hospitals across the country to ferry critical patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal from the Government, however there are private operators who provide Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS).

[Translation]

Awarding of Research Contracts

3063. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the research contracts awarded by the Government to advisors, Non-Governmental Organizations, educational and research organizations during each of the last three years, and the current year;

(b) whether research contracts have been made available on the website of the Ministry;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the norms adopted for awarding of contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Details of the research contracts awarded by the Department of Fertilizers during the last three years, year-wise, to renowned research institutions in India, under their Science & Technology (S&T) scheme, are given in the enclosed Statement I.

Details of research contracts awarded by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER), SAS Nagar, during the last 3 years, year-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement II.

(b) and (c) Relevant details of these research contracts are available on the website of the Departments.

(d) In the Deptt of Fertilizers, the proposals received from Research Institutions are appraised and recommended by Screening Committee headed by the

Joint Secretary. The recommendations are then put up to the Project Approval Committee (PAC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers), for final approval of the proposals. Technical Experts are represented in both the committees.

The Grant-in-Aid given to NIPER, SAS Nagar, which is an autonomous institution under this Department, for research by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, was based on technical and financial approval by the Department.

Statement I

Details of Projects for last three years of Department of Fertilizers

Sl.No.	Name of the Institute	Title of the project	Year
1.	IIP Dehradun	New Absorption Based Project for CO ₂ Recovery	2005-06
2.	IIT Delhi	Studies on Chemical Desorption of Carbon Dioxide in Packed Columns.	2005-06
3.	IIT Kharagpur	In-situ reaction and separation of Steam Reforming Hydrocarbons Product mixture in Membran Reactor.	2005-06
4.	IICT Hyderabad	Photocatalytic Synthesis of urea using atmospheric CO ₂ , N ₂ H ₂ and solar energy	2005-06
5.	IIT Delhi	Pilot Plant Study on Coiled Flow Investors Ph. II.	2005-06
6.	Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar, Gujarat	Utilization of Distiller Waste (Aqueous CaCl ₂ /NaCl) of Soda Ash Industry for production of Muriate of Potash from Bittern Generated as By-product of Salt. Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar, Gujarat.	2006-07
7.	BITS, Pilani (Goa Campus)	Techno-Economic Feasibility Studies on an alternative process route for removal of Methanol, Ammonia and Carbon dioxide from process condensate water in a Fertilizer Ammonia Plant, BITS, Pilani.	2006-07
8.	BITS, Pilani (Goa Campus)	Application of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to diammonium Phosphate (DAP) Plant	2007-08
9.	FCI Aravali	Promoting Mineral Gypsum as fertilizers.	2007-08
10.	Project Development of India (PDIL)	Technical audit of Fertilizer Plants	2007-08
11.	Project Development of India (PDIL)	Setting up of Pilot Plant for Recovery of Nickel from Spent Catalysts	2007-08

Statement II

Details of Projects for last three years of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) was granted Grant-in-Aid after getting the Technical Evaluation and IFD approval for undertaking

the following Research Activities during 2005-06 and 2006-07

2005-06

- (i) Preparation of Standards of impurities & degradation products;
- (ii) Targeting Oxide Stress-Advanced Glycation end products Pathway in Diabetic Neuropathy;

- (iii) Production of Chiral Precursor(S)-1-(2-Thienyl);
- (iv) Development of Novel Anti Parasitic Agents Design and synthesis;

2006-07

- (v) Design Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of New Chemical Entities as Anti-Inflammatory Agents;
- (vi) Green Technology for Synthesis of Cardiovascular Drugs.

2007-08

NIL

*[English]***Pension Scheme for HMT Employees**

3064. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension scheme sanctioned for the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) watch factory employees is at par with the bank employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) The employees of HMT Limited and its Subsidiaries are covered under the employees' Pension Scheme 1995 by virtue of ordinance promulgated by the Government of India vide Gazette Notification dated 17.10.1995 making it applicable to the employees of all Central Public Sector Enterprises. This is not at par with the pension scheme applicable to Bank employees.

(c) The features and benefits of the Employees Pension Scheme 1995 applicable to HMT which factory employees are different from those of the Pension Scheme applicable to Bank employees. The Bank employees can forego the entire employees' share as the pension fund contribution whereas the Employees Pension Scheme contributions are restricted to 8.33% of wages upto Rs. 6500/- only.

Hotel Management Institutes

3065. SHRI ANANDRAO VITOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up 19 new hotel management institutes, besides introduction of hospitality education through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the hotel management institute functioning at present in the country, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government has identified the sites therefor;

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

(e) whether there is also a proposal to establish 25 State food craft institutes during the 11th Plan;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to meet the gap in demand and supply of manpower in hotel industry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) proposes to set up 19 new hotel management institutes during the 11th Plan. Identification of sites is the responsibility of the State Govts/UTs and MoT offers CFA on receipt of proposals complete in all respects inter-se priority and availability of funds. The Ministry of Tourism will also support conduct of hospitality education through ITIs. So far, the MoT had sanctioned nine Hotel Management Institutes as per the enclosed Statement-I. A list of functional IHMs is indicated in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Of these, 7 FCIs had already been sanctioned as per the enclosed Statement-I.

(g) A decision has been taken that the Ministry of Tourism will extend financial assistance for strengthening of existing IHMs/FCIs and creation of infrastructure necessary for the start of hospitality courses in Vocational Schools, ITIs, Polytechnic Institutes, Govt. Colleges, Universities, and Public Sector Undertakings.

Statement I**Location of 9 State IHMs and 7 State FCIs sanctioned in the 11th Plan**

Sl.No.	State/UT	Location	Year of Sanction
1	2	3	4
State Institutes of Hotel Management			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Yupia	2007-08
2.	Bihar	IHM, Bodhgaya	2007-08
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	2007-08
4.	Kerala	Kozhikode	2007-08
5.	Maharashtra	Solapur	2007-08
6.	Mizoram	Ailwang	2007-08
7.	Nagaland	Dimapur	2007-08

1	2	3	4
8.	Punjab	Bhatinda	2007-08
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Fursatganj	2007-08
Total		9	

State Food Craft Institutes

1.	Jammu and kashmir	Jammu	2007-08
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Garh Mukteshwar	2007-08
3.	Karnataka	Haasan	2007-08
4.	Assam	Nogaon	2007-08
5.	Bihar	Muzaffarpur	2008-09
6.	Punjab	Hoshiarpur	2008-09
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra	2008-09
Total		7	

Statement II**State-wise list of Functional IHMs/SHMs affiliated with NCHMCT**

Sl.No.	State/UT	Central IHM offering Degree/PG Diploma/Diploma/Craft Courses	State IHM offering Degree/Diploma Courses
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	IHM Hyderabad	—
2.	Assam	IHM, Guwahati	—
3.	Bihar	IHM, Hajipur	—
4.	Chandigarh	Dr. Ambedkar IHM, CHD	CIHM, CHD
5.	Delhi	IHM, Pusa	DIHM Lajpat Nagar
6.	Goa	IHM, GOA	—
7.	Gujarat	IHM, Gandhi Nagar	—
8.	Haryana	—	SIHM, Kurukshetra
9.	Himachal Pradesh	IHM, Kufri	—

1	2	3	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	IHM, Srinagar	—
11.	Karnataka	IHM, Bangalore	—
12.	Kerala	IHM, Trivandrum	SIHM, Khozikode
13.	Madhya Pradesh	IHM, Gwalior	—
		IHM, Bhopal	—
14.	Maharashtra	IHM, Mumbai	—
15.	Meghalaya	IHM, Shillong	—
16.	Orissa	IHM, Bhubaneswar	—
17.	Punjab	IHM, Gurdaspur	—
18.	Rajasthan	IHM, Jaipur	SIHM, Jodhpur
19.	Sikkim	—	SIHM, Gangtok
20.	Tamil Nadu	IHM, Chennai	—
21.	Uttar Pradesh	IHM, Lucknow	—
22.	Uttanchal	—	IHM, Dehradun
23.	West Bengal	IHM, Kolkata	—
Total		21	07
Grand Total		28	

*[Translation]***Oil Refineries Operated by Oil Companies**

3066. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the oil refineries are being operated by the public sector oil companies of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such oil companies and the quantum of crude oil processed by the said companies during the year 2008-09;

(c) the average gross refining margin of the said companies during the said period; and

(d) the extent of decline in the net profit of the oil companies during the first six months of the current year in comparison to the first six months of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Out of 19 refineries in the country, 17 oil refineries are operated by the Public Sector Oil Companies. The names of Public Sector Oil Companies and the quantum of crude oil processed of their refineries are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The average Gross Refining Margin of Public Sector refineries during April-September, 2008 was \$ 6.67 per barrel approximately.

(d) The net profit/loss of three oil marketing companies during April-September, 2008 as compared to April-September, 2007 is given as under:

	Rs. Crore	
	April-September, 2007	*April-September, 2008
IOC	5286.16	6632.00
BPC	1230.88	3691.96
HPC	766.10	4107.04
Total	7283.14	14431

*Figures for April-September, 2008 indicate net losses.

Statement

Name of the oil company	Refinery location	Crude oil processed during April-September, 2008 (2008-09) (TMT)
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1	2	3
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Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

1.	Koyali	6717
2.	Mathura	4279
3.	Panipat	6661
4.	Haldia	3101
5.	Barauni	2980
6.	Guwahati	512
7.	Digboi	311

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (Subsidiary of IOCL)

8.	Manali	4804
9.	Narimanam	220

Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (Subsidiary of IOCL)

10.	Bongaigaon	1013
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Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

11.	Mumbai	2854
12.	Visakh	4698

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

13.	Mumbai	6221
14.	Kochi	4030

1	2	3
Numaligarh Refinery Limited (Subsidiary of BPCL)		
15.	Numaligarh	1342
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)		
16.	Tatipaka	37
Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (Subsidiary of ONGC)		
17.	Mangalore	6080

Agriculture Product Shops at Railway Stations

3067. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to establish shops for agricultural products at the railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A policy to promote agricultural products collection and distribution outlets with backward integration of transportation through public private partnership is under consideration of Ministry of Railways.

Rail Yatri Niwas

3068. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for construction of a Rail Yatri Niwas at Solapur railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Presently there is no concept of setting up of Rail Yatri Niwas by Indian Railways. However, in order to meet the requirement of the rail users, Indian Railways have decided to set up Budget Hotels at 100 identified locations. Solapur is not part of these 100 locations.

Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana

3069. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects of new lines and gauge conversion have been undertaken under the Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana (RARSY);

(b) the number of new lines and gauge conversion which have crossed the original time schedule;

(c) the reason for such delay and the estimated escalation in the cost of projects; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed alongwith the revised date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana (RARSY) was announced in the Railway Budget 2004-05 (Vote on Account). However, funding for the Yojana could not be tied up and this scheme has not taken off.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Construction/Extension of Goods Sheds in East Coast Railway

3070. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the construction/extension of goods sheds in the different railway station of East Coast Railway Zones during the last three years and current years;

(b) the details of its utilization in each railway station, year-wise;

(c) whether the amount allocated for Bhadrak railway station in the East Coast Zone has been utilized; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Funds allocation made for construction & extension of goods sheds at different railway stations in the East Coast Railway and expenditures incurred thereon during the last 3 years and the current year are given as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost	Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Cuttack-Improvement to goods terminal facilities including approach road, circulating area & extension of covered goods shed.	3.097	2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09	1.50 1.000 1.9177 0.1132	0.1797 2.0021 0 0.1415
2.	Mandirhasaud-Development of full rake siding with both side entry, circulating area, platform, covered shed, approach & lighting.	2.0465	2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09	1.00 1.000 1.32 0.1415	0.58 0.9058 0.9937 0.0734

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bargarh Road-Development to circulating area, approach road & provision of covered shed.	2.481	2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09	1.00 1.000 1.40 0.2829	0.0424 0.8352 0.6324 0
4.	Rayagada-Development of circulating area, approach road & provision of covered shed.	2.356	2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09	1.00 1.000 1.222 0.1188	0.0151 0.3932 1.5750 0.0922

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Merging of Konkan Railway

3071. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Railways have been drawn towards merging of Konkan Railway in the Indian Railways and extending parity in pay to the employees of Konkan Railway at par with the Indian Railway employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On recommendation of Board of Directors of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), Ministry of Railway has proposed financial restructuring of KRCL with a proviso that it will continue to remain a Central Public Sector Undertaking under administrative control of Ministry of Railways even after discharge of its debt liabilities. After the recommendation of Board of Restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has already approved the proposal.

Government have decided that the pay scales of the employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) following Central Dearness Allowance (CDA) pattern will be revised with effect from 01.01.2006 as per recommendation of 6th Pay Commission notified by

Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance on 29.08.2008. Most of the employees in KRCL are following CDA pattern of pay, they are in the process of getting their pay scales implemented as per Government notification.

(c) The approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has to be implemented within six months of approval of the proposal.

Heritage Status by UNESCO

3072. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temples, forts and other places of Heritage Status in India recognized by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the annual amount being spent by the Government on their maintenance;

(b) whether the Government has forwarded a list of new places of Heritage status to UNESCO for giving them World Heritage status;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) World Heritage Sites under the Archaeological Survey of India are given in the enclosed Statement I. Details of amounts spent on their maintenance during 2008-09 are given in the enclosed statement II.

(b) to (d) As per the Operational Guidelines of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the last date for submission of nomination dossiers for inscription as World

Heritage Sites is 01 Feb, 2009. Some nomination dossiers are under preparation for submission to the World Heritage Centre.

Statement I

World Heritage Sites in India

Sl.No.	Name of site	State
1	2	3

CULTURAL SITES

Under protection of ASI:

1.	Ajanta Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
2.	Ellora Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
3.	Agra Fort (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Taj Mahal (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Sun Temple, Konarak (1984)	Orissa
6.	Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)	Tamil Nadu
7.	Churches & Convents of Goa (1986)	Goa
8.	Group of temples, Khajuraho (1986)	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Group of monuments at Hampi (1986)	Karnataka
10.	Group of monuments, Fatehpur Sikri (1986)	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Group of temples, Pattadakal (1987)	Karnataka
12.	Elephanta Caves (1987)	Maharashtra
13.	Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004)	Tamil Nadu
14.	Buddhist monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Humayun Tomb, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
16.	Qutb Minar complex, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
17.	Prehistoric Rock shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Madhya Pradesh
18.	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)	Gujarat
19.	Red Fort Complex, Delhi (2007)	Delhi

Under protection of Ministry of Railways:

20.	Mountain Railway of India (Darjeeling (1999), Nilgiri (2005), Kalka Shimla (2008)	West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh
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1	2	3
21.	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)	Maharashtra
Under protection of Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee:		
22.	Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (2002)	Bihar
NATURAL SITES		
Under protection of Ministry of Environment & Forest:		
1.	Kaziranga National Park (1985)	Assam
2.	Manas Wild Life Sanctuary (1985)	Assam
3.	Keoladeo National Park (1985)	Rajasthan
4.	Sunderban National Park (1987)	West Bengal
5.	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005)	Uttaranchal

Statement II*Amount Spent in 2008-09 on World Heritage Sites Under the Archaeological Survey of India*

Sl.No.	Name of the site	Structural Conservation		Chemical Preservation	
		Allotment	Expenditure up to November 2008	Allotment	Expenditure up to November 2008
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ajanta Caves (1983)	Rs. 73,94,995/-(N.P)	Rs. 31,72,805/-(N.P)	Nil	Nil
2.	Ellora Caves (1983)	Rs. 15,42,700/-(N.P)	Rs. 9,69,474/-(N.P)	Nil	Nil
3.	Agra Fort (1983)	Rs. 72,0000/-Plan	Rs. 56,93,266/-Plan	Rs. 8,10,000/-Plan	Rs. 1,19,526/-Plan
				Rs. 4,38,000/-(N.P.)	Rs. 1,37,306/-(N.P.)
4.	Taj Mahal (1983)	Rs. 1,14,50,000/-Plan	Rs. 1,10,93,251/-Plan	Rs. 13,40,000/-Plan	Rs. 9,66,721/-Plan
		Rs. 4,00,000/-N.P	Nil N.P	Rs. 5,62,000/-(N.P.)	Rs. 5,61,800/-(N.P.)
5.	Sun Temple, Konarak (1984)	Rs. 24,00,000/-Plan	Rs. 12,69,663/-Plan	Rs. 13,00,000/-Plan	Rs. 9,13,294/-Plan
6.	Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)	Rs. 21,80,000/-N.P.	Rs. 13,33,712/-N.P.	Rs. 3,50,000/-Plan	Rs. 3,29,379/-Plan
7.	Churches & Convents of Goa (1986)	Rs. 36,70,000/-Plan Rs. 13,00,000/-N.P.	Rs. 32,61,900/-Plan	Rs. 6,40,000/-Plan Rs. 5,00,000/-(N.P.)	Rs. 50,686/-Plan Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Group of temples, Khajuraho (1986)	Rs. 55,00,000/-Plan Rs. 5,00,000/- (N.P.)	Rs. 39,20,926/-Plan Nil (N.P.)	Rs. 9,20,000/-Plan Rs. 5,50,000/- (N.P.)	Rs. 1,82,400/-Plan Nil
9.	Group of monuments at Hampi (1986)	Rs. 1,80,00,000/-Plan Rs. 65,75,000/-N.P.	Rs. 56,05,000/-Plan	Rs. 50,000/-Plan	Nil
10.	Group of monuments, Fatehpur Sikri (1986)	Rs. 40,80,000/-Plan Rs. 17,00,000/-N.P.	Rs. 19,82,357/-Plan Rs. 13,77,574/-N.P.	Rs. 6,50,000/-Plan Rs. 5,00,000/- (N.P.)	Rs. 4,87,886/-Plan Rs. 2,73,781/- (N.P.)
11.	Group of temples, Pattadakal (1987)	Rs. 17,17,000/-Plan Rs. 15,00,000/- (N.P.)	Rs. 1,24,000/-Plan Nil (N.P.)	Nil	Nil
12.	Elephanta Caves (1987)	Rs. 14,00,000/-Plan Rs. 10,00,000/-N.P.	Rs. Nil Plan Rs. Nil (N.P.)	Rs. 60,000/-Plan Rs. 5,00,000/- (N.P.)	Rs. 11,097/-Plan Rs. 72,221/- (N.P.)
13.	Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004)	Rs. 15,00,000/-Plan Rs. 17,40,000/-N.P.	Rs. 12,87,020/-Plan Rs. 9,59,052/-N.P.	Rs. 3,00,000/-Plan Rs. 3,00,000/- (N.P.)	Rs. 4,33,240/-Plan Nil
14.	Buddhist monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Rs. 5,0000/-	Nil	Rs. 1,20,000/-Plan	Nil
15.	Humayan Tomb, Delhi (1993)	Rs. 13,90,000/-Plan Rs. 22,83,400/-N.P.	Rs. 6,99,174/-Plan Rs. 6,33,997/-N.P.	Nil	Nil
16.	Qutab Minar Complex, Delhi (1993)	Rs. 5,00,000/-Plan Rs. 54,29,400/-N.P.	Rs. 40,520/-Plan Rs. 17,77,319/-N.P.	Rs. 1,50,000/-Plan	Nil
17.	Prehistoric Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Nil	Nil	Rs. 1,20,000/-Plan	Nil
18.	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)	Rs. 67,00,000/-Plan	Rs. 39,61,977/-Plan	Rs. 10,25,000/-Plan	Rs. 6,89,876/-Plan
19.	Red Fort Complex, Delhi (2007)	Rs. 80,00,000/-Plan Rs. 1,75,13040/-N.P.	Rs. 90,36,250/-Plan Rs. 1,13,27,907 N.P.	Rs. 2,00,000/- (N.P.)	Rs. 2,48,726/- (N.P.)

Reduction of Tax on Petroleum Products

3073. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to reduce tax rates on petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has made the following reduction in the taxes/duties with effect from 5.6.2008:

- (i) Customs Duty on crude oil from 5% to Nil.
- (ii) Customs Duty on Petrol and Diesel from 7.5% to 2.5%.
- (iii) Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol and unbranded Diesel by Re. 1/- per litre.

The Central Sales Tax on inter-state sale or purchase of goods stands reduced to 2% with effect from 1.6.2008.

Ministry of Finance has informed that at present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce Excise Duty rates on Petroleum products.

Sales Tax is a State subject and any decision regarding reduction of Sales Tax has to be taken by the concerned State Governments.

Committee on BHEL

3074. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy electrical Limited (BHEL) has set up any Committee to examine and recommend the best possible practice to be adopted by the company for their business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) No specific committee has been set up in BHEL to examine and recommend the best possible practice to be adopted by the company for its business. However, as an ongoing business entity, the company strives to introduce best practice based on the internal needs of the organization and business environment in which it operates.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Incidents of Aircraft Collision

3075. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether of late many incidents of collisions involving aircraft were averted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No incident has of late been reported in which there was a risk of collision.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements making installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) mandatory on aeroplanes. Mono-pulse Secondary Surveillance radars have been installed at major airports in the country to provide altitude information to the Air Traffic Controllers. Air Traffic Management service is also modernised to include air traffic conflict warning in the system. Further, based on the investigations carried out on all reported air proximity incidents, additional measures are also taken whenever necessary.

Acquisition of Land for Railway Projects

3076. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways carry out the proposed projects of various kinds before actually making the payment of compensation to land owners whose land was acquired;

(b) if so, whether this system has led to many complications like hampering of ongoing works on account of the land owners protests;

(c) whether the same problems cropped up with regard to the doubling works in Hubli Division, S.W.R. Karnataka and as well as near Bellary in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The land is normally acquired by the State Governments and handed over to the Railways after following due process of acquisition. Railways make the payment to the State Governments as per their demand and compensation is paid to the land owners by the State Governments directly. There are instances of railways carrying out project works before actual payment to the land owners by the State

Government authorities as it may take time to settle the compensation cases.

(b) There have been cases where there were protests from the land owners over inadequate compensation leading to disruption of ongoing works.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There have been few cases of land owners insisting on compensation and starting works thereafter.

In Hubli-Hebsur doubling, the preliminary work is such as soil investigation was started in May, 2008. But land owners protested at site and so the works were taken up in hand only after the land was handed over to Railways on 01.08.08. However, compensation is yet to be paid to land owners as State Revenue Authorities have not finalized the compensation award. Similarly in Daddi Kamalpur and Rampur villages, adjoining Dharwad-Kambarganvi doubling project, there were protests by the land owners and on counseling by Railway authorities, issues were resolved.

(e) Regular meeting with State authorities are held at appropriate level to sort out pending cases of land acquisition including compensation due to the land owners.

Delay of Indian Airlines Flights

3077. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days in the last three months the Indian Airlines flights IC-263 and IC-264 from Delhi to Kolkata and Kolkata to Delhi were on scheduled time;

(b) whether the flights remain delayed for about 15 days in a month;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to avert such delays; and

(d) the action taken against the authorities responsible for this delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the period between 1.9.2008 and 30.11.2008, flight No. IC 263 was delayed 3 times out of 91 take-offs and No. IC 264 was delayed 8 times out of 89 take-offs, registering on-time performance of 96.7% and 91.01% respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Production Capacity of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

3078. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has sanctioned work at an estimated cost of Rs. 86 crore for expanding the installed production capacity of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of electric locomotives likely to be produced in 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, there is a work sanctioned in 2007-08 at an estimated cost of Rs. 66 crore for expanding the production capacity of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) to 200 locomotives per year.

(b) and (c) CLW has been set a target of 220 electric locomotives to be produced in 2008-09.

Surat-Hazira Railway Line

3079. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINGH SOLANKI:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the budgetary provision for the year 2008-09 for the development of Surat-Hazira railway line under construction;

(b) the progress so far made by the Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL);

(c) the equity participation of different stakeholders/ companies for the project; and

(d) the time by which the work is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The project is under development stage and is yet to be processed for sanction. Therefore, no budgetary provisions are made for the year 2008-09.

(b) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, in the last four years, has surveyed four alignments for the project for providing connectivity to the proposed port at Hazira. However, none of these alignments could be cleared by Government of Gujarat for one or other reason. However, recently Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB), vide their letter dated 26.11.2008 have selected an alignment between 200-500 metres line of Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) which is agreeable to the Government of Gujarat and necessary environmental clearances shall be obtained for the same.

(c) The equity participation of different stake holders shall be decided only after the project cost is framed up.

(d) The completion of the project will be planned after the project design is finalized and necessary approvals are obtained.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Ballia-Howrah Express

3080. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to provide stoppage of Ballia-Howrah Express at Madhupur Railway Station in view of demand by the local railway passengers; and

(b) if so, the initiatives taken by the Railways so far in this regard and the time by which the demand is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Stoppage of 3105/3106 Sealdah-Ballia Express is being provided at Madhupur from 01.01.2009 on an experimental basis for six months.

[English]

Funds for Preservation of Monuments

3081. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed by the Government to declare a monument as centrally protected;

(b) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has any comprehensive plan to maintain, protect and preserve the historical monuments in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned by the Government for the proper preservation of centrally protected monuments in various States during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Under Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains which are of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which have been in existence for not less than 100 years can be declared as monuments of national importance.

(b) and (c) Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process and yearly conservation programmes for structural repairs, chemical preservation and horticulture operations are drawn up based on the priorities and depending upon the resources available.

The number of works approved during the current financial year (2008-09) are as under:

Structural Conservation-1591

Chemical Preservation-167

Horticulture Operations-335

(d) The details of the total amount spent during the last three years and the provision for the current financial year for conservation, preservation and environmental development of centrally protected monuments in various States are as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	2005-06	10195.00
2.	2006-07	10816.89
3.	2007-08	12886.19
4.	2008-09	12945.00 (Allotment) 8036.55 (Spent till Nov. 2008)

Transfer of Oil Wells to Multinational and Private Companies

3082. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to sell/transfer oil well blocks/old oil fields discovered by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and other PSUs to multinational companies and other private companies for application of improved/enhanced oil recovery techniques;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these private companies and multinational companies are not bearing the cost of oil and gas exploration incurred by ONGC and other public sector undertakings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[*Translation*]

Railway Land on Lease

3083. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have leased the Railway land to railway employees for framing purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the zone-wise details works undertaken in this direction during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the rate of which the said land was leased;

(e) the reasons for leasing out the Railway land to railway employees only; and

(f) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Railways have no such policy to allot Railway land on lease basis to Railway employees for farming purposes. However, there is a policy of licensing of railway land, not required for Railway's own use in the immediate future, to Railway employees belonging to Group 'C' and 'D' in identified urban areas for cultivation under Grow More Food Scheme to prevent encroachment of its valuable land.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Development of Rural Retail Outlets by IOC

3084. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) proposes to develop rural retail in a big way by modernizing/expanding domestic oil market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to develop this sector in Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand to improve the economy of these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that the Corporation is developing its rural network as Kisan Seva Kendras (KSKs) in the domestic rural market. As on 1.12.2008, IOC has 2358 KSKs all over the country. KSKs are set up as fuel stations and IOC provides basic equipments such as Dispensing Units, Tanks, etc. so that the fuel needs of the rural customer is met.

In addition to this, IOC has also entered into strategic alliances for providing non-fuel needs of these rural customers such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, items of daily needs insurance, etc. KSKs impact the local economy by way of creating conveniences and savings for the local customers and by generating opportunity for entrepreneurship for the local dealers, who in turn give employment to local people at the KSK.

(c) Expansion of retail outlets network in the country, including the State of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (inclusive of Eastern UP) and Jharkhand are made on the basis of

feasibility studies of identified locations by oil marketing companies, viz, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) which are then included in the State Retail Marketing Plans of the respective OMCs.

Hike in the Prices of Natural Gas

3085. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the price of natural gas in near future produced by Oil and Natural Corporation and Oil India Ltd;

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

(c) the formula/criteria adopted to fix the price of natural gas;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the expected profit to be earned by these two oil companies due to this price hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) The price of natural gas produced by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Oil India Ltd. was last revised w.e.f. 1.7.2005. The consumer price of APM gas was fixed at Rs. 3200/mscm (thousand standard cubic metres) on an ad hoc basis till the Tariff Commission submits its recommendations and a decision is taken thereon. It was decided to refer the issue of producer price of ONGC and OIL to Tariff Commission. The recommendations of Tariff Commission on fixation of price of natural gas are under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Adams Bridge as a Tourist Spot

3086. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of visitors to Adams Bridge has risen all of sudden;

(b) if so, whether it also includes foreign tourists;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to develop it as a tourist site;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial assistance provided by the Government during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Statistics regarding domestic and foreign tourist visits to Adams Bridge are not available.

(c) to (e) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to States/UTs for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority. During the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto September), amounts of Rs. 4264.62 lakh, Rs. 1866.41 lakh, Rs. 2831.80 lakh and Rs. 1374.50 lakh respectively have been sanctioned for development of tourism in Tamil Nadu including Rameswaram.

[English]

Use of Domestic LPG as Automobile Fuel

3087. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to restrict the use of domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as automobile fuel;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to make the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) conversion kits for automobiles readily available in the market at cheaper cost than LPG conversion kits; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Government has not given approval for use of subsidized domestic LPG in vehicles. However, Government have permitted the sale of auto-LPG for vehicles vide Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicle) Order, 2001. As per the Control Order, only imported or import-substituted auto LPG can be used in vehicles.

The possibility of diversion of subsidized domestic LPG can not be ruled out due to the huge difference in the price of subsidized and non-subsidized LPG.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for non-domestic purposes:

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

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

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

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. OMCs have reported that presently the market price of LPG conversion kits for

automobiles are much lower than the price of CNG conversion kits.

Saving of Susceptible Railway Stations from River Erosion

3088. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken any steps to save susceptible railway stations from river erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken from the Samudragarh and Kalinagar railway stations, in West Bengal which is situated only 30 mts away from river Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Preventive measures including raising of river course embankment, boulder pitching of railway embankment and other protective measures are carried out by Railway in Railway lands. Concerned State Governments are also apprised & approached for needful at their ends from time to time.

Railways maintain emergency stock of materials like boulders, sand, gunny bags, wire net Trungers, etc. kept in sufficient quantity to check water erosion during floods.

(c) Railway has sanctioned protection works costing Rs. 3.26 crores in consultation with Irrigation Department of West Bengal Government. Work in this regard has been taken up. In addition, State Government of West Bengal has also been approached to carry out the required protective works falling within their jurisdiction.

Investment in Power Plants by ONGC

3089. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to set up a number of power plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the objectives and risks involved to invest huge sums of money in such a new business for ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to monetize its idle Gas assets in the landlocked State of Tripura, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has planned to set up a combined cycle gas turbine based power project having a capacity 726.6 Mega Watt (MW) in Tripura through a joint venture company with 50% equity stake in the project to minimize its exposure and risk to the power business. In order to give boost to harnessing of the alternate energy sources in the country ONGC has set up a 51 MW wind turbine based power project in Gujarat.

Closure of Public Sector Enterprises

3090. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of some of the Public Sector Enterprises like BOGL, RIC, FCIL, HFCL and others which were closed down have not got their dues even after orders of High Court to the official liquidator;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to help the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) to (c) As per available information, there are no outstanding dues in respect of wages and salaries in Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited (RIC). As regard Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL), funds amounting to Rs. 199.15 lakh as per the directions of the Calcutta High Court have been released on 15.09.2008 to the Official Liquidator for disbursement to the ex-employees on account of their dues of Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS), Salary and Wages and Statutory dues.

For Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL), the official liquidator has not been appointed since Delhi High Court has not passed closure orders for FCIL. The 49 employees continuing on roll (apart from those released on VSS and whose dues are paid already) are getting their monthly salary regularly.

For Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), the unit is presently under the purview of BIFR (and not the High Court) and hence, it has got no order from the liquidator of the Court for payment of salaries, etc. The 36 employees continuing on roll (apart from those released on VSS and whose dues are paid already) are getting their monthly salary regularly.

Minorities in Government Service

3091. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of steps taken by the Government the minorities share in the government jobs has increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is maintaining any data in regard to appointment of minorities including Muslims in the Government jobs;

(d) if so, the details for the last three years and the current year, Ministry-wise;

(e) whether some State Governments/Central Ministries/departments are not following guidelines issued by Union Government for recruitment of minorities in the Government jobs; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that minorities get their share in the Government jobs?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (f) Consequent upon announcement of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities in June, 2006, the Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) issued revised guidelines in January, 2007 to all Central Ministries/Departments for giving special consideration to minorities for recruitment in government service. The data furnished indicates an increasing trend in the recruitment of minorities in the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government. Details of recruitment of minorities, including Muslims, in government jobs in Central Ministries, during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in enclosed Statement. Data for 2008-09 is not due.

Statement

Sl.No.	Ministry/Deptt.	Total No. of Persons employed during 2006-07	Minority persons employed during 2006-07	Total No. of Persons employed during 2007-08	Minority persons employed during 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Parliament Affairs	—	—	—	—
2.	M/o Housing Urban Poverty Alleviation	63	16	12	1
3.	M/o Women & Child Dev.	1	—	—	—
4.	D/o Disinvestment	11	2	—	—
5.	M/o Power	351	22	469	17
6.	M/o Rural Dev.	161	6	81	5
7.	M/o Panchayati Raj	—	6	12	4
8.	D/o Expenditure	4	1	10	—
9.	Interstate Council Sett.	—	—	—	—
10.	D/o Posts	5077	386	4578	302
11.	M/o Steel	—	—	—	—
12.	D/o Heavy Industry	186	—	—	—
13.	MHA (Paramilitary Forces)	28450	2700	49606	4905
14.	D/o Financial Services (Banks, FIs, RBI)	7079	539	15838	1615
15.	D/o Scientific & Industrial Research	7	—	510	31
16.	D/o Commerce	85	15	178	18
17.	M/o Overseas Affairs	—	—	10	—
18.	D/o Defence Production	6706	302	1304	151
19.	D/o Economic Affairs	181	—	101	15
20.	D/o Information & Technology	450	33	363	119
21.	M/o Railways	54484	1456	36353	2295
22.	D/o Atomic Energy	16139	1116	3534	287
23.	M/o Coal	41	—	5	1
24.	D/o Science & Technology	77	6	43	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	M/o Statistics & Prog. Implementation	—	—	59	15
26.	D/o Agriculture & Cooperation	100	45	140	19
27.	M/o Water Resources	227	14	140	13
28.	D/o Bio-Technology	38	2	41	1
29.	D/o Consumer Affairs	82	2	40	2
30.	Legislative Department	3	—	4	1
31.	D/o Agricultural Research & Education	—	—	80	45
32.	M/o Urban Development	410	265	831	32
33.	Central Public Sector Enterprises	12232	1453		
34.	D/o Space	498	73	628	102
35.	M/o Civil Aviation	—	—	10	—
36.	D/o Fertilizer	2	1		
37.	M/o New & Renewable Energy	1	—	9	—
38.	M/o Mines	—	—	58	1
39.	M/o Women & Child Development	—	—	5	1
40.	M/o Tribal Affairs	—	—	4	—
41.	M/o Health & FW	52	7	71	5
42.	M/o Earth Sciences	3	1	77	13
43.	M/o Youth Affairs & Sports (attached Offices)	21	1	30	—
44.	M/o Defence	2891	159	3354	298
45.	M/o Corporate Affairs	83	4		
46.	D/o Telecommunications	57	2	117	3
47.	D/o. Industrial Polity & Promotion	—	—	263	8
48.	D/o Chemical & Fertilizers	—	—	3	—
49.	D/o Legal Affairs	—	—	26	3
50.	Cabinet Secretariat	—	—	125	9
51.	D/o Higher Education (excluding some subordinate offices)	1770	239	112	3
				(9 Org only)	
52.	D/o Road Transport & Highways	174	56	192	11
53.	D/o Ayush	102	33	76	15

1	2	3	4	5	6
54.	M/o Food Processing Industries	—	—	—	—
55.	Defence Research & Development Organization	462	28	739	33
56.	M/o Textile (Attached Office only)	217	25	—	—
57.	D/o Chemicals & Petro Chemicals	6	1	—	—
58.	D/o Official Language (attached Offices)	15	1	—	—
59.	M/o Labour & Employment	2921	103	—	—
60.	D/o Financial Services (Public Sector Insurance Companies)	3055	163	—	—
61.	M/o Personnel PG and Pension	42	12	—	—
62.	M/o Micro Small & Medium Enterprises	447	62	—	—
63.	D/o Revenue	166	4	—	—
64.	CGDA	257	23	—	—
65.	M/o Social Justice & Emp.	323	15	—	—
66.	M/o Home Affairs (attached offices)	28482	2705	—	—
67.	M/o Environment & Forest	750	12	—	—
68.	ICAR	307	30	—	—
69.	D/o Drinking Water Supply	5	—	—	—
70.	M/o Minority Affairs	39	10	—	—
Grand Total		175793	12157 (6.92%)	120245	10402 (8.65%)

*[Translation]***National Commission for Scheduled Castes**

3092. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of members lying vacant in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes as on date;

(b) the time from which such posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons for delay in filling up of the said posts; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the said posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No vacancy of Members exists in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Reduction in Prices of ATF

3093. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) have been reduced substantially during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details of the reduction in prices of ATF effected from August 2008 to November 20, 2008;

(c) the percentage of operational cost of flights reduced due to this price cut;

(d) whether its benefit has also been passed on the passengers/customers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. with the decrease in crude price, the price of ATF has decreased over few months. The details of the reduction in prices of ATF effected from August 2008 to November, 2008 in four metro cities are as under:-

	Chennai (Rs. K/L)	Mumbai (Rs. K/L)	Delhi (Rs. K/L)	Kolkata (Rs. K/L)
August, 2008	77861.17	73673.55	71028.26	80763.48
Sep. 2008	64209.44	60584.80	58450.07	67755.90
Oct., 2008	62050.59	58479.36	56447.80	65677.53
Nov. 08				
1st-3rd	51893.75	45656.59	47017.93	55828.33
4th-15th	49673.63	46518.85	44695.70	53663.53
16th-30th	43641.64	40687.41	39380.52	47805.04

(c) The percentage of operational cost of the flight can not be assessed at this stage.

(d) and (e) Air fares are not being regulated by the Government. Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces. Now, with decreasing prices of ATF the Airlines have started reducing fares. However, Airlines are also affected by the global financial downturn of the economy.

[English]

Closure of Retail Outlets by ONGC

3094. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has decided to wind up its retail outlets for petroleum products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the losses which the public undertaking is likely to suffer alongwith its subsidiary Mangalore Refinery and

Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL) due to closure of retail business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Consequent to the grant to authorization to market transportation fuels in terms of the Government Resolution of 8th March 2002, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) have commissioned one retail outlet each at Mangalore and maddur (Bangalore-Mysore State Highway) respectively. ONGC and MRPL have also reported that they have not closed their retail outlets.

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

[Translation]

Third Railway Track Between Ahmedabad and Mumbai

3095. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to lay the third railway track between Surat-Ahmedabad-Bhusawal-Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be started;

(d) whether any survey have been conducted for laying a third track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, work of 3rd line from Surat-Kosamba (35 km) was included in the Railway Budget 2000-01, but has not been taken up due to low operational priority.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) An Updating survey for construction of third line between Virar and Ahmedabad was completed during 2004-05. As per the survey report, cost of construction of 504 km was assessed as Rs. 1851 crore with Rate of Return of 3.57%. The capacity on this route is being augmented by adopting Automatic Signalling. The construction of Dedicated Freight Corridor on the Western route will also provide additional capacity on this route.

[English]

Running of Freight Trains with Enhanced Loading

3096. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have fully completed the first phase of running freight trains with enhanced loading;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost and earnings from the pilot projects of enhanced loading which were started in the year 2005;

(d) whether the Railways' decision to go further in higher axle load regime will attract heavier investment in the upgradation of track structure as well as in procuring rolling stock;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any unit cost comparable with other modes of transport been done; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The running of freight trains with enhanced loading is a continuous exercise, for which routes have been cleared in various phases taking into account the track structure and other safety and operational parameters.

(c) The costs and earnings in a transportation organization like the Railways are attributable to many factors. It is therefore very difficult to indicate separately the net effect on costs and earnings only from one of the measures of enhanced load running.

(d) and (e) Investments for higher axle load running is again a continuing long term process and it is not possible to exactly quantify the same at this stage.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of Additional Fertilizers

3097. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Ministry of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to provide the additional fertilizers especially Di-Ammonium Phosphate to some of the States on their demand;

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

(c) whether some other State Governments have also demanded additional fertilizers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at state level. State governments are responsible for its distribution within the state.

All other fertilizers like DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK

etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The monthly supply plans for decontrolled fertilizers are drawn by manufacturers/importers of these fertilizers in consultation with the State Government. Therefore, the availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. The state-wise cumulative requirement, availability and sales of DAP during the period April, 08 to November, 08 pertaining to the current year 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Cumulative Availability of Fertilisers during 2008-09 (April to November, 2008)

2008-09

State	DAP		
	Requirement	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	621.00	881.90	880.60
Karnataka	540.00	578.07	577.61
Kerala	25.30	19.34	19.29
Tamil Nadu	315.46	326.24	325.18
Gujarat	569.00	713.85	712.80
Madhya Pradesh	780.64	762.85	760.98
Chhattisgarh	157.00	157.76	157.74
Maharashtra	630.00	707.68	706.13
Rajasthan	505.00	543.37	543.07
Haryana	550.00	627.77	627.15
Punjab	710.00	757.67	756.39
Jammu and Kashmir	52.29	37.66	37.62
Uttar Pradesh	1150.00	1276.39	1274.13
Uttarakhand	24.00	22.48	22.48
Bihar	340.00	321.85	321.48
Jharkhand	83.00	72.98	72.92
Orissa	132.50	156.21	15.03

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	297.80	293.00	292.76
Assam	67.90	8.77	6.99
All India	7576.66	8274.84	8260.32

[English]

Setting up of Pharmaceutical Units in Koraput District, Orissa

3098. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up pharmaceutical units in the undivided Koraput district in Orissa;

(b) if so, the places identified for the setting up of such units; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present, Orissa Drugs and Chemicals Limited, Bhubaneswar is functioning in Orissa.

Gauge Conversion Work of Rangia-Murkangselek Section

3099. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sectoral progress made and target set to complete the gauge conversion work of Rangia-Murkangselek section of North-Frontier (NF) Railway Zone indicating annual allocation and targeted achievement during the current financial year;

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay in execution of this sanctioned work;

(c) the total outlay, annual allocation and commission schedule during 11th Plan period;

(d) whether breached portion of this track has been restored completely;

(e) whether the Railways have finalized the extension of Dangori-Saikhowa 5.68 KM of NF Railway zone within the current financial year, as surveyed earlier; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Rangiya-Rangpara section of Rangia-Murkongselek project is planned for completion by March 2010 and balance by March 2012.

The earthwork and bridge works between Rangiya-Rangapara have been taken up. The tender for balance portion is under process. Allocation from Railways Gross Budgetary Support during 2008-09 is Rs. 75.00 crores.

(b) The work is being executed as per availability of resources. This project was declared as National Project in December, 2006.

(c) The latest anticipated cost of project is Rs. 915.70 crore. The yearly outlays will get finalized at the time of budget as per availability of resources. The schedule of completion is indicated in reply to part (a) above.

(d) Yes, Sir. The four bridges involved have been restored with temporary service girders.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, survey for construction of new BG line from Dangri Dhola (5.683 Km) has been completed.

[Translation]

Investment in Research and Development in Steel Sector

3100. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investment/expenditure on steel related research and development works by various

public and private sector enterprises alongwith the outcome thereof;

(b) the present status of ongoing research and development projects in public and private sectors;

(c) the names of such projects which are under consideration;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the investment on research and development in order to manufacture world class quality of steel;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total investment proposed to be made in public and private steel manufacturing units during the current year and the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) Research & Development (R&D) in steel sector in India is pursued mainly at the in-house R&D centres of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) and Tata Steel Ltd. (TSL). Details of expenditure on R&D in these companies during last 3 years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	R&D Expenditure		
	SAIL	RINL	TSL
2005-06	63.48	10.46	25.00
2006-07	76.85	11.68	33.25
2007-08	101.86	17.93	34.85

In other steel plants, new R&D laboratories are being set up or the existing facilities are being augmented.

As per the available information, major achievements in R&D in SAIL, RINL and Tata Steel Ltd. during last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The above mentioned companies have taken up a large number of R&D projects which primarily focus on following areas:

- (i) Productivity improvements
- (ii) Energy conservation

(iii) Beneficiation of raw material

(iv) Product development

(v) Quality improvement

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government has made a budgetary allocation of Rs. 118 crore during 11th Five Year Plan period for the first time for promoting R&D activities which inter-alia includes quality upgradation also.

(f) As per available information, total investment incurred/proposed by the above mentioned companies during the current financial year is as under:

SAIL: Rs. 69.11 crores (April-Sept; 08)

RINL: Rs. 14.20 crores (April-Nov; 08)

TSL: Rs. 35.00 crores

Future investment in public and private sector steel units during the next 3 years will depend on the projects and product development activities to be taken up in subsequent years.

Statement

Major achievements in R&D in steel sector during last three years

A. Steel Authority of India Ltd.

Technology Development

- On-line control of coking process in coke oven batteries resulting in reduction of energy consumption by 5% and improvement in coke strength by 0.5 points.
- Curtain flame ignition system in sinter machines resulting in curtailment of specific gas consumption by 30% increase in productivity by 10% and ensured consistency in sinter quality through uniform heating ($\pm 10^{\circ}\text{C}$) across the width of the sinter machine.
- Automated secondary cooling system in continuous caster resulting in elimination of reheating crack in medium carbon, high carbon and SUP 11A grades of cast billet.
- Development of round ingot technology for production of wheels resulting in increase in yield from 70 to 90% at ingot to block stage and improvement in quality of wheels.

New Product Development

- Medium carbon (MC 11, MC 12) hot rolled coils for cold reducing and engineering fabrication segment
- Titanium bearing LPG grade steel for auto cylinders
- High strength LPG steel equivalent to EN 10120 P265 NB and JISG 3116 SG 255/ 295 for export quality cylinders.
- SAIL HITEN 690 AR grade plates for ATM chests and earth movers
- SAIL MA 550 HI plates for pen stocks for hydel power plants.
- Spade grade armour plates for main battle tank and bullet proof railway wagon.
- Target grade armour plates for testing indgenously made ammunition for war applications.
- High strength roof bolt grade thermo mechanically treated (TMT) rebars for underground mining
- Earthquake resistant (EQR) TMT rebars in Fe 500 grade for safety of RCC structures in earthquake prone areas. High SUP 11A grade spring steel billets for manufacture of leaf and helical springs for commercial vehicles.
- High Corrosion resistant (HCR) variety of EQR TMT rebars have been developed
- DMR 249 Gr A plates/HR coils for naval warship applications
- High strength vanadium micro-alloyed rails in tracks to be used for goods movement with higher axle load and at high speed. The rails will be used in the 'freight corridor' being developed by Indian Railways.

B. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.

- Establishment of a technical viable route for production of process water from sea water
- Replacement of coke breeze with anthracite coal in small controlled percentage for sintering of iron ore
- Briquetting of SMS GCP sludge for charging into the converter for better waste utilization

- Usage of non-coking coal in coal blend for coke making to reduce imported coking coal
- Utilization of fly ash in pilot coke oven shed floor
- Recycling of solid metallurgical waste

C. Tata Steel Ltd.

- Development of a new chemical compound to enhance the efficiency of beneficiation of coal resulting in substantial increase in yield at the same ash level.
- Beneficiation of Lean Grade iron ore to increase iron value and to reduce alumina content.
- Pilot plant study to produce hydrogen gas using access heat and waste water of the steel plant.
- Development of advanced coatings on steel eliminating the use of chromium passivation and reducing the use of zinc.
- Development of new technology for reduction of hexavalent chromium in chromium ore concentrate using significantly less electrical energy.
- Development of new high strength (800 MPA) Hot Rolled steel with high formability (greater than 20% elongation).

Training to Customer Care Officers

3101. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have given any contract/ work to some private company to impart training to customer care officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of progress of work in this regard; and

(c) the details of the work proposed to be undertaken in future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The contract for imparting 05 days' customer care training to the frontline staff of Indian Railways has been awarded through tender process to a private company for a period of 03 years.

The training has commenced from 13.10.2008. The training aims at improving the inter-personal skills of the frontline staff and to equip them for handling the rail users in a courteous manner.

[English]

Educational Aid for Cultural Education

3102. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any educational aids have been evolved to impart cultural education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inputs from other countries have been utilized for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any incentives are given to teachers for their contributions to promotion of Indian culture; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), an autonomous organization under the Ministry, has been providing educational aids in the form of publications, colour slides, pre-recorded audio cassettes and video CDs on various aspects of Indian art and culture, like Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Performing Arts and Classical Dances.

(c) and (d) CCRT, being the National co-agency for the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for Unesco, Tokyo, Japan, utilizes the inputs received from them in its training programmes.

(e) Every year, ten teachers are given Teachers' Awards by CCRT, consisting of a plaque, an angavastam, a certificate and cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-

(f) Does not arise.

English Language Mandatory for Career in Flying

3103. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to make English Language mandatory for career in flying;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the persons with valid licenses before the cut off date would be exempted from this proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) English has already been made mandatory in flying since very beginning of aviation in India as all the written/oral examinations, Interviews etc. concerned with flying are conducted in English. The standard International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) phraseologies in aviation are used in English Language. All the pilots and Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) are already using standard phraseology in English Language.

DGCA has issued Aeronautical Information Circular (A/C) 3/2008 dated 5th March 2008 which provides that all aircraft personnel i.e. holders of pilot's licence, flight engineer's licence, flight navigator's licence (except student pilot's licence and pilot's licence for gliders, balloons and microlight aircraft), air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators shall have their English Language proficiency evaluated to the ICAO language proficiency standards within a period of three years from 5th March, 2008.

However, all the existing aircraft personnel i.e. holders of pilot's licence, flight engineer's licence, flight navigator's licence, air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators, as on 5th March, 2008 shall be deemed to have the ability to speak and understand English Language to the required ICAO language proficiency Level 4 (operational).

The licences granted after 5th March, 2008 shall be considered to have the required ICAO language proficiency Level 4 (operational) till such time that the licences are issued on the basis of an evaluation conducted for assessing the applicant's language proficiency. The licences so granted shall be subject to the condition that the language proficiency of the licence holder is evaluated within a period of three years but in no case later than 5th March, 2011.

Places Connected with Shri Ram in Sri Lanka

3104. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that places connected with Shri Ram, Sita, Ravan and Hanumanji have been found in Sri Lanka during the exploration being carried out by the Government of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details of the results of exploration made in the current year;

(c) whether the Government is considering to extend co-operation in the exploration of the places connected with Shri Ram, Sita, and Hanumanji;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Culture has no information regarding such archaeological explorations by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Joint Panel Between India and Foreign Countries

3105. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any joint panel between India and other foreign countries has been formed for the cooperation in the food processing sector;

(b) if so, whether the technology for agro products to be included under the food processing would also be transferred; and

(c) the food items which would be covered under the food processing sector between India and these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) There is a Joint Working Group on food processing between India and Italy. The last meeting of the Joint Working Group on food processing was held in Parma, Italy on 7th November, 2006, which

discussed the perspectives of cooperation in the field of food processing, possible joint ventures/technological transfer in the field of wine, vegetables, including tomato sauce, fruit juice, marine products, poultry and fruits, Mozzarella cheese and Alovera.

Complaints Against Car Manufacturing Companies

3106. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the complaints that car manufacturing companies including those in the public sector have stopped making vehicles for the physically challenged;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the physically challenged people without having suitable vehicles;

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

(d) whether the Government has issued any suitable directions to car manufacturers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the problems of the handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) The association of automobile manufacturers, SIAM has informed that the Indian manufacturers who were earlier providing vehicles with automatic transmission for physically challenged persons had to discontinue the same since the demand for such vehicles is rare and making them available "off the shelf" is not economically viable. However, SIAM has also informed that the Indian automobile industry is committed to manufacture such vehicles on specific order to suit the disability of person. It may be mentioned that subsequent to the disinvestment of Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL), there are no car manufacturing companies in the Public Sector.

(c) to (e) The Government has been advising the car manufacturers to consider manufacturing at least one or two models of their cars suitable to be driven by the physically challenged persons. The Government of India is also providing excise duty concession on vehicles meant for physically challenged people.

Rail Tourist Facilitation Centres

3107. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has introduced new Rail Tourist Facilitation Centres; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith its functions thereof?

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

(b) The Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. has set up 8 Tourist Facilitation Centres—one each in Mumbai CSTM, Secunderabad, Siliguri, Gaya, Chennai Central, Bangalore City and Ernakulam Jn. Railway Stations and one at Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan I, Tolstoy Marg, Janpath, New Delhi. The Tourist Facilitation Centres facilitate the tourists by providing information about various tourism products and services and arrange booking for the same.

[Translation]

General Industry Marketing Scheme

3108. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the General Industry Marketing Scheme for setting up Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) distributorship in rural and urban areas has not been finalised;

(b) if so, the reasons for unnecessary delay in this regard;

(c) the number of locations where the said scheme has been implemented;

(d) the names of locations where the scheme has not been implemented alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining independent distributorships. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. As on 01.11.2008, OMCs were operating 9378 LPG distributorships in the country. Through these distributorships, OMCs are serving about 1036.9 lakh LPG customers in the country. OMCs have also finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 1340 locations in the country for setting up of LPG distributorships, mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisements for all the locations in the country have been released and selection for the same is in progress as per policy.

The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances etc.

[English]

**Upgradation of Railway Station
by Private Sectors**

3109. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average handling capacity of old model stations regarding trains, passengers and goods traffic;

(b) the steps taken to upgrade the railway stations equipping these with modern facilities and amenities for passengers and revenue earning goods traffic;

(c) whether the Railways propose to invite and encourage private sector including foreign investors in a big way by offering them attractive terms and packages for upgradation of major and other important railway stations within a limited timeframe; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The concept of

Model Stations was initiated in 1999, when 61 important stations, almost one on each Division was selected as a Model Station for provision of higher level of passenger amenities. It was not on the basis of handling capacity of station in terms of trains, passengers or goods traffic.

Indian Railways during the 80's made a major shift in their system of working by moving from "wagon load" concept to "rake load" concept. This necessitated augmenting goods-shed infrastructure which was primarily designed and built for wagon load, to full rake capacity. This is an on-going process on the Railways. In cases where there are constraints, alternative sites are being explored for new goods-sheds. Meanwhile Railways have undertaken a major exercise to upgrade goods-sheds. This upgradation will involve, apart from augmenting capacity, Improvement to circulating area, approach road, lighting for round-the-clock working, drainage, amenities for labour and traders. Freight Operating Information System (FOIS) and telecommunication facilities shall also be provided at these locations. To begin with, 50 goods-sheds will be taken up for upgradation.

For the purpose of upgradation of amenities at identified stations under model station scheme, stations are provided with higher level of amenities called "Desirable Amenities" based on the category of the station. Model stations identified during 1999 have already been developed as model stations. Further, 26 stations have been earmarked for development as World Class stations with state-of-art station building with good architectural appearance, modern amenities like food plazas, currency exchange counter, tourist info booth, retail outlets, internet cafe, Automatic Teller Machine facilities, hotels, car rentals, etc.

(c) and (d) Development of identified stations into World Class Stations is based on public-private-partnership model by leveraging the real-estate potential of the land around and air-space above the station.

South West Coastal Zone

3110. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala and others have requested for a South West Coastal Zone (Peninsular Zone) with headquarters in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from various VIPs for setting up a zonal office in Kerala. The proposal has been examined and not found feasible in the light of the criteria fixed for the purpose by Railway Reforms Committee and Advisors' Committee.

(c) New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency without any regional considerations. The proposal to set up a south west coastal zone (Peninsular Zone) with headquarters in Kerala, when seen in the light of the above criterion, has not been found feasible.

[Translation]

Railway Travel Agents

3111. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/criteria for appointment of Railway Travel Agents;

(b) the number of agents whose appointment have been cancelled due to non-compliance of the rules;

(c) whether incidents of biased approach have been noticed in the appointment of the said agents;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) are appointed as per provisions of Authorization of Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RATSAs) Rules, 1985.

(b) During the year 2008-09 (till November) licenses of 4 RTSAs have been cancelled for not following provisions of RTSA Rules, 1985.

(c) No such incidence has been reported in recent past.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Fire in Azadi Express

3112. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Azadi Express caught fire in the recent past while in a stationary position;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the valuable documents lost in the incident;

(d) whether the Railways have made nay investigation into the incident;

(e) if so, the findings of the investigation thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per scheduled programme, exhibition of Azadi Express was closed for Public at 18.50 Hrs. of 24.03.2008 and was stabled on line No. 5 (Platform No. 4) of new Bongaigaon Railway Station under Rangiya Division of North East Frontier Railway. The express was scheduled to proceed to Dimapur at 13.10 hours of 25.03.2008. On 24.03.2008 at about 21.05 hours, on duty RPF staff/ power van staff felt burning smell coming out from inside the coach No. 1077. Matter was informed immediately to all concerned including State fire brigade/local Police, Bongaigaon. The said coach was under lock & key from outside. Available RPF/GRP/Railway staff could not extinguish the fire. However, at about 21.30 hours of 24.03.2008 fire brigade arrived and extinguished the fire.

(c) Due to the fire incident in Azadi Express various type of exhibition material, Khadi Gramodyog Office Documents, Gandhi Smrity Books, Darshana Samittee

and various type of equipment like Samsung LCD TV, DVD, AC, SOFA etc. were damaged.

(d) and (e) An enquiry Committee was nominated by DRM/ Rangiya consisting of Sr. DME/Rangiya, DEE/ Rangiya & DSC/RPF/Rangiya to enquire into the matter and the enquiry committee submitted its findings as under:

"It appears that either escorting staff from M/S. N.K. Kapoor Pvt. Lts./Delhi or the DAVP staff or both have opened VIP lounge after 18.50 hrs and have stayed there. It also appears during their stay they have left match stick/candle/cigarette in lit up condition in the VIP room (perhaps inadvertently) which initiated the fire on the floor (carpet flooring) and spread towards sale counter as well as towards power car side".

The Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam was also requested to ascertain the cause of fire. Accordingly three member team from Forensic Science Laboratory, Assam headed by Dr. R.N. Khound, Dy. Director Instrumentation Division have visited, examined and ascertained that the cause of fire in the aforesaid coach No. 1077 of Azadi Express was due to electric short circuit.

- (f) 1. Frequent drives are conducted against carrying of inflammable materials and dangerous goods in trains and cases are registered under section 164 of the Railways Act by the Railway Protection Force.
2. Regular checks are conducted against smoking in trains and cases are registered under section 167 of the Railways Act by the Railway Protection Force.
3. Railways are providing fire extinguishers under the charge of the Guard in the Rear Second-class Luggage Room and in Air conditioned coaches for fire fighting in case of any incident.
4. Travelling public is being briefed/educated through Mega phones and public address system not to carry inflammable articles on trains.
5. Surprise checks are being conducted on the two-wheelers booked for transportation on trains and action is being taken if vehicles are found with petrol.

6. All train escorting staff as well as station duty staff are briefed to inform the nearest fire service station to meet eventuality, whenever fire incidents are reported on running trains.
7. Wide publicity is being given through print/electronic media against the danger of carrying inflammable articles/explosives in trains.

**Cooperation with Other Countries to
Modernise Indian Railways**

3113. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of International Cooperation by the Railways in the last three years;

(b) whether a team from Italy recently toured India to extend their cooperation in the field of signalling and communications, etc; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Indian Railways have, signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with the Railways of Austria, France, Germany, Russia, Italy, South Africa and China to promote technical co-operation in Rail Sector including in areas of interest to Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) The last meeting of steering Committee under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Italy was held on 20th February, 2008 in New Delhi for which a team from Italian Railways had come.

[Translation]

**Irregularities in Allotment of Petrol
Pumps/Gas Agencies**

3114. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any provisions to prevent corrupt practices in the allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies;

(b) if so, the details of these provisions;

(c) whether inspite of these provisions irregularities and corruption have been committed in allotting petrol pumps and gas agencies;

(d) if so, the number of such cases which have come to notice during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) Based on the broad policy guidelines issued by the Ministry, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have framed their own detailed guidelines for selection of dealership/distributorship of petroleum products. As per the guidelines framed by OMCs, selection of the candidates for dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products is done by independent selection committees consisting of senior officers of the Corporation. Out of 100 marks, approximate 90% marks are awarded on verifiable objective criteria based on production of documents by the candidate, such as capability to provide land, infrastructure, finance, educational qualification, age, etc. Approximate 10% of marks are awarded on subjective criteria such as personality, knowledge of the petroleum trade, communication skill, etc. The selection is done in a transparent manner and the results including parameter-wise marks obtained by all the candidates are displayed on the notice board and are also put on the website of the concerned OMCs.

Further, the selection guidelines contain provisions for grievance redressal system where each and every complaint is registered and examined by a Screening Committee. The complaints having prima-facie merit are investigated and complaints are advised to furnish material, if any, to substantiate their allegations. Complaints are disposed off by way of a speaking order and a copy of the same is given to all concerned. In case of established complaints action is taken by the OMCs which includes re-advertisement, re-interview, cancellation of selection process, initiation of disciplinary action against erring officials of the Corporation, etc. The State-wise details of the complaints against selection process received by OMCs during the last three years are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMCs.

[English]

Gauge Conversion Between Chamaraja Nagar-Mettupalyam

3115. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the 33 kms. stretch Chamaraja Nagar-Mettupalyam gauge conversion has come to a standstill because of the Elephant Corridor on its way;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to clear this hurdle so that the gauge conversion work would be completed at the earliest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Survey work on Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam new line had to be stopped as Tamil Nadu Forest Department had not permitted Railways to conduct survey in the Forest area stating that area involved is in important Elephant Corridor of Western Ghats.

(b) and (c) Efforts have been made by Railways with the Government of Tamil Nadu to obtain permission for conducting survey in the section between Bennari and Gattewadi (58 kms). On being denied permission by Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Railway has approached Central Empowered Committee (CEC), constituted under the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court for permission to conduct survey. CEC after conducting a number of hearings gave its decision on 14.5.2008 whereby it had *inter-alia* neither supported nor recommended the survey works to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Further survey will be possible only after necessary permission is granted.

Danger Faced by Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport

3116. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport is facing imminent danger of sinking;

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

(c) whether water mains which are very old and are running below the runway can burst one day and can pose danger to the aircraft; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that runway is not damaged due to burst of water mains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport is not facing any danger of sinking.

(c) and (d) Three watermains, which supply water to the city of Mumbai, pass much below the two runways of the Airport. The watermains are at a variable depth below the two runways and to date have not been as issue at the airport. Non-destructive testings of the runways to identify weak soil areas and weak pavement areas have been conducted by Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAL) and no issues have been detected in the pipeline alignments.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Oil Wells Analysis Made by ONGC

3117. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether more amount has been spent on the analysis of oil wells by ONGC as against projected estimated expenditure for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (f) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Financial Relief to PSU Employees

3118. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M. Jagannath Rao Committee had submitted its report to the Government in May, 2008;

(b) if not, the reasons in this regard;

(c) whether certain recommendations of the Committee pertain to the financial relief to be provided to employees of public sector undertakings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Government proposes to act on the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) After due consideration of the recommendations of the 2nd Pay Revision Committee, the Government vide their OM No. 2(70)/08-DPE (WC) dated 26.11.2008 have issued the guidelines for pay revision of executives and non-unionised supervisors in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

(e) Boards of respective CPSEs are empowered to revise the pay of workmen based on negotiations with the unions. Boards have also been empowered to revise pay of non-unionised supervisors. The Board of Directors would be required to consider the proposal of pay revision of executives based on the affordability of respective CPSEs and submit the same to the Administrative Ministry/Department for approval, in terms of guidelines dated 26.11.2008. The expenditure on account of pay revision is to be borne by the CPSEs from their own resources.

[English]

Installation of Latest Scanning Equipment

3119. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install latest scanning equipment at airport to prevent air travellers the 'embarrassing' physical frisking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airport Operators provide the security equipments including scanning equipments as per the specifications stipulated by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). The frisking of passengers is carried out by security officials of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)/State Police/Airlines in terms of the directions of BCAS which are issued, taking into account all the prevailing security situations at various airports.

Mega Tourist Circuits

3120. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to open three mega tourist circuits in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has identified 22 destinations/circuits for mega projects on the basis of footfalls, future potential and in consultation with State Governments. Fifteen mega projects have been sanctioned to date including 9 for Rs. 21742.27 lakh in the current financial year.

The list is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Destinations/Circuits Identified for Mega Projects*

Sl.No.	Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Agra-Revitalization of Taj (Uttar Pradesh)	1525.00
2.	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	786.00
3.	Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda (Bihar)	1922.42
4.	Illumination of Monuments of Delhi (Delhi)	2375.09
5.	Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu)	1039.66 during 10th Plan and 273.03 during 2008-09
6.	Bhubaneswar-Puri-Chilka (Orissa)	3022.80
7.	Haridwar-Rishikesh (Uttarakhand)	—
8.	Hampi (Karnataka)	3283.58
9.	Gangtok (Sikkim)	2390.70
10.	Ajmer (Rajasthan)	—
11.	Panipat-Kurukshetra-Pinjore (Haryana)	1630.03
12.	Charminar area of Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	994.75
13.	Jagdalpur-Tirathgarh-Chitrakoot-Barsoo (Chhattisgarh)	—
14.	Dwarka-Nageshwar-Bet Dwarka (Gujarat)	798.90
15.	Tirupati Heritage Circuit (Andhra Pradesh)	4652.49
16.	Churches of Goa	—
17.	Ganga Heritage River Cruise Circuit (West Bengal)	2042.35
18.	Vidarbha Heritage Circuit (Maharashtra)	—
19.	Aurangabad (Maharashtra)	—
20.	Amritsar (Punjab)	1585.53
21.	Puducherry	—
22.	Kadapa Heritage Tourist Circuit	3692.89

*[Translation]***Availability of Kerosene**

3121. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of kerosene in the States in the current year;

(b) whether the said availability is equal to the national average for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The State/Union Territory-wise (UTs) details of per capita allocation of kerosene for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) during the current year are given in the enclosed statement.

The per capita allocation in case of some States is less than the National Average since Government of India is allocating kerosene to States/UTs on historical basis.

Statement

State-wise per Capita Allocation of SKO During the Current year 2008-09

States/Uts	(Figures in KG)
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16.32
Andhra Pradesh	6.83
Arunachal Pradesh	8.48
Assam	9.69
Bihar	7.81
Chandigarh	14.50
Chhattisgarh	7.07
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12.62
Daman and Diu	13.40
Delhi	12.22
Goa	14.29
Gujarat	14.70
Haryana	6.91
Himachal Pradesh	8.32
Jammu and Kashmir	7.55
Jharkhand	7.85
Karantaka	8.75
Kerala	6.79
Lakshadweep	13.12

1	2
Madhya Pradesh	8.09
Maharashtra	13.20
Manipur	8.33
Meghalaya	8.85
Mizoram	6.98
Nagaland	6.69
Orissa	8.58
Pondicherry	12.59
Punjab	9.77
Rajasthan	7.06
Sikkim	10.33
Tamil Nadu	9.00
Tripura	9.66
Uttar Pradesh	7.48
Uttaranchal	10.60
West Bengal	9.38
National average	8.92

(English)

Demand and Supply of Petroleum Products

3122. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

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

(a) whether there is sharp rise in the demand of petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is scarcity of petroleum products in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has identified new crude oil reserves in the country for exploration, for domestic consumption saving foreign reserves;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details in regard to production of petroleum products and their imports during last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The demand for petroleum products and its growth rate in the country during the last three years and in the current year (April-October, 2008) is as given below:-

	Demand (Million Metric Tonnes) (MMT)	Growth Rate (%)
2005-06	113 213	1.4
2006-07	120.749	6.7
2007-08	128.946	6.8
2008-09 (Apr-Oct, 2008)	75.521	4.1

(c) and (d) There is no shortage of petroleum products in the country including Karnataka State. Government had received some complaints/reports about the non-availability of diesel in some States in the period from July to October, 2008. OMCs reported that sporadic incidence of non-availability was due to a surge in demand for diesel for power generation in these States. However, the demand of all sectors including Agriculture and transport sector is fully met.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Under the Seventh round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VII), the Government of India has awarded 44 blocks (11 deepwater blocks; 7 shallow water blocks & 26 on land blocks) for exploration and production of oil and gas covering an area of 1.22 Lakhs Sq Km.

(g) The details in regard to production of petroleum products and their imports during the last three years and in the current year is as given below:

Period	Production (MMT)	Import (MMT)
2005-06	124.10	13.441
2006-07	140.00	17.660
2007-08	149.90	22.716
2008-09 (Apr-Oct, 2008)	90.80	11.596

MoU Signed between ONGC and UCIL for Uranium Exploration

3123. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) for joint cooperation in uranium exploration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have signed an MoU on 11.11.2008 with the express purpose of Uranium exploration and exploitation. ONGC & UCIL will together explore opportunities of exploring and exploiting uranium in India and abroad.

[Translation]

Social and Educational Status of Poor

3124. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to form any Committee to ascertain the social and educational status of poor people on the lines of Sachar Committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Retrenchment of Railway Employees

3125. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to retrench its employees;

(b) if so, the basis on which this retrenchment is proposed;

(c) whether the Railways are paying attention to provide alternate employment to the eligible educated unemployed persons as per their qualifications after retrenchment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Construction of ROB/RUB in East Coast Railway Zone

3126. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges are being constructed in the East Coast Railway Zone on 50:50 sharing basis between the State and the Railways during the last three years;

(b) the progress made of such project during the period;

(c) whether the progress of construction work and completion of such projects are being delayed due to negligence by the work executants more particularly Baudpur and Bhadrak railway stations, construction work at Randia inspite of the target date for completion has expired on August, 2008; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken to expedite the construction work to complete it in time as scheduled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) In all 8 works of Road over bridges (ROB) had been sanctioned on cost sharing basis on East Coast Railway Zone during the last three years.

(b) i. Work commenced at site= 1 Nos.

ii. General Arrangement Drawings (GADs)/ Alignment Plan not yet approved by State Govt. = 3 Nos.

iii. Design and Drawing of foundation and substructures = 2 Nos.

iv. GAD being prepared for = 2 Nos.

(c) No, Sir. Progress of construction work & completion of projects are not delayed due to negligence of work executants instead there are other factors also. In case of ROB between Baudpur and Bhadrak stations delays are attributed to (i) Detailed Estimate revision (ii) shortage of particular size of steel manufactured by Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and OPC cement in market and (iii) unprecedented increase in cost of steel and cement during 2007-08 (iv) Site being low and land area resulting delay in construction work (iv) diversion of road for busy traffic also took time due to non-availability of land for approaches.

(d) With downward trend in prices of Steel and Cement, site of construction now free of all obstructions, the work has been planned with the agency for completion by August. 2009.

Charging of Higher Prices by Reliance Industries from NTPC

3127. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether higher prices are being charged by the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for the gas explored from the blocks awarded to RIL by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards controlling price of gas and oil explored from indigenous blocks to pass its benefits to power consumers as well as farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has framed any specific guidelines for fixing of price of indigenously explored oil and gas from Union Government allotted blocks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) At present no gas is being sold to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).

(c) and (d) Government has formulated New Exploration License Policy (NELP), which promotes investment in Exploration, so that adequate oil and gas are available at marketing determined prices. The natural gas being produce by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd., (OIL) from nomination blocks is sold to power & Fertilizer sector at Administered Price Mechanism (APM) Prices.

(e) and (f) Gas under NEPL is required to be sold at prices determined at arms length. The price of crude oil is to be determined on basis of the international prices of reference crude oils of similar characteristics & quality to the Crude Oil in respect of which the price is being determined. The gas price/formula submitted by contractors is required to be approved by Government. In case of crude oil, the calculation, basis of calculation and the price determined by the contractor is also subject to agreement by the Government.

Youth Leadership Programme

3128. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated a youth leadership programme namely "Cultural Heritage Youth Leadership" to involve students in the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives of the programme;

(c) whether the Government also invites the volunteers from the States particularly involving the backward States like Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the expenses will be born by the Union Government or the State Governments have also been asked to share funds for the programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) A scheme named as "Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme" (CHYLP) is being finalized with an objective to educate the younger generation particularly students in schools, colleges and universities about India's rich

culture and heritage so as to generate better awareness and instill in them a sense of pride. The scheme will cover the entire country, including Madhya Pradesh and will be funded by the Government of India.

Cases of Drug Abuse

3129. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of drug abuse brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the detail of action taken by the Government on these cases;

(c) the number of de-addiction centers opened in each State/UT; and

(d) the number of such centers proposed to be opened further in order to check this malady during the current financial year, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Sir. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as the Nodal Ministry for drug demand reduction programmes, has been implementing the Scheme for Prohibition of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse to provide a whole range of services including awareness generation, identification, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts through the Voluntary Organisations. A Statement-I, showing approximate number of addicts registered in the centers supported by Ministry for de-addiction services during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) The number of de-addiction centers opened so far is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) A multi-disciplinary Grant-in-aid Committee constituted in each state/UT considers proposals of voluntary organization and recommends proposals. They have been requested to accord priority to the proposals from service deficient areas. The proposals received from time to time through State Government/UT administration alongwith recommendations of Grant-in-aid Committee are scrutinized and considered in the Ministry as per norms of the scheme and relevant guide lines and it is a continuous process.

Statement I*Approximate Number of Addicts Registered for De-Addiction Treatment and Services During Last Three Years*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5471	3988	4680
2.	Assam	2918	2127	2496
3.	Bihar	5107	3722	4368
4.	Chhattisgarh	1094	798	936
5.	Goa	365	266	312
6.	Gujarat	1824	1329	1560
7.	Haryana	7295	5317	6240
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1459	1063	1248
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	730	532	624
10.	Jharkhand	726	0	0
11.	Karnataka	10943	7976	9360
12.	Kerala	8025	5849	6864
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7295	5317	6240
14.	Maharashtra	17144	12496	14664
15.	Manipur	7660	5563	6552
16.	Meghalaya	1094	798	936
17.	Mizoram	3648	2659	3120
18.	Nagaland	1824	1329	1560
19.	Orissa	10578	7710	9048
20.	Punjab	6566	4786	5616
21.	Rajasthan	5471	3988	4680
22.	Sikkim	365	266	312
23.	Tamil Nadu	9484	7445	8736
24.	Tripura	730	532	624
25.	Uttar Pradesh	17508	13293	15288
26.	Uttaranchal	1824	1329	1560
27.	West Bengal	5471	3988	4680
28.	Chandigarh	365	266	312
29.	Delhi	3283	2393	2808
Total		146267	107145	125424

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of De-addiction Centres
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15
2.	Bihar	14
3.	Chhattisgarh	3
4.	Goa	1
5.	Gujarat	5
6.	Haryana	20
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
9.	Karnataka	30
10.	Kerala	22
11.	Madhya Pradesh	20
12.	Maharashtra	47
13.	Orissa	29
14.	Punjab	18
15.	Rajasthan	15
16.	Tamil Nadu	26
17.	Uttar Pradesh	49
18.	Uttarakhand	5
19.	West Bengal	15
20.	Delhi	9
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
22.	Assam	8
23.	Manipur	21
24.	Meghalaya	3
25.	Mizoram	10
26.	Nagaland	5
27.	Tripura	2
28.	Sikkim	1
Total		401

*[Translation]***Hindus as a Minority Community**

3130. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindu population is categorised as a minority in some states of the country;

(b) if so, the complete details of such state as per their population;

(c) the number of such states where State Minority Commission has been constituted and a Hindu has been nominated as its Chairman.

(d) the reasons for not constituting State Minority Commission in other States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) At the national level Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis have been declared as minority communities by the Union Government. In some States, Jains have also been declared as minority community.

(c) The State Minority Commissions are constituted by the respective State Governments. At present, there are 15 States (viz: Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal) which have constituted the State Minority Commissions. A list of the present Chairpersons of the State Minorities Commissions is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) States have been requested to establish Minority Commissions where they do not exist.

Statement*List of Chairpersons of State Minorities Commission***1. Shri Yousuf Qureshi**

Chairman

Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Commission
Room No. 301, A-Block, Secretariat Building
Hyderabad-500022

2. **Chief Justice (Retd.) Shafiqul Haque**
Chairman
Assam State Minorities Commission
Sujata Apartments, (1st Floor)
Nilomoni Puukan Path, Christian Basti
Guwahati-781005

3. **Shri Naushad Ahmad**
Chairman
Bihar State Minorities Commission
Barrack No. 7, Old Secretariat
Patna-300015

4. **Shri Haji Inayat Ali**
Chairman
Chhattisgarh State Minorities Commission
C-186, Shailendra Nagar
Raipur (C.G.)-492001

5. **Shri Kamal Faruqui**
Chairman
Delhi State Minorities Commission
1st Floor, C Block, Vikas Bhavan
New Delhi-110002

6. **Shri Xavier Herenz**
Secretary
Jharkhand Minorities Commission
Building No. 3, Artizan Hostel, Dhurwa
Ranchi

7. **Shri Tahsin Ahmad**
Secretary
Karnataka State Minorities Commission
5th Floor, Vesveshwariah Tower
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi
Bangalore-560001

8. **Shri Omar Farooq Khatani**
Secretary
Madhya Pradesh State Minorities Commission
E-Block, Old Secretariat
Bhopal-462011

9. **Shri Naseem Siddiqui**
Chairman
Maharashtra State Minorities Commission
Behind J.J. School of Arts
Badruddin Tayabji Marg
Near C.S.T. Railway Station
Mumbai-400001

10. **Shri Abdul Halim Choudhury**
Chairman
Manipur State Minorities Commission
3rd Floor, Ministers' Block
Room No. 165
Secretariat Building
Imphal-795001

11. **Sardar Jasbir Singh**
Chairman
Rajasthan State Minorities Commission
Room No. 308-309
SSO Building
Secretariat
Jaipur-302001

12. **Dr. M. Prakash**
Chairman
Tamil Nadu State Minorities Commission
124, Sir Theagaraya Road
Alayaamman Koil Shopping Complex
Teynampet
Chennai-600018

13. **Shri Shelkh Suleman**
Chairman
Uttar Pradesh State Minorities Commission
609, Indira Bhawan
Lucknow-226001

14. **Sardar Harvinder Singh Virk**
Chairman
Uttaranchal State Minorities Commission
14/1, Laxmi Road
Dehradun

15. **Dr. Syed Sajjad Zaheer Adnan**
Chairman
West Bengal Minorities Commission
Bhawani Bhawan (2nd Floor)
Alipor
Kolkata-700027

Sahitya Akademi

3132. **SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:**
Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the functions of the Sahitya Akademi;

(b) the number of programmes organized by the Akademi from 1.01.2004 to 30.09.2008 and the details of the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Akademi gives grant to the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) for promotion of India language and literature;

(d) if so, the number of NGOs given grant from 01.01.2004 to 30.09.2008 and the amount thereof; and

(e) the basis on which this grant has been given?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) As per clause 3(b) of the Constitution of Sahitya Akademi, the functions of the Akademi are, as under:-

- (i) to promote co-operation among men of letters for the development of literature in Indian languages;
- (ii) to encourage or to arrange translations of literary works from one Indian language into others and also from non-Indian into Indian languages and vice-versa;
- (iii) to publish or to assist associations and individuals in publishing literary works including bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, basic vocabularies etc. in various Indian languages;
- (iv) to sponsor or to hold literary conferences, seminars and exhibitions on all-India or regional basis;
- (v) to award prizes and distinctions and give recognition to individual writers for out-standing work;
- (vi) to promote research in Indian languages and literature;
- (vii) to promote the teachings and study of regional languages and literature in areas beyond their own;
- (viii) to encourage propagation and study of literature among the masses;
- (ix) (a) to improve and develop the various scripts in which the languages of the country are written;
- (b) to promote the use of Devangari script and to encourage publication in that script of select books in any Indian language;
- (c) to publish, if found necessary, standard books of one Indian language in the scripts of other languages;

(x) to promote culture exchanges with other countries and to establish relations with international organisations in the field of letters;

(xi) to receive grants, bequests and other donations, to purchase land, own property of all kinds and to maintain, sell, mortgage or otherwise dispose of it in furtherance of its works; and

(xii) to do all such other acts and things whether incidental to powers aforesaid or not as may be required in order to further its objects.

(b) The number of programmes organized and the details of expenditure incurred thereon by the Sahitya Akademi from 01.01.2004 to 30.09.2008 are as follows:-

Year	No. of Programmes	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
2003-04	209	102.55
2004-05	203	100.20
2005-06	222	175.00
2006-07	202	211.00
2007-08	310	230.00
2008-09 (up to 30.09.2008)	210	240.00

(c) to (e) The Akademi doesnot have a scheme of giving grants to NGOs. However, it does support other literary organisations/NGOs by way of sponsoring writers/scholars or collaborating in organising the literary programmes on the basis of literary standing of the concerned organisation.

[English]

Air India Employees

3133. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALLIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is planning to send its large number of employees on long leave without pay;

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

(c) the number of surplus staff identified by Air India; and

(d) the estimated annual savings for Air India as a result of retrenchment?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Commission to Travel Agents

3134. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airlines companies have decided to stop payment of commission to travel agents for tickets sold through them from October, 2008;

(b) if so, whether State owned airline Air India is also likely to follow suit;

(c) whether travel agents deprived for the earnings on commission will be permitted to charge the customers additional sums as service charges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Full Service Airlines earlier used to offer 5% commission to travel agents on basic fare. However, from 1st Nov., 2008, Air India (AI), Jet Airways and Kingfisher Airlines abolished the agency commission and introduced the transaction fee model. Subsequently Jet Airways and Kingfisher Airlines have started paying agency commission on basic fare and fuel surcharge. Air India (AI) has abolished transaction fee from 2nd December onwards.

In case of Low Cost Carriers (LCCs), if the passenger opts to purchase a ticket through travel agent, there is transaction fee added on top of the total fare, which ranges 5 to 6% and it is entirely retained by travel agent.

Air ticket commission is a commercial matter between Travel Agencies and Airlines. Government does not regulate commercial matters of the Airlines.

Special Schools

3135. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to start special schools at the block level in backward areas of the country;

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

(c) whether such blocks have been identified for setting up special schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria for selection of such blocks?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Installation of Faceless Gates

3136. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pilot project for installing "Faceless Gates" as reported in Amar Ujala dated 4 December, 2008 has been started;

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the number of such gates likely to be installed; and

(c) the name of the technical institute where such system has been developed alongwith the agreement signed by the Railways with it?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Kerala Industrial Enterprises Ltd.**

3137. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala owned Kerala Industrial Enterprises Ltd. (KSIE) a profit making company with ISO certification for excellence in performance has been handling Air Cargo in the two airports at Thiruvananthapuram and Calicut for several decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this right of KSIE to manage the airports have been denied after they were renovated and rebuilt;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government for restoration of status quo?

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

(b) The air cargo complex at Trivandrum airport was set up by M/s Kerala State Industrial Enterprises (KSIE) in the year 1979 outside the Trivandrum airport in a temporary shed. Later, KSIE constructed a proper air cargo complex in 1987 for handling export and import cargo outside the airport. At Calicut airport, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has constructed a building and handed it over to KSIE for processing export cargo whereas KSIE has its own warehouse near the airport for handling import cargo.

(c) to (e) Till date, the cargo facilities at Trivandrum and Calicut airports are being operated by KSIE itself who is also the customs appointed custodian.

**Permanent Employment in Air India
and Indian Airlines**

3138. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there are vacancies lying in various departments, such as Commercial, Finance, Security, Ground support of Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines and Air India are hiring persons for these department on contractual basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to fill these vacancies on permanent basis through advertisement against these vacancies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As on 30.09.2008, the number of retired employees engaged on contract in Commercial, Finance, Security and Ground Support Departments was 13, 13, 1 and 29 respectively.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. Keeping in view the high aircraft to employee ratio in erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India, the Government had imposed a ban on fresh recruitment in these companies, except in the operational categories, which is still in force.

*[Translation]***Trains from Una**

3139. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for extension of Delhi-Chandigarh Janshatabdi Express upto Una (Himachal Pradesh) and for starting a new passenger train from Una to Haridwar has been received by the Railways;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) 2057/2058 New Delhi-Nagaldam Jan Shatabdi Express has been extended to Una (Himachal Pradesh) from 14.12.2008. The proposal for introduction of new passenger train

between Una-Haridwar has, however, not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraint.

Railway Tickets to Cancer Patients

3140. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide confirmed railway tickets to the cancer patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tatkal quota meant for this purpose has been increased; and

(d) if so, the details of increase in such quota in the trains plying through Western Central Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Instructions have been issued that the cancer patients and their attendants travelling on concessional tickets issued in exchange of concession certificate should be provided accommodation in the following sequence:-

- (i) From general quota, if vacant at the time of booking;
- (ii) From Cancer quota, to the extent available, wherever defined;
- (iii) From emergency quota of that class, to the extent available;

Thereafter, cancer patients and their attendants are issued tickets from general waiting list.

(c) No, Sir. Tatkal quota is meant for onyl full fare paying passengers and all concession holders including cancer patients travelling on concession are not allowed to book tickets under Tatkal scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism

3141. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a special scheme for promoting the tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism has been promoting tourism within the country as part of its ongoing publicity activities. The outlay under the scheme of Domestic Promotion and Publicity including Hospitality for the year 2008-09, is Rs. 72.00 crores which includes Rs. 7.00 Crores allocated for Advertising & Publicity of North-Eastern Region.

Ministry of Tourism also promotes domestic tourism through its website, production of various collaterals like brochures, posters etc., participation at the major travel marts in the country and through its domestic Indiatourism offices.

Railway Link Between Karimganj and Latu In Bangladesh

3142. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the restoration of the railway link between Karimganj and Latu in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time frame of its restoration;

(c) whether the same can be taken up in the line of Samjhauta Express from Old Delhi to Atari in Pakistan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Presently, there is neither any proposal nor justification for restoration of this link.

12.0½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy 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 National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9884/08)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Annual Reports for the year 2007-2008 (Hindi and English versions) alongwith Audited Accounts in respect of the following Institutes:-

(i) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Kolkata.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9885/08)

(ii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9886/08)

(iii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9887/08)

(iv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9888/08)

(v) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Lucknow.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9889/08)

(vi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9890/08)

(vii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Shillong.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9891/08)

(viii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Shimla.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9892/08)

(ix) Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9893/08)

(x) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gwalior.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9894/08)

(xi) Institute of Hotel Management, Hajipur.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9895/08)

(xii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9896/08)

(xiii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition (Society), Gurdaspur.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9897/08)

(xiv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9898/08)

(xv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Chennai.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9899/08)

- (xvi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9900/08)

- (xvii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9901/08)

- (xviii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9902/08)

- (xix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9903/08)

- (xx) Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9904/08]

- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of working of the above institutes for the year 2007-2008.

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, 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 Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9905/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy 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 Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 9906/08)

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9907/08]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9908/08]

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareilly, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareilly, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9909/08]

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9910/08]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, 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 Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9911/08]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934:-

(i) The Aircraft (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R.687(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2008, together with an explanatory note.

(ii) The Aircraft (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R.680(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2008, together with an explanatory note.

(iii) The Aircraft (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R.722(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2008, together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9912/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I, on behalf of Shri B K Handique, beg to lay on the Table —

(1) A copy 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 Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9913/08]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9914/08]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigad, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigad, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (a) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—9915/08]

(3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the years 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 9916/08)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy 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 RITES Limited, Delhi for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) Annual Report of the RITES Limited, Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9917/08]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9918/08]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) Annual Report of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9919/08]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-

08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9920/08]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9921/08]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9922/08]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railways Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9923/08]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9924/08]

- (4) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the progress made in the Intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in recruitment and promotion categories on the Railways for the year ending 31st March, 2007.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9925/08]

- (6) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Services of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 797(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 2008 under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9926/08]

- (7) A copy of the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 803(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2008 under sub-section(3) of Section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9927/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy 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 Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9928/08]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9929/08]

- (2) A copy of the Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 847(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2008 under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9930/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities 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 National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9931/08]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 2005-2006.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9932/08]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, 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 Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2006-2007.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9933/08]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9934/08]

- (8) A copy 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 National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation,

Faridabad, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9935/08]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9936/08]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9937/08]

- (9) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9938/08]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 2006-2007.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9939/08]

- (12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 73 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995:-

(i) S.O. 1108(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2008 exempting all categories of posts of combatant personnel in RPF/RPSF for a period of 3 years from the provisions of the Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(ii) S.O. 1109(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2008 exempting all categories of posts of combatant personnel in RPF/RPSF for a period of 3 years from the provisions of the Section 47 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(iii) S.O. 1110(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2008 exempting the posts Section Engineer, Station Controller, Train Operator, Assistant Station Controller, Jr. Station Controller, Maintainers/Skilled Artisans, Sr. System Analysts/System Analysts and any other technical post in Delhi Metro Rail Corporation which involves requirement of public safety from the provisions of Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9940/08]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English Versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2007-08.

(ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9941/08]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9942/08]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-08.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9943/08]

(d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9944/08]

- (e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9945/08]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9946/08]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9947/08]

- (h) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9948/08]

- (i) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited Mumbai, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9949/08]

- (j) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9950/08]

- (k) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9951/08]

- (l) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9952/08]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Cables Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9953/08]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9954/08]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9955/08]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Automotive Testing and Research and Development Infrastructure Project, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Automotive Testing and Research and Development Infrastructure Project, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9956/08]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy 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 Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9957/08]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9958/08]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation 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—9959/08]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9960/08]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year

2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9961/08]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9962/08]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation 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—9963/08]

12.02 hrs

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received a letter dated 17th December, 2008 from Shri Punnulal Mohale, an elected Member from Bilaspur Parliamentary Constituency of Chattisgarh resigning from the membership of Lok Sabha with immediate effect. I have accepted his resignation with effect from 17th December, 2008.

12.02½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Bill, 2008 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2008. "

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Bill, 2008 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 16th December, 2008.

12.02¾ hrs.

DECISION OF SPEAKER UNDER TENTH SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the decision dated 15th December, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) of the Speaker, Lok Sabha on the Petition given by Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu, MP against Dr. M. Jagannath under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on ground of Defection) Rules, 1985.

[Placed in Library, *See* No LT—9964/08]

12.03 hrs.

REPORT ON PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AT THE 119TH ASSEMBLY ON THE INTER- PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Hindi and English versions of the Report on the participation of Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the 119th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Geneva (Switzerland) from 11 to 16 October, 2008.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT—9965/08]

12.03¹/₄ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Statements

[English]

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN (Nawada): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken of the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter - I of the Twenty-sixth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)."

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

42nd to 45th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:-

- (1) Forty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2008-09) relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation);
- (2) Forty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-eight Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2008-09) relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);
- (3) Forty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants

(2008-09) relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries); and

- (4) Forty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2008-09) relating to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

(I) 32nd Report

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (KOPERGAON): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty-second Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Review of Implementation Status of Group of Ministers (GoMs) Report on Reforming National Security System in pursuance of Kargil Review Committee Report'- A Special Reference to Management of Defence'.

(II) Statements

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Action Taken Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence:-

- (1) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter - I and V of the 15th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2006-07';
- (2) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter- I & V of the 19th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Procurement Policy and Procedure';

- (3) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter – I and V of the 21st Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Defence Public Sector Undertakings';
- (4) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter – I and V of the 23rd Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Review of Medical Services and Education in the Defence Sector';
- (5) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter – I and V of the 24th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'A Critical Review of Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons'.
- (6) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter – I and V of the 25th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Defence Research and Development
- (7) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and V of the 27th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "In-depth Study and Critical Review of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)".
- (8) Statement showing the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and V of the 28th Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'In-depth Study and Critical Review of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)'.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(I) 22nd and 23rd Reports

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on External Affairs:

- (1) 22nd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 20th

Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of External Affairs.

- (2) 23rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 21st Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

(II) Statement

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs showing further action taken by Government on Chapter-I of the 17th, 18th and 19th Action Taken Reports on the subject "Issues relating to Overseas Indians", Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, respectively, for the year 2007-08.

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

73rd to 79th Reports

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (BANGALORE SOUTH): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance (2008-09):

- (1) Seventy-third Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services and Disinvestment);
- (2) Seventy-fourth Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue);
- (3) Seventy-fifth Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Planning;
- (4) Seventy-sixth Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the

Seventieth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation;

- (5) Seventy-seventh Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Seventy-first Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (6) Seventy-eighth report on Flow of Credit to Agriculture Sector; and
- (7) Seventy-ninth report on Counterfeit currency notes in circulation.

12.05¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

23rd and 24th Reports

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas (2008-09):-

- (1) Twenty-third Report on 'Oil Refineries – A Critique'; and
- (2) Twenty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Supply, Distribution and Marketing of Natural Gas including CNG and LNG'.

12.05³/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

38th Report

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): I beg to present the Thirty-eighth Report (Hindi and English

Versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2008-09) on the subject 'Solid Waste Management' relating to the Ministry of Urban Development.

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(I) 33rd Report

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

(II) Evidence

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Committee on The Post -Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 27th, 32nd and 33rd Reports of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in Twenty-seventh, Thirty-second and Thirty-third Reports of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment in pursuance of the Direction 73-A of the Speaker, Lok Sabha published vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September 1, 2004.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT—9966/08.

The Twenty-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment relates to Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP). The Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 6.9.2007 and laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Report contains 14 recommendations. Action Taken Notes on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report were sent to the Committee on 25.6.2008.

The Thirty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment relates to the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons. The Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 4.3.2008 and laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Report contains 12 recommendations. Action Taken Notes on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-second Report were sent to the Committee on 20.6.2008.

The Thirty-third Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment relates to Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2008-09. The Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 21.4.2008 and laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Report contains 13 recommendations, which relate to general performance of the Ministry, development of Scheduled Castes, social defence and implementation of programmes in the North Eastern States and Sikkim. Action Taken Notes on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-third Report were sent to the Committee on 26th September 2008.

The updated status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee in their Twenty-seventh, Thirty-second and Thirty-third Reports is indicated in the Annexure I, II and III respectively to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.07¹/₄ hrs.

- (II) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Demands for Grants (2008-09) pertaining to the Ministry of Steel***

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT—9967/08)

PASWAN): I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-third Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73-A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated the 1st September, 2004.

The aforesaid Thirty-Third Report was presented to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the 16.04.2008. The Report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-09.

The Committee in the said report has made a total of 14 recommendations (contained in five paras) with reference to Aims, Objectives and Achievements of the Ministry and where action is called for on the part of the Government.

The Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on the 24.09.2008.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.07¹/₂ hrs.

- (III) (a) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 108th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on functioning and performance of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.***

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Sir, I beg to lay a statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 108th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on functioning and performance of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT—9968/08)

(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 95th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay a Statement on the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the 95th Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture in pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha which reads as under:-

1. "The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Lok Sabha with regard to his Ministry."
2. The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture presented the 95th Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Eighty Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Tourism. The Committee considered and adopted the report at its meeting held on 22nd February, 2006 (The Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 27.02.2006 and also laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 27.02.2006).
3. Mr. Speaker Sir, in its Report the Standing Committee made 21 Recommendations in all. Out of 21 Recommendations made by the Committee, this Ministry has accepted 19 Recommendations and 2 Recommendations were examined in detail and not accepted by the Ministry. The Action Taken Report on Recommendations of the Committee has been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat vide Ministry of Tourism's O.M dated 10.07.2006.
4. I also lay on the Table of the House the present status of implementation of each recommendation as Annexure.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 9969/08.

(c) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 104th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the 104th Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture in pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha which reads as under:-

"The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Lok Sabha with regard to his Ministry."

2. The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture presented the 104th Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of Ministry of Tourism. The Committee considered and adopted the report at its meeting held on 19th May, 2006. (The Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 22.05.2006 and also laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 22.05.2006.

3. Mr. Speaker Sir, in its Report the Standing Committee made 26 Recommendations in all. Out of 26 Recommendations made by the Committee, this Ministry has accepted 24 Recommendations and 2 Recommendations were examined and it was not found feasible to accept the same. The Action Taken Report on Recommendations of the Committee has been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat vide Ministry of Tourism's O.M dated 21.09.2006.

4. I also lay on the Table of the House the present status of implementation of each recommendation as Annexure.

(d) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 113th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay a

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 9969A/08.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 9969B/08.

Statement on the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the 113th Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture in pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha which reads as under:-

"The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Department - related Parliamentary Standing Committee of Rajya Sabha with regard to his Ministry."

2. The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture presented the 113th Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government or the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its 10th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of Department of Tourism. The Committee considered and adopted the report at its meeting held on 16th April, 2007. (The Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 14.05.2007 and also laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 14.05.2007.)

3. Mr. Chairman Sir, in its Report the Standing Committee made 24 Recommendations in all. Out of 24 Recommendations made by the Committee, this Ministry has accepted 15 Recommendations, 7 Recommendations Partially accepted, 1 Recommendation is not accepted and remaining 1 Recommendation is only in the nature observation. The Action Taken Report on Recommendations of the Committee has been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat vide Ministry of Tourism's O.M dated 12.09.2007.

4. I also lay on the Table of the House the present status of implementation of each recommendation as Annexure.

(e) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 119th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay a Statement on the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the 119th Report of

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture in pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha which reads as under:-

"The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Lok Sabha with regard to his Ministry."

2. The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture presented the 119th Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of Ministry of Tourism. The Committee considered and adopted the report at its meeting held on 9th May, 2007. (The Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 14.05.2007 and also laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 14.05.2007.)

3. Mr. Speaker Sir, in its Report the Standing Committee made 22 Recommendations in all. Out of 22 Recommendations made by the Committee, this Ministry has accepted 08 Recommendations, 12 Recommendations Partially accepted and remaining 2 Recommendations are not accepted. The Action Taken Report on Recommendations of the Committee has been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat vide Ministry of Tourism's O.M dated 05.09.2007.

4. I also lay on the Table of the House the present status of implementation Of each recommendation as Annexure.

12.08 hrs.

(iv) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 195th, 204th and 208th Reports of the Standing Committee on Industry pertaining to the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): On behalf of Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, I am laying on the table of the House a

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—9969 C/08.

*Laid on the Table and also place in Library. See No. LT—9970/08.

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

Statement attached herewith, on the Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 195th, 204th and 208th Reports of Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry in pursuance of the direction issued by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September 1, 2004.

Action has been completed/initiated in respect of the various recommendations. The Action Taken Notes giving details of the action taken against each of the recommendations have already been submitted to the Committee on 26th November, 2007, 18th November, 2008 and 26th November 2008 respectively.

12.09 hrs.

- (v) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 98th Report of Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on functioning of Commission of Railway Safety*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay the second statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in 98th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on "Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in the 83rd report on the 'Functioning of commission of Railway Safety' in pursuance of the direction 73 A, issued by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin Part II dated 1st September, 2004 under the provisions of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. First statement was made on 30th August, 2007. The second Statement should have been made during the Budget Session, however, it could not be made which is regretted.

The 98th Report on the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture contains 10 recommendations. Of the eight accepted/partially accepted recommendations, action had been completed in six cases. A Statement indicating the action taken/status of the remaining two recommendations in the Standing Committee Report is annexed.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT— 9971/08.

12.09¹/₄ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GENERAL (2008-09)

[English]

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 present a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—9972/08]

12.09¹/₂ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—RAILWAYS (2008-09)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, on behalf of Shri Lalu Prasad, I beg to present a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—9973/08]

12.10 hrs.

LAND PORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA BILL, 2008*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, on behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Land Ports Authority of India for the development and management of facilities for cross border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 18.12.2008.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Land Ports Authority of India for the development and management of facilities for cross border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".

The motion was adopted.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: I introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, may I make a submission? If you could kindly consider that this item at number 34, that is, the Bill if that could be taken up for consideration because after lunch we would be engaged in the matter relating to the Economic Situation in the country? ...*(Interruptions)* It is a short Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to take it up before the 'Urgent Matters'? No. We have got Urgent Matters after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, that could be taken up later on because this is also urgently required. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is a lot of opposition. A lot of Noes are already there.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There are only two Noes. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.11 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Situation arising out of reported statement of a Cabinet Minister on the killing of Mumbai ATS Chief in terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26.11.2008

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Regarding the matters to be called on, I will call Shri Santosh Gangwar because I have

promised to him. But I have only one request to him that let us be brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as everyone is understanding through newspaper and media that such a statement has been made by one of the Minister of Dr. Manmohan Singh's Government, which is really unfortunate...*(Interruptions)* incidents have taken place in Mumbai on such a large scale, people were shot down by terrorists and your statement says that it appears that there is some design behind the killing of ATS Chief Shri Karkare. In act, it is such a statement that creates a lot of problems for the country. It also reflects the mentality of people.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I submit that yesterday, when Shri Geete Ji of Shiv Sena was delivering his speech here, the Hon. Minister had also made some comments but that is meaning-less...*(Interruptions)* such an irresponsible statement is being made by a Minister...*(Interruptions)* It is unfortunate...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I believe he has given his clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR-This is creating problem in the country. In fact, Govt. is taking it very casually. We would like that Mr Prime Minister should come and make statement in the House...*(Interruptions)* an effective action should be taken against that Minister, so that such incident do not take Place in future...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down,

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, you should request the hon. Prime Minister to come to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stood up. He represents the Government also. Please take your seats. He wants to say something.

[Mr. Speaker]

[Translation]

You please keep quite. I allowed you to raise this matter, you raised it properly. The Minister is replying, you please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir the matter is being raised and before I come to the demand of the hon. Prime Minister or whatever it may be; the hon. Prime Minister is in the other House. I will definitely convey the feelings of the hon. Members. But, at the same time, I have to make one point. Today, in the morning newspapers, there is a denial from Shri Antulay, the hon. Minister. He said, I never said so. He said, he has been killed by the terrorist. He said it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After this, I do not know what is your demand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one-by-one.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, our demand is very specific. The hon. Prime Minister should come to the House and make a statement about the aforesaid statement made by Shri Antulay. ...(Interruptions)

Secondly, the hon. Minister should be sacked for the misconduct of a Member of Parliament...(Interruptions) We also demand one thing. Now, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is telling that Shri Antulay has already clarified his Statement. But, unfortunately, his Statement was shown all over the Channels, all over the electronic media...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hope the clarification will also be aired by all the News Channels.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is also a matter of Yogi Aditya Nath. Yogiji also wants to speak the same. Let him

speak on this. Yogiji, your leaders are not allowing you to speak. What can I do.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The Government will look into what he has said. The Government has to examine it. Definitely, I can assure this House that the Government will respond to the demand of the hon. Members....

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Government will respond to it.

[Translation]

Propose is solved.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, yesterday, when The Minister was delivering his speech, I was listening to all the points raised by him very carefully. At that time a Minister of Government of India was making an irresponsible statement, that is very shameful. This is not the first time, when it is happening. Even earlier when serial blasts had taken place in Mumbai, the Hon. Minister had made same sort of irresponsible statement at that time also. He is accustomed of making such type of statements...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not relevant.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, we demand that Hon. Minister, who is playing with terrorist incidents, should be sacked immediately...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: This was not correct. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A notice of an Adjournment Motion was also given by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. But I have

allowed you to raise it once. The same matter cannot be raised again.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yogiji, your turn is over. You please take your seat. You please guide. This is not appropriate.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir he should be sacked...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Delete that portion.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted it. Not only I have deleted it but I also express my strong condemnation for using such a language against another Member in the House. I never permit this.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to do it.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can insult martyrs.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I respected you. I allowed you an opportunity. You cannot abuse a Member of Parliament like this. He is as much respectful as you are. You cannot do this. You may have your political compulsions but there is a limit to all these things.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We all respect the martyrs. The House has unanimously expressed its view. One or two Members cannot change it.

... (*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat. I will not permit it any more.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Sir, the freedom of Press is being murdered in Punjab. They are closing down the Channels in Punjab. They are not giving a word to the people of Punjab... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA (Jalandhar): Sir, I want to speak about Press, Punjabi News channels are being shut down...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice. I do not have any notice. You raise this matter tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA: It is a very important matter. It is regarding freedom of Press. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no notice for this. I have no idea of what it is. I do not know anything about it. You should have met me then. You should have told me and written to me.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA: It is regarding freedom of Press.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: So what? What can I do? You may come to me at One of the Clock. I will see it. This is not the way of doing it. You cannot take the House to ransom.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, there is a very unusual situation prevailing in the country's Central Bank, the Reserve Bank of India due to the unilateral action on the part of the management at the behest of the Government of India by unilaterally withdrawing the Scheme of updated Pension of pre-November, 1997 pensioners of RBI... (*Interruptions*) By this administrative order issued by the RBI on 10th October, 2008, the Scheme now stands withdrawn with effect from the month of October, 2008.

After six years of implementation, this has caused monthly reduction of pension ranging from Rs. 1,000 to

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Rs. 5,000. In protest against this unilateral decision which was taken without consulting the association, the entire staff, right from Chief General Manager to Attendants, observed one day mass casual leave on 21st October, 2008 and because of that, all activities of the Reserve Bank of India were crippled. In spite of this protest by almost 99 per cent of the RBI staff, the Government of India and the management of the RBI have failed to respond to the genuine demands of the 99 per cent of the staff of the RBI to withdraw the notification that was issued in the month of October, 2008 with regard to Pre-1997 Pension Scheme.

Sir, despite this massive expression of anguish by all sections of staff and repeated appeals from the United Forum, which is an umbrella organisation of all the staff of the RBI, for keeping the bank's order in abeyance and for mutually discussing it to amicably sort out the issue, the RBI remains rigid and uncompromising in its attitude. So, again they had to observe 2 days mass casual leave on the 1st and 2nd of December, 2008. So, I demand that the withdrawal notification should be kept in abeyance and the Pension Scheme which was there for pre-1997 pensioners should be restored back.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Parliament passed the Law regarding VAT. The objective behind imposing VAT was that there should be uniformity in the rates of taxes among all states and trade imbalance may be avoided. Each and every country of the World, where VAT is in force, has no other taxes.

Despite all these developments, VAT was imposed in U.P. w.e.f. 1st January, 2008 onwards, and tax on item such as Generator, Pumping set, pipe etc. used for agricultural purposes has been increased from 4 percent to 12.5 percent, and tax on electrical equipments such as fan, electric press and mixer grinder, surgical equipments and shoes costing more than Rs. three hundred has also been raised from existing 4 percent to 12.5 percent in U.P. Shoe making industry is a cottage industry. People from minority and dalit community work in this industry. There will be 12.5 percent tax on these items in U.P. where as it will be four percent in Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak precisely.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This will encourage tax evasion. Mr Pawan Bansal, Minister of State for Finance, is sitting here. he knows that there was a commitment under this law that if any state is incurring revenue losses due to VAT, that would be compensated by the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue, this will increase tax evasion and lead to trade imbalance. Government of Uttar Pradesh has increased taxes from 4 per cent to 12.5 per cent on the useful items of common people, through you, I would like to urge Government of India to take cognizance of it and direct the Government of Uttar Pradesh to withdraw the increased rate of tax.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. Hon. Minister of Railways is present here, through you, I would like to bring this in his notice that local people have been demanding laying of 90 k.m. new rail line between Shahjahanpur and Farrukhabad for the last twenty years. These two places are important cities of the state and situated in the middle of the state. There is no railway line there. Kribhko, Shyam Fertilizer Factory, thermal plant of Reliance Company, Godows of Food Corporation of India Khandsari Units and big Sugar Mills are located here. Sugar Cane is made available here by the farmers of Raja, Tela, Pavaya and Hardoi. This area is known mainly for the production of rice and potatoes. A number of cold storages are located here. Farmers and traders frequently visit here, but due to insufficient rail facilities this area is not being developed. The cantonment area is also there in Shahjahanpur, Tanakpur Fatehgarh, Bareilly, Agra, Mathura and Gwalior, which is another reasons for frequent visit of people. Through you, I would like to convey that local people of that area want to forward their request supported with fifty thousand signatures to hon. Minister of Railways to pay his kind attention toward this important problem and to issue instructions for immediate action on this twenty year long standing demand of this rail line...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got names of 46 hon. Members. Can I call everybody?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, and at the same time!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You come here and regulate it. Do you not understand the irritation that is causing? Somebody is saying something and 20 Members are saying 'Yes Sir', 'Yes Sir'! Do you not understand? I have got a complete list here. I have to see which issues I shall give preference. He is raising an issue relating to common people regarding garment factory workers.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): Sir, my name is also there... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It has been deleted.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I know, you are nearer the next election and naturally everybody wants to raise issues now. You have been sweating all the time.

*SHRI M.SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to raise very important issue regarding the problems of women workers in garment industry.

Sir, there are one million workers in the garment industry in Karnataka. They are facing a lot of hardship as they are paid very meagre salary. The garment workers particularly women workers are facing great difficulties as they work from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. They are an insecured lot. Apart from this, women workers are exploited by the employers as well as other unscrupulous elements. Sir, garment workers job is significant as their products are used by people worldwide.

Therefore, Sir, I would like to request the Government to take all possible steps to ensure better working condition, to the garment workers. They should be provided with housing and skill based training facilities. Then alone they can work peacefully and they would be able to contribute to the garment sector ably.

Basic infrastructure should be developed in all industrial areas where garment manufacturing units are clustered.

I hope the Union Government would definitely take concrete steps to protect the interests of the garment workers especially women workers as early as possible. Thank you sir.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a time for mentioning very urgent matters. Now, everybody is giving a speech. All right. Thank you. It is recorded. I wish the Presiding Officer of the 15th Lok Sabha better luck!

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the Government, specially the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Rural Development the pitiable condition of the farmers in my Parliamentary constituency.

Sir, Theni District, fully consists of mountainous and hilly areas like Koadikanal, Megamalai, Highwaywis, Kambam Mettu, Bodimettu, Agamalai etc. The small and marginal farmers grow various vegetables like potato, brinjal, beans, cabbage, cauliflower etc., and fruits like plums, berry, butter fruit, pineapple, apple, hill plantain etc. with their toil standing in Sun and rain. When these vegetables are ready, they have to carry them on their heads in baskets or employ ponies, the small horses, to bring the same thing to the markets and to the main roads for transportation. There are no proper village roads. In the last rainy season, because of torrential rains, tonnes of vegetables and fruits could not be brought to the market and they perished and farmers were forced to just throw them away.

Sir, I would request the Government to put a cold-storage in that area so that the farmers will be benefited. Sometimes the rates are very low. In those days they are throwing out cauliflower, beans etc. on the roads. If the Government puts two cold-storages, one in Kambam valley and another in Kodaikanal valley, the farmers would be benefited.

[*Translation*]

Cold storages are necessary to preserve the things they produce.

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, there is a proverb in our country which used to be uttered by our ancestors: 'A stitch in time saves nine.' But I think ..."

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, that will be deleted.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Millions of poor people in our country are earning their livelihood by way of farming poultry. A few months earlier, avian flu – that is bird flu or chicken flu—struck West Bengal in a devastating way, as a result of which thousands and thousands of poultry farmers had lost their livelihood. ..."

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You relate to the matters of Central Government.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it relates to Central Government; it is incumbent upon every State Government to safeguard the public health. A few months earlier, when bird flu struck West Bengal....* Now, again, we came to know that bird flu has assumed alarming proportion in the adjoining State of Assam.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not misuse the opportunity.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, in the adjoining State of Assam also, bird flu has struck in a devastating way. But, in the earlier occasion, as per the Guidelines of the World Health Organisation, if the suggestions are followed, then it would not have been affected again. Already, Malda district in the north Bengal had been struck by the bird flu. On an earlier occasion also, culling operation and mopping operation had not been done in a proper way as a result of which, again, bird flu...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more; no.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, you are not utilizing the opportunity properly.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would like to request the Central Government to take all possible measures to save the poor poultry farmers in all the States.

MR. SPEAKER: All reference to the State Government will be deleted.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): The man and elephant conflict in Assam is a very serious issue. This particular problem has created havoc in the districts of Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong, Sonitpur and Nagaon. Due to this problem, so far there has been a loss of six lives. Also many persons have been hospitalized for treatment. This problem has not been effectively tackled by the State Government of Assam because of lack of power. According to the Wild Life Act, the power of control and regulation of wild elephant is in the hands of the Central Government. That is why, the State Government cannot tackle the wild elephant effectively.

My humble submission to the Government of India is that this particular power should be given to the State Government so that they can control and regulate the wild elephant, and protect the interests of the villagers.

Sir, in my district of Dibrugarh, there are five panchayats in Larua Mouza – Lezai, Kolokhowa, Madhupur, Gorudhoria, and Bogibil. In these five panchayats, more than 100 villagers have been badly affected. This jumbo elephant has destroyed their paddy fields, houses and many other properties. In order to protect these villagers, the Central Government must come forward to hand over this particular power to the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat. You are repeating it.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, I come to my last point.

Sir, the Central Government must immediately announce a package for providing adequate compensation to the affected villagers in all the districts of Assam.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Chengaru Surendran.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is now
... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you just try to watch and listen which are the matters I am trying to allow. The matters are concerning common people and workers who are affected.

[Translation]

You all have no sympathy in this regard. Is this the subject worth not to be listened to.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is now in operation in almost all the districts in the country with effect from 1st April, 2007. In Kerala, the labourers engaged under the Scheme are now getting a wage rate of Rs. 125 per day. Considering the rise in the prices of essential commodities, now-a-days this wage rate is insufficient for a family. The local wage rate of agricultural labourers in Kerala comes to between Rs. 250 and Rs. 275. So, it is very essential to revise the existing wage rate.

As per Section 6 of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Central Government has the powers to fix the wage rate considering the specialties existing in different areas in the country.

So, I would urge upon the Union Government to take steps to revise the wage rate from Rs. 125 to Rs. 250 in Kerala at the earliest.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (Katwa): Sir, I would like to raise a serious problem of the handloom weavers in the country.

The handloom sector which is basically an unorganized in nature occupies second place to agriculture in providing livelihood to the people in our country.

As per the joint census of handlooms and power looms conducted in 1995-96, 65.50 lakh persons are engaged in the handloom weaving and allied activities in our country. Out of these, eight lakh weavers are in West Bengal, and they are now under stiff competition with power looms and textile mills. Furthermore, the competition has become too tough because of power loom products are being sold in the name of handloom products. It is also a matter of great concern that this sector is paying around 12 per cent interest on handloom loans, which is also a prime cause of their most distress condition.

Under these circumstances, more than a year ago West Bengal Government and other State Governments

requested the Central Government to waive the handloom loans. A survey which has been made by the Central Government's Development Commissioner for Handloom has been submitted to the Finance Department for its approval, and it is still pending with the Finance Department.

I, therefore, urge upon the Finance Minister, Government of India to kindly take initiatives immediately so that the large amount of unpaid loan be waived as has already been done for the debt-hit farmers in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am going to speak on mentally retarded children and their family members, which is a very important topic for both health and society's point of view. These mentally challenged children have been neglected a lot and post independence the government have not chalked out any welfare schemes for them so far. I have personally seen the pathetic condition of these mentally retarded children and their families. I had organized a camp with the help of National Mental Institute in my Parliamentary Constituency, Chandrapur in which these children were given health check-ups and their families were given counselling. About one thousand such children and their family members from my district took part in this camp. When I enquired about these children, I learnt that the Government does not make any arrangement for their education and health check-up. I request the government to chalk out some effective schemes for them. There are no special schools for them where they can study. Therefore I demand that Government should set up a separate school for mentally retarded children in every district. I demand for giving maintenance allowance or pension to their families so that they are able to bring up these children without any difficulty.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ahir, I thank you for raising this very important issue.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, the postal employees of the country are on strike yesterday onwards all across the country. Their demand is that lakhs and lakhs of ED employees of the Postal Department should be considered as Government employees.

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

In this regard, there was a Natrasjmurthy Committee, which was constituted by the Government. Its Report has been submitted to the Government. But all the recommendations of this Committee are against the interests of the employees of the Postal Department. Only yesterday onwards, across the country, the postal movements are at standstill.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to immediately intervene in this matter and call for a conciliation meeting with the leaders of the postal employees and settle the issue in favour and interest of the postal employees of the country.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, through you, I request that the postal services in lakhs of post offices in the country have been paralysed. About three and a half lakh Dak Sevaks working in rural areas have been on strike since 17th December due to which the postal services in the villages have been paralysed. There is news from various corners that letters etc. are not being distributed and postal function of three to five hours in the post offices has been affected and works pertaining to small savings scheme have been paralysed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you were the Chairman of Standing Committee on Communications you had planned my things for the welfare of postal department. There are 1,27,823 post office branches for the 74.2 percent population living in rural areas and their function has been paralysed due to strike by about 3,10,296 Dak Sevaks working in rural areas. After Fifth Pay Commission, Talwar Committee was constituted for these Dak Sevaks but its recommendations are kept in the cold storage. Now the recommendations of Sixth Pay commission are going to be implemented. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has treated these Dak Sevaks working in rural areas as Civil Servants, but these Civil Servants are, so far, deprived of facilities i.e. house rent allowance, gratuity, pension, pay scale and increment etc. entitled to Civil Servants. Through You I request the government that it should talk to the representatives of these Postal employees immediately for smooth conduct of rural postal services...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You always raise good issues but could you speak a little bit slowly.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, in this way these postal employees have been victims of injustice and

exploitation for a long time. On the one hand social security is being provided to the unorganized sector and on the other about three and half lakh 'Gramin Dak Sevaks' in the organized sector who work for five to seven hours a day, their voice is not being heard.

Therefore, I through you, would like to request the Hon'ble Minister that he should take up this issue with the Hon'ble Prime Minister and concerned Minister of Communications so that their strike may be called off. The Government should resolve the issue in consultation with their representatives. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government constituted Natraj Murthy Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this also related with the issue?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: That Committee added insult to the injury of these employees. That Committee recommended to decrease both their pay scales and retirement age. This has created indignation among these three and a half lakh E.D. employees. I request the government take step for calling off the strike and accept demands of postal employees immediately for smooth functioning of the rural postal service.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri P.S. Gadhavi, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Shri Ganesh Singh, Smt. Susheela Bangaru and Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan also associate with this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you associating?

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Sir, I would like to invite the urgent attention of the Government to the plight of Haj pilgrims across the country which calls for immediate redressal.

The first return flight from Jeddah reached Calicut after a delay of 27 hours. The second flight bettered this, being delayed by 30 hours. Compounding this, the baggage of more than 50 first batch pilgrims did not accompany them. Now, total confusion reigns with the cancellation of all return flights till the 19th of December. This experience is being replicated across the country.

The pilgrims also are enduring lack of food and other basic amenities for hours at Jeddah Airport. Because of passport irregularities of a few, an entire batch is detained. Instead, those waitlisted are accommodated, causing heartburn to those originally chosen.

We are dependent on foreign private charters because of lack of adequate support from our national carriers. Both Air India and Indian Airlines should give primacy to the demands of Haj pilgrims.

So, may I request the hon. Minister in-charge of Haj Pilgrimage for intervention in this matter? The Minister is only interested in the private operators. Therefore, the Government should take immediate action for rectifying this mistake.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj and Shrimati Satheedevi are associating. Yes, your names are recorded. You have got similar notices.

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Sir, the Hindustan Photo Films Factory in Ooty is a gem in the crown of Ooty, the Queen of Hills in Tamil Nadu. The Hindustan Photo Films Factory had been declared as a sick company... (*Interruptions*)

It is not because the films for photography, the films for X-ray and the films for radiation are not required in the country or it is not that they are not buyable. It is because of the poor administration.

But, specifically, the reason for me for raising this matter today is that there are hundreds of workers there. They are getting pay since 1987 in the same scale. The Rao Committee constituted last year suggested that the pay must be revised. In spite of that, for the last 21 years they have been getting the same pay.

I would request the Government to look into the matter and revise the pay according to the current pay scale.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government regarding a disaster caused by sudden breach and the diversion of the Brahmaputra River by breaching the dyke at the Sisi Kolghar to Tekeliphuta area. It is a three kilometer area from Matmora to Arkep Balichapori and Janjhi area. It is because of this, 30,000 families

have been uprooted this year. There has been a frequent breach of this dyke for the last couple of years. The Government of Assam has taken up a plan to have the restoration of the dam with the ADB funding of Rs.142 crore. Also, they have a proposal for Rs.54 crore from the Central Relief Fund. But so far this has not materialized. If these breaches are not closed within this winter season this year, then things will go out of hands, and more devastation will be caused.

Sir, huge quantity of loss will be there. Also, the rehabilitation of the people is very much urgent. So far, an amount of Rs. 700 crore is with the Government of Assam from the Central Relief Fund. These funds are not going to the affected people. So far, not a single rehabilitation package has been given to these people.
... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you make such allegations, you have to take the responsibility of such allegations. The allegations against the State Government are very easily flaunted here. But there is no State Government to reply to these allegations.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I am submitting.
... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a tendency which I have been trying to restrict.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, the Central Relief Fund is a Central Government fund.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, whether they are spending it or not is a very serious charge that you are making.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: That is correct.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Take the responsibility. Now you conclude.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is done on every side. I am not only mentioning you.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I appeal through you to the Government of India to release the ADB fund for the restoration work, an amount of Rs. 142 crore so that relief work could be taken up. ... *(Interruptions)* Also, I request the Home Ministry to monitor the situation. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi to speak now.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: I request for monitoring of utilization of CRF funds. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When I call another hon. Member's name, you are requested to sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: This is my appeal. Thank you. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I request you to permit me to raise the matter of releasing a postage stamp to honour the great Telugu poet, Gurajada Apparao garu. The issue is pertaining to the popular, famous and renowned Telugu poet great Gurajada Venkata Apparao garu who was born on 30th November, 1861. A very subtle writer in Telugu, Gurajada Venkata Apparao garu used all forms of literature like drama, novel, poetry, short poems with equal skill and facility. ... *(Interruptions)* He was not only a popular poet but a great social reformer also. Through his poetry and plays he tried to bring a social change and he initiated patriotism in the minds of the people. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shrimati Tejaswini Gowda to speak now.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Sir, just one minute. Sir, he can be compared with social reformers like Raja Rammohan Roy and Bal Gangadhar Tilak etc. His famous play – Kanyasulkam— was against dowry. This play was enacted for the first time in 1892 and even after 116 years this play is being enacted even today in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, alright. So many details are not necessary.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Sir, one thing. It is a great record. During the British time he gave a call to the people of the State — '*Desamante matti kadoi, Desamante manushuloi*' ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Sir, it means the country is made up of people and not by material things. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: I appeal to the Government through you to release postage stamp... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Only Shrimati Tejaswini Gowda's speech would be recorded.

(Interruptions) ... *

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. You are not cooperating with the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kanakapura): Respected Speaker, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India to felicitate Shri Vishnu Vardhan, a legendary film actor with the honour of Dada Saheb Phalke Award for his outstanding contributions to the Indian cinema through the Kannada cinema industry. He acted in more than 200 films including in five languages. I take this important occasion to thank the Central Government for granting the status of classic language to both Kannada and Telugu languages. On behalf of my people I would like to thank the Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

Shri Vishnu Vardhan contributed a lot to the Kannada film industry through his numerous roles from mythological to historical and to social roles which promoted brotherhood, unity, progress and harmony between different sections. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Giridhari Lal Bhargava to speak now.

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA: Sir, just one minute please. In the last 35 years, after Dr. Raj Kumar, the

first Dada Saheb Phalke Award winner, now Vishnu vardhan is the deserving legendary actor from Karnataka who deserves this highest award.

Thank you, Sir, so much for this opportunity given to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government had made an announcement to give some states medical facilities like AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences). Rajasthan was among them. Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, has the biggest and well equipped Sawai Mansing Hospital with state of art medical facilities and there are well qualified doctors in every departments. Even the buildings of the hospital have been extended. Patients from all over India come here for treatment. While this hospital has all kinds of facilities like AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences), I request the government to accord the status of AIIMS to this hospital immediately.

[*English*]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Sir, due to Rava-Hajang agitation in Goalpara district, panchayat elections could not be held there. Goalpara district is one of the 250 districts for BRGF. Since nine people were killed in firing there, elections were deferred. As elections were not held, the BRGF is not released, which did not allow them to implement the projects. I would request the Government that in view of this fact, funds should be released and amount sanctioned should be utilized immediately.

Thank you, Sir. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Adv. Suresh Kurup will speak now.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed 20 Members. Out of 55 minutes, you just see how much time you have also taken in disturbing the proceedings.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This 'Sir, Sir business' is going on. This is most nauseating for me.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can go on standing and shouting. I will not call you.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. If you cannot sit down, then go out.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan, you take your seat. I have called your colleague.

... (*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, for quite some time, the Sangh Parivar organizations have been systematically targeting and attacking the Christian minorities in Orissa. It was during last Christmas eve that they had organized an attack against them and churches were attacked. Recent attacks against them in Kandhamal district are quite well known. Now VHP has called for a *bandh* on Christmas Day. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I have called you last. I knew that.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh, I will give you a chance to speak in the afternoon.

... (*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Now they have called for a *bandh* on Christmas Day. ... (*Interruptions*) There should be condemnation of this by the whole House. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Francis George associates on this issue.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.57 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen ' ' of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to strengthen the Indian Air Force with additional manpower and new generation fighter aircrafts

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune): Sir, We have not only to look into our internal security arrangements especially in view of terrorists threats but also to look at our Defence system and strengthen it.

In order to bring an improvement in the air defence system, I have a few suggestions. Sir, there is lack of replacements which is depleting the strength of fighter squadrons of our Air Force. Our Squadron strength should be 39 which presently stands depleted to 32 squadrons. The IAF procurement system also needs to be simplified to avoid delays.

We need more aircraft to meet shortage which may affect IAF capability for widescale operations during war. Here I refer to LCA programme which is running behind schedule. In my opinion, more than third of our operational strength consists of obsolete MIG-21. Other aircraft like Mirage-2000 are due for upgradation. There is an urgent need to acquire 126 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircrafts.

About radars, we have not purchased new versions during last 17 years and our air defence system is based on 1976 model, as per latest CAG report.

(ii) Need to review the policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones in the country

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, after the sanction of the Central Government for setting up of

*Treated as laid on the Table.

Special Economic Zones in the country there is a need to review this policy in view of the resistance being put up by the Farmers in certain states of the country. Now-a-days Special Economic Zones are being set up under the protectionist policy towards industries by providing them special facilities on priority basis. The agricultural lands in the country are being acquired by the Government by treating the SEZ as the criterion for development. Today, land is being acquired in the country under the Land Acquisition Act of 1894. Such an old law is neither able to provide a reasonable rate of the land to the farmers nor helps in rehabilitating them properly after their displacement. The farmers engaged in the agricultural work have been compelled to live in Jhuggis and work as labourers after their displacement. How employment can be provided to these farmers in S.E.Zs. Is the Government justified in providing tax-concessions to the industries and helping them in getting lands at low prices in its pursuit of setting up industries. Our priority should be the farmer and agriculture but as this is not the priority of the Government, the plight of the farmers of the country is getting worse. Considering the ongoing nation-wide protest against SEZs as the symbol of plight of farmers it is necessary to review the SEZ policy and bring about a change in the priority of the nation so as to make it farmer-based and agriculture-based. Through you, request the Government to reconsider its S.E.Z. policy.

(iii) Need to Include Bhojpuri language in the Elghth Schedule to the Constitution.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, Bhojpuri, dialect is spoken by the largest number of people in the world it is being spoken by as many as 16 crores of people in an area of about 70 thousand square kilometers. Its use is very vast in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. It has also its vast base in 27 countries including tarain areas of Nepal, Maritius, Fizi, Trinidad, Thailand, Holland, Malaysia and Singapur. In the Rigveda Mahrishi Vishwamitra has referred to the word "Bhoj" from which the term Bhojpuri was derived, besides this, a history passing through various phases of various religious books including the Mahabharata and the history of Bhoj kings of Malwa, the Bhoj Kings of Ujjain, Gurjaa-Pratiharas Bhoj, the Bhoj kings of Kashi and Dungraon bear testimony to the vast extent, comprehensiveness and antiquity of Bhojpuri.

Hundreds of Saint litterateurs, thinkers and philosophers like Guru Gorakhnath Ji, Chorangi Nath Ji,

Yogiraj Bharatrihar Kabirdas, Df.aramdas, Dhamidas Paltoodas, Bhikha Sahib spread their message through their folk tales, songs, ballads and proverbs. From one generation to other. Writers like Great scholar (Mahapandit) Rahul Sankrityayana, Dr. Bhagvat Saran Upathyayay and Chaturi Chacha have given new heights to the Bhojpuri prose literature.

Sir, as it is well known, originally there were only 14 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Later, Sindhi Konkani, Nepali, Manipuri, Maithili, Dogri and other languages were also included in it through amendments.

Through the Ministry of Home Affairs too accepted in principle to include Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule, but Bhojpuri has not yet been included in the Eighth Schedule.

Therefore, Sir, keeping in view the feelings of 16 crore people, Bhojpuri should be included in the Eighth Schedule forthwith.

(iv) Need to check the increasing incidents of road accidents in Delhi

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar): Sir, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of road accidents in Delhi during the last two years. Along with private buses, trucks and other vehicles have also caused many accidents. In these accidents, the affected families did not get any compensation either from the Government or from the vehicle owners and no strict action was taken against these vehicle owners, and drivers. The vehicles which caused accidents are again plying as usual on the roads. Here is an example of the incidents taking place in Delhi in which a 12 years old student was killed on the spot in a truck accident in front of Raja Garden Petrol pump of Delhi on 11.08.2007. A case was registered in 2007 itself. But, Sir, more than a year has gone by but the affected family has not got any kind of compensation.

Through you, I request the Government to provide compensation to the affected family which has been increased from rupees fifty thousand to rupees one lakh and fifty thousands and to take strict action against the culprits without any delay and strict legal steps should be taken to check recurrence of such accidents.

(v) Need for take over of the Dunlop Rubber Factory at Hoogly, West Bengal by the Government of India

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): A very serious situation has arisen due to suspension of work at the Dunlop Rubber Factory situated in the district of Hooghly, West Bengal rendering thousands of workers jobless. Founded in the year 1936 this factory is one of the oldest rubber manufacturing units of the country. It supplies aero tyres to the defence department. Moreover it has got the expertise of production of tyres for two-wheelers and for military vehicles. Moreover before the new management purchased this factory the Government of India owned 30% shares through LIC and Banks. There is a high demand in the international and national market of its products like high pressure wheel and steel chord.

The workers of Dunlop who have sacrificed a lot for the smooth running of this unit are in great distress due to the policy of the present management.

If it is properly run by efficient management Dunlop has got very high potential in the national and international market. In view of its importance particularly to fulfill the need of the defence department, it would be in the fitness of things if the Dunlop unit of Hooghly is taken over by the Government of India at the earliest.

(vi) Need to withdraw the decision to privatise the services provided under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): It is understood that the Government has decided to privatise Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) project by handing over the major components like supplementary nutrition and free school education to NGOs and Self Help Groups etc. These measures will deny the children below six years, pregnant and lactating women the little benefit that they are enjoying at present.

Women and children are the worst affected by the withdrawal of the government from its responsibility of providing the basic welfare facilities to the people under the economic policies being implemented in the country since the last 17 years. Further, 80% of children below 3 years and around 60% of women in the rural areas in our country are anaemic; 46% of children are

underweight; 38% children are stunted; 57 children out of every 1000 die before reaching first birthday; 55% of these deaths are due to malnutrition. Yet, the allotment made by the Government for the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the flagship programme of the Government of India claiming to have a holistic approach to child development, is only 0.8% of the total budget estimate for the year 2008-09.

I would like to urge upon the Government to take necessary action to withdraw the decision that the Government has taken.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, on the statement of one of the Ministers of the Government, question were raised in the House in the morning and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister stated that

[English]

the Government will respond.

[Translation]

At present the Prime Minister is in the House and the Leader of the House is also present. Different statements are being made about the people who lost their lives in the terrorist attack...(Interruptions) when will the official statement be given by the Government on this issue, this should be made clear...(Interruptions). This is a very important question.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This will be made known to you.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Madam, this is not a matter that should be raised here now. ...(Interruptions) This should not go on record. ...(Interruptions) He should give notice for this. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can not raise an issue whenever you like the Government will reply, as per its wisdom. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: When will the statement be made in the House? ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You cannot raise your point in the House whenever you like.

[English]

This is not the way. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: But the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has stated in the House that the Government will reply. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He will reply when he would feel like that.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, he cannot take the time of the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)... "

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Points for discussion have to be taken up as per the list of items on the agenda.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): When the hon. Members agitated in the morning, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Government, said that the Government will respond. We will respond.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Please tell, at what time the statement will be made. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please have some patience. It may be tomorrow. House is going on till 23rd, and before the House adjourns, the Government will respond. Please have some patience.

*Not recorded.

14.07 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Review of the economic situation in the country

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the Discussion under Rule 193.

[*Translation*]

It is in the name of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

[*English*]

Since we have received a request from Shri Acharia to allow Shri Rupchand Pal to speak in his place, I am allowing Shri Rupchand Pal to start the discussion.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Madam Chairman, the Indian decouple theorists have proven themselves wrong. The former Finance Minister is also looking after not only the Home Affairs, but also Finance in respect of Parliament Questions and others. He had said that India was insulated from the serious crisis that was engulfing the developed world. But these decouple theorists have been proved wrong.

We do find that the BSE Sensex which in January, 2008 had risen to about 21,000 points has come down to around 9,000 points now. The casualty mostly is the small investors. Our exports, in spite of the tall claims, have been dwindling and came to down to an unexpected level. The result is that the export-oriented units — particularly the small, medium and tiny sectors the labour intensive sectors, the handloom sector, the handicraft sector, the textile sector, diamond and jewellery, the leather — hundreds and thousands of them are subjected to loss of jobs. The Minister said the other day in the other House that about 65,000 jobs have been lost by now which is an understatement because he may not have taken into account the large number of construction workers in the real estate. Of course, he has said that in the coming days, about eight lakh more jobs may be lost, but that is also another understatement.

If you look at the industrial figures, during the last 15 years, we had no such experience where the slow down has come to such a level, and the present level may be anywhere between 0.4 and 0.5 or even less. Although the Government had been claiming earlier when

the earlier picture of the slow down has been given—from 10.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent — they had said something wrong in the figure itself, although fresh figures will be coming mid-January when we will have a better picture. In the core sectors like cement, steel, iron, power, crude and petroleum products, in these seven core areas, in most of them, there is negative or very small growth affecting the organized sector also.

The Minister is saying that agriculture is our hope and this year, we are going to have a good crop. Maybe. But the sort of national agrarian crisis we are facing and every half an hour, a peasant committing suicide, the price of fertilizer going sky high, and in spite of debt waiver plans and all these things, the peasant and farmers of this country are depending on the moneylenders. Under such a situation, a marginal increase in production in the rabi and kharif crops will not just offset the crisis that is setting in the Indian situation. So, the decouple theorists have been proved wrong and the crisis it is having its impact not only in the share market but also in the industries, on the livelihood of the common people, and poorer sections are the hard hit.

Then, there is depreciation of the rupee. It is a strange phenomenon. It is a US-made crisis — from the sub-prime mortgage home loan crisis, to the financial sector crisis, to the fullfledged economic crisis, to a recession, to a depression. It is reminding of the great depression of 1930. But the dollar is appreciating, most of the times. And we being the victims of the US-made crisis, our rupee is depreciating. By now, it is depreciating and we are importing at a higher cost. Although the prices of crude, etc. have come down heavily from \$ 143 per barrel to less than around \$ 40, etc., yet the contracts of these importers had been made at Rs. 39 to a dollar, etc. There have been derivative products also. So, importers and also some of the exporters are heavily hurt. There is a decline in forex and the Government has been waxing eloquence — we have a huge quantum of foreign exchange and who can beat us? We accede that. It should be at a manageable level. More suggestions had come for use of forex, for the infrastructure sector, etc. from no less a person than the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, but for some reason or the other, that was not done. Now, we find that the forex is declining and it has reached a level which is considerable. The decline is 3.34 something to 2.50 or something.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Tell us the correct figure.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Correct figure should come from the Government because " is always changing. I am not working in the RBI.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address to the Chair.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: About today's figures, I would collect from the RBI and come to speak. RBI has to give the figures. I am giving some idea about the level that there had been a substantial decline in the forex level. It is true that the Chairperson of the UPA in a public meeting was saying that we should be proud that our public sector and our public regulatory system had done well for our economy. The Left had also supported the nationalization in 1969. But what has happened? By this Government and the previous Government also, there has been a continuous move to divert the public sector, and also there is a Bill pending today – Banking Regulation Bill. Even a few days back, there was pressure on some of us that we should agree to discuss the Banking Regulation Bill which was to open up the private banks to the foreign investors, and also a Bill is pending which is to bring in even creeping privatization of the SBI. In the other House, a Bill has been pending about the FDI cap proposed to be raised from 26 per cent to 49 per cent. The same directives of Washington consensus - although they have undertaken a solution, reversing the process, the mentors and advocates of new liberal philosophy have changed themselves.

It was in a different way of course. They are privatizing the profit and socializing the loss in a big way; there are no less than 26 banks, which are giants and icons of the Wall Street like Marilyn, Lehman Brothers, Morgan Stanley and what not. The crisis has spread from the Wall Street to the mint street – from the financial sector to the economic sector. The bailout package is unimaginable – 3.5 trillion dollars – this means, it is far more than whatever India has spent from the days of Independence till today. But still nothing is happening. It is spreading from the financial sector to other sectors.

You know the story of General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, and also you know what has happened in the House of Representatives – the bailout package was turned down by the Senate; you know the story of

Volkswagen, you know the story of Toyota. No bailout package was able to set the system. It was the question of the system. So the great advocates of the market, the market fundamentalists and the marketeers have been trying to find a clue to a person who had died more than 125 years back; and Das Kapital is being raised by not only the big shots, but the great stalwarts of free market. The Ministers and Gordon Brown had been advocating that the only way is nationalization. He had given the lead in nationalization and telling America not to take over the top six assets, but it will be a whole hog nationalization process. It is the same case in Europe also. It is the reversal of process. Those who had written great books, the best sellers, *The End of History*, are re-writing their books. In such a situation, the Government of India are saying certain things in the international gathering on 15th November, that it is about more regulation and more stringent controls particularly in the financial sector and how India has been saved because of these controls in the banking and the insurance sector, etc.

But coming back, they are saying something else. It is the hot pursuit of the reform process by which we can proceed further – growth, growth and further growth, obsession with growth. And now, they are saying that it will be around 8-9 per cent; RBI is revising because IMF and UNCTAD had revised and so, it will be like that.

What is growth to the common people? About 80 per cent of the people, according to your own report, are earning Rs.19-20 a day. But what is the price of a kilo of *atta* at Delhi? It is Rs.13-14. In such a situation, in the 'Hunger Index' that has come out, it is said that 20 per cent of the Indians are very poor and are suffering from extreme hunger. This is the international report and that has not been contested by the Government.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): West Bengal ranks first in that!

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: This is the problem with these people. You tell them anything serious, they go on chewing about the old things, old catch words, etc. They will not change. That is because their fate is like that! ... (*Interruptions*) I shall derail myself and discuss about West Bengal. If there is anything to do, tell your West Bengal MLAs to discuss that in the West Bengal Assembly. ... (*Interruptions*) This is the problem. I am not responding to him. It is a serious debate.

I was speaking about the Chairperson of the UPA commenting that the regulated role of the banking system had saved a lot. We are proud to note that those people, including the pink papers, who had been waxing eloquent, rather jubilant say that now it is free and that the Government says that they are no more bonded labour.

As if the Government has been under bondage by the Left. So, the Left has withdrawn. We are free to pursue our liberal policies. We do find that the Left's intervention has saved this Government. They may or may not agree does not matter. The people know that the opposition to the banking reforms, opposition to raising of FDI limit in insurance, opposition to the full convertibility, opposition to pension fund being put into the vagaries of capital market, have saved this country. Still, we are not decoupled, as can be seen from the effects in the capital market, in our export, in the industrial scenario, in the condition of small, medium and tiny industries and all these. In such a situation, what is to be done? I am very concrete what is to be done.

The Government has been announcing packages, pumping liquidity as if liquidity is the problem. It is a wrong concept. Liquidity is not the problem. It is a part of the problem. The problem is in the basics. It is an abnormal, extraordinary situation. Extraordinary situation demands extraordinary solution. Do not look at the US. I do not say that they are moving in the right direction. They are clueless. I do not say that UK is moving back to socialism. That is not right. They are socialising the losses. They are pampering those who, sitting at the top, have indulged in corrupt practices in the banking system. I know that our hon. Prime Minister had given such a warning about the system long back. But there is such a hue and cry in the print journals and the magazines. What do they say? Are we not leading to chronic capitalism?

He was referring to the compensation packages to the CEO. That is a matter of concern in US also. Promoters and CEOs are such a combine that they have made our industry virtual loot. I am not referring to other aspects that have come out in very many other reports. The hon. Prime Minister has commented that such a compensation package for the CEOs in a country like India, where there is no national wage policy and the lowest paid is having an earning which cannot provide him single meal a day, is not needed. And there was such a hue and cry, criticism of the Prime Minister.

In our country, in our hot pursuit of not only the chronic capitalism process but also super capitalism and the US model we have tried our best in the name of the financial sector reforms and all these things, the result is that there is no discrepancy between the rich and the poor. On the one hand number of billionaires and the number of poor is increasing. In such a scenario, we are suggesting that in this extraordinary time we should not be fussy about our goals like fiscal deficit. The other day I had raised this question when the hon. former Finance Minister said that it is not a wise suggestion. What is the condition of the States? You are telling them that - 13th Finance Commission parameters are there; terms and conditions are there - the States' target is zero revenue deficit by 2009 March. Is it possible? What is happening, under pressure from the Central Government to perform, they cannot deliver the goods or provide more money to the social, health or education sector for creation of more jobs.

It is not possible even for the Central Government to keep itself within that limit. He says that when we cross that limit we shall come to the Parliament and instead of amending we should rather scrap the FRBM.

In the Western countries, they are scrapping so many other things. Why should we be fussy about FRBM? A few days back the State Finance Ministers had assembled and they had demanded that in addition to the stimulus package I or maybe stimulus package II, the State Governments must be given an additional Rs.20,000 crore so that they can address the issues and the sufferings of the people who have been the victims of this slow down. Of course, technically, the recession has not set in as two consecutive negative growth years have not happened but recession is looming and it is knocking at the door even in India today if you look at the real economy. So, we have demanded that more public spending and that the FRBM should be properly amended. The State Governments should be helped appropriately in regard to taxes and in regard to the interest being charged on the States and all those things.

Now in such a situation, what has the Planning Commission said. It is not my plea. What the Planning Commission in its Approach Paper has said and I think it is the appropriate path, it says that the Planning Commission considers certain rules in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management as major constraints for the Government in expanding revenue

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

expenditure during the 11th Plan and it has suggested in the Approach Paper a relaxation in the FRBM rules. But on the other day when I said that it should be revised appropriately or rather it should be scrapped altogether, the Finance Minister said it is not needed. It is suggested because millions and millions of Indian people are suffering, starving and dying, 20 per cent of the Indian poor are in the hunger list, 40 per cent to 50 per cent of children are dying. That is the international report and you have admitted it. In such a situation, the labour intensive industries of this country are in doldrums. The packages have come for the SMEs and the RBI has come out with monetary policy. There is also some refinance arrangement but they are too inadequate. Moreover, the direction is wrong. The direction should be public spending. Why is it so? It is because if you give some monetary and fiscal relief, the effect will take months. But the effect of public spending will be immediate. Again who is suffering after working till evening, next day he will have some money to purchase. He will have the purchasing power. By that purchasing power, the demand will be created and by that demand the small, medium and other units can operate. What do you want? You are speaking about inclusive growth but the direction is wrong. I know even within the Government, there is difference of opinion.

Now I come to fiscal packages. There is lobbying for that. Even the non-performers are lobbying. I know their story but I am not naming them. Take the case of civil aviation sector which had grown out of proportion suddenly. Now suddenly they sacked the air hostesses and when there was too much of hue and cry, they retracted and ultimately the turn of pilots came. The wage cuts are continuing. They are pressurising the Government. Now ATF prices have come down. They are at a level of 50 per cent less than from what they were. From Rs.72,000 a kilo litre, it has come down to Rs.32,000 kilo litre but are they passing on the benefits to the customers? If so, how much are the passing on? The wage cut is continuing and that is not confined to civil aviation sector alone. It is happening in very many areas.

There was a question asked in the *Economic Times* and the question was: Is it a fact that non-performers are covering up their non-performance and making a plea for bail out packages? Around 85 per cent people answered, 'yes'. I know a case of Dunlop India Limited. The new promoter was a non-performer all along for the last two and a half years. Suddenly he is talking

about international crisis, melt down and all other stories and that the State Government should come out with a package of Rs.100 crore, all the taxes should be waived and all these things.

Unreasonable pressures are being mounted sometimes on the Central Government and sometimes on the State Governments by the non-performers. But what should be done? We have given our suggestions in writing and also have stated publicly that public spending, social sector spending, waiving off the FRBM limit is the answer, granting concessions, waiving interest and meeting demands of the States is the answer. States would have to fulfil their responsibilities. The Central Government has to consider the SEMs. How can things improve only with re-finance packages? There is an unprecedented decline in the indirect taxes, particularly in the Excise Duty and this is reflected in the state of affairs in the performance of the industries. It may be more than 40 per cent of the target. There is a decline in the submission of advance taxes also. But India is a country where we find a lot of tax evasion. Tax administration is weak even today. Till today computerisation of the income tax has not been completed though the target date for it has long passed. Till today there is more than Rs. 1,30, 00,000 crore of arrears pending to be collected and the Government says that only Rs. 12,000 crore is collectible. Why so? It is because our laws are such, our arrangements are such and our administration is so poor in implementation. It is so in a country where four out of ten super rich people of the world lives and about one lakh people who are on the border of being called, if not dollar billionaires but rupee billionaires. In such a country there should be public spending, better tax compliance, better tax administration and better collection of tax arrears.

What is the Tax GDP ratio? The Government is waxing eloquence that it has reached a level of about 13 per cent. Is it the goal? Should it not be more than that? Public investment in infrastructure is one way, but in the Urban Infrastructure Planning, there is no mechanisation. There is no scope for creation of jobs. The focus should be on creation of jobs in the rural areas. In such a scenario, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme should be augmented. It should be expanded and more funds should be allocated under this scheme. I know there are problems in the delivery system, but those should be improved upon. The States should be asked to do it. There are lacunae in the system, like in the amount of money, timely allocation,

availability of money etc. I am not going into the nitty gritty. The Report has come and the Government will take note of problems facing the people who are implementing the scheme. The expansion of the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is one such area. There are others also in the social sector. One such area is the National Rural Health Mission. I know it may be said that there are so many problems in the delivery system. Money cannot be spent but that can be addressed appropriately in conjunction with the States.

My last point is about the conception of the Government on inflation. The Government says that rate of inflation has come down to 6.5 per cent. Some one says it is 7 per cent. But look at the food scenario. I would request one to go to any market in Delhi and find out at what price wheat is selling today.

Ask me and I can read out the whole lot of details about rice, sugar, wheat, medicines, etc. which I have collected as regards only Delhi. ... (*Interruptions*)

That is not true because in the WPI led basket, food is about 15.5 per cent and not showing the CPI. In the CPI, food inflation can be reflected properly but not in WPI led inflation. So, poor people are using the essential articles and food articles like atta, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and such things and we do find that these people are suffering.

For your interest, I can read out the latest figures. In 2004, rice was Rs. 13 per kilogram and now, it is Rs. 19 per kilogram, it is 46.15 per cent increase during your period. Wheat was Rs. 8 in 2004 and now it has become Rs. 13 which is 62.5 per cent increase. The same is the case of groundnut, etc. LPG was Rs. 241 and you have raised it Rs. 350. Diesel was Rs. 21.70 and you have raised it to Rs. 34. Petrol price was increased from Rs. 33 to Rs. 50 and even now, after the international price of petroleum goods have come down sharply like from 147 dollars per barrel to around 42 dollars per barrel, the Government has so miserly decreased it like Rs. 5 for petrol and a cut of Rs. 2 for diesel. There was a demand in this very House a few days back and we had pressed for Rs. 10 for diesel. The Government is now thinking about it depending on the market, considering the national goods, etc. But the Government owes it to the nation. ... (*Interruptions*)

If you just reduce the price of petrol and diesel, it will have a cascading effect and it will bring down the

prices of essential commodities. In such a situation, our suggestion should come out with a comprehensive package and not a piece meal package saying that RBI is coming out with some monetary policies, some reports, etc. but the banks have no trust and faith in such actions. They are very cautious. The industrialists are complaining that all though you are saying so many things, they are not given loan. Today, in the case of home loans, some guarantee, insurance and further incentives in the case of income tax and such other things have come. But still the situation is not improving. The Government has come out with a stimulus package like Rs. 20,000 crore in the planning process. It may be that what is not spent is again being given. It is there in the form of bonds. The total is Rs. 35,000 crore. It is not only too inadequate but it is directionless. You should have a comprehensive package. The developed countries are mostly coming out with comprehensive package.

Now, you had a supplementary budget. You did something and approved certain things. There is another supplementary budget shortly. It is all done in a piece meal manner. Why not a direction? These are the people who are our targets, the poorer sections of the people, 78 per cent of the people who are being noticed are suffering and earning less than Rs. 20 a day. They are victims of inflation. Consider more public spending by more allocation to the social sector, by strengthening the PDS, by making available the required credit to the small, tiny and medium sectors which provide the largest number of employment and also account heavily like more than 40 per cent of our export. In such a situation, think of more public spending. It should more of a direction and it should be a comprehensive package covering what has been announced by the RBI, by the Government in stimulus package I, proposed stimulus package II or whatever they have done through the supplementary budget or the proposed supplementary budget.

I think the Government owes it to the nation that they had promised to the nation that they are different from the NDA. The NDA has been rejected by the countrymen because they have been waxing eloquent of a 'Shining India'. They did not care for the suffering India. If you do the same mistake, your fate will be the same I remind you once again.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Madam, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I rise to participate in this discussion about review of the economic crisis in India (economic slow down). Before we get into the details of crisis, I feel that we need to have an overview of the Indian economy. I am very happy that the hon. Prime Minister, who is also looking after the Ministry of Finance, is present in the House.

Madam, there are three major sectors in the Indian economy – the unorganized sector, farmers, landless labourers, carpenters, and all the artisans. Sixty per cent of the GDP depends on them and 92 per cent of the work force is in the unorganized sector.

Madam, there is another major sector and, that is, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs. They are the second sector. There is a small creamy layer of corporate sector. Today what has happened? The economic crisis has hit all the sectors and more so the most vulnerable sector of the unorganized sector, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs. The entire middle class, that is, 29 crore people are below the poverty line and nearly 30 crore people are in the middle and higher income group. It means nearly 78 crore people in this country are poor or below the poverty line. This crisis has hit them. Everything has slowed down in the last one year and more so in the last couple of months. The housing, the construction, the infrastructure, textiles, garments, automobiles, manufacturing, capital goods, the entire services, exports etc., everywhere there is a slow down. What is the impact of this slowed down? From expected nine per cent of the GDP, we are declining or our GDP may be hovering around six per cent.

The hon. Prime Minister said the other day, while coming from the foreign jaunt, it will be above seven per cent. But from last one week people are telling, it will not be above seven per cent; it will be less than seven per cent. I was going through the index of industrial index of production (IIP) monthly data. In April, 2008, it was 6.22 per cent, May - 4.37 per cent, June - 5.44 per cent, August - 1.42 per cent, September - 5.45 per cent and, unfortunately, in October, 2008 - it is -0.42 per cent. This is the declining trend.

What are the reasons for this crisis? The main reason is the UPA Government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh and ably guided by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. But that is a political reason. The financial reasons are the gaping fiscal deficit. The entire revenue collection has slipped off. The Government, on 10th December, 2008

said: "It will not be able to achieve the indirect tax collection target of around Rs.3.2 lakh crore for the current financial year on account of duty cuts and economic slow down." I further quote: "We will not meet the indirect tax collection target due to the sops given and the global slow down." This was said by the Commerce Secretary Shri G.K. Pillai. Even the Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs Shri T.C. Jha said: "The Government will lose around Rs.40,475 crore of indirect taxes during the year because of the duty cuts announced after the Budget for 2008-09." That means that there is a minus growth rate. Fiscal deficit is increasing.

What about inflation? The inflation which was hovering around 14 per cent is now between 8 and 9 per cent. This is also because of the falling prices world around. The oil prices which were \$ 146-147 per barrel has plummeted to \$ 40 a barrel. But the inflation has not plummeted. It has not come down. Whatever the softening of the inflation has happened not because of the efforts of the UPA Government by any management but because of the global falling prices. But even now it is around 8 to 9 per cent. Actually, it is a good practice, good governance of the finances that when there is a supply side constraint, we improve the food supply, we improve the supply side situation and bring down the inflation. But wherever the UPA Government went into tightening the monetary policy and sucked out the entire liquidity in the market to the extent of rupees three-and-a-half lakh crore, there was no focus on the agricultural sector. There has been a huge import Bill on account of food.

Now, my dear friend Shri Chidambaram, who was earlier the Finance Minister, is not here. He is not in the Finance Ministry. He has gone to the Home Ministry.

[Translation]

In Hindi, Minister of Finance is called 'Artha Mantri', but Shri Chidambaram has proved himself to be 'Anarth Mantri' of this Country who has bankrupted the economic condition of the country.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Madam, I oppose this sort of a personal remark.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Madam, it is not a personal remark...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I am referring to what the Finance Minister has done.

[English]

It was termed as a dream team consisting of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia. But this dream team has brought nightmare to the Indian economy and India is facing that nightmare, that crisis. Everything around us, around the Indian economy like the manufacturing sector, the agriculture, the exports, the development and every sector has collapsed. I think the basic reason is wrong strategy.

What was the strategy? In the Common Minimum Programme, the UPA said that their strategy is to weave an economic development making *aam aadmi* as the focal point.

[Translation]

But the common man has not been the focal point. You made important person as your focal point instead of a common man. SEZ, Spectrum, power plants all these things are meant for important persons and it means *aam aadmi* is used as vote bank whereas important persons are used to make money.

[English]

This was the mantra of the UPA and therefore this economic slowdown has happened.

[Translation]

When Shri Chidambaram ji was looking after the Ministry of Finance.

[English]

He used to tell us that the strategy is to balance growth and inflation. Now he has come to the Home Ministry. He is telling that the strategy to fight terror is to balance the war against terror with maintaining secularism and human rights. Yesterday, when two Bills against terrorism were placed before the Lok Sabha, we supported that reluctant and half-hearted step of the UPA Government because in the last 10 years we have been campaigning for tougher laws against terrorism. On both economy and national security, they have adopted a misconceived strategy of balancing between growth and inflation and balancing between war on terror and secularism.

[Translation]

I would like to make a submission to the Prime Minister that he should not make calculation to strike vote bank balance rather he should focus his attention to the betterment of the country. But he is working to make calculation to strike vote bank balance.

[English]

Madam, I would like to give some figures here. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government came into office in 1998. Before that, what were the economic indicators of this country? From 1991 to 1996, it was Dr. Manmohan Singh who steered the economy of the country by heading the Finance Ministry and between 1996 and 1998, it was Shri Chidambaram who headed the Finance Ministry and presenting 'dream budgets'. When we came into office in 1998, the foreign exchange reserves were 30 billion US dollars, the GDP growth rate was 5 per cent, the fiscal deficit was 6.1 per cent and export growth was limping at 3 per cent. This was the scenario. In 2004, when they came in after 6 years of vibrant governance of Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, the foreign exchange reserves were 100 billion US dollars, the GDP was growing at 8.5 per cent, the fiscal deficit had come down to 4.1 per cent, export growth was galloping at 20 per cent and inflation was controlled between 3.5 per cent and 4 per cent. In all these 6 years, all of us were here, but not even a single time in any Session there was a debate on price rise or inflation.

But in the last four and a half years, if there are three hallmarks of the UPA Government, they are Prices rise, economic recession, unemployment. Unemployment, economic recession, price rise and inflation are the three hallmarks of UPA Government.

Now, in 2008, what are the economic indicators? Our hon. Prime Minister is an economist; therefore, I am talking of the economic indicators. The foreign exchange reserves are fast declining. The FII's are flying away. The FDI has reduced. The GDP from expected 9 per cent is now being re-estimated at 6 per cent. Fiscal deficit is increasing. Export Growth is slowing down. Inflation is at 9 per cent. That means the legacy we left, the opportunity of economic gallop, opportunity of economic growth, opportunity of inclusive growth; everything has been squandered away in the last four and a half years.

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

I was pleasantly surprised and dismayed to read book from Shri P. Chidambaram, 'A View from the Outside - Why Good Economics Works for Everyone.' This is the book written by Shri P. Chidambaram when he was not in Office. Therefore, I was wondering, 'A View from the Outside', why it should not be 'A View when you are inside the Government.'

What is the view? For the benefit of the hon. Prime Minister and the entire House, I read out from the book. John Maynard Keynes said and I quote: "Inflation is a form of taxation which the public finds hardest to evade and even the weakest Government can enforce when it can enforce nothing else." Very true! He continues, "In a layman's language, inflation is the worst form of taxation. It taxes the rich and poor alike. If the rate of inflation is ten per cent, it robs a rich man of Rs.1 lakh out of his income of Rs.10 lakh and it robs a poor man of Rs. 100 out of the income of Rs.1,000 of a poor man. The rich have a cushion against inflation in the form of higher incomes or past savings, the poor has none." This is what Chidambaram Ji has written.

In one of the Chapters, he says, "The Finance Minister is not a solo player." Now, the hon. Prime Minister is the Finance Minister. "The Finance Minister is not a solo player. He is the conductor of an Orchestra..." Very discordant orchestra of UPA, Ullta-Pultta' alliance. "He must take charge and conduct all other players to play the same tune. The bus, so far as the economy is concerned, stops at his Desk." His Desk means, at the Desk of the Prime Minister.

Shall I tell you one thing, Mr. Prime Minister? The confidence is all time low and the stock market is volatile and crashing. There have been reasons for this crisis. As I have already said, people are losing jobs. They are losing jobs in textiles, in garments, in exports, in construction, in housing, in services, everywhere. My dear friend, Mr. Rupchand Pal has already narrated,

[Translation]

UPA Government added unemployment to the price rise and economic recession.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

Why the public spending is declining? Why the projects are unfulfilled? UPA fails to finish a single highway project in the last four-and-a-half years. Highways are among

key sectors the UPA Government has identified for development to soak in \$60 billion of investment over the next five years.

According to an internal report of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), prepared after the deadline expired in October, the highways regulator could not complete any of the 47 projects in the second phase of the North-South-East-West (NSEW) corridor. This is the situation. They have not completed any of the Highway projects. We started under the stewardship of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, the much-acclaimed Golden Quadrilateral project.

Finally, Madam, when the priorities are totally misplaced, and when economy is in such a bad shape, I have nothing more to add except quoting one paragraph from an article: 'An open letter to the Prime Minister'. I think, that is the only answer because Rupchand Pal ji, though they have parted the company, was hoping that in vote-on-account, which may come through in February, they may come out with some corrections. There will be no corrections. We are fading down. To bring about corrections, this UPA Government, this leadership is incapable. There has to be a change, and the change has to be NDA. Again the graph is going to go up. Therefore, I am going to read it. It is in the hands of the people of the country; I also agree and bow down to it. I would read that portion of the article and conclude my speech. It reads:

"Today, after four years in office and after India has witnessed an act of war on its own soil, your Government has lost all credibility with the people, and the buck stops with you, Prime Minister. You are scared to even name Pakistan in your speeches in spite of the so-called irrefutable evidence you claim to have; nay, in fact, each time you say something publicly about this now, it sounds like a condolence message, not something that inspires confidence. Economic reforms stopped long ago, for your allies did not want them; there are many ministers in your cabinet who have perfected Wal-Mart's cash-and-carry model and you cannot do a damn about it. You have failed on all counts as a leader. So, at least now, when India is under attack on its own soil, please act. And if you cannot act, please get out of the way and allow someone more effective to run the country."

This is the article written, Madam. The writer is an IAS officer. He also says:

"But then, history will judge you. If you have some conscience left, please do something. Don't forget, "mind without heart, intelligence without conduct, cleverness without goodness are all tools, but only for mischief".

Do not do the mischief with country's economy; do not do the mischief with country's security; do not do mischief with the country's nuclear sovereignty. We expect more, Mr. Prime Minister. If you cannot govern, get out; that is the message, Madam.

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): Madam, yesterday, in this House, we passed far-reaching legislation for securing the nation against terrorism, against external and internal terrorism. Today I am very happy that this discussion has come under Rule 193 so that we can try to insulate India from the global financial meltdown and also try to protect the economic security of this country.

I am saying this in so many words because the global melt down is of an unprecedented level. When Shri Rupchand Pal was speaking he mentioned that such a recession took place in 1930s. I was not born at that time, and so, I do not know about that and melt down. But now I know that all nations are facing economic crisis beyond their capacity.

The international financial scenario is very bleak. But I would like to say a few words on that so that we do not import those problems into this country. In fact, this crisis took place in America because of subprime crisis in housing and mortgage sector. Basically this problem came because there was a lot of money in the bank which was being wrongly invested for speculative purposes. That is how, this whole financial mess came all over the world. Today the whole world is global. It is not as if we can insulate each other from the other countries, and the financial markets are also global. That is why, most countries have imported this problem. On our side also we have imported some other problems also but the main thrust in India is this. Madam Indira Gandhi had nationalised the banks. In all other countries, the people have lost their faith in their banking system; be it in America, be it in Europe, be it in West Germany, and be it in the U.K., all the people have lost faith in their banking system. But since our banks had been nationalised at that point of time – thanks to our former

Prime Minister— the people of India have not lost their faith in the banking system because the deposits are underwritten by the State, as far as nationalised banks are concerned.

Now, in the last few years – Shri Ananth Kumar might not agree – we had a consistent high growth rate. You can imagine in a country of one billion people we are having a growth rate of eight to nine per cent in the last few years. In this year, of course, it has gone down to seven per cent but the average growth of the last five years is 8.9 per cent to 9 per cent. That is the fantastic growth rate which cannot be easily achieved by other countries so easily.

Madam, when this Government took charge, in our Common Minimum Programme we had a lot of far reaching anti-poverty programmes planned. For that, the Government has to raise the resources. How do you raise resources without taking the people into confidence and also without taxing them? As soon as this Government took charge, we had passed the Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management Bill and it became an Act. Now, according to that Act, we have to bring down the fiscal deficit to zero by 2009 but the then hon. Finance Minister had said that he would do it in a couple of years. I would like to state here that we should not bother about the FRBM Act. That can be a benchmark for our future reference but in the next one or two years when this global melt down is there we have to insulate our country, we have to help the people of India, and we should forget about this FRBM because even when we are supposed to have a fiscal deficit of only 2.5 per cent, already it is going to be five per cent. That is because of massive anti-poverty programmes that have come into the system, I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for announcing the recent financial package and also the financial package announced by the Reserve Bank of India.

I would like to point out here that we have strengths which no other country has. In fact, recently in China, ten million people have lost their job, and there is absolute chaos in the countryside because people have been asked to go back to their homes. They have no other means of eating also. But in India, luckily for us, because ours is an agricultural economy, the people of India are protected by this agriculture. So, even if people lose jobs, probably they can maintain for a month, two months, three months, or four months without starving. But in any case, we should not allow people to starve

[Shri R. Prabhu]

in this country, and we should not allow people to suffer from this international financial crisis. We should protect the public of India, and we should see that the economic security of the country and the public are protected.

I would like to take up the RBI's concessions. It came in the newspapers on 7th December, and maybe these concessions were announced on the previous evening. The main concession that the RBI had given was basically the reduction in the repo rate. Even though they had not reduced SLR and CRR, they had reduced the repo rate to 6.5 per cent. It is a very good thing because more money supply would be there in the system.

The other important announcement that they made was the interest rate on overdue bills to be 250 basis points lower than the BPLR. The third one will encourage banks to restructure more loans and contain NPAs. Here, I have a certain observation to make about NPAs. It may be a year or two ago that the NPAs used to be defined as that for six months if you do not service your interest, it would become a non performing asset. But then, after that, we started falling in line with the Basel Convention and made it three months, more stringent. If you cannot service your loan for three months, you become a non performing asset. I accept, maybe we should have better financial management in companies. But still in these times, I do not think, those stringent announcements should be enforced because we should have a little more leeway.

The Reserve Bank of India has reduced the repo rate, which is rate at which the Reserve Bank lends to banks, to 6.5 per cent. I find that most banks, except for may be the State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, have not reduced their interest from 13 per cent to 11 per cent, to 12 per cent. This is the loan to industry. But unfortunately, most other banks have raised their interest rates. Some banks have even raised their interest rate from 11 per cent to 13 per cent, which is ridiculous. And, at this point of time, if small and medium industries are not helped, then you would have a situation in our hands like China, where massive unemployment is going to be there. As of now, in the IT industry, there is massive unemployment. But IT industry is basically high-paying industry, and so, it does not matter. These boys and girls would sustain themselves for a couple of months.

But what about the industry, which has the employment generation, lots of labour, lots of indirect

employment like our traditional industries like plantations, textile, sugar and as Mr. Rupchand Pal mentioned, some more? As far as the textile industry is concerned, the Prime Minister has kindly given them a financial package, which has saved that industry because I am from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, and I know what this means to the textile sector. I understand that new packages are coming because from the newspaper reports, we read that the Prime Minister would give us another package to boost economy.

Basically, the problem here is that the banks are not listening to the RBI directives, their notifications and their circulars. In fact, in a recent meeting of the Standing Committee where the Governor, RBI was present, I told him that: "Your directives, your notifications and your circulars are mandatory; they are not advisory." So, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister and the former Finance Minister, who is sitting here, that they should have a meeting with all the nationalised banks and tell them whatever directions, notifications and circulars that the RBI issues, are mandatory. You should have a small timeframe to see that they are carried through, right from the top of the bank to the bottom of the bank because in the nationalised banks, it takes much more time to negotiate loans and restructuring.

Madam, I would like to say that what is required today is a multi-prong strategy to help our nation, to fight this economic meltdown and also make our citizens feel more economically secured. I would like to suggest some small measures, which I would request the hon. Prime Minister to be favourable and do whatever he could do, balancing other economic priorities in the country.

Basically, I would like more money to be put in people's hands because that would give them confidence. Like for example, the banks have reduced the housing loan interest rate, but the catch there is only for loans taken from this date, have been reduced to 8.5 per cent. What about the previous people who have also taken housing loans? They took it on floating basis; it was not a fixed interest cost, it was at floating rate. So, why should they not get benefit of this 8.5 per cent? As you know, houses were more expensive at that time. So, they took much more money from the banks. Therefore, I would request them to be also considered for this concession.

Another problem is, in times like this, we should try to reduce our prices because then the common man would benefit from that. The citizens across this nation would definitely benefit. I have a few suggestions. The taxes like VAT should be reduced. VAT has replaced sales tax. Now, even in countries like the United Kingdom, there is a talk of reducing VAT. I would request the Government to reduce the peak rate of VAT from 12 or 13 per cent to eight per cent like they have done in the case of CENVAT. CENVAT is basically an excise duty. Also, it should be done in the case of service tax. This tax has exponentially grown in the last two years. For example, in the last Budget the estimate of the service tax was nearly Rs.65,000 crore. Now where is this Rs.65,000 crore coming from? It is from the ordinary public. Therefore, the prices have gone up.

I would request the Government to consider reducing, at least, for six months or, maybe, a year, the peak rate from 12.5 per cent to eight per cent. I am sure this would give a fillip to bring the prices down, and everybody in this country would feel their responsibility not to raise the prices.

Next, I am coming to import and export. The dollar price today in India is unprecedented. In the last three months, it has gone up from Rs.39 to Rs.50. They are saying that after some time it will go to Rs.53 even though it is showing a downward trend right now. But I believe that the main reason for this is that we started forward trading in derivatives and foreign exchange in August, 2008. Maybe, it was done with a very different motive, very honourable motive to protect our exporters from dollar fluctuations. At that point of time, our exporters were hedging the dollar rate, with the rupee and various other European currencies. But unfortunately for them, as the trend was at that time, the dollar instead of going down, went up. So, most of our exporters, who had hedged the dollars, have lost. Some of them have lost in crores. In fact, in Tiruppur, which is near Coimbatore, we used to get an export income of nearly Rs.7000 crore to Rs.8000 crore. Today, it has gone down to Rs.3,000 crore. It is because most of the companies have wound up. Some of them have wound up 50 per cent or 60 per cent of their production. So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to look into this aspect also.

Also, when you give direction or when you try to restructure small and medium enterprises, it should be employment-oriented. For example, I understand from

newspapers that one of the big industrialists, who had taken over some companies in England, is asking for a package of 50 billion dollars to bail him out. He has not employed any Indian, except, probably, the management staff. But all the labour is from England. There is no Indian. So, I would like the Government to spend its money to bail out our industry, restructure loans only for employment-oriented industries in India at the first instance, and then, probably, the others.

I would like to wind up by requesting that all these forward thinking and forward looking steps be taken. Of course, I cannot advise the hon. Prime Minister who is an economist par excellence. I congratulate him for taking very immediate action by announcing a bail out package. I would request him to announce another bail out package also quickly. The main thing is that he should see that these bail-out packages are followed in word and spirit by the banking system which is very lethargic in giving relief to small and medium enterprises and also to the small man in this country.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Madam, today we are discussing a very important issue in the House. We are discussing about the present economic condition of the country. Be it America or any other country of the world, all are badly affected by the economic recession. India is also facing the ill-effects of economic recession. It is a fact that no one can immediately put a check on the ill-effects of economic recession. It takes sometime to control the economic recession. We talk much about GDP growth and Sensex. Common man and peasantry of our country cannot understand the language of GDP growth and Sensex. Common man only understands the language of development, National Rural Employment Scheme, Bharat Nirman. After independence, efforts have been made to provide all facilities to only 20 percent people, who are living in urban areas. Efforts have been made to provide all the facilities i.e. road, electricity, means of communication, hospital, employment to only 20% people. But, for the first time, efforts have been made to provide facilities to rural people under Bharat Nirman Scheme. Intention of the Government is not doubtful, Government of India's intention is very clear and noble. For the first time, such a large amount has been provided for rural development. Village farmer means a poor person. Today farmers and villagers have become synonymous with poverty. In the first phase, Government has tried a lot

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

for rural development. Efforts have been made to provide benefit of National Rural Employment Scheme and Bharat Nirman Scheme to those people, who are below poverty line. It is a first revolutionary Act. As per Planning Commission, about 26 per cent people are below the poverty line, but according to the factual position, even today 78 per cent people are living below the poverty line and they are living in rural and remote areas.

As per the Commission, which was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Arjun Sen Gupta, around 77 per cent population spends only Rs. 20 per day as its expenditure. National Employment Guarantee Scheme has been formulated for these people so that they can get at least hundred rupees per day as wages. According to the United Nations Organisation, everyone should get two dollar per day as wages. Two dollar means hundred rupees in Indian Currency. You do know that there is devaluation of rupee and value of dollar is also high. This scheme has been brought in to uplift the condition of 77 per cent population of our country so that a change could be brought about in the life style of common people. Under the 11th Five Year Plan, Govt. has started some schemes wherein a target has been fixed to give benefit of self-employment to 20 lacs people. It is not like that the Government is not making any effort. Poor village farmers take loans from the banks. Honourable Finance Minister did a very progressive job. In the last budget he made a provision to give loan to the farmers at 7 per cent interest rate. Though, a lot of things were made to work in the villages but still there is a need to do more work. Shri M.S. Swaminathan Committee has made a clear recommendation that loan should be given to farmers at four per cent interest rate. We should give special attention towards the farmers. Be the soldiers guardings the borders of the country or populace of the country, everyone needs food. Who produces the food? Who produces the food grains? Farmers produce the food grains. India is an agricultural country. I was going through the dominated economic survey report. Last year, there was trend of decline for some grains but this year trend has been favorable. If loans are given to the farmers at 4 per cent interest rate. It will encourage the farmers to improve their food grain production. Man cannot eat money. He needs grains to eat, whether he eats coarse grain or rice or wheat. Who produces these grains? Laborious farmers produce these grains. You have done a progressive work by fixing the rate of interest for loan at 7 per cent. But this rate should be reduced to 4 per cent so that farmers could do agricultural work in a good manner. Shri M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman of National Commission on

farmers have also made a recommendation to this effect and therefore, I have made a submission in this regard.

My second submission is that Sorghum, Finger millet and pulses are nutritious food. Marua which is called millets in English is also nutritious food. Poor people eat the coarse grain. It will be better if these are kept out of forward trading, so that encouragement can be given to the farmers to improve their yield. The UPA Govt. has done work to eliminate poverty. Purchasing power has increased under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and reason behind it is that they have got employment. It gives an indication that employment has been created in the country. Purchasing capacity has increased because of getting the guarantee of hundred days employment. The problem of hunger cannot be resolved unless purchasing capacity is increased. The problem of employment in the country is because of poverty. Poverty will be alleviated if avenues of employment are opened and employment is created. The reason of poverty is that we have not been able to give enough employment. There is a need to increase purchasing capacity even more.

There has not been as much increase in the irrigation capacity as it should have been achieved as yet. It makes clear the position in India.

India exists within the confines of the India Gate and outside it exists 'Bharat.' The UPA Government have taken initiatives for Bharat. The 'India' within the India Gate finds favour from all Governments but this Government have worked for the real India.

Now I would like to raise certain basic questions. Some priorities needs to be fixed in Government's action plan. Why a state remains backward? Today economic recession is the talk of the town. The set up of economy is being talked about. Today we find ourselves affected by the global economic recession as we have not addressed the basic problem. The CD ratio of the backward states in the country should be looked into whether it is Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand or Chhattisgarh.

15.31 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

There has been a lot of discussion on the banking system and our learned friends have discussed it at

length. The common man earns some ten or fifteen thousand rupees and deposits them with a bank but if we look at utilization and C.D. ratio of the bank, we find that only a C.D. ratio of 10-15 per cent is spent on that state and the rest is diverted to the metros like Mumbai. Unless the C.D. ratio is rectified, backwardness cannot be removed. This is the reason of backwardness of some states in the country. Their backwardness can never be removed if C.D. ratio is not rectified. There are guideline from the Reserve Bank of India that 30, 35 to 40 per cent of bank deposits should be spent on that State which receives it as deposits. Is it happening? Are the RBI guidelines being complied with? It is not so. The guidelines should be followed. The bank deposits should be utilized for the agricultural development of that state. When somebody deposits money in a state, money should be invested in that very state whereas the same is diverted to other cities for investments. It is the basic question of the C.D. ratio that 15 to 16 per cent investment is made in Bihar and the rest 83 or 84 per cent is diverted outside the state. In this way money of Bihar goes to big cities. I would like to submit that the RBI guidelines should be followed so as to remove backwardness of the states.

Apart from it there is yet another basic question. I have already stated that I would speak on the System. As per the instructions of the Finance Commission the States are allowed to determine the size of their plan from time to time. I would like to know, how the size of a plan is finalized? The plans are finalized on the basis of the internal resources of respective states but how development will take place like this? We have only sand and water and no economic resources. We can not mobilize internal resources. Internal resources might be available in Orissa, Hon. Members from Orissa will say. From where the money will come as there are no means for mobilization of internal resources? Will it come through sale of liquor? What are the sources? You have devised a formula for the states which is known as the Gadgil formula wherein a state gets allocation in proportion to its internal resources while there is no alternative to mobilization of internal resources. There is sand, water and flood there. You might have seen of late how Bihar was devastated by floods., Around ten districts have been affected by floods. Normal life had totally been disrupted there. The people have nothing to eat as the entire area has been devastated by water. There is only sand and water there with little scope for internal resources. Only water and sand is there. The

area remains affected by floods for six months in a year and for rest of the time it remains drought stricken. I would therefore, like to raise a basic question that size of the plans of backward and poor states should be based on their population, poverty unemployment and backwardness. A backward state can never make progress until the above method is adopted.

Mr. Chairman Sir, similar is the case with the North Eastern States. Prominent among the backward states are Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh but similarly you can see that the same situation prevails also in the North Western areas. The special assistance provided by the Union Govt. is not utilized there. In those areas also there are no means for mobilization of internal resources. In this way the North West will always remain backward and this way it disturbs the regional balance. It is a matter of national importance. That is why it needs to be given special attention. Though the Government is paying attention as I have mentioned earlier but the Government have to give more thrust to the development of backward areas. The Govt. will have to address the problem of economic disparity. Some people have become millionaires. Some people fly at a height of 35 thousand feet. We have got the tickets as MPs and MLAs and therefore we can fly through official arrangements but you can see that certain rich people also fly at a height of 35 thousand feet. The five feet tall human beings among whom rich people in the ancient times used to be at the maximum height of 16-18 feet as he used to ride an elephant. Elephant riding was status symbol of the elite class. In the ancient times those who used to ride an elephant were considered rich. Earlier the distance between an elephant rider and the common man walking on foot was nearly 10 feet. But today this distance has increased to 35 thousand feet. It is the result of economic disparity. The disparity between the rich and the poor has increased so much today that it is leading to violence. Its main cause is unemployment. The state of law and order and peace can not be restored in the country unless economic disparity is removed. While concluding my speech on the economic front, I would like to say that hard decisions, if required, need to be taken to address the problem of economic disparity. We should follow the principle of Live and let live. Every individual should at least be given a right to equality and right to life. Our leftist friends raise the slogan for unity of all the poor in the world and equality of the haves and have nots of the world. We can wait for the day when all the poor

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

of the world will stand united but for the time being there should, at least, be an equality to the possible extent. Mohan Singh ji knows what Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had stated equality of all may not be possible but there could be equality to a possible extent. At least every individual can be given a right to live and right to employment. At least, the economic disparity can be reduced to some extent. There should be equality to the possible extent. Discussion on economy will serve no purpose, unless economic disparity is removed. It should be taken on priority basis.

I shall conclude by raising my last point. Just look at inflation. In these circumstances of inflation and price rise, price of crude oil in the international market have crashed to 42 dollar per barrel from 147. In spite of this three time reduction in prices of crude oil, the government have reduced the prices of diesel by Rs. 3 only while earlier price of diesel was increased by Rs. 5 a litre. The same is the case with petrol. The basic consumer is heavily burdened by prices of diesel and the LPG. Diesel is linked to agriculture, irrigation, farmers and the common man. Whole of the service sector is linked to it. The common man and farmers should not be ignored. In order to reduce the impact of price rise, the prices of diesel should be reduced by Rs. 10. It is my demand because the common consumer is reeling under the impact of inflated prices of petroleum products. It is my humble submission.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards what Shri Anant Kumar has said. These words should be expunged from his speech. He said "In hindi, it is called 'Arth Mantri' but it seems to me that Shri P. Chidambaram is not a 'Arthmantri', but 'Anarthmantri' of India and he has turned the economic condition of India into..."

The words used by him are unparliamentary and derogatory and must be removed from the sentence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The words which are unparliamentary, will be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is any unparliamentary remark, we will remove it from the record.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I demand that it should be removed.

[Translation]

This word is an insult to a sect of Jainism, and should be removed...(Interruptions) This world should be removed from the record...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Unparliamentary words will be removed from the record. Do not worry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am specifically saying that the remarks which are unparliamentary will be removed from the record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever is unparliamentary will be removed, please don't worry.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take care of that. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The words which are derogatory or unparliamentary will be removed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Sir, there is nothing unparliamentary in the sentence. Mistry ji, please tell me the meaning of that word. When you don't know the meaning of that word, then how are you saying that this word is unparliamentary...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pradhanji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madhusudan ji, whatever is unparliamentary shall be removed. Please don't worry.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on economic slowdown. Before I start my discussion, I would like to urge the hon'ble Prime Minister to look for a Finance Minister and entrust him full fledged charge of the Ministry of Finance. It is indeed a sad reflection of public life in India that we are unable to find a suitable Home Minister and a Finance Minister. Well, our Prime Minister has appointed such person to the office of Minister of Home Affairs who is not familiar with the language spoken by 75 percent of its population. So, I request you that such a person should be appointed as Minister of Finance as my friend was saying, who is not at all stirred by the sufferings of 77 percent of population, but this country will get a Minister of Finance and also the Ministry of Finance will be benefited by his guidance.

Secondly, I would like to say that during the early nineties people were writing obituaries on communism saying that this ideology was no longer relevant and it was the era of capitalism and all of us should follow the direction which led to capitalism. In Russia there was a time when people were not having enough food and, therefore, they used to eat the food thrown in dustbins. During that time, capitalism as an economic-ideology seems to have been laughing off-the Communist ideology. To my view, current global recession is the result of contradictions inherent in capitalism and those who cursed Communism during 1991-92-93 have, now lost momentum. Consequently, they are inviting representatives from most of the big and small countries of the world to their nation and saying that this economic recession is not confined to America alone, but the one having global ramifications and people of the world should work towards putting an end to it. I am happy that India was also one of the countries in the league of invitee countries and asked for to help in overcoming the impending crisis. So, they are inviting India to their country. The representatives and leaders of our country go there and proudly speak that today they are also associating themselves in sorting out the problem of poverty and deterioration there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that nation builders of India as a consequence of their untiring efforts

during 150 years envisioned that neither communism nor capitalism was a suitable ideology for eradication of colonialism, poverty and unemployment from the world but the concept of a welfare State and democratic socialism in India was the only suitable ideology which could help in eradication of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and price-rise from the world. I am pained to say that we have bade adieu to all those ideologies which were the outcome of our national movement. So, we do not have any moral right to cry hoarse over this situation since we have invited trouble of facing the same problems being faced by these countries by showing least regard for the ideological legacy of our forefathers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, firstly I would like to say that the slogan of Smt. Indira Gandhi was *Swadeshi* and self-reliance. Without discussing it, I think it has become fashionable to brand every problem as global phenomenon which is being faced by us whether it is the problem of terrorism or recession or high level of corruption, in the country. If there is economic slowdown it is also attributed one being global in nature. We should make a resolve to rid ourselves of this bug of terming our problems as a part of this global phenomenon and do something to overcome it. This can be done by two methods. At first, we should adopt the old practice of public investment in the country. The Prime Minister of India has announced for a package, which is a good measure. But how will this package help? At the time of formation of UPA Government, the ideology included in this programme was that the Government would review the sick units of major public sector enterprises. I am sorry to say that the Government did not make required efforts in this regard. It is said that India is predominantly an agricultural country. The fertilizers which is essential for cultivation is required to be imported from foreign countries. We import this fertilizer from Yemen, which is a small country. Around 60 to 70 percent of total usage of DAP and Urea which are widely used by our farmers are imported from foreign countries. The factories in our country have been left in sick state for the last fourteen years since the implementation of the new economic policy. These factories were left to tend for themselves.

The enterprises that were capable of surviving free competition were given 'Navratna' status, they were

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treated as cash cows and paid some attention by the Government due to them being earners. However those unable to stand where withals of free competition would be left to lurch after spending paltry sum of Rs. four lakh or so. The technique of our economic policy has exposed the loopholes of the policy planning of our country. Therefore at the outset, I would like to appeal to the Government that merely investing capital in the sick units and by giving them the package will not work as was mentioned in the manifesto of the UPA. Our Government should work for modernizing them at any cost and efforts should be made to make them competitive.

Secondly, after introduction of new economic policy we have neglected our biggest sector of the country. Cottage industry was the path shown by Gandhiji. These cottage industries have the biggest employment generation capacity for the common people. The people of rural areas can work in cottage industries without compulsion of leaving their villages. Yesterday, it has been stated in this house that as regards the small scale industries in the country approximately more than five and half lac cottage industries in Bihar have been closed down with West Bengal at the second place in this regard. Sir, in this regard I would like to say that we have left these cottage industries and small industries at the mercy of big industries. Even many of articles earlier reserved to be manufactured by cottage and small scale industries, have now been dereserved in favour of big industries resulting in elimination of small industries, increase in unemployment and the loss of capital base of cottage industries. All that small capital belonged to our country and they have allowed to eliminate the capital of our country mercilessly. I would like to ask the Government of India to reconsider this matter. Today, the Finance Minister and Prime Minister of India say that economic recession will not affect us, because we have placed our country's economy at a sound footing. Now this claim of sound footing is getting exposed. It is a matter of happiness that a record production of paddy crop has been registered this year and the procurement price of paddy has been enhanced. It is an encouraging news for the farmers. You should conduct a survey in the whole country whether farmers are getting the price of their produce at the rate of Rs. 900 per quintal? When there is a record production of rice in the country, they have imposed the ban on its export so that the

price of rice may not increase and it may remain low leading the farmers to sell their produce at a price of Rs. 650 or Rs. 700 to the intermediaries. Agriculture is ridden with lot of difficulties. If we are unable to address the difficulties being faced by the agricultural labourers at least we should reduce their rate of interest. A suggestion of four percent was there but you have made applicable for 60 percent. It is all right but now a days the banks share of loan for procurement of agricultural equipments and agricultural investment is very low but Sir, you yourself know it better from your experiences and you also represent to that area where a number of farmers have committed suicide that merely disbursal of loans to the farmers won't do. Later package has been announced in the House and outside the House. It was said that the financial condition of the farmers will improve after receiving the package and the number of suicides will come down but data shows that the percentage of cases of suicide is increasing and no decline has been noticed in this regard after the package. What are the reasons? Farmers don't want any loan? The farmer wants to make lesser investment and wants to get the remunerative prices of his produce. Has any integrate policy been made in this regard? The Ministry of Finance says that subsidy on fertilizer is the biggest burden on the Government. This is the most vexing problem for our policymakers and the Government is concerned that the fertilizer subsidy has crossed the mark of one lakh ten thousand crore per annum and on several occasions this issue has been raised in this House. Why don't they distribute this one lac ten thousand crore rupees to the farmers directly. But last time in his budget speech, he said that it is more difficult to implement it in the whole country at the same time, therefore, they will implement it in the form of a pilot programme in the districts one by one. I would humbly like to ask whether Government has fulfilled the promise even in a single district of any State? On being asked as to why it couldn't materialize, he replied that the Ministry of Fertilizers wanted the companies to get this subsidy. Why does it happen? The benefit of subsidy is being cornered by the companies with the help of the cooked balance sheets. The Government of India has no option to check the plunder. New economic policy has come up and we made wider promises and became very happy because the youth of our country after passing out from IIT Delhi and IIT Mumbai are getting a yearly package of rupees three crores. In America, they are getting yearly package of rupees 36 crores. Even they are getting yearly package of rupees 60

crores. On one side there are yearly pay ranging from Rs. 60 crore to Rs. 3 crore. And on the other will be an employment guarantee scheme of rupees fifty daily. You will have full guarantee to get rupees fifty rupees daily but it still will not be available for the whole year. We will give you a guarantee to receive hundred rupees for hundred days in a year, just because they are IIT passed, therefore they will get a package of rupees three crores. I would humbly like to request the Finance Minister that if we want to protect India from economic crisis a specific legislation should be passed in the parliament to have control over higher salaries howsoever higher the post of any person may be. In China they argue that it is better to appoint ten persons for a salary of ten thousand each instead of appointing one persons for a salary of rupees one lac. They appoint ten persons in place of one person. What is in our country, we make a legislation in this House every other day to enhance the salary upto rupees one lac for a particular post amid thumping of desks and what is the result of it? Teachers are agitating outside, against 'babus' getting higher salaries than they? If bureaucrats get one lac salary, teachers who prepare bureaucrats want more salary targeting one lac. There is an ongoing quest in the country to get salary of rupees one lakh per month. I am of the opinion that it is the biggest cause of concern in our country. Therefore, a comprehensive legislation should be framed that nobody will get the salary of more than Rs. 75,000/- whether one is serving in private or Government sector, whether one is an executive or a justice of Hon'ble Supreme Court, whether he is the Prime Minister or President. If you don't do so, then I think country would lack sufficient capital. The Government highlights the issue that as much as Rs. forty thousand crore are being spent. But who for? This expenditure is being made on paying pensions to the people. Government vouch for stopping this system that would lead to a saving of Rs. forty thousand crore. I want to ask them as to who are such people getting as much as 40 thousand crore rupees? These are such people who toil all their lives in the hope of getting 10 thousand rupees, 15 thousand rupees or 20 thousand rupees. They discharge their duties from nine in the morning till five in the evening. If they commute from Aligarh to Delhi and vice-versa, they countenance their children after six months. They are unable to catch a glimpse of their children even in their own homes. After completing the job at the package of Rs. 20 thousand a month the Government makes the statement that it has to exercise economy and therefore provision of pension has to be done away with. Its spelling out heavy

burden on the Government exchequer. I would like to submit that doing away with the pension is not going to result in increase in capital. It is the check on the extravagance, opulence and fat packages that will result in more capital in the hands of Government and the increased capital base and liquidity will lead to development in the country. What are they saying now? The hon'ble Minister of Finance would claim time and again that our economy would grow at the rate of 9.5 percent per annum. With the clamour of impending economic slowdown rising, he was forced to scale it back by a bit and said that we will grow at 9 percent. Again, he said at the worst our economy shall witness growth of 7.5 per cent. Now the World Bank says that even after scoring four percent growth, it will win laurels. Why is it so? Why is it that such false claims turn out to be meaningless? It is for three reasons in this country. The first reason is that we are the resident of such a country, which is witnessing consistent rise in the expenditure meant for external defence and on internal security under some particular situation. At the same time, the burden of security of high-profile people is also on the rise continuously. As has figured in today's newspapers headlines that so many policemen have been deployed for the security of VIPs in our country. Actually they are 45 thousand in number. Sir, this is the country of Mahatma Gandhi. You are sitting in this House wearing the Gandhi cap. Today Gandhiji's name is synonym with ceremonial use and scant regard is paid to his ideology...(*Interruptions*). I am going to conclude within five minutes. Please you don't be angry. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya founded the Kashi Hindu University way back in 1914. After a stay of 25 years in South Africa Barrister Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi came to India.

16.00 hrs.

Malviyaji had invited Gandhiji in the opening ceremony of the University which was also attended by the Viceroy of India. Annee Besant was presiding over the Conference. Malaviyaji asked Barrister Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi to address the gathering. Gandhiji, while addressing the gathering referred about thousands of police personnel deployed in the vicinity of Varanasi Railway Station. On being asked as to why they were standing they told Gandhi that they were standing for the security of Lord Governor who was arriving there from Delhi. Gandhiji also saw those personnel on both sides of the road and also in the conference and on being asked they gave the same reply that they were deputed for the security of Lord Governor. Having seen all this Gandhiji turned to Lord Sahab and made this

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submission to him with folded hands that it was better for him to die rather than leaving millions of his subjects to die of hunger at the expense of whom his life was being guarded. This Gandhiji said these words before Lord Governor as far back as in 1914.

Sir, we put up the portrait of Gandhiji, we vouched for the Gandhian ideology and the entire world accepted it as well. 2nd October will be observed all over the world. It will be observed as non-violence day nonetheless his vision is not subscribed to by the people of his own country. This is very unfortunate. Therefore, I would like to give a few suggestions. Corruption is lowering all progress being made in India. Growth rate is nothing but jugglery of figures and even the figure of 11 percent growth rate can be projected. Who maintain it? Officials sitting in South and North Blocks mention in the reports that Indian economy is witnessing a growth rate of 90 percent. We read the report and assume that we are growing at the rate of 90 percent, but in practice all the money earned through development is being spent on corruption. Government of this country implemented Employment Guarantee Scheme with much fanfare by enacting pro-poor laws. UPA Government maintains that this is their biggest achievement. You may send a team of members of Parliament and assess the number of poor people benefited by it. This money had gone to the pockets of a few contractors, middlemen and local officers. My friends Mr. Devendra Yadav was saying that purchasing power has increased, how is the purchasing power increasing, this is increasing with the help of ill-gotten money. If we want to overcome the tide of the current economic recession, we should deal with corruption on all fronts including enactment of stringent laws and resolutions, as we have done to deal with terrorism. Corruption in politics, administration and in bureaucracy is increasing, if we fail to curb it, we cannot put an end to recession in this country the tall claims made by the Finance Minister in this regard notwithstanding and a divided India cannot work as a Nation that is India...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please co-operate.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I respect your order. I have more things to speak about, but since you have ordered me to stop now, hence conclude.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate on behalf of my Party, DMK, in the discussion regarding review of the economic situation in the country.

In this connection, I want to congratulate the UPA Government ably guided by chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on taking effective measure to face the global meltdown and global economic crisis which had started from the USA starting from sub-prime crisis. Now this global economic crisis has affected almost all the developed countries and is spreading to Asia. All over the world, fiscal stimulus actions have been initiated by various countries to boost confidence in the global economic situation. US President George Bush has come out with bail-out packages to banking industry and the financial institutions.

In the Indian scenario, we are seeing down-trend in GDP growth and industrial production. There is a marked recession in the real estate sector, textile sector and banking and finance industry. The rupee has also become dearer as compared to US dollar. Our export earnings are also coming down because of global recession. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has met industry captains and after consulting the Finance Minister, RBI Governor has announced various measures for additional liquidity to help provide credit at reasonable rates and reduction in repo rate being followed by various scheduled banks. Reserve Bank of India also pumped in Rs. 25,000 crore to enable banks to meet liquidity needs. They have also reduced Cash Reserve Ratio, CRR by one per cent.

Apart from this, lending interest rates have also been reduced by various banks. For example, the interest on Home loan has been reduced considerably for the loan amount ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh and from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh. This will boost the real estate sector. Hon'ble Prime Minister has also constituted a panel under his chairmanship to review the current economic situation, and to explore options for pushing the economic growth.

It is a good news to know that inflation rate is coming down and the situation is under control. The UPA Government has also reduced the price of petrol and diesel up to Rs. 5 in recent times. Our leader Dr. Kalaignar already appreciated the move of the

Government and also he appealed for further reduction of petroleum prices/in view of fall in prices of crude oil in the world market. We earnestly demand the Government to reduce the petroleum prices and of LPG so that common people will be able to face the economic crisis. In the State of Tamil Nadu, our hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar is distributing one LPG stove along with LPG cylinder free of cost to all families living below the poverty line.

Similarly, as part of the Arignar Anna Centenary celebrations, Tamil Nadu Government is distributing rice to people below poverty line at Re. 1 per kg. which will help poor people to tide over the crisis situation.

On the employment front, it is really unfortunate that some industries are, in the name of global meltdown, terminating the services of many workers thereby putting them and their families on the street. I would request the Government to review the whole situation and to give strict guidelines to the industrialists not to resort to unfair labour practices or sending the workers home. The industry should refrain from any "knee-jerk" reaction such as large scale lay-offs which might lead to negative trend.

The industries must bear in mind their societal obligations in coping with the effects of this global crisis. I would therefore, appeal to the Government to pay attention to the labour aspect also so that their interests are well protected and some social security net is provided to them.

For the people who are in rural areas, the UPA Government has come out with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, guaranteeing 100 days of work in each family. Similarly, other welfare projects like Indira Awas Yojana and other employment guarantee schemes should be implemented effectively. The situation should be constantly monitored and reviewed and corrective measures as required may be taken.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman Sir, the common man is in distress due to the prevalent economic condition of the country. People belonging to any class, be it the farmer, labourer or industrial workers engaged in different industries are in distress. The Housewives are in distress due to the

soaring prices because they are finding it very difficult to manage the affairs of the kitchen due to the price rise. No class of the society in the country seems to be satisfied due to such condition. Everywhere the situation is grim. Today when we are discussing this subject, I would like to thank the Prime Minister who has been wise enough to declare a package to provide some relief from the slowdown effects and to counter the recession that has gripped the entire world and was likely to affect our country as well. At a time when we are talking about the recession in the entire world, which may also be seen in India, the Ex Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram who is not present here right now, was never ready to accept that India may also be affected by this recession. He was never ready to accept it. He was repeatedly saying that this recession is not going to have effects on India and that how our economy has grown from 7 to 8 and 8 to 9 percent and he always tried to explain that this recession would not affect our country where as it could be seen in the entire country.

The present scenario in the country is not good but when I heard about the package from the Prime Minister, I would like to thank him for the same. The government is now admitting that there is economic slow down in our country. The economic condition of the country is deteriorating day by day. At least the government has now started admitting this and they need to take steps to such economic condition of the country. There is a need to provide relief to the common man who is in difficulty as to how to survive.

I had mentioned in this House on some other subject that out of the 10 top rich persons of the world, four are Indians and we are proud of that, but at the same time we should also not forget that 70 percent people of our country are living below the poverty line and people are even dying out of hunger and children belonging to the tribal category are dying due to malnutrition. There are laborers in our country who earn not more than Rs. 20 per day. This is the condition of our country and first of all the Government would accept it and having accepted that if we have to fight against the recession or financial situation, the first and foremost thing required for it is to prioritise areas which deserves more concentrated efforts. I am reminded of one of his statements which was published in the newspapers, when the price rise was discussed in this House, he was asked by the media persons whether we can control the price rise. Long discussion can be held on price rise. We had read the statement of the ex-Finance Minister

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in the newspapers that we can control the price rise. But if we try to control price rise, our industrial growth rate would come down. We are not against industrial growth rate, we are not against the corporate houses of the industrial houses. The people of the country accept the fact that some employment is generated through the big industrial houses and industries. They play a vital role in providing the employment. The people of this country accept this. But we cannot ignore that even today 70 percent of the country's population live in the villages and is entirely dependent on agriculture.

Sir, what is the situation of farmers' today? The Shiv Sena launched a campaign in Maharashtra against the suicides taking place in Vidarbha and now the campaign has spread all over the country. Ultimately the Government accepted that loan will have to be waived off. In the last Budget session, the Finance Minister had announced in this very House about waiving off of the loan of about Rs. 60 thousand crore. Have the incidents of suicide stopped after it? If you see the situation in Vidarbha, the incidents of suicides have not stopped. Presently in an average 46 farmers have been committing suicides every day in the country. The farmers have been committing suicides in our country even now. I have said this because while deciding the priorities the Government must accept and keeping it in mind that even today, 70 percent population living in the rural areas is dependent on agriculture.

Sir very often we provide statistics in the House about the number of Kissan Credit cards issued. The finance Minister often mentions about as to how much agriculture credit has been increased, we are not denying it. You claim that you have provided 8,10,15,20 percent or more than one lakh crore rupees as agriculture credit, but has the condition of the farmers improved by availing the facility of loan or has it become even worse. We should also think about, this. Why are the farmers of our country committing suicides when we are providing credit worth more than one lakh crore rupees.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): 2 lakh and 40 thousand crore rupees.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Hon. Minister had said that 2 lakh and 40 thousand crore rupees have been provided to the farmers as agriculture credit but despite that the farmers are committing suicides even today. There are certainly some loopholes in our

policies as well as lacuna in the implementation of our various programmes. That is why farmers of this country are committing suicides even after being provided rupees 2 lakh and 40 thousand crore as agriculture credit.

Sir, unfortunately our country is like a big continent. Geographical features of our each state is different. Even different districts of same state have distinct geographical features. Unfortunately, we see in this country that one part of a state is facing flood and other part is reeling under drought. There is a state like Bihar which has to face flood every year. Some parts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat are reeling under drought every year. So our country has diverse geographical conditions and I am inclined to say that the policy formulated in the country does not take into account such peculiarity and diversity of geographical features. Whom for the farmers are fail to take into account whether he is native of fertile land of Ganga basin in U.P. or landless farmer of hills or a native of desert, and how much they differ. Though they are farmers but they are poles apart. We do not give it a thought while formulating a policy. Though we implement a uniform policy for the whole country but we are not uniform in that way. Wherever you go, take the example of irrigation, what is its status today. How much of our land is irrigated. Unfortunately, our irrigated land area is ten percent of the total land area of the country and means of irrigation are lacking. Therefore, we have to improve all these conditions. Common man is poorest of the poor. Take the example of prevailing condition of workers. Yesterday, we passed a Bill here pertaining to social security for the workers of unorganized sector. What is the condition of workers today? Today, our country is facing the impact of international recession. There are many such industries today which are going to face closure. Many industries have started to lay off workers. Many industries have adopted four days a week, model instead of a seven days a week, three days are holiday. Many industries are expressing their inability in paying the salary as usual, a twenty percent cut is being forced. If one wishes to work on twenty percent less salary then it is alright otherwise a lock out is threatened. The Government need to consider these issue seriously. If the international recession has affected our country then we will have to fight back this recession, but no one should take undue advantage of it. The industries should not take undue advantage and make it an excuse for lay off, retrenchment and shut down. Today many industries are taking undue advantage of it. It is increasing the possibility of unemployment day by day. Today

employment is shrinking. We are discussing today in House as we see the situation in the country. But what will be the outcome of this discussion? Is the Government going to take any decision on this issue? Whether the Government is going to amend or improve its policy? How a common man is going to get relief today? What efforts we are going to take in order to check inflation? What we are going to do to facilitate a square meal for common man. The schemes which are mentioned here time and again, data to the tune of several crore rupees are furnished claiming that we have provided so much employment here...(*Interruptions*)

Just now Shri Mohan Singh ji was on his legs. He mentioned NREGA. There are many such schemes pertaining to employment. Are they really generating employment today? Crores of rupees are being looted but there is no sign of improvement in condition of workers. I want to give an example of NREGA. We have enacted an employment guarantee act. Our schemes are being run under it. You have provided for a 60:40-60 percent is labour component and 40 percent is material component. Labour component and material component can only be utilized when we undertake some work, that means some developmental work is done. For that we have fixed certain priorities. The Government of India has fixed as well as different states have also fixed the same. But today one needs to go to Maharashtra to see its condition. We have given priority to water. We should give priority to water conservation, we do not have any objection to that but water conservation is not feasible in every district as is the case in my region which is hilly. You will not believe that in terms of rainfall Konkan region ranks first not only in Maharashtra but in the entire country. At the same time it is usually hard to believe that it is also the first region where tanker for potable water is sought for such is the Topography of the region. All the water of rainfall in that area flow to the sea within an hour. The small projects you formulate for irrigation or water conservation like construction of small pond, dam etc. do not work at all in our region. All our money is wasted. You may construct a dam whether by soil or concrete, it will hold the water during rain but if you see it after a month then you will find the dam dry. Hon'ble Ministry if you want to speak you can. I am sitting...(*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Geeteji, Thank you. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to say to the Hon'ble Member that in RD...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Hon'ble Minister, it will be better for you to speak after I conclude my speech since you are the Minister concerned...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: I want to give clarification on one thing since you and I, both are from Maharashtra. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to say that in view of problems faced by Konkan we have empowered the local Gram Sabha in toto to carry out any kind of work there. We have also empowered the State Governments as well to act differently from our list of priorities. Hon'ble Member is very senior. He can put forward any demand of his region through the Gram Sabha. Thank you.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree to whatever Hon'ble Minister has just said. Hon'ble Minister, I am not levelling any charges against you, but State Government is not yielding. You have not said that. You have priorities and states also have their priorities. This does not mean that only one kind of work should be carried out. If you cannot carry out water conservation project in my region then we demand that you should construct roads, buildings, school buildings, community toilet...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ok, now, conclude your speech.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am concluding my speech. I am making a mention of this fact here because we do not understand the problems arising during implementation of the policy and programmes finalized and we implement the same programme in the entire country. Today the situation is that not even a single rupee has been spent in my district for last one year since the scheme has been implemented there. I am not saying this for making an allegation. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding my speech. When we formulate a scheme with a provision of crores of rupees it is meant to be spent for undertaking construction work of road and building that includes the expenditure for labour and material component only but not for machinery component. If you have to construct a road you cannot make a tunnel through mountains and rocks. We cannot operate a roller machine on the road constructed there. If we have to dig a well on rock we cannot make a tunnel by operating any machine...(*Interruptions*) I am concluding my speech. If

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

the Government wants to improve the financial condition prevailing today, the condition of the poor and the condition of common men then attention must be given towards these things. If you formulate any policy for improving financial condition of the common men then only, you will be able to face such a financial condition, otherwise not.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject. I stand here to deliberate on the issue relating to the Review of the Economic Situation in the country.

Recently, the International Monetary Fund has released an update in November this year which states that the world growth is projected to slow down from 5 per cent in 2007 to 3-3/4 per cent in 2008 and to just over 2 per cent in 2009. The activities in the advanced economies are now expected to contract by one-fourth per cent on an annual basis in 2009 which is down by three-quarter percentage points from October 2008. This is from the World Economic Outlook's projection. This would be the first annual contraction during the post-war period. The downward revisions in 2009, the real GDP growth projections are somewhat larger in the emerging and developing economies.

We are aware that downward revisions vary considerably across regions. Among the most affected are commodity exporters, given that commodity price projections have been marked down sharply and countries with acute external financial and liquidity problems. We are told, in East Asia, including China, have generally suffered smaller mark downs because their financial situations are typically robust. They have benefited from improved terms of trade from falling commodity prices and they have already initiated a shift towards macro economic policy easing. I would ask the Government: what are we doing?

The recent moderation of inflation risks has cleared the way for major central banks to cut their policy interest rates. Considering the latest cuts in policy interest rates, interest rates in 2009 are assumed to be about one percentage point lower in USA and Europe and a half percentage point lower in Japan. This is in line with market expectation. Other advanced countries have also cut rates. In emerging economies, the picture is mixed.

Some central banks have increased rates to combat capital outflows and others have lowered rates to support economic activities.

However, all these measures are limited and projections do not build in fiscal stimulus. Therefore, there is a clear need for macro economic policy stimulus related to what has been announced thus far to support growth and provide a context to restore the health of the financial sector. Room to ease monetary policy should be exploited. This has been repeatedly said, especially now that the inflation has moderated. But I am of the opinion that easing of monetary policy may not be enough because monetary easing may be less effective in the face of difficult financial conditions. Also in some cases, room for further easing is limited. Fiscal stimulus can be effective if it is well targeted, supported by accommodative monetary policy and implemented in countries that have fiscal space. Do we enjoy that privilege?

The World Bank's Annual Report paints a very grim picture of the world economy. It has dubbed the present financial crisis as "the most serious recession since the 1930s". The two countries that are widely believed to drive global growth are China and India. It is said that China's growth is export-led and it will feel the pain of recession more than India where domestic consumption fuels growth, but given India's poorer fiscal position, it does not have China's financial clout to spend its way out of trouble. Against China's growth stimulus package of 586 billion US dollars, India's recent one billion US dollar push appears paltry.

Now, as the inflation has softened, the Reserve Bank of India has begun loosening the monetary policy, *albeit* in a painfully slow manner. The Government does not have many options to take on the slowdown. It has no money to spend on infrastructure. We are yet to hear about the request made to the World Bank for a higher aid, which, I presume, is unlikely to be met as there are other countries with more pressing needs.

So, what should the Government do? My suggestion is, they should drastically cut down oil prices, taxes and interest rates. I am aware that India already has a very high fiscal deficit which is one of the highest in the world, if calculated correctly, and a careless splash of more red ink could put future economic stability at risk.

I would urge this Government to, at least, let decisions on tax breaks and Government spending be done in a fair and transparent way. The hon. Prime Minister must be aware that now swarm of honey bees are buzzing around a honey pot called the fiscal stimulus. Every industry lobby is hollering for a Government bailout for its members.

The Prime Minister should explain to taxpayers why one type of industry or activity is deemed to deserve support rather than another. Banks are a classic example. Their collapse usually sends waves of panic into the rest of the economy. There are industries where the so-called multiplier is high. Construction is an example of a sector with a high multiplier effect. And then there are industries that employ millions, such as textiles. Powerful companies in sectors such as real estate and airlines are in trouble because of their irrational exuberance. Their hardships have little to do with the sudden slowdown in demand. I would say, go for a fiscal stimulus if you insist, but ensure that it is not hijacked by powerful interests.

As global crisis is worsening credit risks, banks should have more capital. This has been reiterated in the annual publication of the Reserve Bank of India on the trend and progress of banking in the country. There have been rapid credit growths and some slippages in the non-performing assets. Is it not true that rising interest rates within last few years have also contributed to higher NPAs? Is not the Government aware that gross NPAs of commercial banks increased by Rs.6,136 crore in the financial year 2008, the first such instance since financial year 2002?

I would quote Dr. Rangarajan in an article published in *The Hindu* on 8th November 2008:

"With the Supplementary Grants approved recently by Parliament, it is almost apparent that the fiscal deficit of the Centre in the current year may touch four per cent of GDP, at least one per cent above the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management target."

That is one per cent more.

Again I would like to quote Mr. Arjun K. Sengupta. He has also written in *The Hindu* on 24th October 2008. I quote:

"No doubt our banks are suffering from liquidity crunch for some time, caused by our earlier policy of liquidity withdrawal to manage inflation...But injection of rupee by the RBI into the system will not necessarily increase bank lending unless borrowers have the confidence in the sustainability of our economy to induce them to increase their investment and the banks have the confidence that these borrowers will be able to pay back."

Of course, I am aware so also many in this House that two economists do not agree on a similar situation and come to a same conclusion to find a remedy. We may have a number of suggestions before us, but I would say what our Prime Minister had said at Tokyo in the last week of October this year. I quote:

"The world is now facing multiple challenges. The spectre of recession in the global economy coming as it does in the wake of steep rise in energy and food prices threatens to disrupt the rhythm of economic development in many developing countries. "

You recognize the problem. But, what steps have been taken? This he said in the last week of October. And in the first week of November, we read in the *Economic Times*, the heading says: "Job cuts begin at India Inc. as crisis takes roots." In the same way, in the *Economic Times*, it says: "Textile cuts 7 lakh jobs in 6 months. The number are shocking, something that no sector has witnessed so far. Another five lakhs likely to lose jobs in 2-3 months across Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and North India." On 24th October, again it has come in the newspaper.

16.41 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Therefore I would say that the monetary measures that were supposed to deal with the credit crunch, all proved to be lacking because they did not accept the need to deal with the liquidity trap characteristics of the current economic situation. This Rs. 20,000 crore package announced is less than 0.5 per cent of the GDP, a tiny fiscal input which is too small to be really counter-cyclical.

Tax cut measures on domestic duties: the *ad valorem* CENVAT rate is to be reduced by 4 per cent.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

This will have an impact if producers respond by cutting prices. How can you ensure that? Or, will it meet the same fate, that is, reducing Government revenue without generating more economic activity?

Some proposed measures make very little sense. Take for example the elimination of export duty on iron-ore fines, and reduction of export tax on iron ore. To whom these incentives are being given? Why are we encouraging export instead of encouraging the domestic processing of it into steel? The State Governments have already started feeling the resource constraint.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr Mahtab, you have taken nearly 15 minutes, in place of 5 minutes allotted. Please conclude in another two minutes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Yes, I will conclude, Sir. The State Governments have already started feeling the resource constraints as their tax revenues are getting affected by the economic downturn. The States are responsible for most of the public services that directly affect people; agriculture, rural development, health, sanitation, education and so on. Yet, there is nothing proposed to alleviate the fiscal crunch of the State Governments. The Centre could easily have announced some measures to provide fiscal relief to the States. Such measures could include reducing interest rates, providing more Central funds and something of that nature. Even today, everybody, it seems, in the Government has forgotten about food crisis. Food crisis has been totally forgotten. Food insecurity remains widespread. This is a time, I would say, to allocate more money onwards expanding the public services.

What the Government has done is a partial half-hearted and essentially unconvincing attempt to deal with an economic situation that is likely to worsen in the near future.

As has been said earlier, this Government should wake up from its *Kumbhakarna nidra*.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, yesterday we discussed criminal terrorism, and the Government wanted to be empowered with massive extraordinary powers to deal with terrorism; and the Parliament has agreed. Today we are discussing social terrorism: social terrorism leading to deprivation, social terrorism leading to decline in quality of life; social terrorism leading to aggravating basically all-dimensional human problems.

We are here to know what the Government wants the Parliament to know. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I have organised this debate without your asking me.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, with your generous support, the Parliament has the right to ask the Government to know what the Government would like to do. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what we are doing.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, economy is in peril undoubtedly. There is a slow down. There is an undeclared recession. I am not resorting to vocabularies and bombasts. What is the statistics? Industrial production has dipped to mere less than two per cent from 14 per cent in the corresponding period of the last year. Collection of excise duty has declined from the projected figure by 12 per cent. GDP growth has dropped by merely two per cent or 2.5 per cent; if it was 9.5 per cent, today it is nearly seven per cent.

Sir, the ILO says that one per cent drop in GDP leads to disempowerment of four crore people. That is, four crore people becomes poorer if there is a drop of one per cent GDP. That means, in India about eight crore people are affected by the loss of GDP that the Government has also accepted.

Sir, the point is that economy is too closely linked with the international global market. So, you faced the blast. You are facing the blast not the blast of the terrorists but the blast of the American melt down. Sir, the Government was so dizzy about the impact of its own success, and that it even talked of full convertibility. We had opposed it. We were then the supporters of this Government and we had opposed it and who said that there was no full convertibility today.

Sir, stock market has been too much pampered even by mobilizing funds from the public sector and by domestic funds out of domestic savings. There has been super hyper volatility because of the pampering that the Government has done so far as stock market is concerned. We have, in fact, built up a speculative economy. Even speculation in food grain trade was allowed. Sir, liberalization had been carried too far without any safeguard, and we are paying the price. What has happened in America now comes down as a blow on

us. Privatization was the order of the day. But I know that the hon. Prime Minister or the former Finance Minister will never say 'yes' to it. ... (*Interruptions*) I am saying 'former Finance Minister'. ... (*Interruptions*) I know that. I am a little aware of that. But the point is that they will never give credit to us, and it is because of the Left that further liberalization was blocked and we were the supporters then. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy does not agree to that. Shri Tripathy, do you agree?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I believe, nobody will agree but let me speak of the truth because history has its own admission.

If the American melt down has not blasted the Indian economy more, it is because of the presence of a very strong public sector. Who fought for the public sector? Who opposed disinvestment? Who was responsible for the nationalization of the banking industry? Credit goes to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, of course, but who raised the demand? Sir, public sector was sought to be marginalized in different ways.

Agriculture has been neglected thoroughly, squarely without any doubt. Instead of promoting the domestic market, export was promoted, export was pampered, export was liberalised. Now, we feel the pinch because there has been a decline in the external demand, and therefore, we are facing a crisis.

Sir, may I submit that the corporates had been pampered, really heavily pampered, and the masses had been pampered? Thanks to the Economic Policy they have been pursuing. Lopsided economic growth has taken place. Too few people had too much of plenty; too many people had really few things. In a nation of poverty, there is island of prosperity.

Sir, the political democracy has not led to economic democracy. Right to vote has not led to right to life. Political system did not deliver. People will give their verdict. Political system did not deliver; economic system failed. Let us not hide ourselves behind the American meltdown. Indian economy was already in a fragile condition. Therefore, let us not hide behind the American meltdown saying: "This is because of the international development." No. Before the American meltdown, that made its impact. There was a Report published by the Government of India, Labour Ministry's appointed

Commission, which said that 77 per cent of the population do have only less than Rs. 20 purchasing power on a daily basis. What a sheer mockery? There is another study – that is not the only study – which says that 86 per cent of the people are poor in this country.

Our leaders of the Government are fond of the World Bank. They should be, because they have their own model. What is the World Bank Report about the poverty in India? What is the Asian Bank Report about the poverty in India? The largest number of poor people live in India. What a shame?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have rung the bell as a first warning.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Liberalization is a virtue, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You want a controlled economy and I am controlling it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I never wanted a controlled economy; I wanted a guided economy, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All Right. Here, I am guiding it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, please do not misguide me; please guide me properly.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, after first warning, there are two minutes but I will give you four minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, give me a little more time.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Please continue.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the point is, they are fond of the World Bank. What does the World Bank say? They have their own assessment about the Asian Development Bank. What does it say? Therefore, let me tell you that they cannot hide behind the American meltdown; they cannot cover up their failure because something has happened in America.

Sir, the Government has announced a Revival Package Plan of Rs. 20,000 crore. What does it mean? It is less than four per cent of the Government's

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

projected expenditure of the year. In terms of GDP, it is less than one per cent; it is 0.5 per cent.

Sir, Our Government speaks of America and our Prime Minister will be friendly to them. What has the newly elected President of America has said? He has promised a massive fiscal package for the American nation. From one extreme, let us go to the other. What has the China announced? China has announced a substantial increase in its public expenditure. And, what has India announced? India has announced a nominal package of only Rs. 20,000 crore!

Sir, Dr. Manmohan Singh is an economist on his own. He has remembered John Maynard Keynes while he was attending the G-7 Conference. But it seems he has forgotten John Maynard Keynes when he landed at New Delhi because John Maynard Keynes had said, even incurring deficit, go for huge public expenditure to revive the economy. What is that? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to go back to the period of Keynes?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, Sir. Keynes today gives some sort of an indication the way the country should go. The Prime Minister referred to Keynes. I am not. I am just echoing the Prime Minister. I am just echoing him. I do not like to go back. We must go forward. But future does not mean to forget the past because future does not arrive without the past ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, you carry on.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, the point is, the Government's move is nominal. The Government's response is nominal.

Sir, export duty on iron ore is going to be reduced to export India's mineral wealth. What will you leave for the posterity? We should export all our mineral wealth to earn money because you cannot generate money! What should we leave for the posterity? My friend has rightly said. Why should we sell iron ore? Why cannot we make steel ourselves, create jobs and ensure increasing demand?

The interest rate has been reduced. What does it mean? It is because the banks are not giving loan to poor people. They are only giving loan to the credit

worthy, rich or comparatively better off citizens. Therefore, it is not leading to stimulation of domestic demand in our country, and without stimulating domestic demand in the economy, anti-cyclical measures cannot be made to succeed. This slowdown cannot be stopped without pampering the domestic market.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you have to conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, it appears that some of the steps of the Government are again intended to boost up the stock market and not the real economy. They have infused Rs.2.5 lakh crore as liquidity. Where has the money gone and whom it has helped? It has not helped the real economy. If at all it helps, it helps the speculative economy. It brings about hyper volatility more to the credit of the Government telling the world that India is booming, send your money to India and invest. India is the best place to invest. It is to give a wrong signal at the cost of hunger, at the cost of deprivation and at the cost of sucking the blood out of the system. They are sending money. They are infusing money to the stock market.

Sir, 10 lakh workers have lost their jobs already.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, now you please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Where is the concern for the people who have lost their jobs? In textiles, in construction, in IT, in export and in garments, they have lost their jobs. According to ILO, two crore people will lose their jobs in the world. If two crore people lose their jobs in the world, in India, at least, two lakh people will lose their jobs.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am coming to an end.

Agricultural crisis is brewing. Industrial production has come down. GDP has fallen. Collection of excise duty has declined. Agricultural crisis is brewing because farmers are hit by the fall in the price of cash crops. Where is the Government? Is it only due to Bombay the focus has been shifted? It is because of the terrorist attack, the focus has been shifted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Lakshman Singh.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am finishing. Please give me two minutes more.

MR. SPEAKER: Please finish. You have got five minutes. I have been giving 15 minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, the point is that focus has been shifted. What we want is, we want massive public expenditure for the building up of the social infrastructure, for creating jobs, for stimulating growth, for increasing demand and for boosting up the domestic market. At least, Rs.1 crore should be given.

At the same time, I would like to know what the Government is trying to do with regard to the social terrorism. The country cannot wait too long. Things have become too bitter now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I am sorry to interrupt. But I have certain unpleasant duty to do here. Everybody sitting in the Chair knows that. One is not happy to interrupt a good speaker like him. At least I am learning good English and also good economy from him. But I has to interrupt you. Sorry.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Thank you, Sir.

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to all the Members who have brought this proposal before the House. I am thankful to you also for providing me an opportunity to speak on this subject. Firstly, I would like to say that I have no specialization on this subject. Here, Shri Chidambaram ji is sitting before me who has specialization in this field. Please forgive me for any deficiency on my part. Even, otherwise, I belong to a erstwhile royal family. They were not efficient in financial management and have no better financial knowledge.

[English]

I would say that South Indian ex-royalty had a better fiscal management and better knowledge about this. Anyway, this has nothing to do with the subject.

[Translation]

It is known all that there is a recession at global level and this is the problem that cannot be controlled

with a single stroke. The situation prevailing in U.S.A. has influenced South Asian countries including ours. But the Government, if desire, may take such steps that can reduce its adverse impact to some extent. The steps taken by the Govt. were aired on T.V. by the persons majority of whom were officers. I do not want to mention their names but they are not members of the House. But the expressions on the faces of the officers making announcement on T.V. create a doubt that the proposed bail out package and steps taken by the Govt. for financial reforms might be based on the US model or European model or U.K. model. If follow the models of those countries we may face problems because the situation of our country is different. As an Hon'ble Member has stated that one percent decrease in G.D.P. growth may have impact on crores of people. One percent decrease in growth in our country may bring many families below poverty line. The Govt. have made census of families living below poverty line in the year 2001. At this time no census is going on, then, what is the solution. B.P.L. cards would not be issued to them and in this situation we may not provide foodgrains to them. Such problems, so many, in our country may not be seen in other countries. Therefore, we should avoid the bail out model adopted in the U.S.A.

Sir speaking further on this subject I would like to give an example that an American bank incurred loss of 42 billion dollars. Now the officers and executives responsible for this were neither fined nor punished by the American Bank but were sent to Greece on a cruise with their families to enjoy holiday. In the same way a reputed global insurance company incurred a heavy loss, and sold 80 percent of its share holding to the Government of that country and the Government paid 85 billion dollars to that company. An amount of 85 billion dollars was paid for taking over a company running in heavy loss. What did the company do with that money of 85 billion dollars? The company opened its resorts and spas at important and famous places all over the world.

Lehman Brothers suffered heavy losses and were devastated. And after that they paid salary to their top executives but did not pay salary to low paid cleaners, to other employees including computer operators, and the situation was aggravated to such a point that the Prime Minister of the U.K. had to intervene. Lehman Brothers and the Government of the U.S.A. were asked to pay their salary.

[English]

So, we do not want this kind of a bail-out package.

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

[Translation]

We have no objection and you may permit foreign banks to do business here. The Govt. have entered into an agreement with W.T.O. and as per guidelines of W.T.O. 12 foreign banks may be allowed to operate here but these banks too have shown 25 percent growth and their shortcomings have started to surface during the ongoing recession. As the other Hon'ble Member have stated before my speech that a package worth Rs. 20 thousand crore has been given by the Prime Minister. This is meagre and we demand to increase it. During the previous N.D.A. Government under the premiership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee a huge investment was made in infrastructure sector and large number of employment opportunities were generated through National Highways Project. On the other hand, what have been done by this Govt. With your permission, I would like to quote some lines from an article published in 'The Pioneer' dated 26 November.

[English]

It is titled 'Stalled Highway Project' and says:

"Among the biggest setbacks suffered by the country on the infrastructure development front after the UPA came to power at the Centre is the near-total halt of work on implementing the National Highways Development Programme. The nodal agency which is meant to supervise the programme is the National Highways Authority of India, which in turn reports to the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways,...."

MR. SPEAKER: No, that cannot go on record. You have not given any notice. I am sorry. Notice has to be given.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Okay. I will not say it. I will go by your observation.

MR. SPEAKER: That is deleted.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Sir, I mean to say that work on the National Highway Projects has not been

*Not recorded.

progressing at the desired pace. Even the Hon. Finance Minister had to request the World Bank for not stopping the funding. Our projects are being taken up by us otherwise the World Bank would have stopped funding keeping in view the slow progress of National Highway Projects. If the work on infrastructure projects will proceed at such a slow pace, I think it would create more problems.

In October, 2007 the growth rate in manufacturing sector was 13.8 percent and in 2008 it has come down to 1.2 percent. First time in 15 years the industrial growth has become negative and it has come down to 0.4 percent. Our exports, that used to be 22 percent of our GDP, now has come down to 12.1 percent. The exports are decreasing and it is a subject of commerce. The Commerce Minister is rarely seen in the House. He was completely focussed on Madhya Pradesh. He wanted to become the Chief Minister but unfortunately he could not. I mean to say the desired efforts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You did not allow him, what can be done.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Public did not allow. The efforts that are required to boost export sector are lacking today, we need to boost our efforts. I will conclude in just two-three minutes. You brought FII, worth 17.4 billion USD but with the emergence of recession period all the shares of FII have disappeared from the market. Did it make any sense of bringing FII? Had you brought FDI it would have accelerated our growth, this money would have been invested here and in return it would have boosted our industry. In this regard financial experts from our party and specially the former Finance Minister had given his suggestions but this Government did not find it appropriate to take suggestion from the opposition party. If we had invested in infrastructure sector as the developing countries have done, it would have boosted our growth rate. China has made public investment worth 586 billion dollars and laid ten thousand kilometers long rail line. If we do not lay ten thousand kilometers long rail lines then at least we can lay five thousand kilometers. This could have provided employment to 6-7 crore people and there could have been consumption of several million metric tonnes of steel and cement. This would have accelerated the growth rate.

[English]

And invest in low-cost housing

[*Translation*]

Rehabilitate the people affected by floods. Natural calamity affected Bihar state could have been benefited from it; New houses could have been constructed there. It would have accelerated the growth rate. Growth rate would definitely be increased if investment was made in the social sector.

We need to pay attention towards micro economic activities and Self Help Groups. A conference was held in Washington in 1997 and India also participated in it. As many as 2600 delegates from various countries participated in it. The most important aspect of the declaration made there was the revelation that the rich people do not repay the loan, whereas earlier it was believed that it is the poor people who do not repay the loan. According to the said concept, we should not differentiate between the rich and the poor. However, the fact is that in comparison to the rich people, poor people repay their loans easily. We should implement the decisions taken in that Summit in which India was also a participant. We should encourage micro economic activities and disburse as much loan as we can to the Self Help Groups and poor people. We may take example of Moradabad in regard to increasing unemployment. It is a city known for industry. The handicraft artisans have gone unemployed and become labourers. They used to earn Rs. 300-400 per day and now they are earning Rs. 25-30 per day. These people belong to minority community. It is very unfortunate. Yesterday Minister of Minority Affairs, instead of telling us what Government are doing for minority community, was making an absurd statement in the House...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: This is the point that I am making. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not a point to be made in this.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: He is not doing what he is supposed to do. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been 40 per cent rise in unemployment...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: We need to keep control over it and must invest in social sector. The Government have provided a package worth Rs. 20 thousand crore but it is insufficient. We need to increase it manifold only then we would be able to deal with inflation and improve our economy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me time to Speak.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have already spent three hours and 14 minutes out of four hours allotted for this discussion. Ten hon. Members have consumed this time. All Parties — except the two major Parties — have exceeded their time manifold. Therefore, hardly 45 minutes are left before I request the Minister's intervention. Therefore, you have to please restrict your time.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri Sandeep Dikshit. I cannot call everybody, and I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Major parties have still time. I am requesting everybody to watch the state of the House. Except three Members, I find that not a single hon. Member who had spoken earlier is present. These are matters to be taken note of.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, those hon. Members who are not speaking are also sitting here.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you for that.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You should award something.

MR. SPEAKER: I have nothing because I am pauperized. You can come to my Chamber so that I can give you a cup of tea.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as directed by you, I will try to finish my speech in a very short time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your party has time, so you can take your time.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a phase of economic recession is currently going on. I have been listening to Shri Rup Chand Pal and there after to Shri Anant Kumar and various other leaders since morning. I am not able to understand as to what my friends from the left parties and those in the Bhartiya Janta Party want to indicate towards this problem. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta told us that even one percent cut in GDP adversely affects the lives of 3-4 crore people. I do not know whether one percent cut in GDP affects this many people or not? But given this fact, we can say that since there has been a growth rate of 8 or 9 percent during the last 4 or 5 years of UPA Governments rule, which used to be around 5 or 5.5 percent earlier, it can be inferred using the some data that it must definitely have left a positive effect on 12-13 crore people every year. But in the morning Shri Rupchand Pal said why so much hype was created by the Finance Minister about growth rate? Why the whole system was central around growth rate only? This is explained by the fact that if such a small deviation in the percentage of GDP large number of people then we will have to put growth in the focal point of our financial system. Whether we able to distribute the advantages of growth equally among all the people of the country is a separate issue. I don't want to go in these details there of but I would like to focus my attention on one or two points. Our Finance Minister is not available here at present but through the hon. Minister of States I would like to convey one or two things to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister or the officers managing our financial system that there is a privileged class in our country and when ever there is some crisis and there is a need to protect people from this crisis, then all the policies of the finance ministry focus particularly on that privileged class. I would like to throw some light on the characteristics of such people or that particular class.

During the last 15 to 20 years, since 1991-92 i.e., the inception of a phase of economic slump, it has been

the effort of the financial management in the country which has involved the political machinery as well and every party has been actively engaged in it to see that our private sector should be strengthened even if it involved granting tax, concessions and tax holidays. If, today, their standard of living is on the rise day by day, no restriction should be imposed on it. I would not like to go into that ideology. I would not like to make any comment as to what my ideology is but every effort has been made to strengthen our private sector and ensuring that it works smoothly. When this sector is badly hit and there is some crisis from top to the bottom, the same group of people approach the Government crying for help and the Government provides assistance to them within ten or fifteen days. All the parties have been equal partners in this process for the last fifteen or twenty years, no one has lagged behind. In India, the farmer continued to commit suicide but it took him twenty years to get a package whereas it took less than twenty days for private sector to get a package. All the parties are equally interested in the private sector however, if the Government readily pays heed to the problems and grievances of the private sector which keep on informing the Finance Minister or the Prime Minister as to where a gulf is appearing in the country, there is also a need to listen to the voices of the peasantry with rapt attention. Our farmer doesn't look at the Government for help eagerness to get the benefit of Rs. 60000 crore, but he himself toils hard and when he surrenders, some of them even commit suicides. He does not even publicise his suicide nor informs any TV Channel over phone to come and cover the act of committing suicide. On the other hand, there is another group of private sector which tends to highlight even the repercussions of the falling sensex and cries hoarse about it whereas it is his private enterprise of speculation in purchasing a share at Rs. 300 and selling it at Rs. 700 or Rs. 150 later. The Government has little obligation in this regard, even then this sector wants the Government to come forward and bail it out. I would like to urge not only the existing financial system but all the concerned officers as well as Reserve Bank of India to start paying attention to the right voices. If we start paying attention towards those voices, no problems will arise. The question is not about the financial package of Rs. 20 thousand crore. The question is that if there is a need of Rs. 20 thousand crore or even five lakh crores, where should such investment be made. Should we commit the same mistake of providing this package of Rs. 20 thousand crore to save the private sector, as America is doing or we should make this investment where it is most needed.

the farm sector, which has been neglected for the last 20 years? Should not we talk about investing these 20 thousand crore rupees properly for providing irrigation facility rural connectivity and for providing rooms in those schools where our students study in the open without any shelter? Should not we talk about providing this package to those primary health centers, where our sisters who approach for delivery are unable to protect themselves from the cold in winter season and from the hot weather in summer season? If the Government wants to invest in public spending, these are the sectors it needs to take care of. If public spending goes on to make our economy viable, this viability is going to have an effect on that person, who never demands anything from you and whose sighs you are not going to hear. Only at the time of elections, everyone begins to take care of his sighs. We have to save ourselves from those people, who on facing crisis begin to speak out because they have a powerful voice. Because they have constructed houses at those places where you and we are compelled to live. Let us not forget under the influence of their powerful voice that India really lives in economic slowdown. My humble submission to the Government as well as to everyone sitting here is that whenever we give any suggestion, we should do it after a good deal of consideration.

Our esteemed Member, Mohan Singhji has put forth his view. He is influenced by the socialist ideology. Recounting some values of socialism, he commented on the conduct of an individual's life and said that we should stop paying fat salaries of Rs. 1.25 lakh and Rs. 1.50 lakh and try to put a check on the life style, of consumerism. This has no connection with the issue, but since he has talked about it and he is the kind of leader whom the youth like me look upto, I would like to only submit that we the political class should lead by example. Forgive me Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not making a comment on anybody-but if the Members of Parliament come to the Parliament in their cars worth Rs. 60 lakh we cannot ask anybody to stop taking a salary of over 1.25 lakh. Charity begins at home. We should prove our conduct since we debate and discuss things with the people.

I would like to make one more submission before the Minister of Finance. He will definitely throw light on other things which may pop up later. I would also request him to mention about the slow down and what steps are required to tackle it. The whole nation will

listen to him today through the Parliament but I would definitely like to request him that when he speaks about the policies he should also address the real people of India. I don't want to name anybody but during the last five years I have seen the Finance Secretary or the Governor of RBI speaking in the CII's conference, ASSOCHAM's conference and FICCI's conference only. He may communicate with them. They also work hard and contribute 60 percent of GDP. Today, they have made themselves so powerful that they can compete with the big industries of the world. I salute them all. But he should also take care of the rest of seventy percent people of the country. He should meet and listen to the one who in the absence of any hard work cannot manage even a two square meal for himself. He should meet the person who, if he does not work hard, will lead to my clothes remaining unwashed at my home or the shoe I wear will not be made or the electric sub-station from where the electricity is supplied will remain untidy. We should never discontinue that interaction. This leads to loss of faith. That is why our message does not reach the people even after carrying out development works. Because the message reaches to only that person who remains aware and those people belong to that 70-80% category who do not read colourful newspapers, who always do not watch television because they don't have the time to watch TV. He cannot go to a cinema hall and watch the advertisements there because he doesn't have the money to do so. The Government has to maintain that interaction and through it take the whole country and the true citizens of this country into confidence. I would like to request him that when he mentions about the steps to be taken to combat this slow down he must point out the method by which the common man remains unaffected because even if these people seem not to be influenced by this slow down today but ultimately it is the same common man who has to bear the brunt of this financial slowdown. This Government has handled the economy of the country very effectively during the last five years. The opposition parties and leftists may say what they like but the Government has put the country on the path of progress by improving the growth rate. The percentage of poor, which was once 40 or 50 percent has come down. Though it is not satisfactory to have 30 percent poor, but steps have been taken in this regard. We have to find out how we can improve it further. Various financial experts have said that global economic crisis might be an opportunity for India.

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, America is facing a deep recession and European countries are being affected by it, but since our economic system is strong it can address the concerns of every section. Our economy accommodates various ideologies but we have not yet found a platform where capitalists, socialists or leftists might come together. We formulate our economic policy after considering every aspect of different ideologies. We must strengthen this all inclusive trait of our economy. We need to strengthen our country to achieve the goals which were set down 60 years ago when we fought for the independence of the country. In my view this is the right time. It is not the time to consider ourselves economically weak. I would like to say that global recession has provided an opportunity to our country and it should not be wasted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you for your speech, Shri Sandeep Dikshit.

Shri P. Karunakaran – take five or six minutes because your Party's allotted time is long over.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): With the timely direction of the hon. Chair, we discussed the very important issue that our nation faces now. It is agreed to by all sections that the world economy faces very severe crisis. The world bank predicted that the growth rate in 2009 would be 0.9 per cent compared to 2008. I do not want to go into the statistics now. How it affects India is the most important issue? In India and in the international sphere, there has been a slogan that a neo-liberal policy can solve all the issues. The market knows everything. There is no intervention from the side of the Government. This is what we have seen in America, that is, the Wall Street policy, where the world financial issues have been directed and monitored by them. But we see that the American banking system as a whole collapsed and the Government has come with a large amount of money to save these private sectors.

It is true that there is not a sudden set back in India. The UPA Government has to thank the Left Parties; we had been supporting you. At the same time, we have been preventing the Government to bring in the anti-labour laws and also the FDI in all most all the sectors. The Government tried to pass the Bank Regulation (Amendment) Act and the Pension (Amendment) Act and also to bring in FDI in almost all

the sectors. It is due to the strong protests from the Left Parties and the progressive movements that our financial set up has not really been disturbed so much. But it does not mean that we are free from all the current economic crisis. Other Members have pointed out that lakhs and lakhs of people are going jobless. In an answer, it is stated that 65,000 people have lost their jobs in the fields of plantations, textile, and especially in the semi-industries we see large number of workers are going out. So, it is in the case of the labour issue and the industrial sector.

But I think the most important issue is the agriculture. The IMF has rightly pointed out that the current world crisis is similar to the crisis in 1930s, that is, the great depression that the world has witnessed. The most affected field in those days was agriculture. Here also, the Government has come out with a Rs.20,000 crore package.

But I do not see anything with regard to promotion of agriculture. The prices of almost all agricultural produce like cash crops also have gone down. The price of rubber has gone down from Rs.160 to Rs. 60. The price of arecanut has gone down from Rs.160 to Rs.50. The price of pepper has gone down from Rs.20,000 to Rs.8,000. So, the prices of almost all the produces have gone down. How can the farmers withstand this? It is true that the Vidarbha package is one of the measures that was taken. At the same time, farmers are not able to do anything with this. The prices of inputs are going up like the prices of fertilizers, seeds, medicines, etc. So, agricultural sector is the most affected one. So, the Government has to invest more in agriculture sector and the production has to be increased. As stated by the other hon. Members, there has to be more investment in NREG and agriculture.

With regard to the package of Rs.20,000 crore, I want to know how can the Government spend that within four months? India is a federal set up; but there is no mention of the States. If you take China, they had made a package, 50 per cent of which goes to the States and the regions. But here, if you see, even 20 per cent itself is very insufficient. It comes to only 0.5 per cent of GDP and this amount of Rs.20,000 crore also, the Central Government has and the States have no right at all.

I think, yesterday, the State Finance Ministers have come here and have demanded that at least Rs.20,000

crore has to be given for them; otherwise, the States cannot do anything. How can the Centre be strong without the strong States? So, with regard to the States and local bodies, the Government has to take maximum care.

With regard to tax benefits that you have extended to some items – of course, it is good – I want to say this. Lakhs of workers are dependent on cash crops and coir, especially in Kerala. But you have not given any exemption to this sector. So, the Government has to take steps to generate more income, more employment, productivity and production, and that the line that you have followed in the neo-liberal policy is changed. That is gone as far as the international sphere is concerned. So, that lesson has to be studied by the Government. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not economist. Therefore, I cannot deliver a long speech on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that you will only say what is relevant.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Yes, Sir, I will speak what is relevant and I will put forth one or two points which affect us.

Sir, economic condition of the country was the main topic of discussion today and economic package was discussed the most. It is not a new term because if we glance at history we will find that similar discussion took place during the recession of 1930. Two theories were discussed at that time—one was by Keins and the other one was by Adam Smith which was like a liberal policy. One theory was that the Government should take steps under such circumstances. Nations were advised to let the government step in and invest the money. Another one was the liberal policy. These two theories have been quoted time and again. Fiscal stimulates are being debated during the present crisis too. This is also not a new thing but sometimes I think that if suitable action plan is not prepared, then it does not bring the desired result. We should keep in mind what are our priorities.

Sir, it is said that—

[English]

"Science is good servant, but a bad master".

[Translation]

The Hon'ble Prime Minister reminds me of the same quote I can put it like this.

[English]

"Economists are good servants but bad masters".

[Translation]

The present Prime Minister was the Minister of Finance in the Narsimha Rao Government and he was considered quite powerful though he was nicknamed 'Double Digit Inflation'. Inflation rate has always been 12-13 percent during his term. Most of the time it was above 10 percent. Now it has come down but it is not due to his action plan. I would like to say that being an economist alone does not suffice. We need to have a political philosophy. I am not saying so it was their leader hon'ble Indira Ji, who once said so during the eighties. You would remember that it was the time of crisis and Prof. Dhar and Prof. Jha were giving different advices and one day Indira ji exclaimed in exasperation that—

[English]

"If I depend on economists, I cannot decide. Political philosophy must prevail."

[Translation]

She took the initiative to nationalize the banks. Whether it is successful or not, is a different matter. I would like to know what is our priority today? Crisis will come and go and we have to face such crisis. Trade contributes 40 percent to our GDP but the question is what we are doing to reap the benefit of the rest of 60 percent.

I would speak on one point only. As I said in the beginning we have discussed a lot about economic package. Somehow I have a sort of misgiving about such packages as they have never been successful as we noticed in the case of Vidharbha. When farmers were committing suicides in Vidharbha economic package of crores of rupees was announced but the same was not implemented properly. Why do farmer commit suicide?

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

There is no need to mention that they require manure, seeds and other things. The money released under the package was given to Co-operative Banks and farmers were given jersey cows. I have even heard that since farmers were not in a position to feed the cows, they handed them over to the relative of some politician. This was the fate of the said package. Initially we heard that a package to the tune of Rs. 75 thousand crores would be announced but it was reduced to Rs. 20 thousand crores and it has been stated in the package that money should be invested in real estate. They have declared a reduction in the interest rates on loans ranging from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs under the package. One cannot even buy a single 'kholi' in Rs. 5 lakhs. Recently, DDA allotted 5 thousand flats in Delhi and the minimum price was Rs. 22 lakhs. Keeping in view the prices, we cannot help asking what are we offering in this package and who is going to benefit from it. The speculative investment in real estate...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now it is Rs. 30 lakhs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): A large number of people in the country are in need of Rs. 5 lakhs...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: I am calling it as speculative investment in real estate because we are not controlling it whereas China has controlled it. I am also raising this point because politicians are being blamed for not taking appropriate action in this regard and even in political circles it is believed that whatever investment comes to our country through Mauritius or some other route is the black money of politicians which has resulted in steep price rise in real estate and we earn a bad name for everything. Somewhere I get hurt from these things, therefore, I am raising this issue here. We shall have to strike at the root of the speculative investment, which is responsible for rise in the prices of real estate.

Sir, I would like to state that physical stimulation was not only provided to this sector but also to other sectors like IT sector. Today IT can be a boom. I would like to add in this regard that sometimes implementation is not proper. We have various packages in this sector.

We provided several facilities. We have an industrial sector in Pitampura, where we provided ADI and Icegate trade, which will enable industrialists to fill up their customs form easily, from there only and they need not go anywhere. All these facilities were provided during the regime of NDA Government but those are not implemented. As a result our industrialists are roaming around here and there even today which has increased the cost transaction and they are not able to reduce it. Non implementation of plans is also a reason of their suffering.

Today, the Government is providing funds for IT sector and some other sectors but salary cut is another area of concern. It is giving rise to unemployment and several people have already been retrenched from jobs. The salary packages had become very attractive earlier and people were getting salaries of upto 20 lakh rupees annually and various loan packages also emerged on the basis of it. Our youths were getting the benefits of both these things. But now they are unable to repay the loan due to salary cut. Being a mother I fear that they will be a frustrated lot due to salary cuts and unemployment. Educated youth would become unemployed which will pave way to criminalisation and terrorism. If we do not implement an appropriate policy, then, I fear that not only the economic condition but culture and values of this country would also be affected and our family and social structure will collapse. So, we should give proper thought to the complete policy, otherwise economic, social, cultural and moral crisis could emerge. We should not try to do patch work by giving one or the other small package. I only want to urge that it is essential to work on it with a good political philosophy as well.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, an important issue is being discussed in this House today. Today the country is certainly facing an economic recession or we can say that the whole world is facing the same problem. We are grateful to the UPA Government for taking concrete steps during its term, which have given relief to the common men. Infrastructure is essentially required for the development of a region of State and the Government has given it due priority. The Government has tried to provide relief to the people by giving importance to roads electricity, railway lines, education, health etc. Despite that the common man of this country is not prosperous. There are such people even today who are unable to feed their family despite working for the whole day. Some people have no place to live and

are compelled to live in the open. The hon. Prime Minister has given a special economic package in view of the economic recession. He has invested thousands of crores of rupees to check economic recession, but we are still facing economic recession. The sensex of our country has come down to 9 thousand points from 21 thousand points. It has affected several sectors including the small industries. More than 60 thousand people have become unemployed in small industries and almost 8 lakh people have lost their jobs in construction sector. Our country is facing this kind of situation whereas we are already struggling with unemployment and poverty. The condition prevailing in our country has definitely become a matter of great concern.

Economic recession is not only affecting the share market but all other services also. It is affecting both organized and unorganized sectors. Poverty and inflation are increasing due to economic recession. Both Hon'ble Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister are great economists. The Hon'ble Prime Minister should devise a special action plan to solve all these problems and help the common men. The most important fact is that our economy is based on villages. The condition of agricultural labourers and farmers is very pathetic. You must be aware of the fact that the people working in the fields are not willing to work there. The main reason behind it is that they do not get proper returns of the hard work and capital they invest. Today, inflation rate has increased, price of diesel has increased, blackmarking of fertilizers is taking place. Farmers have no irrigation facility. There are some states whose condition is worsening day by day. For example Bihar has no industry. I am grateful to the hon'ble Minister of Railways that he has made successful efforts to improve the condition in the state by starting some industries but still the economy of that area is depend on agriculture. You must have seen that a large number of people get affected there by floods. Lakhs of people have become homeless, lost their property completely and now they are in a pitiable condition. Today people pursuing the vacation of agriculture are not settled there at all. They have to face various difficulties and there are no proper irrigation facilities in their villages. So, the Government should formulate a policy to improve the condition of villages. We cannot even think of improving the condition of the country unless the condition of villages is improved. The Government should formulate a policy to bring prosperity in village. I feel that hon'ble Minister of Finance would definitely think about it and take necessary

steps in this regard. Today, we are unable to mitigate unemployment. We cannot improve the economy of the country, unless we mitigate unemployment...(*Interruptions*). The economy of our country could only be strengthened when the Government will take concrete steps to provide employment opportunities...(*Interruptions*)

I completely agree with Shri Das Gupta ji who has stated that our's is an open market economy. Our country has been reduced to a market...(*Interruptions*). We should export our goods properly. ...(*Interruptions*) The goods produced in our country are not reaching to the people...(*Interruptions*) we do not oppose exports, but given the new global economy in the world...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, thank you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I will conclude in one minute. Please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Just say that appropriate steps should be taken and take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: We should encourage our people for marketing of goods produced by our industries. We should provide funds for closed manufacturing units. Until we pay some attention in this regard our financial position cannot strengthen.

Lastly, I would like to state...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You come to the last sentence.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am coming to the last sentence. In the end I would like to state that unless the Government focuses its attention on the people engaged in farming sector neither our financial position nor we, can come out of this recession...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything more except 'I conclude.'

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir with these few words I conclude.

(English)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I am happy to participate in this important discussion on the enveloping economic situation in the country in the context of the world financial crisis.

The collapse of the banking institutions such as Fortis in Europe and Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers in Washington in the US have affected all the countries in the world, both developed and developing countries and India, being a part of the global community, India cannot insulate herself from the drawbacks and deficiencies of this crisis. But then, I do not subscribe to the view that the Indian economy has been fundamentally and structurally affected by this crisis. The crisis that has emanated from the financial institutions of the two big European countries have - if at all affected - affected to some extent the financial system in the country and it has not very much affected the real sector of the economy which consists of agriculture and other sectors of the economy.

The problem has arisen because the people who have been depending on external financing are finding themselves in difficult situation to get adequate funds from foreign countries, and therefore, there is enormous demand on the banking system of India and this demand has to be met. The Government has adequately answered this situation and answered the mounting demand for funds by increasing liquidity in the banking system.

The banking system, in India, today has been completely saved because of two reasons which none of the Members have mentioned. I consider it my duty to mention it. When our present Prime Minister was the Finance Minister - the credit must go to him.- he constituted the Narasimhan Committee under the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India who gave a number of salient recommendations for strengthening the banking system. The Government of India as well as the Reserve Bank took those recommendations very seriously and they put the Indian banking system on a very strong foundation which could not be tottered by any of the events that occurred in any part of the world outside India. The capital adequacy norms that have been prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India have

helped our banking system to survive and the banking system was not allowed to make capital investment outside and that has also saved the situation.

More than that, unlike the banking system in other parts of the country which is in the hands of the private sector, most of the banking institutions in the country today are in the public sector. It is regulated by the considerations of equity, considerations of economic growth and credit for that must go to Madam Indira Gandhi who nationalised these institutions in 1969. Therefore, the public sector character of the financial institutions have withstood the onslaught of the financial crisis. If anyone wants to judge the economic performance of India, they must see the growth rate at which Indian economy has been performing even in the period of the so-called recession.

Many Members who spoke here said that there is enormous recession in the country. Perhaps, they have not understood the concept of what recession is. Recession will come only when the consumption expenditure goes to a very low level but in the Indian economy today, that is not the situation. It is because, in the current year, all tax payers in India have got the benefit out of the concessions given by the hon. Finance Minister. Every individual in India is able to get a benefit ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs. 45,000 per annum and this has increased the purchasing power in the hands of the people.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not answer him. Please address the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I am presenting an objective view of the economy. *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are only wasting your time by mutual discussion. You are being diverted. You are not understanding.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Therefore, the situation of recession is not very much relevant in this country because of the large purchasing power in the hands of the people. The Sixth Pay Commission has put Rs. 22,000 crore in the hands of the Indian public. The on-going investment in the country would be about three

lakh crores of rupees, which would have a multiplier effect of 4.5 in the economy, which would multiply the incomes and purchasing power in the hands of the people. The wage bills of the companies would also rise by 25 per cent. In the rural areas, every family which is below the poverty line is assured of Rs. 8,000 per annum by getting assured employment for 100 days in a year. It means the purchasing power of these hitherto neglected sections of the people will rise and their marginal propensity to consume will also rise. The farm loan waiver schemes given by the Government will create indirect additional purchasing power in the hands of the people. All these factors would keep the purchasing power in the hands of the people and it will not be reduced. That is why, even today the conservative estimates made by all the institutions predict that the Indian economy would grow by 8.2 per cent this fiscal year. While the world economy will grow by 0.9 per cent, the Indian economy would grow by 8.2 per cent, which shows that the fundamentals of the Indian economy are very strong. These strong fundamentals would not be shaken by whatever happens in the foreign countries or by their financial crises.

The fundamentals of the rural sector are very strong. The monsoon conditions have created favourable atmosphere for the agriculture sector. Therefore, we need not be alarmed; we need not have a misconception that the Indian economy is heading towards a crisis; Indian economy is nose diving; and that the Indian economy is experiencing a recessionary condition. All these are unfounded apprehensions by the people.

In my view the Indian economy will grow. There were prophets of doom in this House who said that the inflation in our country will skyrocket to 15 or 16 per cent. But today what is happening? After reaching the dizzy heights of 11.2 per cent or 12.2 per cent, inflation is nose diving to 7.1 per cent. By January, the prices will be about six per cent. Today, the Indian economy has to sustain the development process without bothering about what is happening. It would be uncharitable to depict a picture that the Indian economy is slipping downwards.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Yerrannaidu please.

Shri Naidu, your time is only two minutes, but I will give you four minutes.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Today we are reviewing

the economic situation in the country in the context of global economic crisis. Many of our friends have given a lot of suggestions. First of all, the Government of India should create more liquidity through the banks to infrastructure, housing, etc. Then only will there be growth in employment. Now, so many companies are retrenching their employees. Lakhs of people have lost their jobs, particularly in the textile sector, and of course, in other sectors too.

We have to create purchasing power in the rural areas. Seventy per cent of our people are living in villages. They are dependent on agriculture. Now, agriculture sector is in doldrums. Still the farmers are committing suicide. Even after the package announced by the hon. Prime Minister, farmers continue to commit suicide, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Now, it is harvest season. So, they are getting employment. After two or three months, again there will be difficulty. That is why the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme should be implemented from the 1st of January onwards. Wherever there is no employment, we have to give directions. Now, they have stopped. This is the lean period. Harvesting is going on. That is why the District Collectors are not sanctioning any work.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

That is why, in this present context, we have to create employment and we have to create purchasing power. If they have money, they can go to the market and they can purchase. So, in this way, the economic activity will build up.

Sir, our banking sector is in the public sector. It is owing to the friends from the Left Parties that we have not gone either for liberalisation or for privatisation in the banking, insurance and in other sectors. That has helped the country's economy.

Sir, in this context, I would like to state that the States are also suffering because of lack of money. So, the Government of India also should help the State Governments and whenever they come to the Central Government for any help, they have to give some support to the State Governments. Otherwise, it would be very difficult. So, in the present scenario, the Government should visualize for the future and in the coming five or

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

six months, the Government of India should take necessary decisions to build up the economy in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, it is six o' clock. We will continue until the discussion is completed.

Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you have to complete your speech within four minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important matter. Sir, my point is that there are some reasons for deteriorating condition of our economy. Present situation is such that funds are not allocated as per requirement of projects and schemes etc. being formulated for development of each sector in each part and region of our country. These schemes and projects announced keeping in view the political consideration but they are not implemented in a proper manner. Millions of rupees have been spent on those projects and schemes but after incurring such an expenditure and making these investments, some profit should be earned and production should be there, but the amount has not been spent as per the requirement.

We have not been able to develop and strengthen the agriculture sector in our country upto the required extent. 80 per cent population of India is engaged in agriculture sector and their subsistence depends on agriculture only. The farmers of our tribal regions have not received the required assistance and support in a suitable manner till date.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards a very important matter. As per 2001 census, population of our country is around 130 crore. Development of our 130 crore population should have been made as per our resources but this has not happened. Hence even after 60 years of our independence we could not make progress the way we should have made. Therefore, I urge that for all the sectors, be it agriculture sector, education sector or any other sectors, particularly in tribal areas, provisions should be made to provide sufficient funds by the Government for their development. I would like to request Hon'ble Prime Minister that during the last five years our Bodoland People Council has received Rs. 100 crore

every year from the Government of India. But the amount of Rs. 500 crore was not sufficient for the development of our people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a need to provide at least Rs. 500 crore for each of the next five years. The Prime Minister during his visit to our area in 2007 had promised to release some additional funds; but we are yet to receive that fund. There is a need to provide sufficient funds for the development of Bodoland, Eastern region and all other backward tribal areas.

I would like to raise one more point that the Government should sanction one Central University for the development of human resources of our Bodoland area.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have permitted me to speak on a very important issue, I am very thankful to you for this. Today, a serious discussion on economic recession prevailing in the world is taking place. On the one hand our Prime Minister is saying that our economy is very strong and our growth rate is more than seven and half percent, on the other he is also saying that global economic recession may affect our country very rapidly. People should remain prepared for it. I agree the whole world is scared of global meltdown. Since our country is a developing country and our economic condition is certainly weaker as compared to other countries. I would like to draw the attention of Prime Minister towards his statement that our economic condition is very strong. But I would like to mention about the damage occurred to our economic condition. Industrialists of the nation come to meet Shri Advani ji. They mentioned that in the near future about 25 lacs of people in our country are going to be unemployed. They also mentioned that many big factories are on the verge of closure. About 121 export companies have lost their business completely. Banks have stopped giving loans to these companies. These companies suffered losses of Rs. 1800 crore. In this situation my request is that we will have to keep in mind that our economy is based on agriculture and it is most loss suffering occupation. 70-80 per cent people of our country are engaged in it. Unless we strengthen this occupation, we will not be able to strengthen economic condition of our country. On the other side we should select some sectors by which we may remain self-dependent and save our economy from falling into crisis if ever such economic recession prevails in our country. We should seriously consider this issue.

There is a provision to provide employment only for 100 days out of 365 days under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Only one person earns and ten persons are dependent on him. How he can feed his family during these days of price rise. On the other hand we claim that our per capita income is increasing. I think, these are contradictory things. If our per capita income increases then somehow there should be increase in our production. It is essential to consider as to how living standard of poor people could be improved, how our infrastructure could be strengthened and how our production can flourish? The World Bank assisted works today are either on the verge of closure or the pace of their construction work has slowed down. I would like to submit that Government of India should take this issue very seriously, since this recession is affecting our economy widely. Otherwise, how can we assure people that we will save the nation from this recession? On the one hand Prime Minister says that there is no need to fear. Public deposits in banks are safe. Whereas on the other hand, Banks have discontinued financing. Union Government waived off the debt of farmers worth Rs. 65,000 crore, but so far Reserve Bank of India has been provided Rs. 20000 crore only. By when rest of Rs. 45000 crore will be provided? After all how the banks will manage the funds and finance other sectors? Prime Minister and Finance Minister are renowned economists of the nation and the world. Recently he had a meeting with George Bush. George Bush was waiting of him since he is world famous economist and he said that he was waiting for him. Should the nation get the benefit of his experience or not? Nation should be benefited by your experience as Prime Minister, Finance Minister, and a good economist. But unfortunately it has not been benefited. Today economic condition is not good and it is not hidden from anyone. Central Government have faced the failure on all fronts.

With these words, thank you very much. In the end I would like to say that economic condition of India is of vital concern and it should be taken seriously.

[English]

*DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, thank you very much for having given me an opportunity to take part in the debate on review of the economic situation in the country.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

At the outset, I must quote a Universal truth that "Any System which is unregulated will end up in disaster, which is inevitable. That is what happened with the economic system in the world also. A vehicle which is moving with uncontrolled speed will end up in accident. Even in human body uncontrolled or unregulated multiplication of cell will result in development of cancer in the organ which is unless treated would result in the death of the individual. Its treatment requires toxic drugs which would impair the quality and expectancy of life. The present economic crisis I would like to compare it to "Economic Cancer" which if not treated would result in the shattering of the economic system. Let us not forget that economic growth is required but that should be well regulated. So let us have a well regulated inclusive economic growth. This economic cancer took its birth long back in early nineties when the country hired to adopt the globalized economic policy and switched on to liberalization, privatisation and globalization forgetting the socialist economic ethos of our country. Learning lesson from experiences, our former first Prime Minister of our country Late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had followed a socialist economic policy. He believed in nationalization. In his vision, there was nationalization of every sector especially those dealing with economy of the country. He gave importance to Public Sector. There was nationalization of insurance sector. This was again strengthened by late Smt. Indira Gandhi, she made nationalization of banks. But when we adopted the neo-liberal policy during the regime of late Shri Narsima Rao, the Congress Party has departed from the Nehruvian economic policy and it departed from Indiraji policy. It was the left progressive movements in our country which stood and stand for the nationalization and strengthening of public sector and increasing the public spending in all fields. Even though the UPA Government has the urge to privatize all areas and enhance Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment in all fields, it was the Left and Left parties only which resisted the opening up of every sector. Left resisted the enhancement of FDI in Insurance Sector, Banking Sector and disinvestment of public sector. This actually prevented the country from economic collapse which is now faced by the giant American economy and European economy. So UPA Govt. and the people of India should be indebted to Left parties of the country.

[Shri K.S. Manoj]

Advocate of globalization, including our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister proclaimed that, there is no alternative for globalization. I would like to know, what is their opinion now? I would like to remind them that, there is alternative to globalization that is socialism. Former Finance Minister's treatment that go ahead strongly and swiftly with neo-liberal policy as indicated by the move to hike the FDI in Insurance Sector from 26% to 49% and Banking regulation favouring liberalization and Pension Fund regulations will immerse the country in deep water. So please do not move forward with liberalization policies. So remedial measures to end the current crisis is to bring back socialist economic reforms, by way of nationalization, increasing public spending and paying attention to the agricultural sector where more than 85% of the population depends for their livelihood. Increase public spending in agriculture, small scale industries, infrastructure development, more fund for NREGP, promote domestic trade and when this is taken care of, that should be done in due course of time lead to strengthening of economic status of the States. The States may be taken part of the economic packages if any, that would be announced by the Government.

*SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated): Sir, I speak to draw the attention of Government regarding the prevailing economic situation in the country. While the country can take solace that relatively the Indian economy has exhibited greater resilience but despite repeated assurance of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the economic recession in the U.S. would not affect the Indian economy, over the past four months, while we may not be in recession, the economic slow down has brought down the economic growth from about 8.5% to about 6.5%.

Sir, whether it be the manufacturing or services the country's industry is facing a big meltdown. Consequently, exports are down and the purchasing capacity of the people has declined substantively. Consequently as always the poor are worst affected. Small scale industries are closing down. There is loss in middle and lower level jobs. The morale of the common people is extremely poor, their confidence in their future is diminishing and consequently their ability to contribute to the greater national good.

Sir, I would particularly draw the attention of Government that the slowdown also impacting the

*The speech was laid on the Table.

agricultural sector. This is significant as the Finance Minister when presenting the Budget 2008-09 had expected this sector to exhibit robust growth from about 2.8% to 4.6%. With the purchasing capacity diminishing the farmers are unable to buy seeds, fertilizers and diesel and hire farm labour. Consequently farm productivity has been impacted.

The major thrust of the U.P.A Government has been to improve the rural economy be it health services, connectivity, employment, amenities and facilities, the focus was to change the face of rural India and bring to them the productivity that they rightly deserve as people of this great nation. The present economic slowdown has resulted in diminishing aspirations and distancing legitimate realizations of their dreams. This constitutes about 70% of the nation's people.

- The economic scenario at a glance shows that:
- Cement, steel, power production has declined;
- Money flow is reduced;
- Share markets lack productivity;
- (inflation under control and declining)
- Forex reserves down from \$265 bn to \$250 bn.;
- Fiscal deficit has increased to 5% of G.D.P due to pro-rural area incentives;
- Rupee declined to the \$ from Rs.39 to Rs.48;
- Exports showing downtrend;

In this scenario the bail out packages announced by government has not been able to instill confidence in the people to participate in the national economic process. Not only has there been restraining of the fiscal capacity, but there is also lack of faith in financial institutions due to speculative practices.

The measures that Government needs to take to improve people's confidence are:

- increasing the purchasing capacity of the people;
- reduce prices of essential goods;
- reduce interest rate to about 9%;
- protect Rupee against \$(dollar) fluctuation;
- provide incentives to industries that increase jobs for common people;

- provide incentives for exports and foreign exchange earnings;
- provide facilities to those who invest in long term infrastructure development projects;

This will help us to fight inflation and increase productivity. With these observations I conclude.

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I am thanking the Chair for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion on behalf of Indian National Congress.

The U.S. Financial crisis has had its reverberations both developed and developing world. Our Indian Banks and Financial Institutions have not experienced the losses like US Banks and other Western world are facing. Foreign Banks namely Fortis in Europe, and Merrill Lynch, Logman Brothers and Washington Mutual in the US are collapsed. Global Financial Tsunami not attacked Indian Financial Institutions. Indian Banks have taken less risks than their counterparts in abroad. Our Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh authorized Shri M. Narasimham to study the prevailing financial situation. Shri M. Narasimham submitted a very valuable report to the Government and to Reserve Bank of India to formulate the structure of Indian Banks and Financial Institutions. Government of India and RBI accepted the M. Narasimham recommendations and decided to implement the same. We have to appreciate for our RBI for its better performance than Federal Bank in USA. RBI is having better regulation than the US Federal Reserve. US Federal Reserve had a profit nearly \$39 billion during 2006-07 out of which it had transferred \$34 billion to the US reserve. This is contra to our RBI which appropriates profits nearly RS. 50000 crore - Rs 60000 crore to Contingency Fund and it transfers only Rs. 10000 Crore to the Government. If it followed U.S. Federal reserve what will happen? Our Banking industry would have been collapsed by this time.

Even though world financial crisis not affected banking industry but it affected Industrial Sector to some extent. Tata Motors announced the shutdown of its Pune Unit for six days in November and three days closure of Jamshedpur Plant. Ashok Leyland reduced its working days to 3 per week. ESSAR Steel Maker also decided to reduce its production capacity. Tata Steel's US subsidiary also decided to axe 400 jobs.

Cement manufacturers decided to reduce its production capacity to 85% because of a sharp fall in demand. Air-line industries also decided to retrench their workers including pilots. L&T Infotech owned L&T also forced their staff to resign and already 100 persons were resigned.

Since our UPA Government under the leadership of Madam Sonia Ji implemented NREGA programme effectively and successfully our rural masses are saved from poverty. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister had taken all steps to tackle this crisis. On November 3 our Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh urged the Indian Industries not to cut jobs. Our UPA Government already decided to invest more money in major infrastructure development programmes like building roads, railways, hospitals, schools and colleges, etc. Certainly it will generate jobs to poor people in this country. Government of India already announced new package including tax cuts to boost economy. Government announced 4% cut in *ad-valorem* duty across the board and decided to spend Rs. 20000 crore for infrastructural development in the current year. Due to our UPA Government's timely action inflation started to reduce day by day. Already Government announced reduction of petrol price to the tune of Rs 5 per litre and Rs 2 for Diesel. Already Government of Tamil Nadu under the Leadership of Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi implemented subsidized rise giving scheme. All PDS shops are selling 1 KG rice for Rs.1. This has to be implemented in all States.

To protect the farmers, Government of Tamil Nadu discharged all co-operative loans incurred by all farmers throughout Tamil Nadu to the tune of Rs.6786 crore. Government of India also waived and discharged farmers' loan to the tune of Rs.70,000 crore. These are all the appreciable steps to protect the rural economy.

In this juncture I want to thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister for his timely action to save the country from financial crisis. With these words I am concluding my speech.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to Shri Rupchand Pal who has initiated this discussion and the 17 other hon. Members who have participated in this debate. I am sorry I was not present when three or four of them spoke, but I have noted their points very carefully.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Sir, I am glad that the nation is now focussed on growth and that a decline of 1 per cent or 2 per cent in growth is agitating the minds of hon. Members. I remember that in the last 4 years when we spoke of growth, this Government was mocked and ridiculed for focusing on growth. Today one hon. Member said that 1 per cent decline in GDP growth means that 4 crore people would become poorer. So, I turn around the argument. When the average growth rate went up from 5.8 per cent to 8.8 per cent, a 3 percentage point, then surely 12 crore people should have become better. Therefore, one must be consistent in what one says, consistent in one's ideological position and consistent with the suggestions that one makes.

We are not denying that 2008-09 has been a difficult year and will be a difficult year for the remaining 4 months. In fact, I said so in the Budget Speech. We have had 4 good years and I want to thank our farmers, our workers, our service providers, our businessmen, our labourers and everybody for delivering to this country 4 years of outstanding growth. If the Government takes credit for 4 years of growth, you may wish to give credit, you may wish to deny credit, but credit cannot be denied to our farmers or our workers or our labourers or our service providers who have provided this extraordinary period of growth never witnessed in India's history except during the first 4 years of the UPA Government.

This year is a difficult year. I have said this and if you do not have much faith in my words, the Prime Minister has said this and everyone in the world has said this. This year is a difficult year for a variety of reasons. Let me just list a few so that we understand the context in which we are discussing this subject. A long period of growth, low inflation, low interest rates and macro economic stability across the world led to a glut in savings. Asian savings led the way, contributed to liquidity and this led to profligacy, not in Asia, but in other countries of the world. Loans to creditors with low credit score mainly for housing increased substantially in the US in what is popularly called the sub prime mortgage market.

These loans got securitised, rated and traded on opaque, over the counter, markets leading to a high leverage because of financial instruments. Beginning middle of 2005, decelerating housing prices, higher interest rates and slower growth triggered delinquency among sub-prime borrowers which led a financial sector melt-down and you have seen what happened in 2007-08, a melt-down bankruptcies and bailouts.

The implications are wide ranging. Foreign investors sold off their holdings in emerging markets including India. Banks cut the credit lines to emerging market banks. Banks refused to roll over foreign exchange debts of the emerging market companies. This created dollar shortages. As firms scrambled to repay their foreign debts, they turned to domestic sources for finances. This caused local market conditions to tighten, infrastructure development slowed down, foreign trade slowed down, firms that export goods or services experienced the first negative shock and this shock is now spreading to other markets.

We have repeatedly said, we are not the cause of the crisis. China is not the cause of this crisis, India is not the cause of this crisis. Thank God, China and India are now being invited to be part of the solution. The high regard with which our Prime Minister was held in the G-20 Meeting is something which I witnessed and which I am proud of. The world today looks to our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to the Chinese Leaders and to the other Leaders of Asian economies to bail them out, which is why the G-20 is becoming the single most important forum to debate these issues.

We have suffered some pain and I am not saying this is the end of it. If the world output slows down even further, there may be a little more pain. But as a mature democracy and a mature economy, we must try to minimise the pain on the poor and the less well-off sections. We should not place disproportionate burden on the poor, but we must go through this painful period of adjustment until the world economy recovers and we once again get back to the 9 per cent growth path.

Sir, my friend, Mr. Ananth Kumar is not here. I did not say, he is habitually not here, but today he is not here. But if he is prepared to throw a challenge, he must stay back to hear the answer.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): The other friends are there.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, that convention is scrupulously not followed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He cited an article allegedly written by an IAS officer. I have read the article. I do not know whether the name of that author given in that article is a true name or a pseudonym. I do not know whether he is an IAS officer. All I know is either

he is a disloyal officer or a coward or both. If he had the courage, he should write the letter, sign in his own name and send it to the Prime Minister. But I hope they do not encourage such officers; they did not encourage them when they were in power. So, what is the point of citing a pseudonymous or anonymous author's article, taking shelter under it and running away when the reply is to be delivered?

Since there are distinguished Members in the NDA, let me repeat this for the Nth time. They have governed this country for six years. In the first five years, they had a Finance Minister; they were obliged to change him and replace him by another Finance Minister. We did not ask them to change the Finance Minister, they changed him. If their record was such a proud record, why did they change the Finance Minister?

In the first five years of their Government, the average growth rate was 5.3 per cent. In the first four years of this Government, the average growth rate is 8.9 per cent. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not being recorded.

(*Interruptions*) ... "

MR. SPEAKER: Such *suo motu* interventions without permission are not to be recorded.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, does he have your permission?

MR. SPEAKER: No. I have deleted what he said.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): I am here; I am throwing before you a challenge.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Who are you to do that without the Speaker's permission?

MR. SPEAKER: That challenge to be made outside in the lobby. Looks like a physical contest!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Adding the last year, your growth rate goes up to an average of 5.8 per cent. In growth terms, we have delivered better growth. Then I turn to the fiscal deficit. I have said this before and I

say this again so that you will carry this message. You inherited a fiscal deficit of 4.8 per cent. When your first Finance Minister left office, it was 5.9 per cent worsening by 1.1 per cent. In the last year, you reduced it partially; left it at 4.5 per cent. We inherited 4.5 per cent, and in 2007-08, actual figures show fiscal deficit was 2.8 per cent. So who is fiscally prudent, the NDA or the UPA?

Let us take revenue deficit. You inherited 3 per cent. When your first Finance Minister left office, it was 4.4 per cent. When your second Finance Minister left office, it was 3.6 per cent, worsening by 0.6 per cent. We inherited 3.6 per cent, and last year, according to the actual figures, we brought it down to 1.2 per cent. So who is being fiscally prudent with regard to the revenue deficit?

You inherited a Tax-GDP ratio of 9.1 per cent. After six years, you crawled up to 9.2 per cent; 0.1 per cent increase in the Tax-GDP ratio after six years. We inherited 9.2 per cent, and last year we raised the Tax-GDP ratio to 12.5 per cent. What does this mean?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not permitted. I would not allow this thing. Do not record it.

(*Interruptions*) ... "

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What does this mean? This means that for the first time the States in this country had more money than they could spend, which is why they virtually wiped out the revenue deficit and they were close to coming down to below 3 per cent in the fiscal deficit.

In 2003-04, total funds transferred to the States was Rs. 1,82,048 crore. In 2007-08, we transferred Rs. 2,75,705 crore. In the current year, the Budget figure shows that we will transfer Rs. 3,28,422 crore.

Sir, there are problems and a number of Members – not including my good friend who likes to interrupt— have raised these points and I will answer them. There are problems. I am not denying that.

The first problem is liquidity. We have addressed the liquidity issue. CRR has been cut. The SLR has been cut. We have addressed the liquidity issue, and there is adequate liquidity in the system. I would not yet say there is ample liquidity in the system; there is

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

adequate liquidity in the system. But liquidity is not enough. This is a three-stage exercise. We must have liquidity; that liquidity must be translated into actual credit; and the credit must be available at a reasonable price. Liquidity is being provided. I concede that credit is not flowing as much as it should because bankers have now become credit-averse. There is a credit aversion after the meltdown of the banking system in the world. After the names mentioned, Lehman and others, collapsed bankers have become risk-averse. They are unwilling to lend. But the Prime Minister, I, when I was in the Finance Ministry and my other colleagues are talking to the bankers. We are prevailing upon them to lend. Lending has begun towards the middle of November, and I assure you we will ensure that banks continue to lend to every productive sector of the economy especially the small and medium sectors which employ the largest number of people of this country.

It is not enough to lend. You must lend at a price at which he is willing to take the loan. If you offer a loan to a home loan borrower at 12 per cent or 13 per cent, he is not inclined to take the loan because he is not sure whether the value of the house will enable him to first repay the loan and whether he will not lose on the capital. So, we have now prevailed upon the bankers to cut the home loan rates. There was one cut, and there is another round of cut; home loan rates have been reduced. For fresh loans, up to Rs. 5 lakh, home loans are now being given at 8.5 per cent and from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh at 9.25 per cent. The question has been rightly asked what about the past loans, the floating rate loans. Yes, we are talking to the bankers. As the PLR of banks is re-fixed, to past borrowers also they must reset the loan rates. As the PLR is brought down, even floating rates must come down.

Housing is an important segment. Housing is a major driver of the economy. Steel, cement, bricks, pipes, wires, electrical equipment, construction labour and everything depends upon housing. So, housing, world over, is an important driver of the economy. In India also it is an important driver, and we will ensure that banks lend not only to fresh borrowers but banks also make a sincere attempt to reset the floating rate which was granted earlier as the PLR comes down.

There are problems about other industries

- automobile industry, textile industry, gems and jewellery industry and steel industry

- which are facing a slow down. We have looked at each of these industries carefully. Bail-out packages have been devised. I do not want to go into the details of that but I will if you wish. Broadly speaking, our approach has been that we have to stimulate demand by ensuring that these industries are in a position to continue to maintain production and able to sell their products.

We have taken the bold step of cutting excise duty across the board by four per cent. The CENVAT rate has been cut by four per cent. This is the most powerful stimulus that you can give to the economy, and that stimulus will indeed translate to the economy in the weeks and months. We have cut customs duty on many products. I think, with the cut of excise duty and customs duty, you will find that there is a stimulus. Already there is anecdotal evidence in FMCG sector, and about 11 of 30 sectors are showing double-digit growth. We saw that in the newspapers yesterday. I do not have official figures. So, I cannot vouchsafe for that but there is anecdotal evidence that many sectors are picking up and will pick up.

Sir, there are some structural issues which cannot be resolved immediately. If the world demand for steel comes down, then steel output in India will also come down. So, there are problems. People ask why did we remove the export duty on iron ore. If Indian steel mills were able to consume all the iron ore that is produced, we would still slap an export duty on iron ore, but steel production has come down because of demand slow down. But if you do not allow the ore to be exported, at least the fines to be exported, lakhs and lakhs of workers in mines will not have jobs. The fines have to be exported. The lumps can be consumed but the fines have to be exported. That is why we have reduced the export duty on iron ore fines to zero and kept a nominal duty on lumps. So, for each decision taken by the Government, believe me, there is a rational explanation. You can have a rational criticism of that explanation, and we can try to find out whether we are right, whether we can convince you that our explanation is right. But for every decision that is taken in these matters – we have taken rapid fire decisions in the last 12 weeks – there is an explanation. I am willing to sit with any hon. Member or any group of hon. Members and explain why a certain decision was taken in the last 12 months and what further decisions can be taken to stimulate domestic demand.

Sir, there is this constant refrain that 80 per cent of the people of this country earn Rs. 20 a day. I do not know when Dr. Arjun Sengupta is going to live down that misinformed criticism of one paragraph of his Report. In fact, in private conversation, he says, he should have re-worded it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Re-worded?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, reworded that paragraph, because the way it is written, everybody latches on to that paragraph. But you have to read the whole Report. Be that as it may, the point is that *per capita* income in this country in the last four years has risen by 7.2 per cent annually. There are poor people, nobody denies that. There are poor people in this country. There are perhaps about 250 to 300 million people who are extremely poor people and they have to be helped. Which is why this Government's focus is there. I have been telling that the focus has been on the poor, on the social sector and spending money in areas where it will directly benefit the very poor.

We can get into the numbers, and I can explain how we have done. Take, for example, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In 2003-04, the Central Government's outlay on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was Rs. 1,951 crore; and this year, it is Rs. 13,100 crore. Now, who does it benefit? Similarly, in 2003-04, the outlay on the Mid Day Meal Scheme was Rs. 1,175 crore; and this year, it is Rs. 8,000 crore. Who does it benefit? The poor children. The outlay on the ICDS was Rs. 2,356 crore in the last year of the NDA Government; and this year, it is Rs. 6,300 crore. There was no NREGA at that time, but there were rural employment schemes. The total expenditure in the last year was Rs. 4,986 crore; and this year, it is going to be Rs. 26,500 crore on NREGA. Now, who does it benefit? Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan benefits the poor children; Mid Day Meal Scheme benefits the poor children; ICDS benefits the very poor children; and NREGA benefits the poor, very poor, rural landless labour.

This Government from day one has kept its focus on growth and social justice. That is why we call it inclusive growth, and the Plan Document itself says, faster and more inclusive growth. We need faster growth; we need more inclusive growth; and we have not removed our focus from either of these objectives. Even when we trumpeted growth and we worked hard for growth, we were entirely focussed on the fruits of growth

going to the poorer and weaker sections of the people through well directed social justice programmes. And, we are not saying, all programmes are a success. Some programmes have succeeded well; some have not done very well. We know that in the PDS, there is a 40 per cent leakage. Shall we, therefore, abandon the PDS? Can we throw out the baby with the bath water? There is a leakage of 40 per cent in the PDS. The States must own responsibility, but that does not mean that we should wind up the PDS. Same thing with NREGA. We hear reports — you read reports here and there — that NREGA has got so much leakage; muster rolls are cooked up. Yes, I admit, there are problems of NREGA here and there. But shall we, therefore, wind up NREGA? We cannot wind up NREGA. We have to go on implementing NREGA even while we plug the loopholes. We do not have the perfect system in this country. It is an imperfect system. But given the imperfect system, the Government has focussed on the poor, focussed on social justice, focussed on inclusive growth.

Sir, if Mr. Ananth Kumar was here, I would have asked him questions. If the period of the NDA was the golden period and 5.3 per cent growth average was the golden period of India, why did you not do a loan waiver? I ask you eight questions. Please give me answers some time...

MR. SPEAKER: Not today. No answers today.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, some time, in the next six months... (*Interruptions*)

Why did you not do a loan waiver? We did a loan waiver of Rs. 66,000 crore. Why did you not introduce NREGA? We introduced NREGA in 200 districts, extended it to 330 before the year was over, and in the second year, we universalised it. Why did you not do NREGA? Why did you give farm loans at 10 per cent when we are able to give it at 7 per cent? What did you do about education loans? Today, the outstanding amount of educational loan of 14, 09,930 students — outstanding accounts and not the ones that have repaid — is Rs. 24,268 crore, the largest educational loan programme anywhere in the world.

Why did you not universalise the Mid-Day Meal Scheme? Why did you not increase the MSP of food grains? You increased it by Rs.10 a quintal for wheat. We have increased it from Rs.640 in the first year to Rs.1000 this year. Does that not benefit the farmer? For

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

paddy, from Rs. 560, it was increased to Rs. 850. Does it not benefit the farmer? Food grains production increased by 10 million tonnes every year. We launched the National Horticulture Mission, the National Food Security Mission and the Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Yojana. Recently, we have launched the National Skill Development Mission. Now, why was all this not done?

The point is, we had growth. We were able to do all this. This year is a difficult year. This year we will have to trim our sails a bit as Prof. Ramadass pointed out. Even if we trim our sails, this boat will still sail and will deliver, at least, seven per cent growth output. The world output is 0.9%. By next month, who knows the World Bank may report, world growth is going to be zero per cent. We do not know. But for this year, I am confident. The first half of the year has ended with the growth rate of about 7.8 per cent. The whole year, I am confident, will end at about seven per cent. That would still make us the second fastest growing large economy in the world.

We do not compare ourselves with Burkino Faso. We compare ourselves with China. We compare ourselves with Brazil. We compare ourselves with a large economy. We will still be the second fastest growing large economy in the world. That is because our policies under the guidance of the Prime Minister have been designed in such a manner since 1991. I will give credit to the successive Governments that they have not reversed any reform policy. They are designed in such a manner that we continue to grow at a fast rate and then focus on social justice so that the benefits of growth flow to the poor.

Sir, a number of questions were raised about ideological positions and banks. Let me tell you I do not mind if any section of the House takes credit. After all we belong to one House. We belong to one country. Why should I grudge anyone taking credit? You can take credit if you want. I will be very happy to lend it to you. Please borrow credit from me but please remember, from 1970 the banks have been in the public sector. There is nothing new. We said it as one of the first things that our public sector banks will remain public sector banks. Why do you keep on saying that we will privatise the banks? Who said so? They said so. So, we have reversed the policy. We are not going to privatise the banks.

On the contrary, I want you to remember, three months ago, I announced that we are going to recapitalise our banks so that the capital adequacy ratio increases to 12 per cent. Is that privatisation? No, it is 'greater public sectorisation' of the bank if I coin a word of that nature.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Till now, even the other day, we have been pressurized to discuss the SBI (Amendment) Bill, which is a creeping privatization, bringing down the equity from 55 per cent to 51 per cent, granting preferential shares and all these things.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There has been persistent effort, and as a result of the persistent effort, the Government's holdings in the banks have come down from 70 per cent to 51 per cent. It is on the margin.

MR. SPEAKER: It is still a majority.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is still a majority. It is on the margin.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: My learned friend makes it appear that we are standing on the brink of a precipice. It is completely wrong. What is the margin? This Parliament, the sovereign Parliament of India, has made a law that it can never go below 51 per cent. So, what is the margin? Unless the sovereign Parliament goes into a slumber and somebody by a sleight of hand can take it below 51 per cent—this Parliament has made a law—it can never go below 51 per cent.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It happened in Maruti.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please listen to me. In the case of Maruti, there is no law which says 51 per cent. Here, there is a Parliamentary law which says that it cannot go below 51 per cent. Unless the parliamentarians have forgotten the law they made, why do you accuse the Government that banks will be privatized?

On the contrary, what we have announced three months ago is we will recapitalise the banks so that their CRAR will not go below 10 per cent. Therefore, far from criticizing us for alleged privatization which we were not doing, and I do not know if you raised your voices so loudly when they were totally advocating going down to 33 per cent.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: On that day also, we opposed it vehemently.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am happy that you did it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why have you brought it down to 51 per cent?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is what the law says. Why is the bank going to the market? The bank is going to the market because it has to increase its capital. There is something known as Capital Adequacy Ratio. If you have a hundred rupee capital, I am giving a rough argument and it is not precise, you can lend an additional thousand rupees. If your lending has reached a point where your current capital is no longer available for you to lend more, if you want to lend more to the poor, to the SMEs, to students, to *mahilas*, you have to increase your capital. Capital can only be increased in three ways: one, by retained earnings; two, by raising it in the market; or three, by Government providing more capital. Now, they have retained earnings. They go to the market to raise additional capital. Today, the Government has come forward and said, yes, we realize, we are willing to provide you more capital. I provided the first Rs. 1,000 crore to the Indian Bank in 1997. Subsequently, several banks have been provided additional capital. Now, we have said all banks which have a CRAR of less than 10 per cent, we will take it to 12 per cent. But I think this myth must be buried once and for all. As long as this Parliament does not amend the law...

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We have the satisfactory level of capital adequacy of international standard under Basil-II norms.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Again and again, these are all, if I may say, arguments which are trotted without understanding the implications. Basil norm is eight per cent; RBI norm is nine per cent. If you stand at eight per cent, you are likely to fall over. Therefore, we say, get back one step to nine per cent. Now, the Government is saying, even nine per cent is not safe enough when banks world over are melting down, we will take three steps back from the precipice, we will stand at 12 per cent. You should congratulate us for taking this decision and not criticize us by saying that we are going back to 12 per cent.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Then, why was it brought down from 55 per cent to 51 per cent?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have already explained it; I cannot explain more than once.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said that. You can write it down and give him a copy.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Therefore, Sir, we will go through a period of adjustment. There will be some pain; there will be some difficulty, but we have taken a number of steps to mitigate the difficulties. We have to keep the productive engine going on, and the productive engines are agriculture, small and medium enterprises and, of course, the large industries which produce the goods and services which have consumer appeal. We will ensure that all the productive engines of this country continue to function, continue to work, and continue to produce goods and services. We are open to suggestions. There is an Apex Committee under the Prime Minister's Chairmanship which is monitoring very closely. The Governor, Reserve Bank of India is a member of that Committee. We will take steps as and when required. It is not as though there are set days in which to take decisions. We have taken decisions in rapid succession. We will ensure that the economy continues to grow. We will ensure that all our social justice programmes are adequately funded and we will ensure that this year we return a growth of seven per cent or more. In the second half of next year, I am confident that we will bounce back to a higher growth rate. When world output rises again, as it is bound to because this world recession cannot go on indefinitely, we hope the world output will bounce back towards the second half of next financial year, and when that happens, India, I am confident, will get back to a higher growth path.

With these words, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the discussion ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It depends on whether the Minister yields or not.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Hon. Minister asked us as to why we did not waive off loans. We did not waive it off but they did so, this is a good thing. They waived off the loans and within the six months of it, there were four elections in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is a backward state. If loan waiver would have extended any favour to them, it should have been there, but what was the result, they lost in all four elections and in three elections their security deposit was forfeited. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a relevant question. Mr. Minister, do you want to reply to him?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is no cause and effect relationship on loan waiver. All that it shows is that the loans of members of all political parties were waived without discrimination.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the Government is actually doing to enhance the revenues of the States. That was the most vital question. To come out of this recession it is quite necessary to enhance the revenues of the States. What is the Government practically doing to enhance the revenues of the States? And, is the Central Government allowing the States to enhance their lending facilities? Now it is not being allowed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, when we came with the first Supplementary Budget of Rs.1,05,000 crore additional expenditure in cash and the second Supplementary, which will come before this House tomorrow or Monday, you will find that most of the money is for programmes that are being implemented through the States, and for programmes that are being implemented in the States. Whether the Government of India funds a programme and gives money or whether it is the revenue of the State, money is money. Money is spongeable. There are own revenues of the State, there is money which Government of India gives by way of grants or loans. Therefore, all this extra expenditure can only take place in the State, and in most cases on programmes that are implemented through the States. If any State wants its borrowing limit to be enhanced, we are willing to consider that request.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister was not here when I spoke. I had put two questions. One was that in view of the demands of the States and in view of the public views of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission that FRBM rules are standing in the way of States expanding more in the given situation, I had asked this earlier also, in the given situation what is the thinking of the Government with regard to the artificial ceiling on fiscal deficit and revenue deficit?

Secondly, the common understanding globally is that this situation will not end in one and a half years, it will last more than that. Even the RBI Governor has come out with the view that the next year will be very serious and the year after next will be more serious. In view of this I had asked whether, instead of being reactive to the developments globally, the Government is going to come out with a comprehensive plan with modification of annual plan so that the Government can take care of the crisis that is emerging?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have answered this before. The FRBM Act is a very wise legislation made by this Parliament. In normal times, FRBM Act should prevail. It is the FRBM Act which has made States' financial position so strong and the Centre's financial position reasonably strong. But this year is not the year to worry about the FRBM Act parameters. I have said so. I have quoted Paul Krugman. This is not the year to worry about the fiscal deficit. If we breach the FRBM parameters, I said, we will come and report to Parliament. We are not fixated on FRBM target this year. We will come and report to Parliament if we have breached the FRBM target. But for the long run, the FRBM Act is a wise piece of legislation. It would be unwise to dismantle that structure.

Your second question is about a comprehensive plan. We are now in the month of December. We have got three more months for this financial year to be over. The first half has ended with 7.8 per cent growth. We have a spending programme for the second half. We have increased the amount that we are going to spend in the second half. But please remember it is not enough to simply outlay money. There must be the capacity in the Departments, in the Ministries, in the programmes to absorb that money and actually spend. Therefore, while we have a comprehensive view of the matter, we have a fairly good understanding of the situation as it prevails today. We are prepared to deal with any situation that arises in the next three or four months. We will come back to Parliament, if it becomes necessary. What has been done in the first Supplementary, in the second Supplementary, the Prime Minister's package announced ten days ago, I think is enough to keep the economy going at a brisk pace for the next three and a half months. But if the economy can absorb more money to spend, certainly we will provide more money for the economy to absorb and spend.

Sir, can I close by giving some good news?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: WPI inflation for the week ending has come down to 6.84 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank all sides of the House for a very constructive discussion in an important issue.

SHRI KHARABFLA SWAIN: Allow me to pose a question.

MR. SPEAKER: How can you say that you are the last Member? There may be other Members also. You are so articulate, you would get many opportunities to utilize. I know that.

Let us come to the Matters of Urgent Importance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising the issue of 20 students, who were studying in the famous educational institution, IIT Delhi and they have been expelled from the institution on the grounds that their academic level is poor.

18.51 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of these 20 students, 12 belong to S.C. and S.T. Category, who have been provided reservation facility by the Government of India. If they had good academic levels, why they would have been given the benefit of reservation. These students filed mercy appeal before Suresh Prasadji, Director of the Institution and Shri S.R. Kale, Dean, but their appeals were rejected arbitrarily. The institute has played with the future of said students and violated the guidelines of UGC also. I demand from Government of India through you that all 20 students should be taken back by IIT Delhi and their future should be secured.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): As per the report of the World Health Organisation, about 8,30,000 children die world over in accidents and millions of children sustain serious injuries. The death rate in the poor and developing countries are ten times higher than that of the developed countries. Road accidents cause most of these deaths. The report also points out that had there been proper security measures in place at least 1000 deaths could have been averted every day. The death of children and their injuries adds additional financial burden on the poor families. In our country, hundreds of valuable lives are lost in road accidents. Due to lack of proper transport facilities, children are forced to avail insecure means of transportation, without any proper safety measures. It is, therefore, necessary to make arrangement for proper transportation facilities to school children and also to evolve stringent measures against the violations of safety norms.

In view of the gravity of the situation I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): The Indian Railways have rightly gone on a study and survey and identified certain deserving areas for forming new railway lines. The Railways have earmarked five new lines in Tamil Nadu – Dindugal-Kumli; Dharmapuri-Murappur; Ariyalur-Thanjavur; Manargudi-Pattukottai; and there is one more for execution.

The Planning Commission seemed to have estimated the cost of about Rs.1,500 crore and suggested that the concerned State Government may share 50 per cent of cost in the view of economic viability. It is a matter of disappointment to come across the present Government of Tamil Nadu are not willing to share the cost of the project..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): He is purposely abusing the Government of Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything objectionable, I would remove it.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: While eight of the other States are too willing to share the cost ranging from 50 to 70 per cent. The above said projects are mostly passing through very backward areas that are yet to touch the fruits of the railway service. By some means or others, I would urge the Government to take necessary steps to get these schemes implemented at the earliest.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): This is regarding inclusion of some tribal villages in the 5th Schedule Area in the State of Andhra Pradesh. There are about 805 villages in nine districts of Andhra Pradesh, where predominantly tribal people live. These villages contain about 50-100 per cent of tribal population. These people are not getting benefits out of ITDS or other welfare activities of the Government, because they are outside the Schedule Area. There are about 3.5 lakh people in these areas. Hence I request the Government, particularly the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs to clear the file which is pending with them in Delhi for the last two years so that these villages are included in the 5th Schedule Area.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Vellore Fort in Tamil Nadu is known all over India for it has its own place in the history of India as it is associated with the history of Tipu Sultan. The first struggle for Indian independence took place in South India in Vellore Fort as early as in 1806 led by Tipu Sultan. Though raised by the representatives of Muslim rulers and transferred hands from one to another over the years it was embellished by worship places inside the Fort area. During Krishna Deva Raya's period, Lord Jalagantesvarar temple was built in that site. Before independence when the Fort fell into the hands of Britishers, they had closed the temple and for many long years no worship or offerings were taking place there. They had also closed the other worship place for the Islamic faith. But the Britishers had constructed a church within the precincts of the Fort.

Right from the days of Britishers the church there continues to remain a worship place. When India won its freedom the Archeological Survey of India under the Government of India stated that it would maintain the status quo. Based on which for many years the Jalagantesvarar temple remained closed along with the mosque for the Islamic faith. But in between the local Hindus organized themselves and forcefully entered the Fort and consecrated the temple in which the worship and offerings are going on till date. It has been amicably settled and the Hindus have their worship place there when Archeological Survey of India was impressed upon by the Court of Law that the worship place so opened shall remain open.

Naturally the Muslim population in and around Vellore are legitimately aggrieved about the interpretations of the Archeological Survey of India which is not initiating any steps to open the mosque for worship fulfilling their aspirations. It is a historical fact that Tipu Sultan remained a secular King by way of allowing both Hindus and Muslims to have their worship place inside his Fort. So the spirit of communal harmony must be upheld by the Government of India and in order to preserve the Vellore Fort as a symbol of communal harmony and national integration, the mosque insider the Vellore Fort must be thrown open to the people of Islamic faith. This is necessary to promote the communal amity there rooting out any scope for dissensions. Now that both Christians and Hindus are amicably going about with their worship places there is no reason why people of

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Islamic faith should be denied their right to have their worship in the mosque situated inside Vellore Fort. I urge upon the Government of India to ensure that the mosque there is opened for worship upholding the secular commitment of our Constitution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): I will be brief. Mr. Chairman Sir, for many years, there has been repeated demand to declare Bihar as economically backward state, but Union Government are not taking any concrete step in this regard. The miserable condition of economy and infrastructure in Bihar is well known. 42 to 50 percent families are living below poverty line in the state.

19.00 hrs.

Per capita income in Bihar is Rs. 1610 per annum only, while per capita national income is Rs. 20,858. There were some industrial units there also which are in moribund state. The investment in Bihar has remained stand still for the last 20-30 years. The Union Government have not made any serious effort to establish even a single factory. However Hon. Minister of Railways has made efforts to establish some factories. I am grateful to him. The State faces devastating floods every year, therefore keeping in view all these circumstances Union Government should take immediate steps to declare Bihar an economically backward state and give special status to Bihar on the lines of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and states of North-East.

I request hon'ble Prime Minister to give special attention to it. He should help the people of Bihar by giving special economic package to the State so that the widespread poverty and penury afflicting it is removed.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, as per the National Crime Records Bureau, road accidents kill nearly 280 people per day in India. Tamil Nadu had the highest casualties, that is 13,961 followed by Andhra Pradesh 10,944, Maharashtra - 10,613, Uttar Pradesh - 9,860. Among Metros, Delhi tops with 1,717 and Chennai accounts for 1,055. Annual Road Traffic Growth rate is

7 to 10 per cent that contributes 8 per cent of total deaths due to road accidents world wide. My constituency, Palani in Tamil Nadu is connected with NH-67, NH-209 and NH-7. Everyday, a large number of people are dying under the wheels of sand transporting lorries, buses and trucks, particularly in between Karur and Coimbatore in NH-67. In Vellakoil and Kangayam Police Station limits everyday accidents take place and people are dying.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to prevent the increasing number of road accidents and all the roads in the country, which are lying in a dilapidated condition, particularly the National and State Highways, are to be upgraded without any further delay.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, I want to bring this very important issue to your notice that there is a Gram Sabha in the country where elections have not been held yet. Sir, due to wrong reservation policy adopted by the state Government at the time of delimitation, elections have not been held in Malasa Gram Sabha of Malasa Block in Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh. The population of that village is 8 thousand. There are 43 hundred voters there, out of whom 42 hundred belong to upper castes and only a hundred voters are from SC. But due to the wrong policies of the State Government it has been discriminated against for being declared a reserved constituency for the second time even when it was not coming under the criteria adopted for rotating reserved constituencies according to which Mateharapur village, and not Malasa village, was coming for SC reservation. The notification was issued 6 times but elections to the Gram Sabha could not be held. I demand from the Central Government to conduct an inquiry into the wrong reservation made and declare Malasa village a general seat by going through the reservation process once again and that the election process be started again.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, I am speaking on behalf of the MDMK headed by Thiru Vaiko, leader of the Tamils. I would like to raise a point in the House about the mis-management in the allotment of spectrum to new telecom firms at about Rs.1,650 crore for all India licence.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Sir, how many times the hon. Member will raise the same point in the House?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, how many times this matter will be raised... (*Interruptions*)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Sir, the Department of Telecommunication has been questioned by the Central Vigilance Commission about the rules and regulations adopted by the Ministry... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not bring controversial issues. Allegations will not be on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Sir, both Swan and Unitech Companies have no infrastructure, no equipment, no network and no knowledge about the telecom technology... (*Interruptions*). That is the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter has already been discussed.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: On the issue of allocation of excess spectrum beyond the contracted amount, the DoT has failed to provide any satisfactory reply.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, how can he raise this matter? It has already been discussed... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do?

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: The DoT, in its reply to CVC has not explained under what circumstances, the additional spectrum was allocated, and why no charges were recovered from these operators. The hon. Minister owes an explanation to the House... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Sunil Khan to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the statement of Shri Sunil Khan.

*(Interruptions) ... **

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not be on record.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the House may recollect five years back because of high cost of naptha, five fertilizer units at Baroani, Durgapur, Haldia, Sindri and Gorakhpur were closed down thereby eliminating a total capacity of around two million tonnes of urea. Similarly, Duncan Fertiliser unit at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh and FACT at Cochin had also to be shut down on this account. The Government's present declared policy is to allow revamping of these closed units through gas only. The viability of which is quite doubtful in the years to come. If the cost of naptha has gone down now to such an extent that Government had to decide its use as a substitute to gas for power generation, then there is no reason why the above cited closed units should be asked to wait for assured availability of gas, though Baroani Unit is already going to be revamped due to the decision of the Cabinet.

As on date, the country is having a serious shortage of urea and to bridge the gap of consumption and production, currently about seven million tonnes of urea is being imported at the ruling high import price of US 750 to 800 dollars which is now costlier than the urea produced through naptha.

Therefore, I demand immediate revamping and restructuring of the closed and sick fertiliser units by using naptha to start with till assured supply of natural gas is ensured.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Alwar town of my constituency is only 150 k.m. away from National Capital Delhi and daily thousands of employees, labourers, students come to Delhi, but no proper arrangement of transport for commuting is available...*(Interruptions)*. There are about half a dozen trains which run from the near by town Rewari to Delhi which are called RD trains. I request the Minister of Railways to extend these trains from Rewari to Alwar to facilitate the journey from Alwar to Delhi. This is what I want to submit.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record. You are raising the second issue.

*(Interruptions) ... **

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I want to raise a subject of great importance and public interest during zero hour. There is shortage of cement in the country these days...*(Interruptions)* Today we are gradually losing control over the quality of cement in the country. The UPA Government is paying attention towards construction and development of infrastructure on large scale. ...*(Interruptions)*. While on the one hand there is need of cement for such projects and on the other it is also needed for the construction of private buildings and business organizations. But most of the government undertakings and public sector units are either on the verge of being closed or are already closed. On the part of Government there is no provision for quality control or production control. As a result the entire cement industry has gone into private hands and a situation may arise in future when non-government non-state actors may try to control production, price and quality of cement by creating artificial crisis. In such a situation I, through you, would like to demand from the Government to set up an authority at the earliest for carrying out control on the quality, production and price of cement and the Cement Corporation be revamped and by effecting improvements in it this industry be revived so that it may not slip into the private hands.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India give grants to the tune of thousand crore rupees to the people below poverty line. Most of the grants given to the poor goes into the pockets of officers and a handful of persons. Various surveys of the Government stand testimony to this fact. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has just now admitted in this House that this linkage is upto 40 percent...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, let me express my view. These surveys are clear examples of this. But people doing such things have got an injunction from High Court, Uttar Pradesh in respect of the new list of BPL prepared in Uttar Pradesh. I, through this House, demand from the Government of India and State Government to get High

*Not recorded.

Court's ban vacated from the Supreme Court on the release of new BPL list so that the poor, living below poverty line may be able to get their legitimate dues.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have one more request to make. It is a matter of a very poor family...*(Interruptions)* Shri Rohtas Singh a resident of my Lok Sabha constituency...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, today I would like to raise a matter of serious public importance in the House as a special mention that pertains to the urgent need of the appropriate initiative and effective prompt action of the Union Government to help facilitate the implementation of some of the Clauses of the new Bodo Accord signed on 10th February, 2003 between the Union Government and the State Government of Assam on the one side and the leaders of the erstwhile Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) on the other.

As a result of the new Bodo Accord, a new political arrangement i.e. the present day Bodoland Territorial Council was created to administer the Bodoland Territorial Areas District in the State of Assam. In this regard, it is worthwhile to mention that in spite of the relapse of a long period of five years, some of the Clauses of this Bodo Accord have not been implemented as yet which has been a matter of serious concern and great regret. Mr. Chairman, Sir, while signing the aforementioned new 'Bodo Accord' the Union Govt. of India committed to granting the status of the Scheduled Tribes (Hills) to the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi-Ajnglong and in North Cachar Hills Autonomous Districts.

But unfortunately, nothing tangible has been done so far in this regard. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take appropriate steps to include the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi-Ajnglong and in North Cachar Hills Autonomous districts in the list of Scheduled Tribes (Hills) in Assam without any further delay.

The nationwide famous "Orang alias Rajiv Gandhi Wild Sanctuary" was included earlier within the boundary of the Bodoland Territorial Areas District and later on, this sanctuary was excluded from the boundary of BTAD by the Forest Department of the State Government of Assam. I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take appropriate steps to restore back the "Orang alias Rajiv Gandhi Wild Sanctuary" to the Bodoland Territorial Council Administration. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I also appeal to the Government of India to take appropriate steps to withdraw all the pending Bodoland movement related cases without any further more delay as per the agreement arrived at between the Govt. and the Leaders of the erstwhile B.L.T. at the time of signing the aforesaid Bodo Accord on 'BTC' concept. *(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, I through you, would like to raise a very important issue here.

Sir, there is a provision in the Constitution of the country to protect the tribal language and their culture. Banjara language and Gaund dialect which is used by seven crore people in different states and another three crore people living along with them also speak the same language. Thus there are ten crore people in the country who speak Banjara language...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised it in the morning.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Sir, Banjara language is the pride of our country spoken by ten crore people. Many books have been written in this dialect for Sahitya Academy. But this language has not yet been included in the Eighth Schedule. Language Plays an important role in maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. There is a provision in the Constitution to impart education to the tribals in their own language. It is the duty of the Government to promote the language spoken by the ten crore people. I, through you, demand from Government to make arrangement for imparting education to their school going children in their own Gaund language so that this language may be promoted and it should be included in the Eighth Schedule.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

19.18 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 19, 2008/
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*Not recorded.

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